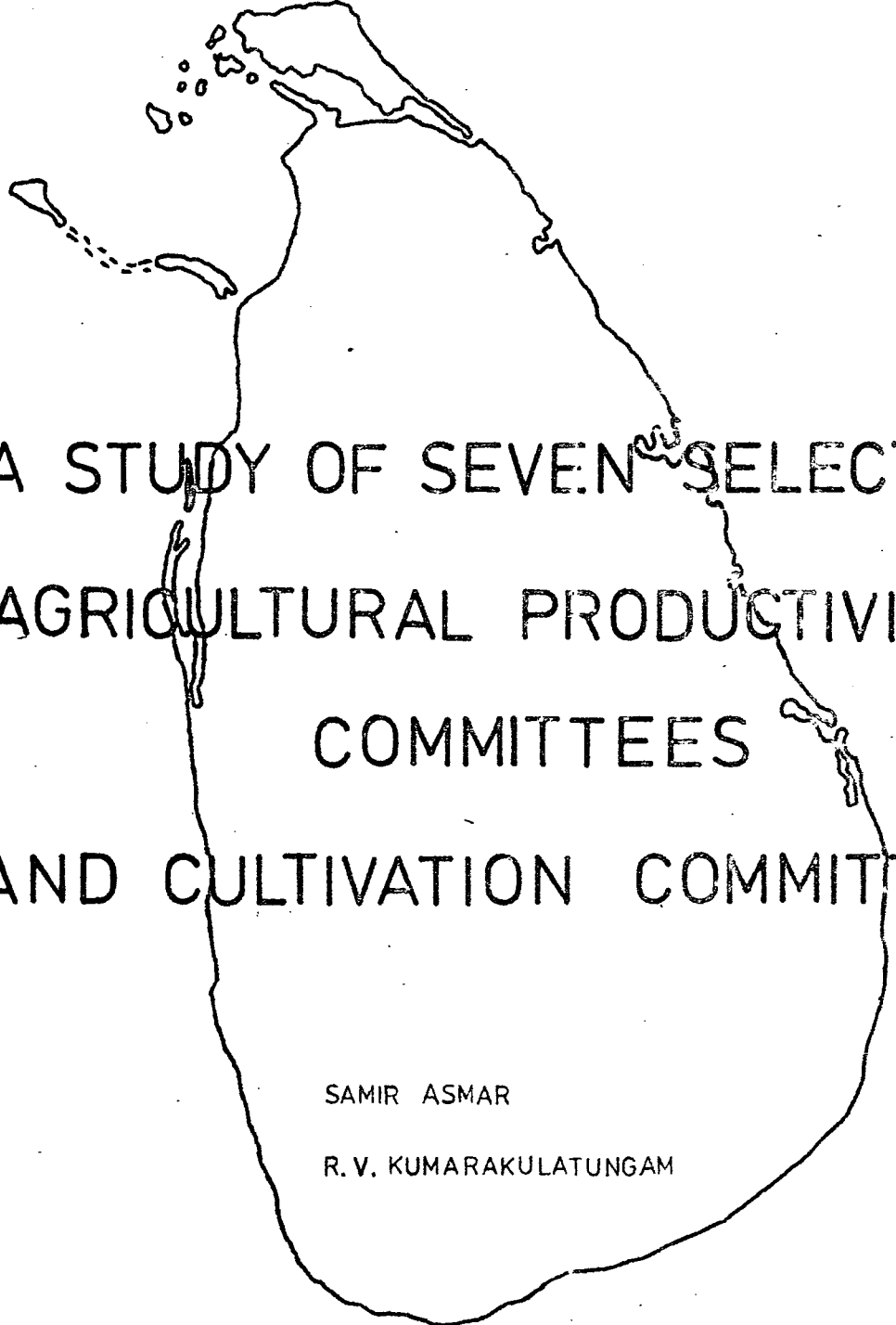


AGRARIAN RESEARCH & TRAINING INSTITUTE

COLOMBO



A STUDY OF SEVEN SELECTED
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY
COMMITTEES
AND CULTIVATION COMMITTEES

SAMIR ASMAR

R. V. KUMARAKULATUNGAM

Occasional publication series No.9

July 1975

23042

2009/06
2010/04.

