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Editorial

Institutional Credit for farm Development

As a result of ceilings on land holdings and distribution of surplus land among landless labour and weaker sections, the need for institutionalised farm credit has been pronounced to use the necessary farm inputs package for increasing agricultural production in the country. During the Fifth plan period, about Rs. 2400 crores farm credit will be made available as investment credit from institutional sector for the development of land, minor irrigation, animal husbandry, fisheries and other agricultural production activities. It is estimated that by the end of the Fifth plan, short-term production credit requirements in the country would be over Rs. 3000 crores annually. Major portion of this will be provided through Cooperatives, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks. Cooperatives will, however, continue to be the principal institutional agency for financing of agricultural programmes. The basic objectives would be maximum possible institutionalization of agricultural credit, a substantial increase in the flow of institutional credit to small farmers and other weaker sections of the society and reduction in regional imbalances.

The Government has decided setting up of a viable, well-managed institution, which would not only dispense credit to farmers but also make arrangements for supply of desired inputs and necessary technical services. This will be organised on the basis of Farmers Service Societies as recommended by the National Commission on Agriculture. A Farmers Service Society would be organised to dispense all types of credit required, supply inputs including fertilizers, arrange processing and marketing, and undertake all connected activities directly or in cooperation with other organizations. The new society will be financed either by a Commercial Bank or a Cooperative Bank. The control over management of the new society will be vested in the weaker sections like small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers by reserving two-thirds of membership of the Board of Management for them so as to serve their interests.

The institutional credit through these new Farmers Service Societies will thus enable the small farmers to reap the advantages of new technology on their small farms and make the small holding more productive and viable units across the country. This will eventually reduce the pressure on the organised food distribution system in the country. —Dr. D.A. Bholay

Workshop on Assisting and Organizing Small Farmers

Dr. D.A. Bholay

Twenty one leaders of National Farm Associations and Agricultural Cooperative Federations of 15 Developing Countries met at Roston, Virginia, U.S.A. in October, 1975 under the sponsorship of Agricultural Cooperative Development International (ACDI) to discuss agricultural development and in particular the problems of assisting and organising Small Farmers. Dr. D. A. Bholay and Mrs. Jaya Arunachalam participated in the workshop at their invitation. At the conclusion of the discussions a policy statement was agreed as a contribution to the policy discussion in the ensuing 21st Conference of International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) which finally adopted. Following are the major points of the policy statement :—

1. There is no single, universal procedure for solving the problems of the farmers. There is a wide range of experience among developing countries as to how best to mobilise the productive potential of the small farmers, both in terms of organization and delivery systems. In order to realise agricultural progress in developing countries, two kinds of organizations are needed: On the one hand, farmer associations expressing the hopes and aspirations of farmers on legislative and administrative matters; and on the other hand, cooperatives evolving as economically sound business institutions owned and controlled by farmers. Development aid to small farmers can be channeled effectively only through a group approach, such as cooperatives and farmers' associations.

2. Agricultural development can only be meaningful and successful if the rural population, including small farmers is actively involved through local government assemblies, farmers associations, cooperatives and other organisations. It is highly important that the small farmer organizations and cooperatives which are expected to participate in development programmes be involved as directly as possible in all the stages of programme planning and execution.

3. Leadership in the organization of cooperatives and farmers' associations generally comes at first from medium sized farmers. However, leadership potential exists among all farmers regardless of size of holding, and expanded development and growth of cooperatives comes best from small medium and large farmers working together. Leadership in Cooperatives involving small farmers should be broadly representing the interests of both the small and medium farmers and should ensure that all interests in the cooperative are carefully guarded. Leadership at the subsistence level is only potential but by participation, information and education through cooperatives and farmers organizations, it can be developed as a major force in agricultural and rural development.

4. Cooperatives assist agricultural development primarily by serving the needs of their members as agricultural producers. They can stimulate rural savings and investment, channel credit, could not otherwise get them, and protect farmers from exploitation by traders, money lenders and urban business. They can take many forms and may need strong governmental help to get started, but they should be democratically controlled, should build strong reserves and investments. The most effective function of cooperatives is to help farmers, who have upward mobility in terms of land and water resources and technical capabilities. Upward mobile farmers are those who have sufficient motivation, initiative and primary agricultural skills to become effective farmers inspite of their small land acreages.

