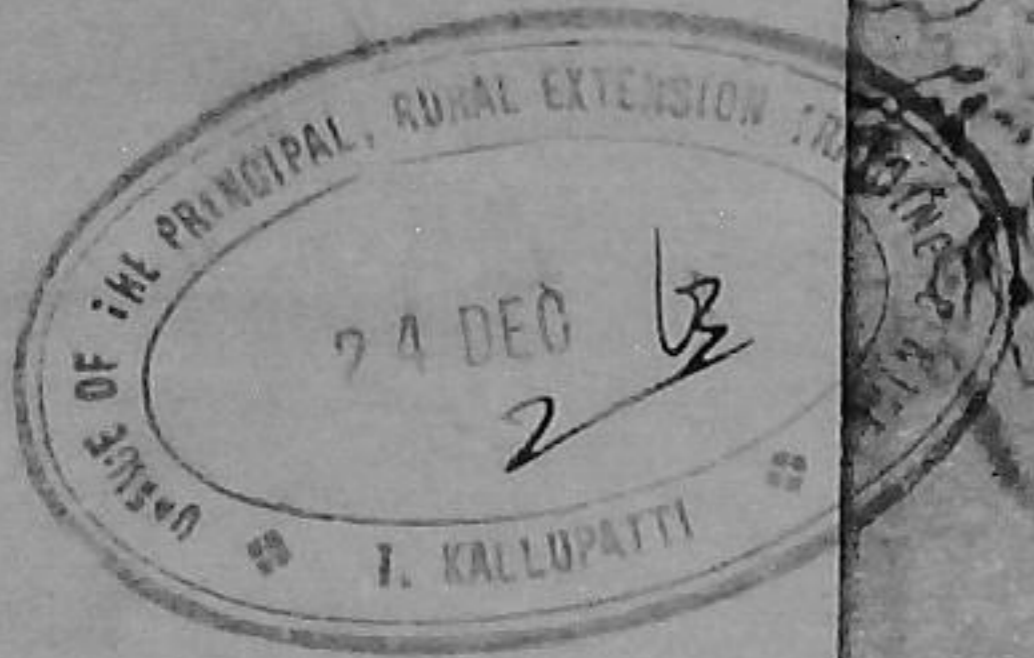


3440

# Panchayati Raj

DECEMBER 1963



**SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA RAUT**—adjudged the Best Gram Sevika at a competition held at the national level recently in New Delhi. She is receiving from Shri S. D. Misra, Union Deputy Minister for Co-operation, a prize of Rs. 2,500 and a certificate of merit for doing outstanding work in Paoni Welfare Extension Project, Maharashtra





*Shri N. Venkate Gowde, a progressive farmer, has among other things also grown grapes in his kitchen garden*



*Liberal use of fertilisers gives a luxuriant crop of Ragi*

# Intensive Cultivation In Mysore

*Shri Nanjundaiha, a progressive farmer of Bangalore South takes two and even three crops from his fields. Now is the turn for vegetables.*



*The rich pile of potatoes is the reward*





Vol. IV DECEMBER 1963 No. 9  
AGRAHAYANA-1885

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(Asstt. Editor, Publications Division)

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## LETTERS

ACT MORE, TALK LESS

Sir,

KINDLY REFER to your letter regarding the V.L.W. being overburdened with too many Reports and Returns, as published in the October issue of 'Panchayati Raj'.

As Vice-President of the Block Advisory Committee for the last five years and as a member of the Finance Committee from the time of the inception of the Samithi, I have been closely connected with the programme. Here are some of my suggestions based on practical experience.

Too much has been made out of the paper work load of the Gram Sevak. Actually his scriptory work is least as compared to others in many other departments.

Today production plans are no doubt drawn carefully by A.E.O. and in some cases by the V.L.Ws also. But the Village Sarpanch merely puts his thumb mark on it. The other panchas scarcely participate in its preparation. Even the Samithi members know little about it. Under such circumstances, elaborate plans are a mere waste of talent, material and money. Instead, the food production plans should be confined to a few important items only; viz., (1) distribution of seeds and fertilisers (2) Plant protection & (3) Some improved demonstrations suited to the locality. Let us be simple but hard-working; act more and talk less. While activity has not increased, these days talking is fast becoming a major contagious disease even in the most unsophisticated rural India.

30-10-63

PEDDA KADABUR VILLAGE  
ADONI TALUK

Yours etc.,  
M. HANUMANTHA REDDY

### V.L.W.s' PRIZE COMPETITION SCHEME

Sir,

SELECTION of the best V.L.W. at the national level is again in the news. This time, the selection of the Best Gram Sevika has also been effected. This is all to the good in so far as it goes; our heartiest congratulations to the winners!

However, frankly speaking, the news no longer causes that stir and joyful excitement as it did in the past. The experience of the last few years has shown that even the nation's best Gram Sevak may not hope to gain anything more than the value of the cash prize held out for him. If he aspires to some promotion in his career, more often than not, he is likely to be disappointed. It is this limitation which waters down all the incentive and enthusiasm that the scheme is expected to generate.

I do not for a moment hold the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation responsible for this. I have no doubt that Shri S. K. Dey was in right earnest when he remarked that "a suitable V.L.W. can become even a Development Commissioner". But who can break the rigidity of the rules framed by our Civil Servants? It appears as if man is made for rules and not *vice versa*.

25-10-63

RURAL INSTITUTE  
GANDHIGRAM

Yours etc.,  
M. SANKARA RAO

# Impact of Panchayati Raj in Mysore

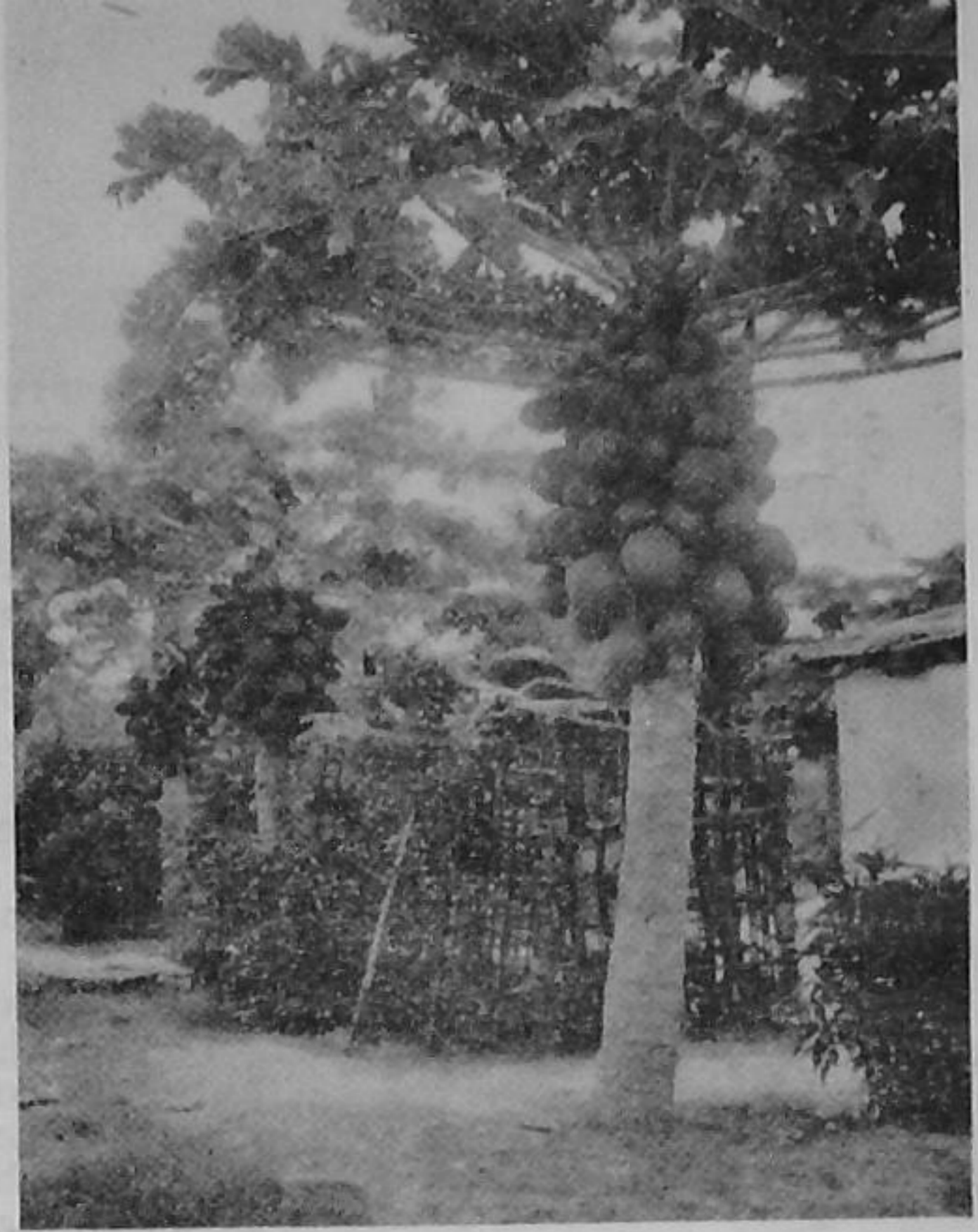
VISHNU DUTT

NO ONE who visits Mysore State can fail to be impressed by the natural scenic beauty and the salubrious climate of the place. The land of undulating hills and rivulets with numerous tanks dotted all over has an air of mysterious beauty all its own. It was in October last that I toured a score of villages in the State to study the impact of Panchayati Raj on rural life. I visited Devanhalli, Tumkur, Mandya, Ramanagaram, Pandavapur and Bangalore North and South Blocks. I also had an opportunity to attend the meetings of the Taluka Board at Tumkur and Ramanagaram and to see the State Poultry farm at Hesarghata, Agricultural Research Centre and Gram Sevaks' Training Centre at Mandya.