06

A STUDY OF SEVEN SELECTED
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY COMMITTEES
AND CULTIVATION COMMITTEES

214
2
84
9

Sanir Asmar
R. V. Kumarakulatungam

Agrarian Research and Training Institute
114 Wijerama Mawatha
Colombo 7

Occasional Publication Series No. 9

July 1975

23042

23042

FOREWORD

The Agricultural Productivity Committees and the re-organised Cultivation Committees have not been in existence for more than 1½ years. However, in view of their importance as agents in the planning and implementation of agricultural development programmes, the Agrarian Research and Training Institute in association with the Rural Institutions and Productivity Laws Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands made a study of some aspects of the working of these institutions. The present inquiry examines farmers' impressions on APCs; the programmes of training for Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees; the relationship between these committees and the different officers connected with these institutions; and whether these committees function in terms of the objectives of the Agricultural Productivity Law and the Agricultural Lands Law.

Data was obtained from seven Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees in the districts of Kurunegalā, Hambantota, Kandy, Jaffna, Galle, Anuradhapura and Kegalle. All these institutions had been operational for over an year. One hundred and five farmers, seventy Agricultural Productivity Committee and a like number of Cultivation Committee members and two hundred government officers directly connected with the Agricultural Productivity Committees were interviewed. The findings of the study are set out in this report.

C. Narayanasamy
Director

AGRARIAN RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE

July 1975

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance so willingly given us by the Rural Institutions and Productivity Laws Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands in the collection of data for this research study and in this connection we wish to express our gratitude to the following Divisional Officers of the Rural Institutions and Productivity Laws Division: Messrs. Elmo Gunasekera (Kegalle District), S. Seneviratne (Galle District), S.D. Piyadasa (Kurunegala District), S. Wijeratnam (Jaffna District), D.G.J. Rajasekera (Colombo District), T.A. Wimaladasa (Colombo District), B.A. Ratnasekera (Kandy District) and T.D.N. Fernando (Kegalle District).

We express our grateful thanks to our colleagues Messrs. E. K. Perera and S. B. R. Nikahetiya, Research and Training Officers (Communication) and Mr. L. G. Yapa, Research and Training Officer (Agricultural Extension) for the assistance given in the field during the study.

Finally, we also gratefully acknowledge the invaluable advice, support and encouragement given at different stages in the planning, implementation and finalisation of this study by Mr. C. Narayanasamy, Director of the Agrarian Research and Training Institute, Mr. I.K. Weerawardena, Director of the Rural Institutions and Productivity Laws Division, and Mr. Frank Saunders the FAO Chief Advisor, ARTI.

C O N T E N T S

	Page
FOREWORD	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
1. Objectives of the study	1
2. Farmers' awareness, opinions and suggestions for improvement of APCs and CCs	4
2.1 Tenurial status and size of holding	4
2.2 Farmers' extent of awareness of functions and objectives of APCs and CCs	4
2.3 Farmers' views of services provided by APCs and CCs	5
2.4 Farmers' reasons for the inefficiency of APCs and CCs	5
2.5 Farmers' suggestions for improvement of the work of APCs and CCs	6
3. Management and operations of APCs	7
3.1 Group interaction	9
3.2 Allocation of time	10
3.3 Identification of problems and achievements	11
4. Relationship of various institutions to APCs	14
4.1 On the concept of APCs	14
4.2 Communications from departments on functions, objectives and working relationship with APCs	16
4.3 Participation in APC activities	17
5. Training	22
5.1 Some personal characteristics of APC and CC members	22
5.2 Previous training	23
5.3 Suggestions for future training	24
6. Conclusions and recommendations	27

