

**BENCH MARK SURVEY REPORTS ON POUNTA BLOCK
HIMACHAL PRADESH, BHADSON BLOCK - PUNJAB AND
BRATHAT BLOCK - UTTAR PRADESH, 1957**

1. The Study

The survey was conducted by the Programme Evaluation Organisation in its all evaluation centres to collect detailed information regarding acceptance of sponsored practices and yield information on certain aspects of rural economy related to the Development Programmes at the beginning of the Project. The survey data were to be used as 'bench mark' for repeat surveys in order to study the changes that had taken place during the operation of project. This volume contains reports for the following three blocks.

1. Pounta Development Block, District Sirmour,
Himachal Pradesh

2.

Bhadson Development Block, District Patiala, Punjab.

3. Bhathat Development Block, Gorakhpur, Pradesh.

2. **Objectives**

i) To assess the extent to which the improved practices advocated by the Community Development and National Extension Programmes have been adopted by the villagers.

ii) To obtain insight into the impact of these programmes upon the economic and social life of the rural people.

Sample Size/Criteria for Selection of Sample

The sampling design adopted involved two stages. In the first stage, the sampling unit was the village and in the second, it was the household, cultivator, agricultural labourer or cultivator-cum-agricultural labourer.

In most cases, the block was divided into 6 strata of more or less equal population, the division being based on geographical considerations. From each stratum one village was selected with probability proportionate to population. About 1000 households were covered in 6 villages.

4. Reference Period

The survey was conducted between February and June, 1954. The data were collected for period October 1953 to March, 1954.

5. Main Findings

POUNTA Community Development Block, District Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh

1. The average size of cultivation holding was 7.5 acres for all cultivators in sample villages.
2. 85 per cent of the cultivators owned land.
3. The children of the school going age i.e. those between 5 to 15 years of age, only 15.3 per cent were attending schools. The corresponding percentages for male and female children were 23.4 and 5.6 respectively.
4. Among the diseases reported, Malaria accounted for 50.0 per cent of the total cases of illness. The other diseases in order of incidence were influenza, rheumatism and dysentery and these accounted for 7.2%, 6.7% and 5.8% respectively of the total cases of illness.
5. As many as 70.2 per cent of the total number of households reported agriculture as their principal occupation.
6. Of the total cultivated area, only 2.0 per cent was irrigated. of the area irrigated, 65.4% was irrigated by kuhls and 34.6% by wells.
7. 7.4 per cent of the total cropped area was under improved seeds. The use of improved seed was reported mainly for wheat and sugarcane crops and the proportion of the area under the improved varieties in their case was 16.4 per cent and 15.9. per cent respectively of the total area under the crops.
8. 90.9 per cent of the cultivating households reported use of fertilizers and manures.
9. Of the total number of cultivators only 18.5 per cent reported the use of improved implements. The improved implements popular in the area were the chaff cutters and the cane crushers.

10. 87,9% of the houses were reported to be completely kutch⁴ in structure. only 1.8% were completely pucca houses.

11. 52 per cent of the sample cultivators reported to be under debt and money-lender was reported to be the main source of loans.

12. 71,7 per cent of the total households participated in some community activity or the other.

13. 14.3 per cent of the total households reported membership of the co-operative societies.

II. **Bhadson Community novelopment Block, District Patiala, Punjab**

1. The average size of land holding of the sample cultivators was 17,4 acres.

2. 81 per cent of the selected cultivators reported ownership of land.

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3. 71.2 per cent of cultivators reported having incurred debt. Money lender was the major source of loans.

4. only a few cultivators reported purchase of the fertilizers and the organic manures, the number being 9 and 10 respectively.

5. The proportion of literate population to 'the total was 13.0 per cent. As compared to males, the percentage of the literates was much lower among the females in all the sample villages.

6. Among the diseases reported, malaria accounted for 26.4 per cent of the total cases of illness. other ailments in the order of frequency were influenza, asthma, rheumatism and dysentery accounting for 11.9%, 10.2%, 5.2% and 5.0% respectively of the total cases of illness.

7, Foodgrains crops were the predominant crops in the area. Of the total cultivated area 64.0 per cent was irrigated. Wells were the main source of irrigation accounting for 88.7 per cent of the total irrigated area. Canals accounted for another 11.2 per cent of the, irrigated area.

8. 78.5 per cent of the houses were reported to be completely kutcha in structure and completely pucca houses accounted for only 6.8 per cent of the total houses.

9. 36.6 per cent of the total cropped area was under improved seeds.

10. 80.2 per cent of the cultivators reported the use of the fertilizers and manures.

11. Of the total number of the cultivators, 66.6 per cent reported use of the improved implements.

12. 36.0 per cent of the total number of the households reported participation in some community activity or the other. Their total contribution was 2867 mandays of labour and Rs.137 in cash.

13. 15.6 per cent of the total number of the households reported membership of the co-operative societies.

Bhathat Community Development Block, District Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

1. The average size of the cultivation holding was 3.4 acres of all cultivators in the selected villages.

2. 97 per cent of the cultivators reported ownership of the land.

3. 72 per cent of the households were under debt. Professional money lenders were the principal agency for providing credit.

4. Only 17 per cent of the cultivators reported expenditure on chemical fertilizers.

5. The percentage of literates to the total population was 9.5. In almost all the villages, literacy among the women was practically non-existent. Among the children of the school going age i.e. those belonging to the age group 5-15, 9.10 per cent were attending the schools. The percentage of the girls attending the school was as low as 0.2 against the corresponding percentage of 17.1 among the boys.

6. Among the diseases reported, malaria was by far the most prevalent, being responsible for as many as 53.5 per cent of the total cases of illness. Dysentery and asthma* accounted for 10.7% and 6.5% respectively of

the total cases. The other diseases reported were rheumatism, typhoid and influenza.

7. Paddy was the most important crop grown. 65.2 per cent of the total cultivated area was irrigated, the principal means of irrigation were wells and tanks.

8. 58.7 per cent of the houses were entirely kutcha in structure. Only less than 15 per cent of the houses made use of bricks, cement or stones.

9. Only 11.3 per cent of the area was under paddy, the most important crop of the area sown with improved seeds and 19.2 per cent of the cultivators **growing paddy reported** use of the improved seeds.

10. of the total cultivators, 95.1 per cent reported use of manure or fertilizer. Chemical fertilizers were, however, used by only a limited number.

11. About 70.5 per cent participated in some community activity or the other and contributed in all 1167 mandays of labour and Rs.105 in 'cash.

12. Only 26.0 per cent of the total households in sample villages reported membership of the co-operative societies.