## NEW AWAKENING

The Panchayats have, on the whole, acquitted themselves well ever since Panchayati Raj was introduced in the State three years ago. The pace of development work particularly in the field of agriculture has received a fillip as a result of the Panchayati Raj movement. The ryots get loans for irrigation well, seeds and fertilisers etc. more easily now than they ever did before.

It is evident that a greater sense of responsibility and participation in the various development activities is developing at all levels,—in the Panchayats as well as the Taluka Boards. They are not satisfied with their present position and want to have a more effective voice in the day to day administration. The Chairmen of the village Panchayats have a feeling that sometimes their felt needs are not met by the Taluka Boards. The ryots also think that several genuine cases of Taccavi for irrigation wells etc. are overlooked by the Taluka Board. This is bound to happen because at present there is no organic link between the Panchayats and the Taluka Board. Besides, the members of the Taluka Board represent a very large constituency often as big as that of a member of the State legislature and as such



*Mysore abounds in fruit-laden papayas.*

they cannot have as close and intimate a touch with the ryots as the Chairmen, Village Panchayats have. Keeping in view this lacuna, the Basappa Committee set up by the State Govt. to review the working of the Panchayati Raj in the State has recommended for some representation of the Chairmen of the Village Panchayats in the Taluka Board. Another reform long overdue is the setting up of separate Nyaya Panchayats so that the villagers could settle their petty disputes in the villages and are freed from the wasteful expenditure involved in litigation in courts.

The State Government has sought to replace the 'Patils' and 'Karnams' of old by the Panchayat Secretaries but has not yet wholly succeeded in doing so. The writ petition filed by the former has brought about a state of stalemate. The low salary offered to the Panchayat Secretaries is perhaps another reason for their cold and none-too-responsive attitude. Under such circumstances, the work of the proper maintenance of land and revenue accounts is likely to suffer.

## POOR COMMUNITY ASSETS

By far the most important limiting factor in the way of the Panchayats' accomplishing development works on a big scale is their poor financial condition. The average income of a Panchayat

the first place, the increase in agricultural output relates to only one or two prevalent common crops of the area viz., paddy or *ragi*. Secondly, only a limited number of eager farmers only are called upon to participate in the programme. Thus the targetted increase in production remains a realistic figure easy of achievement. The temptation to cook up figures and thereby rendering the plan a bogus one, is largely avoided.

### INTENSIVE CULTIVATION

Intensive cultivation measures have been greatly stepped up in Blocks around Bangalore. For the first time, two and even three crops are being taken from the lands which in the past grew only one crop of paddy or *ragi*. As a result of more assured irrigation supplies and liberal use of fertilisers and improved seeds, the produce per acre has increased from 50 per cent to 100 per cent and even more in some areas. Fruit and vegetable cultivation is increasingly gaining ground. A number of cultivators are taking to small plantations of one to two acres each of cashew nuts, *Pan Supari*, coconut, Palm, Mulberry etc. as cash crops. In Bangalore North Taluka, for example, the area under fruit gardens and vegetables has gone up by 200 and 250 acres respectively during the last four years.

Some of the progressive young farmers in these areas have indeed achieved spectacular success. Their achievement compares favourably with the best in any other State. Their holdings vary from five to ten acres only. They have demonstrated that a small holding of that size need not be the despair of the Indian peasant and that agriculture can be as paying as any industry with similar investment. The complexion of our agriculture would change materially even if 25 per cent of our cultivators carried out what these *Krishni Pandits* have already demonstrated in their own fields. There is, for example, Shri N. Venkate Gowde, a young farmer of village Avathi in Davenhalli Block who is drawing a net income of Rs. 10,000 from a mere 12 acre plot. He takes three crops viz., Onions, *Ragi* and Potato from one plot of 6 acres. Two acres have been set apart for mulberry to rear silk worm. He grows paddy in  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre. The rest of the land being about 3 acres is dry which gives only *Ragi*. Another notable progressive farmer is Shri G. R. Nanjindiah who is also the President of the

Taluka Board, Bangalore South. He, too, is earning more than Rs. 10,000 from 12 acres of land. He takes two crops of potato and *Ragi* from five acres, and the rest of the land has been put under fruit and vegetable cultivation.

These are no isolated instances. A number of cultivators are now striving to catch up with them. Their increased prosperity is reflected in their constructing new houses on the farm itself, away from the village habitation. Like the country-farm houses of England or America, they are electrified and well equipped with all amenities a modern man could reasonably ask for. There is a separate kitchen, bath-room, drawing room, bed-room and store etc. The cattle shed has a pacca flooring with provision for draining away urine into a pit so that the same could be utilised as manure. Separate sheds for piggery, poultry and stocking fuel and fodder have also been provided. Every farm house owner tries to be self-sufficient in his requirements of fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs and even meat. Some of the more enterprising amongst them have taken to cash crops like Chikory and Pop, Corn a product of Hybrid Maize which were an entirely imported stuff till a ban was placed recently on their import.

### CO-OPERATIVES—A WEAK LINK

In the drive for more intensive cultivation and the achievements of the targets of village Agricultural Production Plans, the Co-operatives are still a weak link. They will have to be built up into effective institutions if a more smooth distribution

*A row of new model houses built by the villagers of Kuppur*



varies from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000 only. The taxes levied are too meagre. Besides, very few Panchayats have got remunerative assets. The ownership of 'Gomals' and village tanks which could be a fruitful source of income, has not yet been transferred to all the Panchayats. Although it was over one year ago when the State Government passed orders for the transfer of their ownership to the Panchayats, yet the same has not been effected so far due to lack of proper co-ordination on the part of the Revenue Department. This chronic maladjustment between the Revenue and Development departments is not peculiar to Mysore State alone; it is equally true of almost every other State and unless suitable ways and means are devised to overcome the same, pace of development activities cannot be speeded up.

It was a pleasant surprise to note that the individual peasants in Mysore State follow a healthy tradition of reserving one or two acres of dry land for plantation of fuel trees like *Casuarina* etc. This not only brings to the farmers a sizable income but also provides them the much-needed fuel for domestic purposes, thereby releasing cowdung for making compost which is badly needed for the crops. Here is a pointer to the way in which the All India problem of providing a suitable substitute for cowdung as fuel can be tackled, thereby releasing large quantities of cowdung to serve as manure in the fields. Other States would do well to follow this healthy practice of the Mysorean cultivators.

Some of the Panchayats which have already taken possession of their common waste lands are going ahead with the plantation of trees which promises to be a good source of income to them. Bijjawara Panchayat in Devanhalli Block which has got a painstaking V.L.W. and an imaginative Sarpanch Shri B. H. Ramaswamy, has undertaken to plant in 20 acres out of the total 'Gomal' area of 35 acres, *casuarina* and even fruit trees like 'Sapota', palm, coconut and Cashew nut etc. In a few years' time, the Panchayat's annual income is bound to go up to several thousand rupees.