LIST OF TABLES

Tables		Page
1	Percentage distribution of farmers by size of holding	4
2	Percentage distribution of farmers by degree of awareness of functions and objectives of APCs and CCs	4
3	Percentage distribution of farmers by views on services provided by the APCs and CCs	5
4	Percentage distribution of farmers by reasons for inefficiency of APCs and CCs	6
5	Percentage distribution of farmers by suggestions for improving the work of APCs and CCs	7
6	Percentage distribution of APC members according to views expressed regarding tabling of monthly statements of income and expenditure at APC meetings	8
7	Percentage distribution of APC members who meet outside committee meetings to discuss matters	9
8	Percentage distribution of members who indicated how often the committee requests information from other agencies	9
9	Percentage distribution of members requested by the APC to obtain information	10
10	Percentage distribution of members by source of information	10
11	Percentage distribution of members who indicated the time APC devotes to various activities	11
12	Percentage distribution of members who indicated the major agricultural problems within the APC area	12
13	Percentage distribution of members who stated the significant achievements of APCs	12

Tables	Page	
14	Percentage distribution of members' knowledge-ability on why APCs and CCs are established	13
15	Percentage distribution of APC members who gave reasons for problems encountered in preparing the Agricultural Lands Register	13
16	Percentage distribution of officials by reasons for APCs' inability to act as agricultural development agencies	14
17	Percentage distribution of officials by reasons for the inability of APC members in making sound decisions	15
18	Percentage distribution of officials by their understanding of the concept of APCs	15
19	Percentage distribution of officials by understanding of the Agricultural Productivity Law	16
20	Percentage distribution of officials by problems identified by APCs	18
21	Percentage distribution of officials by frequency of correspondence with APCs	18
22	Percentage distribution of officials by assessment of response of APCs to correspondence	19
23	Percentage distribution of officials by official visits to Agricultural Service Centres	19
24	Percentage distribution of officials by request to attend APC meetings	20
25	Percentage distribution of officials by actual attendance at APC meetings	20
26	Percentage distribution of officials by utilisation of APC funds	21
27	Percentage distribution of officials by provision of development information to APCs	22
28	Percentage distribution of APC and CC members by age	22

		Page
29	Percentage distribution of APC and CC members by education	23
30	Percentage distribution of APC and CC members by occupation	23
31	Percentage distribution of APC and CC members who indicated the topics discussed at APC and CC training courses	24
32	Percentage distribution of APC and CC members who indicated topics in future training programmes for better management of APCs and CCs	25
33	Percentage distribution of APC and CC members who indicated topics in future APC and CC training programmes relative to agricultural development	26

A STUDY OF SEVEN SELECTED
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY COMMITTEES
AND CULTIVATION COMMITTEES

1. Objectives of the study

The enactment of the Agricultural Productivity Law No. 2 of 1972 and the Agricultural Lands Law No.42 of 1973 has provided a legislative and institutional framework for the promotion, co-ordination and development of agriculture

Under these Laws Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees were established in various parts of the country. Eventually there will be 480 Agricultural Productivity Committees and 5,600 Cultivation Committees.

The new and far reaching concepts embodied in the Agricultural Productivity Law have made it necessary to conduct an exploratory study with the following general objectives:-

- i. to examine the extent of farmers' awareness of the objectives and functions of Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees;
- ii. to examine the extent of farmers' satisfaction with the services provided by Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees and to examine suggestions, if any, for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees;
- iii. to examine whether Agricultural Productivity Committees are carrying out activities consistent with the objectives of the Agricultural Productivity Law;
- iv. to examine the nature of the relationship that is developing between Productivity Committees and the different public officers involved in Agricultural Development within the area of the Productivity Committee; and
- v. to examine the training programmes for Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees.

The following Agricultural Productivity Committees which have been functioning for over one year were selected for this study.

District	Name of Agricultural Productivity Committee
Kurunegala	Welpalla
Hambantota	Meegasara
Kandy	Giragama
Jaffna	Puttur
Galle	Aluthwela
Anuradhapura	Rajangane
Kegalle	Beminiwatte

To obtain relevant information on objectives 1 and 2, a systematic sample of 15 farmers was drawn from the 1973/74 Paddy Lands Register of each of the above-mentioned Agricultural Productivity Committees. Out of a total sample of 105 farmers it was possible to conduct open interviews with only 92.