5. The major business of cooperative development is to create and maintain viable economic institutions to serve their members. For farmers to achieve this goal it is necessary for governments to provide infrastructure and a favourable climate for cooperative organisation and growth. Essential elements in such a climate include a sound cooperative law,

(Contd. on page 3)

Rs. 149 Crores Damage to Crops by Floods this Year

An area of 3.8 million hectares in 15 states and a population of 23.6 million were affected by floods this year, according to reports from state governments received in the Union ministry of agriculture and irrigation.

The detailed assessment of the damage caused by the floods during the monsoon is not yet complete in most of the states, though it is known that the damage was substantial in Bihar, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The damage to crops estimated so far is about Rs. 149 crores.

The average annual damage to houses, crops, and public utilities due to floods from 1953 to 1974 was Rs. 168 crores and the maximum damage recorded in any one year was Rs. 631 crores in 1971.

Who is Who Directory of Bharat Krishak Samaj

Bharat Krishak Samaj has decided to publish "WHO IS WHO" Directory of Members of the Samaj. The Samaj is aware of outstanding careers of its members in the field of agriculture and national leadership in their areas. Besides the information on "Who is Who" the directory will also contain information about Bharat Krishak Samaj and its activities and various resolutions passed in the past for quick and easy reference. The price of the Directory will be Rs. 25/-.

Members of the Samaj who are interested to get their names included in this who is who directory are requested to send their passport size photograph and a brief life sketch with outstanding achievements in the field of agriculture and leadership and positions held in the community. Please send the information alongwith Rs. 25/- by Money Order to meet the cost of block making and printing against which the member will be supplied with one free copy of the "Who is Who Directory of the Samaj". Please send Rs. 25/- by Money Order only and the photo and life-sketch note to The Secretary General, Bharat Krishak Samaj, A-I, Nizamuddin West, New Delhi-110013 at your earliest.

Bharat Krishak Samaj National Convention Postponed

In view of unforeseen situation, a suggested by Punjab Krishak Samaj, the National Convention of Bharat Krishak Samaj to be held at Abohar, District Ferozepur, Punjab from 27th to 30th December, 1975 has been postponed.

Dr. D.A. Bholay
Secretary General

77th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh

The Birth-Anniversary of our Founder President Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh falls on 27th December. As in the past, a function to celebrate Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh's Birth Anniversary will be organized in front of our Central Office, A-I, Nizamuddin West, New Delhi-110013. on 27th December, 75 at 4.00 p.m. Bharat Krishak Samaj hopes similar functions will also be organised all over the country by our State, District, Tehsil and village units by calling meetings of farmers on 27th December, 1975. All members of the Samaj and farmers are requested to attend the function.

Dr. D.A. Bholay
Secretary General
Bharat Krishak Samaj

(Contd. from page 2)

access to credit, supplies and markets on favourable terms and often special concessions to counter-balance those of established businesses. Viable cooperative development depends on the combination of grass root primary cooperative societies which are sufficiently local to call forth full farmer participation, and service organizations at the secondary level which are on a sufficient scale to support effective management, cooperative marketing facilities and economic distribution of supplies and credit. These two layers of organization need to be developed simultaneously.

6. The approach to international lending in developing countries up to this time had little relevance to the specific capital needs of cooperatives in the recipient countries. It was, therefore, recommended that the financing agencies adopt more flexibility of approach and criteria.

Crossbred Cows Growing Popular

New Delhi : Crossbred cows are becoming popular among the small and marginal farmers in the villages around Karnal in Haryana. They find these cows more economical than low yielding buffaloes.

The farmers in the area now taking to dairy farming on scientific lines either in combination with crop cultivation or as an independent source of livelihood.

This is the result of an operational research project launched by the National Dairy Research Institute at Karnal aimed at harnessing the underemployed family labour of the farmer to ensure him a steady income.

It is found possible to get an assured income about Rs. 375 to Rs. 400 a month from a one acre unit with three cross-bred cows.

The National Dairy Research Institute established that with high yielding dairy cows and proper land utilisation through high nutritious fodders, milk production is as remunerative as crop farming with high yielding grain and cash crops.

The operational research project was taken up by the institute in collaboration with the extension agencies, banks, other credit institutions, livestock insurance companies, village panchayats and other rural organisations, local administrations, and above all, the farmers in the areas.

Based on a primary survey conducted in 12 villages, two, clusters of four to five villages each have been chosen for the project. Sanghoa village has been chosen as the headquarters of the project. Animal health specialists, agronomists, and farm management and extension specialists are stationed in the village itself.