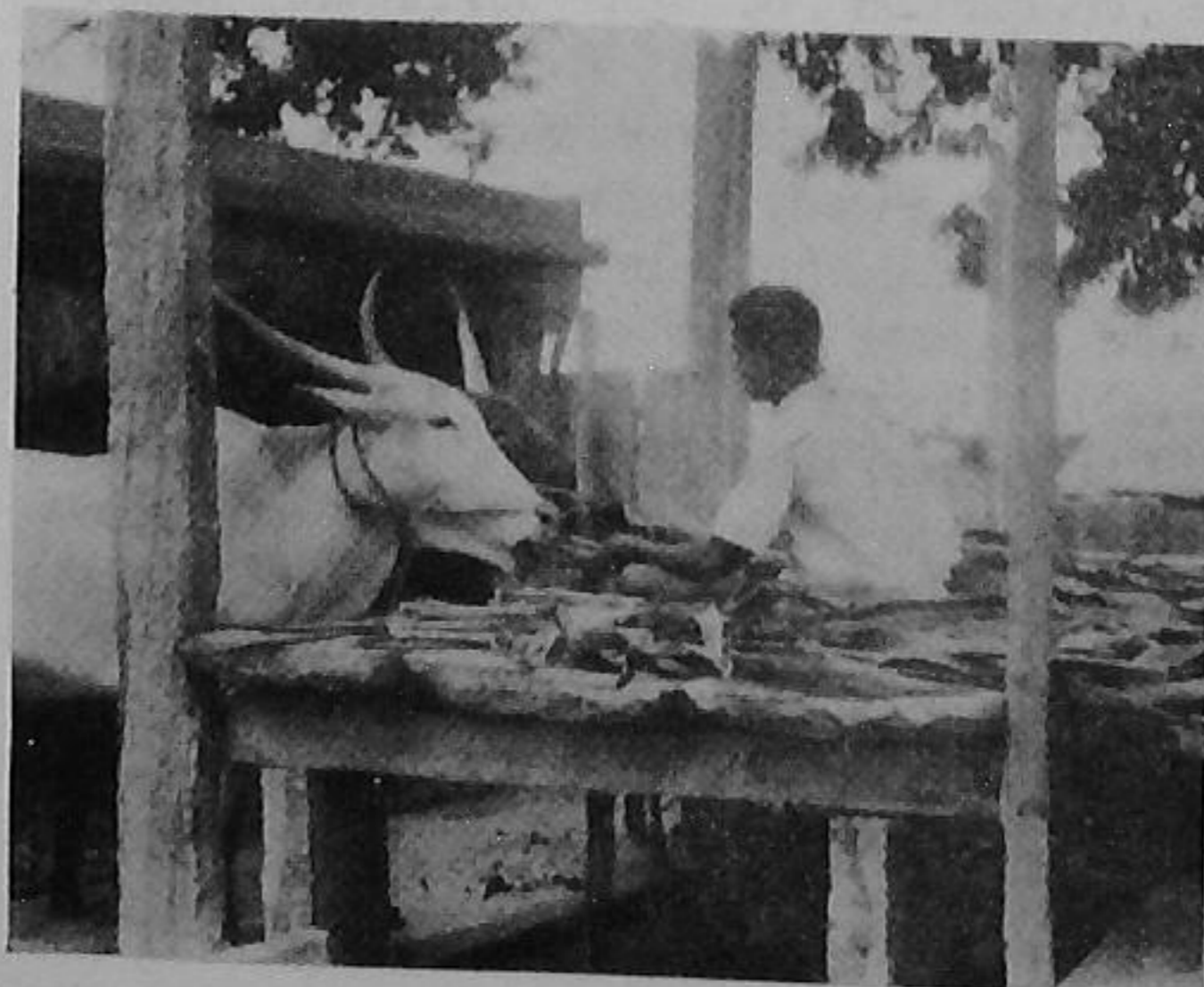
Since Mysore is dotted with tanks, big and small, in almost every village, fishery could be another big source of income to the Panchayats. A modest beginning has been made. Besides some other nurseries, the Gram Sevak Training

Centre at Mandya has done a pioneering job by undertaking to rear 50,000 fingerlings in an improvised tank dug by the trainees themselves. The Panchayats would no doubt be only too willing to stock their tanks with these fingerlings but their difficulty is the question of the ownership of those tanks. They cannot be legitimately expected to evince interest in the scheme unless the income from the tanks is assured to them.

### VILLAGE PRODUCTION PLAN

It is heartening to observe that most of the Panchayats have given due priority to the programme of intensifying agricultural production. Almost every Panchayat has prepared its own Agricultural Production Plan. It was obvious that these were not mere 'paper plans' but were being implemented on the ground. This was a pleasant observation in the context of the chorus of criticism that one often hears against the Agricultural Production Plans being unworkable and bogus. At the time of the last annual conference of development commissioners and Ministers held in New Delhi, the Union Minister, Shri S. K. Dey, had expressed the opinion that the Agricultural Production Plans were too cumbersome to be carried out by the V.L.W. He even suggested that the experts should visit a village and evolve a simple and workable Production Plan. Mysore State may well have the credit of formulating such a plan. The outstanding feature of the Village Agricultural Production Plans here is that they seek to be selective and limited in scope and approach. In

*Feeding the pet cattle with one's own hands is a common practice in Mysore.*



of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides is desired at the doorsteps of the cultivators. The Taluka Board and the Panchayats cannot be expected to shoulder for long this burden on an *ad hoc* basis as at present. This difficulty has become only too obvious in Mandya district which being under the "package programme" requires to be saturated with improved seeds and, therefore, badly needs the services of well-built co-operatives.

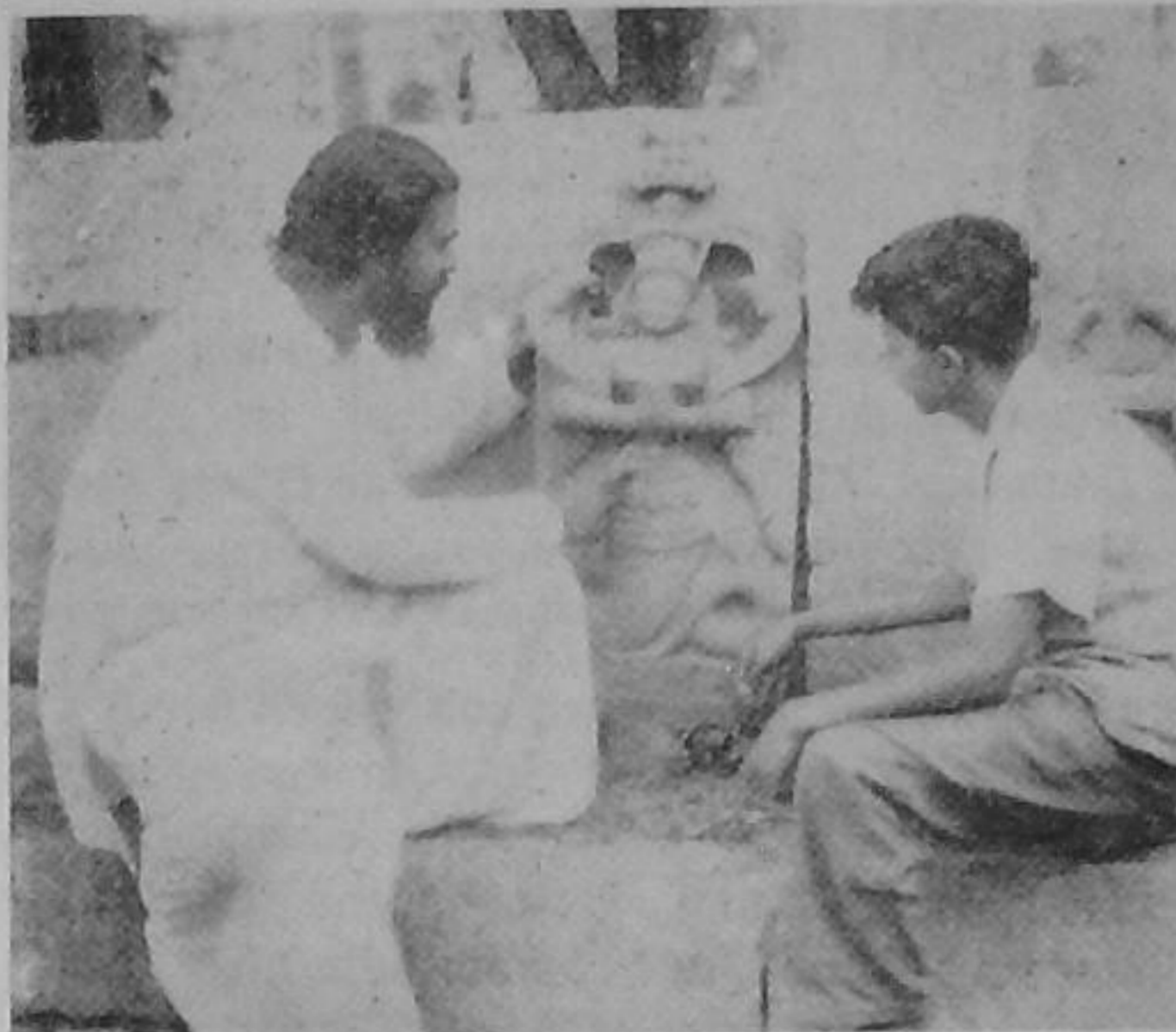
The improved varieties of paddy and *Ragi*, the two staple crops, have yet to cover larger areas of the State. 'Cauveri *Ragi*' a new variety of *Ragi* developed at the Agricultural Research Centre, Mandya, suited for dry cultivation, promises to give three times the produce of the local variety. If early steps could be taken to multiply the seed through registered growers so that enough stocks are built up for distribution to the cultivators during the next one or two years, the State will be able to give a real boost to agriculture.

In the context of the peculiar agro-climatic conditions of the State, soil conservation is a pressing problem. A beginning has already been made. Pawguda block is a living example of how rewarding soil conservation measures can be. Not only large chunks of land have been saved from erosion and recovered for cultivation, but even the water table of the wells in the locality has come up, thus ensuring better irrigation facilities for the dry areas. But the problem is so gigantic that it requires more elaborate and wide-spread operations.