The necessary data on objectives 3, 4 and 5 were obtained through structured interviews from the following persons:-

- i. 70 Agricultural Productivity Committee members,
- ii. 70 Cultivation Committee members,
- iii. 200 public officers who are directly involved with the functions of the Agricultural Productivity Committees from the following government and semi-government institutions:

(1) Department of Agriculture

- a. District Agricultural Extension Officers
- b. Agricultural Instructors
- c. Krushikarma Vyapthi Sevakas
- d. Veterinary Surgeons

(2) Rural Institutions and Agricultural Productivity Laws
Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

- a. Assistant Directors
- b. Divisional Officers

(3) Department of Co-operative Development

- a. Assistant Commissioners
- b. Co-operative Inspectors
- c. Managers of Co-operatives (MPCS)

- (4) Ministry of Plantation Industries
 - a. Extension Officers - Minor Export Crops
 - b. Coconut Development Officers
 - c. Tea Instructors
 - d. Rubber Instructors

- (5) Banks
 - a. Regional Managers
 - b. Bank Managers (Agricultural Service Centres)

- (6) Paddy Marketing Board
 - a. Regional Managers
 - b. Administrative Assistants

- (7) Department of Marketing
 - a. Marketing Officers

- (8) Territorial Civil Engineering Organisation
 - a. Technical Assistants

- (9) Department of Census and Statistics
 - a. Statistical Officers
 - b. Statistical Investigators

- (10) Land Commissioner's Department
 - a. Colonisation Officers
 - b. Supervisors, Land Development Ordinance

- (11) Government Agents of the seven districts
- (12) Divisional Revenue Officers
- (13) Assistant Directors (Planning), District Level
- (14) Political Authorities of the seven districts
- (15) Members of the National State Assembly of the seven districts
- (16) Chairmen of the relevant Village Committees

2. Farmers' awareness, opinions and suggestions for improvement of APCs and CCs

2.1 Tenurial status and size of holding

The study revealed that 74% of the farmers interviewed were owner cultivators and 26% were tenant cultivators.

The study also showed that about half (49%) of the farmers interviewed operated less than $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, while only 7% farmed more than 1 acre as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Percentage Distribution of Farmers by Size of Holding (N = 92)

Size of Holding	No.	%
Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ acre	45	49
$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 acre	41	44
More than 1 acre	6	7
Total	92	100

2.2 Farmers' extent of awareness of functions and objectives of APCs and CCs

71% of the farmers interviewed expressed an awareness of the functions and objectives of Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees while only 7% were totally unaware of their functions and objectives as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Percentage Distribution of Farmers by Degree of Awareness of Functions and Objectives of APCs and CCs (N = 92)

Degree of Awareness	No.	%
Aware	66	71
Fairly aware	20	22
Not aware	6	7
Total	92	100

2.3 Farmers' views of services provided by APCs and CCs

Table 3 reveals the various services provided by Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees. The distribution of agro-identity cards, sale of agro-chemicals and settlement of land disputes are viewed by some farmers as being satisfactorily performed. However, the majority of the farmers stated that the provision of two and four wheeled tractors, seeders and water pumps has been poorly done by the Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees, while a little over half of the farmers stated that their services pertaining to water management, provision of sprayers and dusters have been poor.

Table 3 Percentage Distribution of Farmers by Views on Services Provided by the APCs and CCs (N = 92)

Type of Service	Farmers' Opinion					
	Good		Fair		Poor	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Distribution of agro-identity cards	25	27	5	6	62	67
Sale of agro-chemicals	49	53	28	31	15	16
Provision of 2-wheeled tractors	-	-	6	7	88	93
Provision of 4-wheeled tractors	-	-	2	3	90	97
Provision of sprayers	-	-	42	46	50	54
Provision of dusters	-	-	42	46	50	54
Provision of seeders	-	-	10	11	82	89
Provision of water pumps	-	-	8	9	84	91
Settlement of land disputes	36	39	21	23	35	38
Water management (minor irrigation works and water issues)	-	-	38	41	54	59

2.4 Farmers' reasons for the inefficiency of APCs and CCs

The majority of farmers (93%) stated that Agricultural Productivity Committee and Cultivation Committee members are not in touch with farmers' problems; 75% of the farmers stated that the income from

acreage levy and also other sources is not being spent for agricultural development, while half of the farmers felt that Agricultural Productivity Committee and Cultivation Committee members are not properly guided by officials. 40% of the farmers opined that the inefficiency of Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees was due to the ignorance of members of the laws, rules and regulations relevant to their functions, while 1/3 stated that members are not suited to the task. 30% of the farmers pointed out that members are politically biased as shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Percentage Distribution of Farmers by Reasons for Inefficiency of APCs and CCs (N = 92)

