

CHANGING TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE AND PRODUCTIVITY IN THE PEASANT COLONISATION SCHEMES OF THE DRY ZONE

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This paper will attempt to survey the changes in technology of paddy cultivation and their effects on productivity in certain selected colonisation schemes. The study has been based on field work and the data is in respect of three periods of time: 1958/59, 1967/68 and 1972/73 agricultural years.

It is seen that the improved and the new high yielding varieties of seed paddy have largely replaced the older pure-line seed and the traditional village varieties. Tillage operations have improved over the years with an increasing use of tractors. There has not been a significant increase in the practise of transplanting. There has been an increase in the use of fertilizer though still very much below optimum levels. Weeding has been adopted more extensively by the allottees but still the weed control measures practised are unsatisfactory. Paddy yields averaged 33 bushels per acre in 1958/59, 34 bushels per acre 1967/68 and 45 bushels per acre in 1972/73.

The expected results from the use of the improved and the new high-yielding varieties of seed have not been realised by the farmers. The basic problem appears to be that the package approach has not been followed: improved and new, high yielding varieties of seed, transplanting, fertiliser recommendations and effective weed control do not appear to have gone together.

Shortages and maldistribution of irrigation water have aggravated this. The problems confronting the farmers in this regard are analysed.