

CHAPTER XI

PROSPECTS

11.1 SUMMARY

The main purpose of this chapter is to discuss the prospects of output and employment in our studied rural economy in the light of full adoption of new breed paddy. However, for the convenience, we would like to summarise some of the findings of this study before taking the extensive discussion on output and employment prospects. In this summarising we focus attention mainly on the extent of use of the most basic resources like land and labour, the total revenue per acre, total labour cost per acre, total non-labour cost per acre, total farm income per acre etc.

As a result of reasonable propagation of new breed paddy some improvements took place of the use of basic resources of the rural economy. This rural economy has undergone a technological change and its productivity per acre is among the best in the state. Even sporadically the performance of best productive farms can be compared with the farms of some better developed countries. This performance, obviously, is an indicator of the potentiality of the region. It is true that we did not survey all the corners of the district, however, we can draw the inference regarding the potentiality of productivity for the whole district on the basis of the inference drawn in our studied region. We had one privilege

that we divided the whole district into different agro-climatic zones and we found little difference in characteristics of different agro-climatic zones. Therefore, little doubt remains that the conclusion drawn from our studied region will be more or less uniform for the whole district.

We have shown that if wide-spread adoption of HYV paddy is accepted throughout the year in this rural economy, there is scope for raising another crop, like a vegetable, of low gestation. Thus in this district, we can raise in a plot of land 3.5 crops. On this basis we have found that the intensity of use of land in the area is calculated at 0.52. This means that nearly 50 per cent of the land resources of the area are unutilised even after the four decades of avowed policy of planned development in the country.

In spite of high productivity in various crops, agricultural sector fails to provide full employment job to the adult workable persons. In this rural economy, the agricultural wage rate is very high compared to the other parts of district. This higher wage rate has been possible due to the popularity of the winter-HYV paddy cultivation. During this season, the demand for labour rises very sharply and consequently it gives the opportunity to the labourers' association to bargain for higher wages with the employer cultivators. However, it can be mentioned that apart from this annual bargaining activity, labourers of the region are less organised in other activities.

In this rural economy, the value of total agricultural output per acre is Rs. 9736. The non-labour input (without interest) per acre is Rs. 1655. The total labour cost per acre is Rs. 2419. Thus, it is clear from the above statements that labour is the main input even after the effects of technological change.

We have shown in Chapter V that some improvements in using implements have taken place in the region, even then this technological change has not been able to bring any spectacular change in the rural economy. The cost figure of reproducible capital which is meagre relative to total cost, obviously, supports this view and proves the failure of four decades of national planning. Still today farmers are unaware about the scientific method of production and thereby they fail to cope with opportunities offered by the adoption of new breed paddy.

In regard to the efficiency of the farmers, it can be said that they are trying their best. With the given limited opportunities they have shown the readiness to accept the benefit of technological advancement. What is true of the Pandua Rural economy is true also other local level rural economies of the district Hugly. So the same findings can be true for the rural economies of other blocks.

11.2 REORGANISATION AND PROSPECTS

If we want to assure full use of land and labour in the whole of the rural economy of Hugly, we have to reorganise the whole

of the productive processes of the local level rural economies of the district. For a rather short period the reorganisation can be brought about under the following points.

Rich alluvial soil, warm year-round temperatures and abundant surface and ground water resources give the region immense agricultural potential. The failure of water control has been the main constraint for agricultural development of the rural economy and what is more is that in the region water control activity was initially mostly undertaken by the Govt. It has been seen (Sarker, Amin, Kundu) that Govt. run irrigation systems of the region have failed and only it has created a larger burden on the people. On the other hand privately managed systems are profit oriented and this system can cope with the demand for irrigation water more efficiently. Therefore, if the licence for irrigation system is granted to private individuals, it can serve two purposes. In the first place, it can ensure the timely supply of water in the field and secondly it can generate the employment opportunity in the irrigation enterprise business.

The other main input, organic manure is short in supply in the rural economy. This main input may be produced at the local level. The production of organic manures at the local level by the family enterprises run by the local people has many advantages. Local level production can open up to them the view of the process

of production and thereby it will have least risk to use as people will be aware before hand about the manures. The production of this input too can open the avenue of employment opportunity in the rural economy.

In fact employment opportunity is very much conditioned by the prospect of output. Although output performance of this rural economy is not bad, however enough possibility remains to increase the output level by manifold. The adoption of HYV-breed has not been universal throughout the seasons of the region despite the different opportunities thrown by the new technology. If in the summer season, farmers cultivate HYV-breed paddy in the whole cultivable area of the region, the paddy output can increase spectacularly. The pre-Kharif season is still a slack season for cultivation in the region and the problem of drying paddy during the pre-Kharif season can easily be solved locally by the proper local level planning. When Govt. fails to provide basic infrastructural facilities so much required for the cultivation, it should be thrown open to the private operators. If infrastructural facilities like credit, irrigation, even electricity and all varieties of transport are possible to produce and control at the local level it will certainly bring the positive effect on output which is most desired.

The marketing facility in the region is very inadequate. Due to this inadequacy of the marketing facility farmers often

compel to sell their product from home to the middlemen which causes them suffering monetary losses. So, marketing facility is required to be developed for the expansion of output and employment.

Improved marketing facility will, obviously, encourage the farmers to produce more.

No organised proper care has been taken in regard of choice of crops in the region. The region has the immense potentiality for potato production but it requires some conditions to be fulfilled first. The foremost condition of potato production is the requirement of high land. With the cultivators initiative by filling earth on the present height of the land, it is possible to make the land high which can pave the way for potato production as this crop is very profitable and at the same time it has the high input demand. Thus through the crop diversification and fuller use of land and labour, output of the rural economy can be multiplied easily.

The crops, which are consistent with heat, humidity, the various kinds of water resources and topography of the region, are produced at the potential level, this can facilitate the ushering in agro-based industries in the region. The crop rotation of this rural economy is not very scientific as well as not economic. Therefore, through the policy of persuasion by the local level developing agency it is possible to change the crop pattern of the region. In our country, there is immense demand for oilseeds and vegetable oils. Mostly, these commodities even after many years of

independence are imported at the cost of scarce foreign exchange but this can be produced within the country. In our local economy, oilseeds are being produced mainly for home consumption. It is not true that agro-climatic conditions are not conducive for oilseed production. Rather attitude of the cultivators appear to be the stumbling block for its production. Hence concerted effort on the part of the planners can change this attitude. The production of oilseed at the local level has two merits. First, it can fulfil the demand for oilseeds. Secondly, it can be used for producing edible oil. Moreover, the edible oil producing unit can be set up at the local level which can save the cost of transportation of marketing the oilseed. Thus the prospect of production of oilseed can help the development of the rural economy from many corners.

Thus, from the foregoing analysis it is evident that the potential for agricultural production of the rural economy is so high that the production generation capacity as well as employment generation capacity of costs on inputs will remain high for a long time. It will certainly be open for the local level rural economy to plan its land use in such a way that agro-based industries may grow on the basis of local supply of raw materials. Eventually it will prove the vast scope of local level planning than the planning at the capital of the country. Therefore, there can be little doubt that our area economy can produce many more times than the present level if appropriate policy is drawn at the bottom level.