

Potentials and Problems of an Area Development Project

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a) Researcher's Identity

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b) Objectives

- i. To study the potential for improving socio-economic condition of study area;
and
- ii. To identify the barriers for improving socio-economic condition.

c) Executive summary*1. Flood control and major drainage*

- 1.1 Economic and technical feasibility of the drainage should be carefully studied again and if it is found feasible, the local people concerned should be convinced of the benefits of the channel before excavating.
- 1.2. The plan for construction embankment should be changed in view of the present hydrological conditions and feelings of the local people.

2. Irrigation development

- 2.1. To increase the coverage of the deep tube wells, compulsory water tax should be imposed on the farmers who are having land within the command area of the deep tube well.
- 2.2. Irrigation channel should be designed by the experts (available at the Thana) with the help and participation of local people. Lined channel in bricks or concrete structure should be constructed in sufficient length under each deep tube well and low lift power pump scheme in order to avoid water loss due to excess percolation. New crops also should be introduced.

- 2.3. To increase the shelf life of the engine through proper sense of handling, either deep tube wells should be sold to the farmers or handling and maintenance of the engine should be handed over to the BADC.
- 2.4. The officials should be responsible for sinking deep tube wells as per the technical consideration.
- 2.5. To ensure regular supply of spare parts, these should be sold in the open market.
- 2.6. Farmers should be organized to form KSS and to use deep tube wells otherwise shallow tube wells should be supplied to meet the irrigation requirement.

3. Rural work

- 3.1. Provision for compensation to the affected people against their loss of soil and required land for Union Parishad roads according to SIRDP's specification.
- 3.2. There should be a provision of fund from the SIRDP for maintenance of kancha roads.
- 3.3. The ponds given to landless-Cooperatives should be excavated exclusively by the landless cooperative management.
- 3.4. Higher level officials should not impose any decision without consulting field level executing officials.

4. Market, Storage and Workshops

- 4.1. The capacity of the proposed fertilizer godowns should be increased from 50 tons to 200 tons.
- 4.2. 1000 ton cold storage should be constructed for preservation of potato seeds and marketing of potato in the area.

5. Thana and Union facilities

- 5.1. Area of Thana Training and Development Centre should be increased from 6 acres to 12 acres for extending physical facilities.
- 5.2. More twin quarters should be constructed to accommodate all Thana level officials with in TTDC campus.

6. Strengthening of cooperatives and rural credit

- 6.1. Thana Cooperative Officer should be provided with more field level staff in order to gear up proper supervision & audit.

- 6.2. Provision should be made so that the cooperative societies can send their papers directly to the Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies for registration.
- 6.3. IRDP personnel should take all measures to ensure timely supply of loan.
- 6.4. Inputs should be supplied regularly and sufficiently through K.S.S. Therefore, farmers out side K.S.S. encourage joining K.S.S.
- 6.5. Authority of providing the farmers with loan under soft terms and conditions by various agencies should be withdrawn immediately.
- 6.6. Thana Central Cooperative Association should alone extend credit to farmers under unified terms and conditions.
- 6.7. Payment of loan in cash should be as minimum as possible. Loan should be paid in kinds.

7. Livestock and Fisheries

- 7.1. Vaccines, medicines and equipments should be supplied regularly.
- 7.2. Required staff for the Live Stock Office of the Thana should be posted within shortest possible time.
- 7.3. Rate of fingerlings in the Fishery Department should be kept slightly below the market rate in order to attract the tank cooperative members and other tank owners in the area.
- 7.4. Training on fish cultivation should be given to the members of the landless cooperatives.

8. Farm Extension

- 8.1. Recruitment of the village extension agents should be made immediately to accelerate the farm extension activities.
- 8.2. Training and Visit system has started functioning in the project area. A few farmers of the K.S.S. should be included as contact farmers. It would be helpful for the project people for introducing better cultivation technique within shortest possible time.

9. Rural Industries

- 9.1. The progress of rural industry component is nil though there is wide scope for rural industry in the project area. The matter should be discussed in the Thana Project Executive Committee and the Project Implementation Team should take measure for implementation of the component within a minimum time.

- 9.2. The registered societies such as Sital Pati Samabay Samity, Pottery Cooperative Societies which can not function properly due to lack of credit, should be provided with loan.

10. Health and Family planning

- 10.1. Rural people have always been more interested to use medicine than operating methods of family planning. The people in the project area should be provided with the family planning materials regularly and at the same time they should be motivated to accept permanent method.
- 10.2. Measure should be taken to depute additional field staff proposed to be providing under the project.

11. Community programme

- 11.1. More villages should be taken under the Pilot Project in order to create a sense of competition among the villagers for better performance.
- 11.2. Rural women hesitate to join the womens' cooperatives without the consent of their guardians. With a view of this, the Thana level officials should try to convince the people regarding their female members to join the womens' cooperative while discharging their departmental responsibilities under the project.
- 11.3. The rate of training allowance for the women trainees should be increased sufficiently as an incentive for attending the training class.
- 11.4. The assetless women who are interested and found as sincere members should be given loan without collateral.
- 11.5. The cooperative department should pay immediate attention in order to provide definite acts and rules for registration of the youth cooperatives.

12. Training, Research and Surveys

- 12.1. The field level staffs should be given training on irrigation at the Academy especially on organizational aspects.
- 12.2. SIRDP personnel at the Thana level should be taken to the academy for refreshers course.
- 12.3. Thana Level Officials involved in the SIRDP should be sent abroad on study tour.