Five demonstration farms have been set up in each village. Crop demonstrations have been laid out both for grain and fodder crops. Animal health cover and artificial insemination facilities are provided to the rural community in all the villages.

Quick Control of Pyrilla

Attack of pyrilla, a serious pest of sugarcane, has been reported from different parts of the country.

Unless it is checked immediately, the pest will multiply and cause great damage to the crop.

The pest can be controlled by dusting BHC 10 per cent of DDT 10 per cent at 10 to 15 kg. per acre. Instead of dusting, the crop can be sprayed with sumithion 50 per cent E.C. or Thiodan 35 EC or Ambithion 25 E.C. or Ekalux 25 E.C. at 400 to 500 ml. or Dimecron 100 E.C. at 150 ml. per acre in 250 litres of water.

Advance Planning of Rabi Jowar

Jowar yield in rabi could be easily stepped up by planting the crop about 20 to 30 days earlier than the usual date of sowing.

This has been borne out in tests carried out by the Scientists of the All India Coordinated Sorghum development Project.

For getting good returns from advance planting, a shift to hybrids like CSH-1, CSH-4 and 36A × PD 3-1-11 is a must. If the soil moisture is low at the time of sowing, CSH-2 or CSH-3 is recommended.

It is also necessary to treat the seed before sowing with Carbofuran at 5 parts for every 100 parts of seed. Seed treatment is all the more important, where kharif and rabi jowar crops overlap. Shootfly problem is likely to be more under early planting in these areas.

Three New Green Peas High Yielders

New green peas from Jabalpur Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya have scored over the ruling variety, Bonnville in a recent yield trial.

One of them, Jawahar Matar-1 yielded 12,000 kg of light green pods per hectare. The other Jawahar Matar-2 gave 13,000 kg. Both have wrinkled seeds. They mature in about 130 days. The pods for first picking are ready by 90 to 95 days.

Another green pea variety, Jawahar Matar-3, though yields less than these two, makes the pods available as early as in December, when the price is high.

All the three varieties are resistant to a number of insects and diseases. These new green peas have been released

by the Jabalpur Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Madhya Pradesh.

Increasing Sunflower Yields

Soaking of Seed—A Must

Did you know that seed treatment in sunflower could make an yield difference of as much as four quintals per hectare ?

This has been realised in several trials, carried out by the All India Coordinated Research Project on Oilseeds.

The scientists point out that the seed must be soaked for 24 hours before sowing. Thereafter the extra moisture should be bolted out from the seed before giving it a good dressing with Brassicol. The chemical should be used at two grams for every kilo seed.

New Hy-Wheat Strains

A wide range of high yielding varieties have been indentified for large scale propagation during this year's rabi season. The Union Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation has issued a list of different varieties, which are suitable, for irrigated and unirrigated areas in various zones of the country.

For the north-hill zone, Sonalika, Girija, Kalyansona and VL-404 have been identified as most suitable for large scale propagation.

For the North-Western plains Zone, Kalyansona and Sonalika have been suggested for irrigated areas and C-306, K-05 and HD-1981 (Pratap) for unirrigated lands.

For the North-Eastern Zone, Sonalika N.R. 852 and Jankare considered most suited for irrigated areas and K-65 and Jank (HD-1982) for unirrigated areas.

In the Central Zone, the varieties considered most suitable for irrigated areas are Kalyansona, Sonalika and Raj-911, and for unirrigated areas HY-65, N.P. 404, Narbada—4 and N.P. 832.

NSC Plans Vegetable Seeds Revolution

A programme to ensure year-round availability of seeds of different varieties, suitable for agro-climatic conditions throughout the country, is being taken up by the National Seeds Corporation, Shri N.S. Maini, Managing Director of the Corporation disclosed recently.

Within a couple of years, NSC's vegetable seeds turnover would reach Rs. 3 crores from the existing level of about Rs. 60 lakhs. The Corporation would set up two new sophisticated vegetable seed processing plants, one in Delhi and the other in Hyderabad, said Shri Maini. The seeds would be marketed in adulteration and moisture proof containers.

NSC, which handles 68 varieties of 28 vegetable crops, will also expand its varietal range through some more exotic vegetable varieties. Its tomato seed production of 270 qtls. would be doubled by next year.

The Corporation is also undertaking custom production of vegetable seeds for countries like Japan.

Farm Know How Transit Centre at Pantnagar

A joint team of experts of the UNDP, FAO, UNESCO and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has visited the Pantnagar University for spot assessment of the requirements of the Project for development of a centre of communication for rural developments.