Reasons	No.	%
Lack of touch with farmers' problems	86	93
Acreage levy and other income not properly spent for agricultural development	69	75
Members are not properly guided by officials	46	50
Members are ignorant of laws, rules and regulations	37	40
Members are not suited to the task	31	33
Members are politically biased	28	30

2.5 Farmers' suggestions for improvement of the work of APCs and CCs

98% of the farmers have suggested that Agricultural Productivity Committees should open a number of sales points for production inputs. Income from acreage levy should be spent on minor irrigation work. Agricultural Productivity Committee and Cultivation Committee members should be adequately trained in formulating and implementing plans, and statements of income and expenditure of Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees should be periodically made available to farmers for their information. 88% of the farmers suggested that Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees should hold regular meetings with farmers in order to get to know their problems and needs. 85% suggested that Agricultural Productivity Committee and Cultivation Committee members should themselves be active farmers and they should not hold membership of other institutions, while 75% stated that present members are in need of training for the effective management of these institutions. Further it was stated by about half of the farmers (48%) that Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees should make concerted efforts to educate farmers on the concept, objectives and functions of these institutions. About 1/3 of the farmers pointed out that members should be elected by farmers and 20% stated that members should be provided with training on the management of LRC lands as shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Percentage Distribution of Farmers by Suggestions for Improving the Work of APCs and CCs (N = 92)

Suggestions	No.	%
APCs should maintain a number of sales points in the area for the sale of inputs	90	98
Acreage levy should be spent on minor irrigation works	89	96
Members should be well trained on plan formulation and implementation	89	96
Certified statements of income and expenditure of APCs and CCs should be periodically displayed for the information of farmers	85	92
APCs and CCs should hold regular cultivation meetings of farmers to ascertain their problems and needs	81	88
Members appointed to APCs and CCs should be practising farmers and should not hold membership of other institutions	79	85
Members should be trained on effective management of APCs and CCs	69	75
APCs and CCs should make efforts to educate farmers on their objectives and functions	45	48
Members of APCs and CCs should be elected by farmers	30	32
Members should be trained on the management of LRC lands	19	20

3. Management and operation of APCs

87% of the Agricultural Productivity Committee members reported that monthly meetings are held where 11% of the membership stated that meetings were held as and when necessary.

The study further revealed that the present frequency of meetings is considered satisfactory by members. Notice of these meetings is given by the Secretary and Chairman, and minutes of the previous meeting together with the agenda of the next meeting are also circulated to members.

79% of Agricultural Productivity Committee members considered the duration of meetings as ideal while 19% of them felt that meetings are somewhat long.

All Agricultural Productivity Committees had stipulated a quorum for meetings and all the members stated that a quorum was always available at monthly APC meetings. In the absence of a quorum the Chairman postponed the meeting. Members felt

that discussions at meetings are free and uninhibited and that all APC business including motions and complaints by members are tabled and discussed at these meetings.

59% of the members said that the monthly statement of income and expenditure is tabled for discussion once a month; 5% said this was done once every two months; 7% indicated the frequency to be once in three months; 20% stated that such statements were tabled as and when necessary and 9% said that these statements were not tabled at all as shown in Table 6.

Table 6 Percentage Distribution of APC Members according to Views Expressed Regarding Tabling of Monthly Statements of Income and Expenditure at APC Meetings (N = 56)

Frequency	No.	%
Once a month	33	59
Once in 2 months	3	5
Once in 3 months	4	7
As and when necessary	11	20
Not tabled as yet	5	9
Total	56	100

It appeared that where a statement of income and expenditure was not tabled, it was often due to lack of knowledge on the part of Agricultural Productivity Committee members on how to present a financial statement

The study further indicated that where a member absents himself at three consecutive meetings the Agricultural Productivity Committee would report such member to the Minister for removal from membership.

Three fourths of the members (76%) stated that resolutions are passed by a majority vote while the rest indicated that such action is by unanimous decision of the Agricultural Productivity Committee. A certified copy of the minutes of the Agricultural Productivity Committee should be made available to the members free of charge.