Poultry farming has a great chance to grow up around big cities like Bangalore, Mysore, Belgaum and Bellary etc. But it has not caught the imagination of the people so far. Yet some progress has obviously been made as the increasing demand for chicks and birds on the Hesarghatta poultry Farm goes to indicate. The State Poultry Farm with 3,500 layers is hardly able to meet even 20% of the people's requirement of chicks and birds for breeding purposes. Something more will have to be done to make the programme a dynamic one.

#### VILLAGE VOLUNTEER FORCE

In some of the villages I visited, the Village Volunteer Force has been very active and has done remarkable work. Proper account of the labour voluntarily offered by the V.V.F. members is being maintained in the Defence Labour Bank.



*Shri A. C. H. Acharya with one of his pupils*

In Kuppur village of Tumkur Block, the V.V.F. members have dug 80 compost pits and built a one mile long road. About 50 members have worked for one week in the fields of an individual cultivator. The members have been paid daily wages at the rate of 50 nP. and the whole amount thus earned by the members has been credited to the D.L.B. thus forming a revolving fund of the village Panchayat. The low rates of wages paid to the members were due to the fact that free food had also been supplied to the V.V.F. members by the individual cultivator in whose fields they had worked. The entire village is being literally rebuilt according to a model plan at a higher level through the efforts of the V.V.F. members. In another village Surdinpura, the V.V.F. members have offered over 2000 Man-days labour in the construction of a new Primary School building, the approach road and planting of trees. In Halebbedu Panchayat area of Pandavapur Taluk, 176 members of the V.V.F. have put in about 3000 Man-days' labour and completed the construction of a 2 mile long road and laying out of a community orchard and 80 compost pits.

A splendid example of selfless social service is offered by the University Medical School Old Students' Association, Bangalore. About 30 medical practitioners including lady doctors from the city have offered their free services for medical service in the rural areas. At present the party is working in Nellikunte. Seven doctors visit the

*(Continued on page 16)*

# OUR FIRST BEST GRAM SEVIKA

M. G. DODKEY

*Shri Mukhram Singh of Chakia Block, Varanasi District in Uttar Pradesh has been adjudged the best Gram Sevak and Shrimati Shakuntala Raut of Paoni Block, District Bhandara, Maharashtra the best Gram Sevika and awarded prize after a nation-wide competition. Below we are publishing a story of the life and achievements of the best Gram Sevika. In the next issues will appear the success story of the best Gram Sevak—Editor.*

BORN IN a poor but devoted cultivator's family of Shirasgaon Kasba village in Amravati district, thirty-one year old Shrimati Shankuntala Raut, Gram Sevika, Paoni Development Block in Bhandara district of Maharashtra, has been awarded the first prize of Rs. 2,500 and a merit certificate for being the best Gram Sevika in the country. The award was given for the first time to a Gram Sevika by the Ministry of Community Development & Co-operation.

Smt. Raut hails from a family that has a long tradition of dedicated social service. She herself has been brought up and trained in an atmosphere of dedication and selfless service. She has set a noble example of silent social service to village women and children during the last 10 years of her tenure as a Gram Sevika. It was the National Emergency caused by the unprovoked Chinese aggression that set her on mettle. And in her limited sphere, she played her part with courage and devotion.

## WIDOWED AT SIXTEEN

Widowed at the tender age of 16, she joined the Gurudeo Sēwa Mandal of Mozri Ashram, founded by Sant Tukdoji Maharaj and threw in her lot with men and women fired by religious fervour exhibiting itself in selfless service of the society. During the period of 6 years of her stay at the Ashram, she travelled in Marathawada, Maharashtra and Khandesh areas. During the fateful days of Hyderabad Police Action she conducted relief and rehabilitation operations at the same time propagating the high ideals of service ingrained in her by the Mozri Ashram.

These six years of training and experience at the Mozri Ashram laid the foundation of her bright career of social service. Unluckily she could not avail herself of adequate educational facilities. She could not go beyond Marathi VIIth standard. But this did not deter her, for in

the field of social service it is the qualities of heart that matter more than that of intellect. Later events amply justified the truth of this statement.

## ROLE AS GRAM SEVIKA

Smt. Raut joined as Gram Sevika in Bhandara District Welfare Extension Project in 1953. She earned praise from all during her tenure of service there. At the close of Bhandara Welfare Project, she was transferred to Paoni Welfare Extension Project four years back when she worked at Akot and Amgaon subcentres for 2 years each before taking over the charge of the Sawarla village subcentre about two and a half years ago. It was the tremendous social work done here that earned her the official recognition and the first national prize. She was adjudged the best Gram Sevika in Maharashtra State in May last, before she entered the national competition in October this year. This was a recognition of her capacity to completely identify herself with the rural people wherever she worked and her unshakable faith in their economic and social uplift. Asked as to what she thought had led to her success, she remarked spontaneously that it was her habit of practising everything herself before preaching it to others.

Much to her surprise, she had found that her requests and persuasion with the people amongst whom she worked were nothing short of commands which were implicitly followed by the people of the four villages viz., Sawarla, Khatkbeda, Vilam and Nandikheda under her charge. These villages are on the border of Chandanagpur and Bhandara district, and hence the impact of her work was felt even by the neighbouring districts also.

In the wake of national emergency, she took upon herself the task of arousing the patriotic spirit amongst the children and women through Bhajans, Kirtans, war songs, prayer meetings,



group discussions and also through organisation of physical educational classes and exercises. She did what any other Gram Sevika has never done. She organised physical training in Jambia, Lezim, Bhala, Sword-Fighting and Lathi not only for women and children but also for men. She has likewise proved her worth in all other fields of constructive activities such as agricultural and animal husbandry programmes, environmental sanitation, nutrition, home improvement, arts and crafts, mental make-up of the children, women and the younger generation. Almost every person in the four villages has received the impact of her personality and is proud of the same.

In furtherance of the women and children's programme, Smt. Raut has established four mahila mandals, with 501 members. She has started one Balwadi with 52 children. So far, she is responsible for the training of 700 women in various camps held for women's welfare and improvement. She has made 652 women literate through adult literacy classes and conducted 7 rural study tours of women and children to show them round the ideal villages and development schemes near about to help them gain first-hand knowledge of the work there. She has also conducted 4 baby shows from time to time. She has been supervising the free distribution of milk and mid-day meals programmes. Although some of the activities did not strictly form part of her duty chart yet she has performed them out of sheer 'labour of love'. For example, she has trained 50 children and 32 women in programmes like Lathi, Lezim etc. She has also organised the staging of 8 historical dramas to inspire patriotic fervour amongst the people.

She has done an equally good job in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry. She has persuaded 75 families to lay out kitchen-gardens and compost pits. About 200 women have been trained by her in better agricultural operations like line sowing, line transplantation, use of improved implements and seeds. She has introduced improved methods of poultry in 200 families.

### HOME IMPROVEMENTS

She has gained remarkable success in bringing about improvements in a number of houses. Through her efforts, smokeless Magan Chulhas,

and 10 Gopuri latrines have been introduced. She has succeeded in persuading 50 families to adopt the balanced diet system under her guidance. At least 50 families have learnt to put up mud shelves for keeping utensils; 75 families, the laying out of washing places; 200 families, the keeping of drinking water pots on raised platforms; 100 families, the opening out of a window or a hole in the walls for better ventilation and 50 families, the keeping of foodstuffs safe from rats, cats, and flies; 100 families, better methods of plastering the walls and 200 families, the use of labour-saving devices like improved flour *chakki* etc.

She has established one tailoring class and one Ambar charkha class for women for Khadi spinning. She has herself conducted two classes for training rural women in knitting and weaving sweaters and trained 200 women in this activity. About 30 women were trained in pottery. They have also learnt to prepare cane bags. At the block level, an exhibition and a kisan mela was held at Waigaon 2 years ago, where she was awarded the first prize for organising handicrafts, *rangoli* and physical training exercises programme.

Her technique of spreading the message of Community Development programme is in the tradition of Sant Tukdoji Maharaj which has a mass appeal for the simple village folk. In the morning, she would teach Yoga Dhyana exercises and in the evening hold prayer meetings. The young and old are alike captivated by the charm of her noble personality. That is why she is endearingly called "Taibai" by everybody in the villages.

While she was being interviewed by the Selection Committee at the National level in New Delhi, a member seemed to express some doubt about the veracity of her claim to coach the women and children in Jambia, sword fighting and other physical exercises. Immediately, she snapped back, "Come on, I will show it right now." But the committee member laughed away the issue and said, "Not now." Another member added, "She is another Rani Laxmibai!" Such is our Gram Sevika, the first ever to win prize at the national level.