The Rs. 3.5 crores project aims at developing a systematic and scientific strategy for communicating new agricultural technology to the rural communities. It also envisages to improve the instructional technology in the agricultural institutions in the country.

Important features of the communication centre proposed to be developed under the project include curriculum for development of communication, communication research, quality education through application of instructional technology, continuing education programme, and documentation service for resource material and text-book production.

Vegetable Corporation for Delhi

The Delhi Administration will set up a vegetable Corporation first of its kind in the country, this month.

The Corporation will buy fruits and vegetables direct from the growers and the marketing societies and distribute them through the 76 fruit and vegetable stalls in the capital run by the Coopera-

tive Department, thereby eliminating the huge middlemen's cut.

The Corporation will also press into service mobile vans to take fruits and vegetables to the consumers' doorstep.

White Onion Cultivation to get Boost

Cultivation of white onions will be stepped up considerably during the coming years to cater to the export market.

White onion is an exotic variety, and has greater demand in foreign markets than the pink onions (Nasik variety).

The ICAR is taking up a programme for the development of white onions to study the agro-climatic suitability for different States. The white onion, originally a Spanish variety, is a relatively new crop in India.

The Commerce Ministry has suggested captive production of the new onion variety in 10,000 hectare within five years for exclusive exports.

White onions are in great demand in the Gulf countries, Malaysia, Singapore, West Germany, the United Kingdom and France. India already holds monopoly in onion exports to Malaysia and Singapore.

Onion exports through NAFED were about 1,50,000 tonnes in 1971-72 at the time of Sri Lanka's import ban on the commodity.

Though India is a major producer of pink onions, the variety is less suited for dehydration because of the higher moisture content than that the white variety. The white onion has a longer keeping quality.

Rs. 5 Crore from Onions

Export of onions fetched foreign exchange worth Rs. 5.34 crores in 1974-75. Malaysia and Singapore were the most important buyers. Together they imported nearly 39 million kg. valued at Rs. 40 lakhs. Kuwait, Dubai, Iran and Bahrain were among the other importers.

The total quantity of onion exported was 69 million kg.

Potato sales abroad improved from Rs. 2.4 million in 1973-74 to Rs. 8.3 million next year. The major importers were Iran, Nepal, Bangladesh and Dubai.

Maharashtra State Coop. Marketing Federation to produce Cotton from November 14

The Maharashtra State Cooperative Marketing Federation will start procuring cotton at APC prices in the Baramati, Phattan and Ahmednagar areas from 14-11-75, the Chief Minister Shri S.B. Chavan announced on 6.11.75.

The cotton production in these areas is estimated at 70,000 to 80,000 bales.

The prices of different varieties as fixed by APC are as follows, with the latest season's guaranteed prices in brackets per quintal : H-4 Rs. 321 (superior 425, FAO Rs. 405 and low quality Rs. 200/-) Laxmi Rs. 260 (superior Rs. 350, FAO Rs. 325 and IQ Rs. 170), Nimkar Rs. 260 (same as those of Laxmi), CO2 Rs. 260 (same as those of Laxmi). The prices of Varalaxmi and Suvin Cotton will, for the time being, be the same as those of H-4.

The Chief Minister also announced that the State Government had decided to give a guarantee for Rs. 20 crores with interest thereon to the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank for the cotton monopoly procurement scheme.

Homeopathic Hormone Capsules Increase Yields

Shri M.Y. Mandloi of Bedia village of Madhya Pradesh has reported increased yields of his Maize and Torai crops by the use of Homeopathic Hormone Capsules. Similar results are reported by Father Nicols James of Sanavad on his Ganga-5 Maize, Chilies and Grapes. Many farmers in the area are following the use of capsules to their advantage.

Khargone District Krishak Samaj

Sh. Mangat Singh Khanuja, President of Khargone District Krishak Samaj presented a memorandum to the Narmada Tribunal calling their attention to the importance of increasing irrigation potential to this otherwise fertile and productive areas besides being helpful to give employment to the tribal people of these area. The memorandum stressed that early maturity and more production potentiality is the special peculiarity of

this tract and only with more water availability, the cropping intensity can be raised up to 200 to 300 per cent positively.

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Khargone District Krishak Samaj held their Executive Committee meeting in October and passed the building plans for Krishak Bhawan at Khargone. It was decided to hold Tehsil Krishak Samaj Meetings and every life member to enroll at least 10 new life members and 50 Ordinary members of the Samaj. It was felt that Maize and Jowar prices must be minimum Rs. 100/- per quintal. The recent increase in passenger fares by State Road Transport Corporation were resented and it was decided to approach the Chief Minister for proper revision of rates.