3.1 Group interaction

The social interaction of the Agricultural Productivity Committee members as revealed in Table 7 indicated that 20% of the members met very often, 31% met sometimes or occasionally while 18% never met at all except at committee meetings.

Table 7 Percentage Distribution of the APC Members who Meet Outside Committee Meetings to Discuss Matters (N = 59)

Frequency of Meeting	No.	%
Most of the time	12	20
Sometimes	18	31
Occasionally	18	31
Never	11	18
Total	59	100

Table 8 shows that information from other agencies was sought for most of the time according to 31% of the members, sometimes according to 29% of the members while the rest (37%) said that information was requested only occasionally or seldom.

Table 8 Percentage Distribution of Members who Indicated How Often the Committee Requests Information from Other Agencies (N = 58)

Frequency of Request	No.	%
Most of the time	18	31
Sometimes	17	29
Occasionally	16	28
Seldom	5	9
Never	2	3
Total	58	100

21% of the committee members were enlisted to obtain relevant information from other agencies most of the time as revealed in Table 9 while 38% said this was done sometimes and the rest (36%) indicated that this was done occasionally or seldom.

Table 9 Percentage Distribution of Members Requested by the APC to Obtain Information (N = 58)

Frequency of Request	No.	%
Most of the time	12	21
Sometimes	22	38
Occasionally	12	21
Seldom	9	15
Never	3	5
Total	58	100

88% of the members had information on various problems through first hand experience and direct observation as revealed in Table 10; 72% from conversation with fellow members, 48% were informed of such problems through discussions with members of the village and from local reports, 42% had this information from communications sent by other institutions, while about one third (35%) were informed through reports and discussions with Cultivation Committees.

Table 10 Percentage Distribution of Members by Source of Information (N = 60)

Source of Information	No.	%
Direct observation	53	88
Conversations had with fellow members	43	72
Written reports sent by CC members	23	38
Written reports sent by other institutions	25	42
Discussions had with CCs	21	35
Discussions had with villagers	29	48
Hearsay	29	48

3.2 Allocation of time

Time spent by the Agricultural Productivity Committees on their various activities was examined and the results are shown in Table 11. 76% were of the opinion that little time was spent on hire and management of farm machinery, 70% thought that little time was devoted to organising agricultural competitions, and 67% of the members felt that very little time was spent on farmer education. Two-thirds (64%) were of the opinion that little time was devoted to distribution of certified seed and planting material while 50% felt that much more time should be given to follow up action on ongoing agricultural development programmes and minor irrigation works.

Table 11 Percentage Distribution of Members who Indicated the Time APC Devotes to Various Activities (N = 60)

Field of Activity	Time Period					
	Too much		Just right		Too little	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Examination of agricultural disputes	12	20	34	65	8	13
Preparation of agricultural development programme	1	2	36	70	14	27
Follow up action on ongoing programmes	1	2	29	48	30	50
Farmer education	0	0	14	33	29	67
Issue of agro-identity cards	2	4	34	68	14	28
Preparation of Agricultural Lands Register	4	7	34	62	17	31
Minor irrigation works	2	4	26	46	29	51
Organisation of agricultural competitions	0	0	12	29	29	70
Fertiliser distribution	0	0	30	97	1	3
Agro-chemical distribution	0	0	35	64	20	36
Purchase of agricultural implements	0	0	24	40	0	0
Distribution of certified seed and planting material	0	0	20	36	35	64
Hire and management of farm machinery	2	4	9	20	34	76

3.3 Identification of problems and achievements

Mention was made of a number of agricultural problems that were being encountered within the areas of operation of the Agricultural Productivity Committees. These are revealed in Table 12. 86% of the members regarded that the increased price of fertiliser was a major problem. 63% pointed to the lack of cattle for ploughing operations. Half (50%) of the members listed the following major problems: water management, tenancy and land disputes, non-availability of farm machinery and water pumps. The lack of agricultural credit was described as a major problem by 45% of the members.

