

CHAPTER - 7

CONCLUSIONS

7.0. SOME INITIAL REMARKS

7.0.0. The centre periphery comparison has been the basis of our measuring the impact of the IRDP's on the use of basic inputs of land and labour in the grass-root rural economics of Nepal. Even though it has been always difficult for us to find a periphery most suitable for us, the study has brought to light many aspects bearing on the future of agricultural development in Nepal. Our division of the agro-climatic zones of Nepal is unconventional. It is true that it has not been possible for us to study the impact of each IRDP in a village within a project zone. Nor have we been able to study a village in each of our agro-climatic zones. However, our study has enabled us to know the economic life of villages on the high mountains, on the hills as well as in the flat plains of the Terai. This has offered us to know on first hand the scope of enterprises these diverse areas offer.

7.0.1. We have found that the mountain regions of Darjeeling in the Indian state of West Bengal are on average better developed than the mountain kingdom of Nepal (Blackie, Cameron and Seddon 1980). Socially and politically, one factor that has been responsible for this effect is the adult franchise exercised by the people of the hills for parliamentary

as well as assembly elections. A second reason was that the state government was seriously interested to develop Darjeeling as a tourist spot of the state. Rashtriya Panchayat has been in effect a screen to cover absolute monarchy. The high elite can serve their own ends without having to bother about the growth of the poor or the prospective productive worker in the grass-roots.

7.0.2. In the countries around the Mediterranean Sea, as in Nepal, the mountains, the hills and the valleys are older than the plains. But in the Mediterranean World the better managed principalities enabled the countries concerned to pursue the normal struggles to reach a balance between the hills and the plains. The societies in the Mediterranean regions succeeded to prevent quick deforestation of hills as well as to preserve the conditions of flow of streams and rivers. (Bra^udel 1972) In Nepal, on the other hand, influential part of the people lived in the main valleys and have remained more or less impervious to the requirements higher mountains and hills. As a result the poverty of the settlements increased directly with the height. The plains, paradoxically, made up ^{12 parts of} once what is now known as India. The people there being mostly of Indian Origin were more exploited rather than developed by the rentiers and the bureaucrats of Kathmandu Valley.

7.0.3. In this kind of a scheme of neglect the high mountain sides, the hills and the distant plateaus as well as the Terai received an attention much less than is due.

Animal husbandry outputs and scientific processing of such outputs and special crops in conformity with agro-climatic characteristics of the localities require the ever-increasing attention of planners and experts.

7.1. POINTS OF DEPARTURE OF IRDP'S OF NEPAL

7.1.0. Even though we indicate rather sufficiently in the first chapter what the IRDP'S of Nepal mean, we need to stress here that the IRDP'S came to Nepal as a clean recognition that the workers in the grass-root rural economy can be lifted from their low productivity status only from a package deal of agricultural planning. Some of the IRDP'S have undoubtedly among their aims development of cottage industries. In most cases, however, aids given for such industries led neither to material investments nor to a regular flow of output from such industrial establishments. By and large, therefore, all IRDP'S are directed to raise the productivity of agricultural processes of production.

7.1.1. The second point of departure is that all of them are in the main financed by the foreign funding agencies. The loans advanced to Nepal bear very low rate of interest. That the foreign funding agencies continue to offer their

readiness to offer this sort of assistance speaks really well about the future of rural development in Nepal. The two-sided difficulty to which we refer in the next section does not in any way diminish the part these funding agencies have begun to play in raising the efficiency of work of producers and productive workers of the grass-root rural economics.

7.1.2. A third point that merits^o mention is that the package deal has rightly sought to devise, apart from resorting to irrigation from underground water, minor irrigation scheme based on using surface water of adjacent streams. This is a point of first class importance and may be imitated throughout south Asia under the Eastern Himalayas.

7.1.3. Another point worth mentioning is that in centres of activities they built hard stone based gravel roads to connect these centres to the main East West Highway. When the centre of activity is rather near the highway, the old cartway is used to reach the highway. Again, where the passage is blocked by a river the IRDP authorities have not failed to install a suspension bridge over the river to allow smooth passage of villagers to the nearest market town in the rainy season.

7.1.4. The Sajha, the Agriculture Development Bank, the Agricultural Input Corporation have been the major sources of inputs, subsidies and loans. The extension both for crop as well as for outputs from animals was provided for by the Government agencies or departments. Thus the input markets and the infrastructural facilities were all provided by the Government.

7.2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

7.2.0. There is little doubt that in all the five centres the impact in each of which we compared with that in periphery villages, there has been at least some increase in agricultural output on surface. The difference in the agricultural output per Nepali Bigha between the centre and the periphery is statistically significant at 5 percent level of significance in three cases out of the total of five. Despite much popular apprehensions, Nepali IRDE'S therefore, have undoubtedly contributed to the expansion of agricultural production. In our view a remarkable success has taken place in changhada and in Kalyanpur.

7.2.1. The mean days of employment have consistently increased for adult males in all the five centres. The intensity of use of labour power has been higher for adult males in all centres. So not only more inputs were used in all existing uses of land, but also seasonally unused

lands were put to relatively more use in the centres.

7.2.2. We have found in many centres, especially in Kalyanpur and Chaughada, an indirect proof of this manifestation of increase in output, income and employment. This relates to the growth of literacy or the growth of post primary education.

7.3. BASES FOR GRASS-ROOT RURAL PLANNING

7.3.0. It is of first importance for Nepal to have a blueprint of plan for economic demographic equilibrium in the grass-roots. The grass-root agro-climatic zones should may be delineated on the basis of ease of preparation and execution of local level planning. There is no doubt that at the present stage of Nepali development the Government has a big role to perform till income and education at all grass-root economics expand very perceptibly.

7.3.1. On the basis of the natural endowments of lands, a specialist planning agency may determine ^{the kinds of} ~~that may be~~ crops or outputs from animals that a specific grass-root may specialise. The agriculture and animal husbandry departments may open up small farms for the purpose of developing them into demonstrative farms just to inspire in others a desire to imitate.

7.3.2. When some progress takes place, it will be open for the planners to implement a plan for demographic constancy and health care. Incentives such as good housing and pension may be given eventually to those who do not have more than two children.

7.4. INTERACTION OF THE POOR AND THE RICH

7.4.0. We have throughout taken the stand that the rate of growth of the poor should in general be higher than the growth of the rich. But the relatively rich may be induced to undertake family enterprises for the supply of inputs and also marketing units to assure to the producers sale of their commodities at pre-fixed fair price. There is no denying that there may be all categories of enterprises for these marketing enterprises, namely, family enterprises, co-operative societies and the Government agencies. The latter may also be engaged in buffer-stock operations.

7.4.1. The Government may also open productive enterprises to increase production in agriculture or animal husbandry industries with the triple purpose of increasing production, employing mainly the poor and educating them. When the poor are educated and trained they may be aided and encouraged to start their own enterprises with necessary services from their own cooperatives.

7.5. IMPORT OF GOODS AND SERVICES

7.5.0. An unfortunate feature of the implementation of the IRDP'S in Nepal is the failure to spend the budgeted money in time. The main obstacle in our view is absence of good contractors and skilled artisans in Nepal. All these IRDP'S have been implemented during a period when Nepalis have sought a route of development independent of the cooperation of Indian people or the Indian Government Fast development at the grass-roots as well as in the main centres demands that Nepali bureaucrats and politicians shake off the folly of not using cheap resources ^{including services of Contractors} at the doorsteps.