

## CHAPTER - VIII

## RESULTS OF OPINION SURVEY

This chapter purports to examine the qualitative information relating to prospect of and constraints to tobacco cultivation collected from sample farms. The information have been collected by interviewing the farmers on suitably framed questionnaire. In both two reference period the selected farmers were interrogated but no significant difference in opinion is observed in answering most of the questions. Major difference of opinion between the periods observed whereupon has been pointed out in due course of discussion.

In response to the question of time of initiating tobacco cultivation, a little over 73 sample farmers have reported their starting tobacco cultivation since long back. The remaining 27 per cent have replied to begin their cultivation since early seventies. About 47 per cent farmers reportedly to have been cultivating tobacco following the foot prints of their forefathers. Nearly 35 per cent of selected farmers have expressed their views as they are cultivating tobacco because of its higher profitability and remaining 18 per cent farm households would find the reason behind tobacco cultivation as it creates the possibility of gainfull employment of family labour. The farmers in the area would have looked tobacco as a profitable, labour intensive traditional crop as highlighted above by opinion Poll.

Different questions were put to the selected farm households relating to acreage reallocative decisions among tobacco and its competing crops. The opinions as expressed by the farmers in this respect are summerised in Table 8.1 and 8.2. The feeling of unwiseness to grow any competing crop on tobacco land seems to be the expression of affinity to tobacco crop developed through interaction factors of traditionality and economic rationality. Adding to it the possibility of getting higher profit from tobacco cultivation alongwith the cash constraints operating to switch over to other competing crops 95 per cent of respondents have opined not to reallocate area from tobacco to wheat, 80 per cent of farmers have expressed their unwillingness to reallocate area from tobacco to mustard, 88 per cent from tobacco to

Table 8.1 : Factors underlying unwillingness of the Farmers to Divert Tobacco Area to its competing crops

Possibility of replacing tobacco by the following competing crops	Farmers expressed unwillingness to reduce area under tobacco by its competing crops due to following revelations						Farmers showing indifferent to the question of acreage reallocation among tobacco and its competing crops	Total
	They feel unwise to grow other competing crops on tobacco land	Higher profitability of tobacco	Incapacity to afford higher cash to be required for competing crops	Higher production risk associated with competing crops	Marketing problem of competing crops	They are not well versed with the package of practices of competing crops		
Wheat	93 (38.75)	74 (30.83)	61 (25.42)	- -	- -	- -	12 (5.00)	240 (100.00)
Mustard	101 (42.08)	91 (37.92)	- -	- -	- -	- -	29 (12.08)	221 (92.08)
Potato	13 (5.42)	116 (48.33)	82 (34.16)	4 (1.67)	- -	- -	16 (6.67)	231 (96.25)
Vegetables	43 (17.92)	54 (22.50)	78 (32.50)	- -	26 (10.83)	7 (2.92)	16 (6.67)	224 (93.34)

Table 8.2 : Factors underlying willingness of the Farmers to  
Diversify Tobacco Area to its competing crops

Possibility of replacing tobacco by the following competing crops	Farmers expressed willingness to reduce area under tobacco by its competing crops due to following revelations				T o t a l
	Demand for the products of competing crops are increasing	Competing crops may be grown on tobacco land because of suitability of soil and climate	Increasing demand for family consumption	Higher productivity and thereby higher relative profitability of competing crops	
Wheat	-	-	-	-	-
Mustard	4 (1.67)	2 (0.83)	13 (5.42)	-	19 (7.92)
Potato	-	-	-	9 (3.75)	9 (3.75)
Vegetables	16 (6.67)	-	-	-	16 (6.67)

potato and 73 per cent from tobacco to vegetables as revealed by Table 8.1. Barely 8 per cent of sample farmers reported to substitute tobacco area by mustard. About 7 per cent farm households opined to increase area under vegetables at the cost of tobacco area and only 4 per cent of them expressed their willingness to increase potato area because of possibility of accruing higher economic gain (Table 8.2). In the second period, however, more than 50 per cent of the selected farmers have expressed their willingness to divert area from tobacco to vegetables subject to availability of credit. A significant proportion of respondents also reported in favour of expansion of area under potato at the cost of tobacco if credit support is to be provided. Considering all these one can hardly find any possibility of future expansion of tobacco area within the limit of existing technology, price structure and production possibility. At the same time drastic contraction of tobacco area in view of relatively less degree risk in accrual of return and low cash requirement of the crop is unfounded.

Apart from the question of readjustment of crop area, most of the sample respondents reported to extend area under wheat because of increasing requirement for family consumption, area under mustard due its price hike, and area under potato and vegetables to some extent because of their high profitability. Thus, crop diversification with an objectives of risk aversion and accruing higher economic return within the limit of given resources appears to have been followed by the farmers in the area under consideration.