# NILOKHERI'S APPLIED N

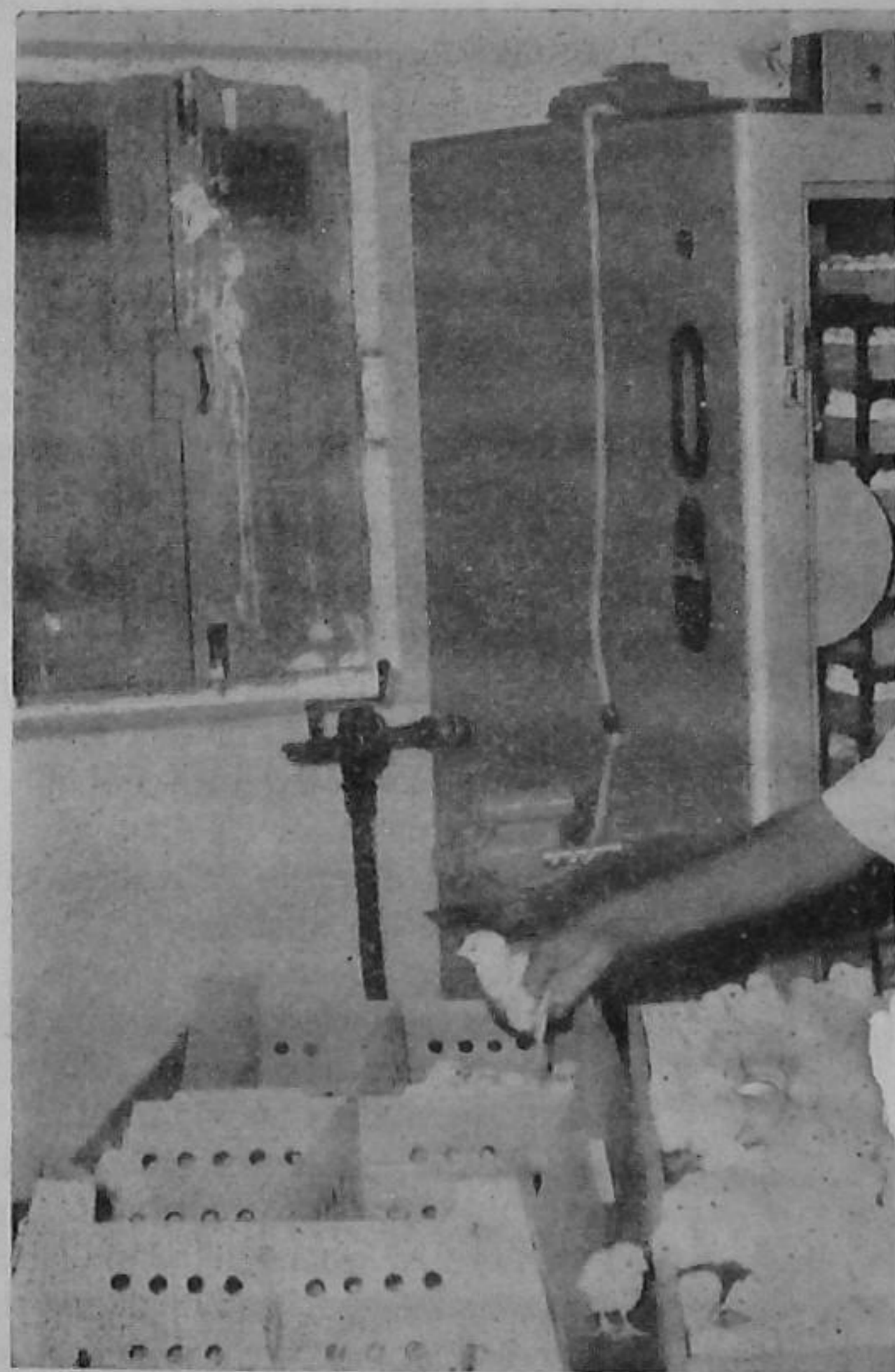
(By Our Co

ON THE national scene, the tall, handsome figure of a Panjabi youth represents one accustomed to a nutritious diet of eggs, bread, milk and butter. In the Punjab villages, Maize *Roti* (bread), *Sarson Ka Sag* and *Lassi* (butter milk) constitutes the staple diet of all and sundry. Though the common man's standard of diet in the Punjab compares favourably with that in other States, it falls short of the high achievement in other progressive countries of the world. To make up for this gap, the Applied Nutrition Programme has been introduced here on the 14th November, 1963, our Prime Minister's birthday. This is part of an All India Scheme being co-ordinated by the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation under the supervision of Col. Barkat Narain its Adviser Health, in collaboration with the UNICEF, FAO & WHO. The scheme envisages intensified efforts at production of protective foods like eggs, fish, fruits, green leafy vegetables and milk. It is the growing child and the expectant and nursing mother who are to be specially covered by this programme.

Nilokheri is one of the fifteen blocks selected by the Punjab Government for this specialised programme. Though the scheme has just been formally inaugurated, it has already struck roots and bids fair to be a great success. An extremely congenial atmosphere, the helpful attitude of the Panchayat Samiti and the earnest efforts put in by a band of devoted extension workers are some of the factors that hold out a very promising future for the programme.

## PANCHAYAT SAMITI TAKES LEAD

Nilokheri Panchayat Samiti has shown considerable initiative by undertaking to run directly under its charge a big project of poultry farming, fishery and piggery. It has built in a record period of four months only 12 buildings and sheds for housing piggery and poultry. The UNICEF has supplied equipment worth Rs. 50,000 consisting of incubators, feed grinders and mixers, brooders, and a deep freeze plant etc. for poultry farming on modern lines.



*Shri B. Patil, a progressive poultry farmer of Nilokheri, is shown hatching chicks from an incubator.*

The Samiti Project is becoming the nerve centre of poultry farming, fishery and piggery in the entire Block and the surrounding areas. At present, there are 500 layers. But their number is expected to rise up to 2,000 in the near future. The incubator has come in very handy to meet the demand of chicks by poultry breeders. Very soon, the second incubator will also have to be set up in order to meet the fast increasing demand of poultry breeders. As soon as the Feed Grinder and Mixer is installed, it will supply the feed for the birds at a cheap rate for which there is a great demand in the locality. To promote fishery,

# NUTRITION PROGRAMME

(respondent)



*Patil collecting his rich harvest of newly hatched chicks from his incubator*

the Samiti has got dug a one acre-tank through shramdan of the villagers. This is serving as a nursery for the supply of 15,000 fingerlings to various Panchayats in the Block. The piggery section has not started functioning as yet, although all the necessary pre-requisites have been completed. A manager is expected to take charge of the Unit soon.

## **POULTRY—A PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT**

Thanks to the lead given by the Orientation and Study Training Centre, Poultry Farming has made rapid strides and struck deep roots in the

Block. About a year ago, the Principal of the Training Centre had remodelled a small poultry farm to serve as part of practical training to the trainees. He had obtained 200 chicks of the improved variety. Out of these 75 layers are now giving about 40 to 50 eggs every day. All these are being sold as hatching eggs to help poultry breeders set up their farms. The income from their sale is Rs. 150 per month. It is this highly remunerative aspect of the project which has caught the imagination of the people in the neighbourhood and inspired a number of enterprising folk to take to it as a source of livelihood.

The scheme has since assumed the form of a real, vital peoples' movement and is spreading like wild fire. From the poorest Harijan to the biggest landlord,—all are vying with each other to have their own poultry farms.

By far the most enterprising amongst the poultry breeders is the forty year old B. Patil who along with another partner has set up a poultry farm on a very ambitious scale. Only a few months ago, he constructed a poultry farm building on modern lines at a cost of Rs. 12,000. At present, he has got 400 layers which give him enough eggs to earn a net profit of Rs. 500 p.m. Besides, he has purchased an incubator having a capacity of 2,100 eggs. This remains fully occupied for such is the heavy demand from the prospective poultry breeders in the vicinity. He has already received orders from as far as Panipat and the demand is likely to spread to other places like Samhalka, Sonipat, Thanesar and Shahabad. He is now planning to have at least 2,000 layers during the next year. He has already got 3,000 birds and is rearing them up for that purpose.

There is the young graduate Shri Gurjit Singh of village Shyam Garh who has spent over Rs. 10,000 on his poultry farm building. Till a few days ago, he had 50 layers only. But spurred by the highly remunerative aspect of the project, he has purchased 1,000 chicks and proposes to have 5000 birds within the next 2 or 3 years. This promises to be one of the biggest private poultry farms.

When I visited Nilokheri 6 months ago, I had noticed Sudesh, a young non-matric constructing a building costing about Rs. 3,500 to house his poultry farm. I found that he is now having 100 layers from which he is deriving a net monthly income of Rs. 250. He is very meticulous about the poultry feed, and prepares it himself according to the formula supplied to him by the Nilokheri Training Centre. He has received one month's training at the Government Poultry Farm, Ambala Cantt. This training has stood him in good stead. He takes extraordinary care to prevent sickness from overtaking his flock. He disinfects the drinking and feeding utensils of the birds every day. He knows that the litter under the birds is highly valued as a chemical fertiliser. He told me that he was anxious to find a customer for this too. In the beginning, there is going to be some difficulty because the people are yet unaware of its utility as a fertiliser. But I am sure that in course of time, it is going to bring good deal of money. It is estimated that one year old litter of 100 layers provides enough fertiliser for a 5 acre plot of wheat.

#### WEAKER SECTIONS

Several people belonging to the poorer sections have also been tempted towards poultry farming because this provides them the much needed subsidiary occupation. Scores of Harijan families in and around Nilokheri have set up small poultry farms with twenty to fifty birds.