Gurgaon Krishak Samaj meets

Gurgaon District Krishak Samaj organised a meeting of farmers and experts from Cooperative Industry, Milk Scheme and Agriculture and Development Block on 8th October, 1975. The discussion on the availability of credit for dairy development was very much interesting and informative. Besides information was also given on improved production methods, improved seeds, Mr. D.D. Gupta, Secretary of the Samaj asked the farmers to strengthen themselves and use modern implements and improved seeds and fertilizers to grow more food.

FISHERIES

Method Discovered For Multiple Cropping of Fish

New Delhi : Indian catfish which normally spawns once a year has been made to produce eggs four times a year in a remarkable discovery by Delhi University zoologists. The laboratory discovery of multiple cropping of fish "may have immense potentialities for aquaculture", Prof B.I. Sundarajan told a national symposium here organised by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA). They have harvested from the same fish four crops of eggs in April, May, June and July by simply altering the "biological clock" of the catfish.

In nature, plants and animals exhibit rhythmic behaviours controlled by an in-

built biological clock, but its nature and location are not known. The Delhi scientists, however, discovered that the clock's rhythm in catfish could be manipulated to make it sexually active more than once by simply keeping the fish in water at 25 degrees (C) and by exposing them to light (natural or artificial) 14 hours each day for one month. After one month in this environment the ovaries of the fish get filled with eggs which are expelled by simply injecting a hormone. When the spent fish are again exposed to the same environment for another month they once again are ready to spawn and the process can be repeated four times from April to July. By keeping the fish at 30 degrees (C) instead of 25 degrees (C) the scientists discovered they could initiate spawning in February itself which means that six monthly crops from February to July could be harvested.

Kharif Output To Be 70 Million Tonnes

The Kharif foodgrains production this year is expected to be an all-time record of more than 70 million tonnes, according to Union Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Jagjivan Ram. He said this was the expected production in spite of the damages done by floods in some parts of the country including eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Punjab. He attributed this high level of production to good monsoon, and to the fact that the necessary inputs were made available to the farmers on time. Mr. Ram added that the necessary inputs were made available to the farmers on time. Mr. Ram added that the late rains this time (in September and October) had also ensured good prospects for the coming rabi crop.

In total, the production in 1975-76 agricultural year "promises to be very bright", Mr. Ram observed. He also said that, as a result of the good kharif crop, open market prices of some varieties of foodgrains (paddy and maize) had fallen below the Rs. 74 a quintal fixed by the Government as procurement price. He had issued instructions to the Food Corporation of India and also to the State Governments to make purchases so as to maintain the price level (At Rs. 74/- a quintal).

mahyco

THE SEED OF PIONEERING FARMERS

As early as 1963, a few pioneering farmers decided to develop Hybrid seeds that could outyield earlier varieties... the seeds of shorter duration as well, so that farmers could harvest two crops of cereals in a year!

Their dedication gave birth to mahyco with a vision that farmers could, with the quality seeds, turn India from a land of scarcity to agricultural surplus.

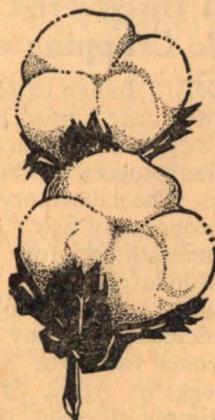
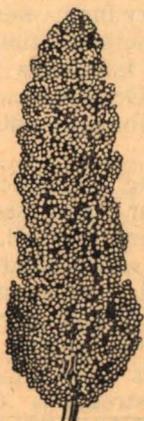
Starting with Maize Hybrid, mahyco were also the first to produce Hybrid Jowar followed by Hybrid Bajra seed.

Today, mahyco has the distinction to be the largest seed producing and marketing company in India, in the Private Sector, operating in several States and exporting Indian seeds abroad.

But the frontiers of Agricultural growth are far and beyond for mahyco to rest. Nothing satisfies mahyco except continuous striving for forward progress.

Since 1966, mahyco was again the first to start its own Research to develop better and better Hybrids. With many years of labour mahyco has produced new Hybrids in Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Cotton... the seeds that will take mahyco nearer to its vision of a surplus India.

**mahyco is dedicated to its vision ...
the vision of a surplus India.**



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