80% of the members expressed the view that Agricultural Productivity Committees had taken concrete action to solve the agricultural problems within the Agricultural Productivity Committee areas. The steps taken in descending order of frequency were:

- (a) Settlement of disputes relating to agricultural lands,
- (b) Obtaining production inputs,
- (c) The resolving of irrigation problems, and
- (d) Reclamation of saline tracts and derocking lands for cultivation.

In instances where the Agricultural Productivity Committees failed to solve agricultural problems within the Agricultural Productivity Committee area, the members attributed this situation to their own shortcomings. A further disadvantage was that Agricultural Productivity Committees did not have the relevant data to solve such problems.

Table 12 Percentage Distribution of Members who Indicated the Major Agricultural Problems Within the APC Area (N = 60)

Problems	No.	%
Increased price of fertiliser	52	86
Lack of agricultural credit	27	45
Lack of cattle for ploughing operations	38	63
Water management	31	52
Tenancy and land disputes	30	50
Lack of seed material and agricultural machinery (tractors and water pumps)	31	52
Lack of central collecting places for agricultural produce	30	50

The significant achievements of the Agricultural Productivity Committees indicated by members are revealed in Table 13. 52% of the members indicated that the settlement of land disputes and tenancy problems was the more significant achievement of the Agricultural Productivity Committees. About half of the members indicated obtaining agricultural implements, issue of seed material, agro-chemicals and agro-identity cards and better water management as significant achievements of the Agricultural Productivity Committees.

Table 13 Percentage Distribution of Members who Stated the Significant Achievements of the APCs (N = 60)

	No.	%
Settlement of land disputes and tenancy problems	31	52
Obtaining agricultural implements	29	48
Issues of seed material and agro-chemicals and agro-identity cards	28	47
Better water management	29	48

The study indicated that nearly all of the Agricultural Productivity Committee members had read the Agricultural Productivity Law while a high proportion of them had read the Agricultural Lands Law. The APC members' understanding of the rationale for the establishment of the Agricultural Productivity Committees as

explained by members is revealed in Table 14. 78% of the members thought that the main objective for establishing the Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees was to obtain the maximum yield from a land, 17% was of the opinion that such institutions were established to make the country self-sufficient in food, while 5% felt that the purpose of such institutions was to settle disputes of the farmers.

Table 14 Percentage Distribution of Members' Knowledgeability on Why APCs and CCs are Established (N = 60)

Reasons	No.	%
To obtain maximum yield from the land and for the benefit of the farmers	47	78
To make the country self-sufficient	10	17
To settle disputes among farmers	3	5
Total	60	100

The Study revealed that 44% of the APCs and CCs faced problems in the preparation of the Agricultural Lands Register.

The reasons given by members for encountering problems in the preparation of the register are shown in Table 15. 59% stated the reason to be the non-establishment of Cultivation Committees, while 34% of the members stated the major reason to be the lack of response from the people to data collection; 20% indicated the reason as ignorance of members in compiling the register, and 9% said that there was no co-operation from the Cultivation Committees.

Table 15 Percentage Distribution of APC Members who Gave Reasons for Problems Encountered in Preparing the Agricultural Lands Register (N = 44)

Reasons	No.	%
Members do not know how to complete the register	9	20
No response from the people to data collection to complete the register	15	34
No co-operation from the Cultivation Committees	4	9
Cultivation Committees not appointed as yet	26	59

4. Relationship of various institutions to APCs

4.1 On the concept of APCs

An understanding of the concepts of Agricultural Productivity Law by the public whose activities and functions are relevant to the effective functioning of the APC is very crucial. No less important are public officials' views on the present composition of APCs and their ability to function according to the concept as stipulated by the Agricultural Productivity Law.

The majority of public officials (86%) stated that APCs can act as agricultural development agencies in accordance with the Agricultural Productivity Law, while 14% replied in the negative.

Of the reasons stated by these officials on why APCs cannot act as agricultural development agencies, Table 16 reveals that 50% stated that APC members were not aware of their functions and responsibilities, while 40% stated that APC members had not had sufficient training and education; the rest stated that APCs did not have the necessary staff to carry out their functions and responsibilities.