An ingenious scheme of Shri Surjan Singh Gill, Principal, Orientation and Training Centre has particularly helped people belonging to the poorer sections to take advantage of poultry farming. About 8 months ago, Shri S. K. Dey, the Union Minister for Community Development and Co-operation, had received a donation of Rs. 500 out of which he placed Rs. 400 at the disposal of Shri Gill to be spent for the welfare of the poor people. The latter immediately handed over this amount to the Trainees' Panchayat and asked it to spend it on rearing up one month old 600 chicks to be supplied free to Harijans and other poor people on condition that they would first construct proper pens for poultry and that after the birds started laying eggs they would return two eggs for each bird taken by them. In order to ensure wider coverage, each family was to get 20 birds. Already 200 birds

have been distributed to 10 families under the scheme. The supply of the remaining birds to 20 families will be carried out on 14th November so as to synchronise with the inauguration of the Applied Nutrition Scheme in the State. With the return of the hatching eggs by the beneficiaries, as envisaged under the scheme, it will be possible to rear up another flock of at least 600 birds, if not more, for distribution amongst another 30 families. The scheme is thus self-propelling, thirty fresh families getting twenty birds after every eight months, and generating an additional income of Rs. 250. It is estimated that after five years of the working of this scheme, 270 families would have set up poultry farms. Although many of these poultry breeders would have considerably increased their flock, some going up to 100 or 200 or even more, yet assuming that even if they maintained their stock of 20 birds only, the additional income generated by them would be Rs. 2,250 per month. And the initial investment of Rs. 400 with the trainees' Panchayat would remain safe as ever. A very practical way indeed of helping the poorer sections who have otherwise no means to purchase the birds! The Panchayat Samiti, I understand, is also trying to help the Harijans by forming a co-operative poultry breeding society of 25 members each of whom will be advanced an amount of Rs. 1,500, part loan and part subsidy.

Within a period of less than one year, there have sprung up about one hundred poultry breeders possessing nearly 15,000 birds in the Block. The main reason for this singular success is that the poultry breeders have become self-sufficient in supply of birds, preparation of feed, manufacture of automatic feeders and water fountains for the birds. These facilities will be further extended as soon as the poultry unit of the Panchayat Samiti comes into full swing. Cheap poultry feed will be within easy reach of the poultry breeders. Marketing of eggs which poses a problem now will also lend itself to an easy solution since the Panchayat Samiti would take upon itself the responsibility of marketing the eggs to Delhi. It seems nothing can now stop the onward march of poultry farming. Instead of remaining confined to Nilokheri Block only it is likely to spread to the rest of Karnal District, parts of Rohtak District and other surrounding areas, too.

To promote fisheries, a sum of Rs. 2,500 each has been advanced to five Panchayats which have got tanks with adequate water for the whole year round. These tanks have been sufficiently deepened with the help of the voluntary labour provided by the Defence Labour Bank. This will not only add to the much-needed fish production, but will provide a good source of income to the Panchayats. That is why, a Panchayat like Butana which had all along been opposed to fish-rearing because of the entire population there being of vegetarians, has now volunteered to undertake the programme.

Piggery already constitutes a good source of income to the Harijan population of the Block. But their income is very limited because they do not have pigs of good breed. The Panchayats of Nilokheri and Kirmich have volunteered to run piggeries with 150 pigs of good breed each. They will serve as nurseries of pigs of good breed which will be available on sale to pig-breeders of the Block.

It is proposed to encourage fruit cultivation also in the Block. To start with, two community orchards of 38 acres have been planted under the charge of the village Panchayats of Kirmich and Bhadson. Both the Panchayats have installed two tube-wells for providing irrigation water for the orchards. Mangos and pappaya seedlings have already been planted. Grapes and citrus fruit plantings are yet to be put in.

### WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Through institutions like the schools, Youth Clubs, and Mahila Mandals, the children and women have been actively associated with this programme. In fact, it is the children and women who more than anyone else are sought to be benefited under the programme.

Incidentally, there are very bright prospects of the children and women's programme proving a success since the lady incharge of the Integrated Child Welfare Project at Nilokheri which is the first of its kind in the Punjab, is none other than the wife of the B.D.O. The State Government could not have thought of a better working arrangement than that of a couple working harmoniously to achieve best results. Another factor which is likely to lead to good results is the pooling of resources from various projects such as the

normal Block Budget, Integrated Child Welfare Project, Rural Manpower Utilisation Scheme and the UNICEF, etc.—all calculated to raise the production of protective foods for the building up of sound health of the children, expectant and nursing mothers.

Six middle schools in the Block area have been selected to undertake the plantation of fruit orchards and kitchen gardens. Thirty Mahila Mandals have come forward to plant a community kitchen garden in each of their villages. A sum of Rs. 3,000 has been set apart for this purpose. Fourteen Youth Clubs have been given a grant of Rs. 2,500 each to enable them to undertake poultry farming as one of their projects.

The benefits accruing from these long-range schemes will take some time. With a view to provide immediate relief to the school children and expectant and nursing mothers, some short-range schemes have also been taken in hand. About 2,500 children of all the 30 nursery schools in the Block are getting mid-day meals. Each meal is expected to cost 12 nP. The Panchayats meet the cost of utensils, fuel, sugar and all other incidental expenses in connection with the scheme. Nearly 10,000 school children are receiving milk supplied by the CARE.

### THE MISSING LINK

One cannot fail to notice that in this Applied Nutrition Programme, dairy farming which has got tremendous potentialities because of the peculiar agro-climatic conditions obtaining in the district, is perhaps the missing link. As I was discussing this point with Shri Chanda Singh, the Pradhan of the Panchayat Samiti who happens to be a strict vegetarian, indeed bemoaned the fact that it was an irony of fate that he had to preside over all the non-vegetarian schemes such as poultry, fishery and piggery. "But", he added, "I must do it in the larger interests of the community." He admitted that fifteen years ago, it was unthinkable to start such projects. However, the winds of change began to blow when the Nilokheri Township Scheme was taken in hand by Shri S. K. Dey, who pioneered the projects of poultry farming and piggery for the rehabilitation of refugees. He said, "Eggs and fish find a ready market in Delhi and, therefore, even the vegetarians have taken to it for commercial

*(Continued on page 16)*

# VILLAGE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION PLAN

S. RAMANATHAN

NO OTHER problem has today caught the imagination of the leaders of the nation, the top non-officials and the administrators more than that of increasing the agricultural production in the country. Just as a plan is an essential prerequisite for any effort or activity, basic to the problem of increasing agricultural production is the preparation of a Village Agricultural Production Plan. Though to a layman the preparation of such a plan might appear to be a simple affair, the difficulties in its preparation and more so in its implementation are so many that the Union Minister for Community Development stated recently that he along with the Union Minister for Agriculture, proposed to visit a village near Delhi to get a sample plan prepared and that after they were satisfied that the plan was workable, it would be circulated to the State Governments for consideration and adoption with suitable modification.

In the context of the national emergency and the urgent need for increasing agricultural production, it is necessary that the scope of the agricultural production plans should be limited to a few selected items based essentially on the fuller utilisation of local resources. In other words, so far as agricultural production is concerned, the Community Development Programme has to be reoriented so as to concentrate on efforts likely to yield quick results.

## AGENCY

The preparation and implementation of such a plan shall be primarily the responsibility of the Village Panchayats and the Taluk Development Boards/Panchayat Samithis in collaboration with the Co-operative Society and associate voluntary organisations and with the full co-operation and assistance of the Village Level workers, the Agriculture Extension Officers and all other officers connected with the Agriculture Extension Programme. It is expected that associate organisations like Youth Clubs, Mahila Mandals, Farmers' Forum, Village Volunteer Force and Defence Labour Bank should be as

fairly involved in the processes as possible. The Co-operatives are expected to shoulder the responsibility for making available in time the supplies envisaged in the Plan. All these bodies shall of course be guided and assisted in their efforts by the higher agencies, both official and non-official *viz.*, the Taluk Development Board/Panchayat Samithi, The Taluk Marketing Society and/or Taluk Co-operative Supervisory Unions, District Central Co-operative Banks, the Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the District Agricultural Officer, the Collector and the Zilla Parishad, etc.

## SCOPE

The Production Plan has to be necessarily a simple plan so that it is understood by everybody concerned. It should be unencumbered with complicated and voluminous proforma. Considering the fact that a single Village Level Worker is in-charge of 5 to 6 villages and the other resources available are also limited, it would not be practicable to attempt preparation of production plans for all farmers in all the villages. Hence, the scope of the Production Plan has to be necessarily restricted by involving a lesser number of progressive agriculturists in each village in the jurisdiction of a Village Level Worker. Hence, the Plan should more directly emphasise and aim at a positive increase in the production of principal crops in the respective areas, rather than the mere adoption of various improved agricultural practices. The plan must be built up on the basis of achievements and definite targets for increasing the production under these crops by a reasonable and agreed quantity, over the present production. Such targets should then be split up and assigned to the individual agriculturists according to their capacity, will end enthusiasm for achieving through the adoption of the various recommended improved agricultural practices, the nature and extent of such practices again depending upon the resources of the individuals. Such an approach to the preparation and execution of these plans would instil in the participating

members a feeling that they are contributing their mite to the national effort by increasing the agricultural production as second line of defence. This would, therefore, provide a motive force to the individual agriculturists for adopting the recommended improved agricultural practices as a means to achieve the above end.

### CONTENT

In view of this "target-based-approach" to the subject, the method of preparation and the content of the plan should be as follows :

- (1) There should be prepared only one plan for the area covered by a Village Panchayat instead of separate plans for each revenue village. Such a plan should be more conveniently called a Panchayat Agricultural Production Plan.
- (2) Such plans shall be drawn up by every Panchayat in the State with the assistance of Village Level Workers and in consultation with the Village Co-operatives. For the immediate present, the plan could be prepared and implemented for at least one major food crop and one major commercial crop having the highest acreage under them in the area of the particular Panchayat. In areas where there are more than one major crop of each category, plan could be prepared for two food crops and two commercial crops. Garden crops need not be included in the plan.
- (3) In respect of each crop the Panchayat shall set for themselves definite targets for increasing the agricultural production under that crop in the Panchayat area by a reasonable and agreed level arrived at on the basis of voluntary undertakings given by the individual cultivators and institutions within the area of the Panchayat to increase the production in their respective holdings.
- (4) These targets can be planned to be achieved through the use of a limited number of recommended practices which will constitute the minimum agricultural programme. Particularly this programme may for the present, comprise of the following items :—
  - (a) Development of local manurial resources including (i) Compost; (ii)

farm yard manure; (iii) Green manure—annual and perennial by (1) individuals; (2) institutions;

- (b) use of recommended and improved varieties of seeds and seed treatment;
- (c) Adoption of dry farming practices comprising of (i) cultivation across the slopes *i.e.* contour bunding; (ii) strip cropping; (iii) repeated narrowings and frequent inter-cultivation; (iv) wider spacing and thinner sowing;
- (d) Adoption of plant protection measures on collective basis—both preventive and curative;
- (e) Fuller and better utilisation of available irrigation facilities where water is made available up to the field boundary;
- (f) Double cropping wherever feasible.

I may mention that the items of the programme listed above are only the 'minimum' which should be fulfilled by every Panchayat and it is left to any Panchayat in consultation with the Co-operative Society to plan for and strive to achieve more than the minimum depending upon their ability and enthusiasm, the local conditions obtaining in their areas and available external resources such as chemical fertilisers. Similarly, in villages where crops can be grown on Government lands, Panchayat lands etc., by the community, this could also be considered and counted against the community or group efforts.

The increase in production which each of the above practices is expected to contribute against the total targetted yield can be worked out on the basis of standard increased production percentage figures to be furnished by the District Agricultural Officer for the respective practices in the different tracts. The District Agricultural Officer should immediately arrange to furnish these figures to all the blocks in their jurisdiction.

### CALENDAR OF WORK

Lot of preliminary work will have to be done before the plan is prepared. Here is a calendar of work required to be done by the respective officials or non-officials concerned :

- (a) Collection of statistics relevant to the plan by the V.L.W.

- (b) Preparation of list of improved agricultural practices and the standard percentage of figures of increase in production to be expected from each of such practices by the District Agricultural Officers and communicating the same to the blocks.
- (c) Review of the work of the various non-officials, voluntary and statutory bodies in the district to ensure proper functioning and to make alternate arrangements wherever necessary.
- (d) Drawing up a draft plan by the Agriculture Committee of the Panchayat on the basis of the statistics collected of the available internal resources with the help of the Village Level Worker;
- (e) Acceptance of the plan by the Gram Sabha at a meeting and assigning individual targets for each crop against the total increase in production targetted for the Village Panchayat;
- (f) Contacting the participating ryots individually by the Village Level Worker and working out the various improved agricultural practices to be followed by them to achieve their promised increase in production under the plan;
- (g) Finalisation and adoption of the detailed plan by the Panchayat at a joint meeting of the Village Co-operative and indicating the requirements of supplies. Here the detailed calendar of operations of the various programmes under the plan for both individuals and institutions can be fixed and responsibilities assigned for follow-up and supervision.
- (h) Making arrangements for timely procurement, storage and distribution of all supplies for the plan within the Panchayat area by the Co-operatives and other agencies.
- (i) Pre-treatment of seed with chemicals at the stores of primary societies or other agencies before distributing the same to the individuals.
- (j) Training of voluntary squads in spraying and dusting operations for plant protection by the District Agricultural Officer and his Plant Protection Assistants and

the Block staff at the Block headquarters. For this purpose, the members of the Village Volunteer Force could be trained.

- (k) Consolidation of the Panchayat plans into Block plans for purposes of effective supervision and follow up and for arranging supplies and services.
- (l) Convening monthly meetings of the Agricultural Production Committee of the Panchayati Raj bodies to review the progress from time to time and decide upon the future course of action;
- (m) Evaluation of achievements against targets through extensive enquiries with individual ryots and crop cutting experiments;
- (n) Convening meetings of Gram Sabha for review of the achievements with reference to the plan and the strong and the weak points thereof and considering measures for strengthening the organisation and arrangements for the next year's plan which also could be discussed particularly in the meeting.

It is clear from an analysis of the chronological processes mentioned above, that officers and agencies involved in this programme should have a thorough understanding of the mechanism of each subject and it would be necessary that their responsibilities are clearly defined both in the administrative and technical spheres. However, such a specification of responsibilities should not lead at any cost to a compartmentalisation of functions and each agency concerned whether official or non-official should take initiative not only in performing its tasks fully and punctually but also in assisting others in discharging such assistance. In this manner it should be possible to solve the problems of co-ordination that would necessarily arise, with a better appreciation by all concerned.

A target set from year to year in these plans should saturate rapidly the entire Panchayat area at least in so far as the items of the minimum programme are concerned.

Some of the *pro forma* adopted in Mysore State for the preparation of the Village Agricultural Production Plan are given on the next page.



### A. GENERAL STATISTICS

Total area of the Panchayat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Acres
Total cultivated area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Acres
Total cultivable wastes :													
Forest	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Acres
Gomal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Acres
Other Waste	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Acres
Total Irrigated area :													
(i) Private sources	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Acres
(ii) Public sources	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Acres

### B. PANCHAYAT TARGET

Crops	Area under Principal crops		Area included in the plan	Present level of yield	Targeted yield	Actual achievement
	1	2	3	4	5	
I. FOOD CROPS	Acres	Acres	Quintals	Quintals	..	..
II. COMMERCIAL CROPS	Acres	Acres	Quintals	Quintals	..	..
III. AREA UNDER DOUBLE CROPS..	Acres	Acres	Quintals	Quintals	..	..
	(specify Crops)					

### C. CROP PLAN

(Name of Crop)

(One sheet for each Crop)

Name of ryot/ institution	Survey No.	Area	Present Yield	Targeted yield	Area under green manure	Area under compost/ F.Y.M.	Area under improv- ed seed	Area under dribl- ing, transplanting	Area under plant protection	Area under dry farming	Area under fresh irrigation	Area under other practices	Actual yield obtained	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
TOTAL :														
Total quantity of supplies required :		Seeds	Seedlings	Cart loads pits	Variety	Variety	Quintals	Quintals	Sprayers	Dusters	Cultivators	Harrows.	Seed drills, etc.	
									Lbs. of Folidol	Lbs. of Agrosan.				

### D. DOUBLE CROPPING

Name of Ryot/Institution	Sl. No.	Area	Area to be covered			
			Name of Crop	Name of Crop	Name of Crop	Name of Crop
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
TOTAL :						
Total quantity of seed required,						

## E. SCHEDULE OF SUPPLIES

Items	Present Consumption	Requirements					Targets for Voluntary Orga- nisations against Col. 7
		1st Crop	2nd Crop	3rd Crop	4th Crop	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Compost/Farmyard Manure Cart loads Pits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Green Manure (i) Seeds (Specify types) (ii) Seedlings (Specify types)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Improved Seed : Foundation Seed Registered Seed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4. Plant protection Chemicals (Specify types)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Plant protection equipment (Specify types)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Agricultural implements (Specify types)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7. Double Crop Seeds (Specify types)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

## IMPACT OF PANCHAYATI RAJ IN MYSORE

(Continued from page 5)

village every Sunday and render free medical advice and treatment to hundreds of patients assembled there from all over the neighbouring areas. The Panchayat, under its dynamic leader Shri Kushti Basappa arranges free lodging and boarding to the needy patients besides other required assistance.

### ART & INDUSTRIES

It is somewhat enigmatic that Mysore which is the pioneer State in the field of industrialisation having a record number of large industries, with 50% of its villages electrified should still be trailing behind in the field of small industries. Ludhiana type of small industries as found in the Punjab are yet to take roots in the towns and rural areas of the State.

The aesthetic sense of the traditional Indian art has left an indelible impression on almost every temple and important building in the State. Whereas in the rest of the country, this traditional touch of art and beauty is fast disappearing before the onslaught of modern values of realism and utilitarianism, the same is still waging its last ditch battle in Mysore. It was a rewarding visit to the one-man institution of Shri A. C. H. Acharya at Devanhalli Block headquarters, the birth place of Tippu Sultan. Here, the Acharya conducts his Art classes of 20 trainees in an ancient building. He has made it the mission of his life to teach the old art of painting and sculpture as handed down to him by his forefathers. Men like him who are the repositories of the old art and culture deserve every encouragement.

## NILOKHERI'S APPLIED NUTRITION PROGRAMME

(Continued from page 11)

purposes. The Panchayats also encourage these because they help to build community assets." Soon he warmed up and remarked, "But milk and butter occupy a place of distinction in the

dietary habits of the Hariyana people. It will be my earnest endeavour to popularise cattle of good breed. We would certainly take up some schemes towards that end also."



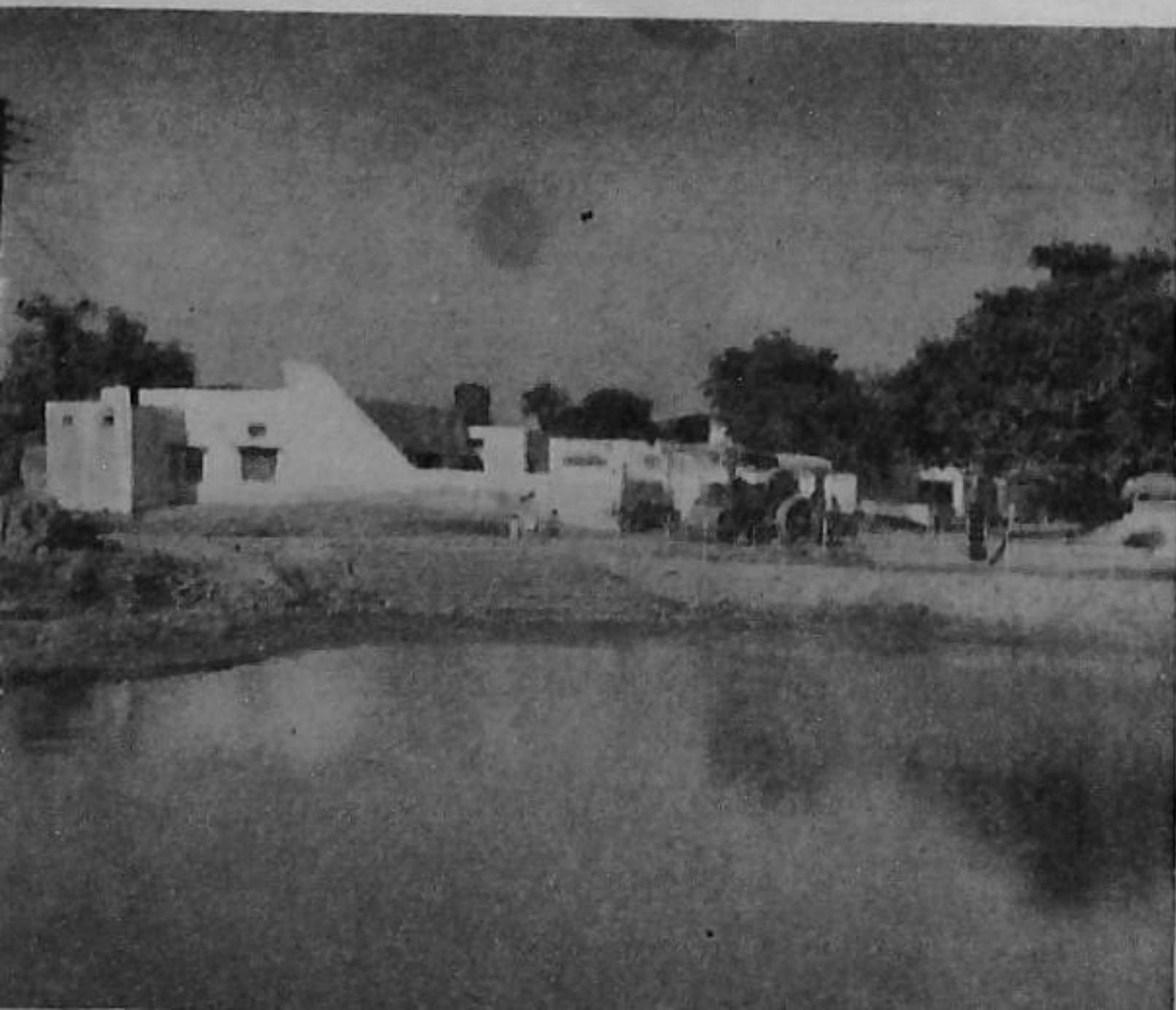
*A view of the newly constructed sheds and buildings for poultry and piggery units set up by the Panchayat Samiti, Nilokheri*



*The electric brooder for rearing up chicks, presented by the UNICEF to the Panchayat Samiti, Nilokheri. On the extreme right are projecting troughs full of drinking water for the chicks.*

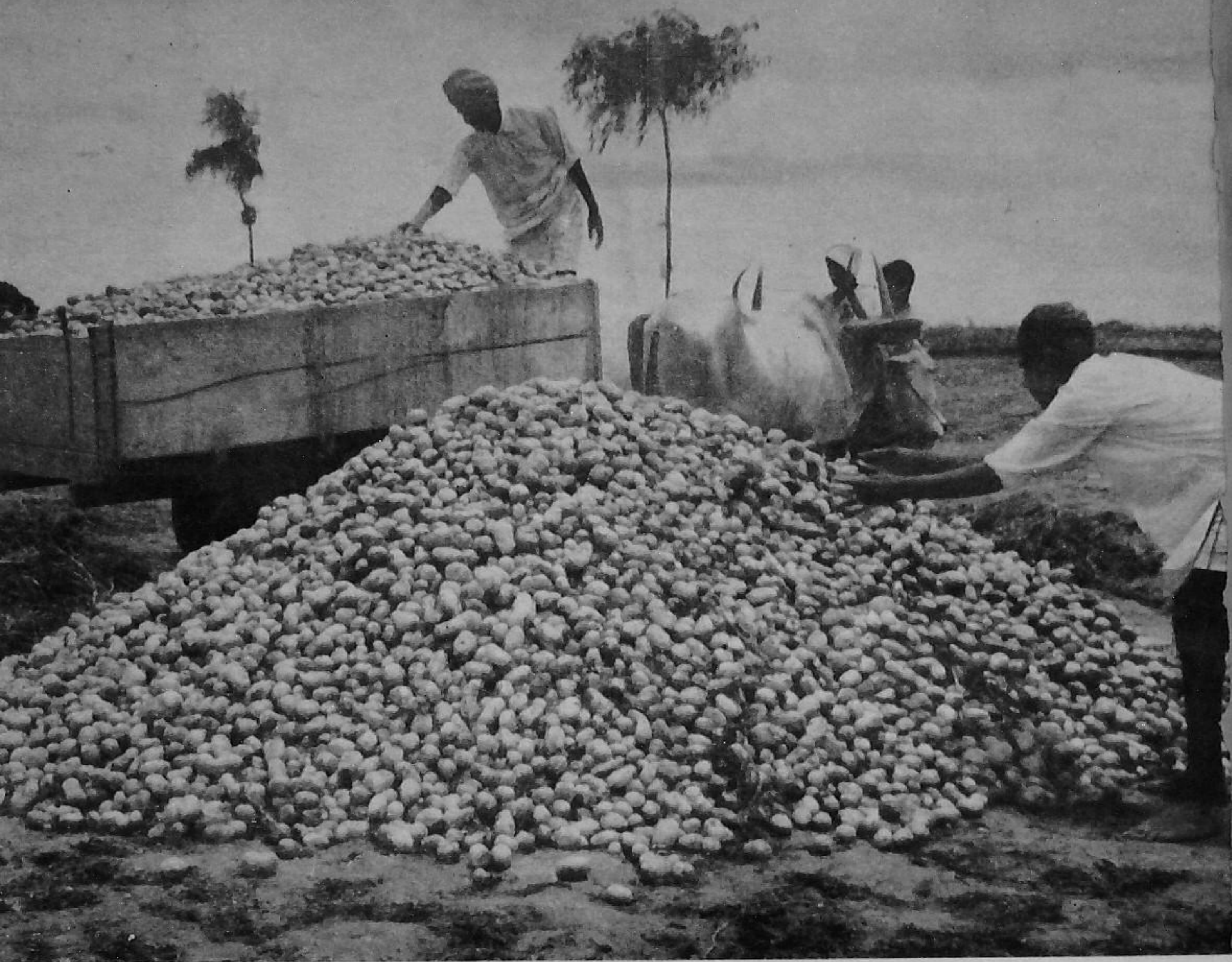
## LOKHERI'S APPLIED NUTRITION PROGRAMME

*A 'Panchayat Samiti' tank at Nilokheri which serves as a nursery for the supply of 15,000 fingerlings to the Panchayats in the Block*



*A newly laid out orchard of Kirmich Panchayat*





*Vegetable-growing has made rapid strides in villages around Bangalore in Mysore State. Here is a rich pile of potatoes grown by a progressive farmer, ready to be transported to the city for sale*

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