Table 16 Percentage Distribution of Officials by Reasons for APCs Inability to Act as Agricultural Development Agencies (N = 20)

Reasons	No.	%
APC members are not aware of their functions and responsibilities	10	50
APC members have not had sufficient training and education	8	40
APC does not have the necessary staff to carry out its functions and objectives	2	10
Total	20	100

As to whether APC members were capable of making sound decisions on development questions, 54% of the officials stated that members were capable of doing so, while 46% stated otherwise.

The views expressed by officials as to why APC members are not capable of making sound development decisions are given in Table 17. 48% of the officials stated that APC members lacked education and technical training, 45% stated that they did not possess the knowledge, skill and capacity of carrying out their functions in terms of the Agricultural Productivity Law; the remaining 7% stated that members were incompetent and politically aligned.

Table 17 Percentage Distribution of Officials by Reasons for the Inability of APC Members in Making Sound Decisions (N = 66)

Reasons	No.	%
APC members lack the education and technical training for sound decision making	32	48
APC members do not possess knowledge, skill, capacity and acceptability to carry out their functions in terms of the Agricultural Productivity Law	30	45
APC members are incompetent, not honest and politically biased	5	7

The study revealed that 54% of the officials have an understanding of the concept of the APC. 40% stated that the concept was fairly understood and the remaining 6% said that the concept was rather vague and not understood by them (Table 18).

Table 18 Percentage Distribution of Officials by Their Understanding of the Concept of APCs (N = 135)

Level of Opinion	No.	%
Well understood	73	54
Fairly understood	54	40
Rather vague	5	4
Not understood	3	2
Total	135	100

Ninety officials (63%) stated that the law in its entirety is quite clear, while the remaining 52 officials (37%) stated that the law or parts of it were not clear. Of this latter group (Table 19) 70% stated that the entire law was not clear to them. 23% stated that sections 2 and 3 were not clear, namely the duties of owners or occupiers relating to the farming and management of agricultural lands and standard of good management, while 7% stated that section 24 is not clear as functions and powers of Agricultural Productivity Committees.

Table 19 Percentage Distribution of Officials by Understanding of the Agricultural Productivity Law (N = 52)

	No.	%
Complete Law	37	70
Farming and Management of Agricultural Land	12	23
Functions and Powers of APCs	3	7
Total	52	100

The majority of officials 86% had stated that the working relationship of their institutions to APCs was understood by them, while 14% stated that it was not clear.

On the areas that are not clear in the working relationship between the institutions and APCs, 95% stated financial control, 90% the working relationship with MPCs, 71% the working relationship with AIs and KVSS, 57% the working relationship with ACCD and 48% the working relationship with DO (Rural Institutions and Productivity Law Division).

4.2 Communications from departments on functions, objectives and working relationships with APCs

It is assumed that various departments whose activities and functions related to APCs have kept their field officials well informed of the functions, objectives and their working relationship with APCs. The study revealed that 80% of the officials had received from their respective departments certain communications on the subject, while 20% had not received such communications and would like to have them.

In regard to the instructions received by the officials from their respective departments, 37% of the officials stated that such instructions clearly specified their relationship with APCs, while 68% stated that the information received from their departments specified the objectives and functions of APCs. 32% said such instructions were not received from their respective departments.

As regards the awareness of officials of the activities of APCs, the study reveals that 68% are well informed of the activities of APCs, while 32% stated that they were not informed.

Of the new relationship between institutions and APCs, 42% of the officials stated that some structural changes in their institutions were required, while 58% stated that such changes were not needed. Of the required changes, officials stated the following: 71% expressed their desire that the TCEO personnel should visit the Agricultural Service Centre on two fixed days of the week, 59% stated that marketing officers should visit the Agricultural Service Centre only once a week, 53% stated that Statistical Investigators, Colonisation Officers and SLDOs should function from the Agricultural Service Centre, 34% stated that Senior Cultivation Instructors should be posted to the APC, 25% of the officials stated that the cadre of KVSs should be increased and upgraded. Further, 73% of the officials stated that the present staff is capable of carrying out the work in the line of the new relationship with the APC while 40% of the officials stated that all officers at district level need training on rural institution building, 35% suggested that banking staff should be trained on the philosophy of the new agricultural loans and the mechanics of rural lending, while 25% stated that better allowances should be paid to field officers.

4.3 Participation in APC Activities

The extent of involvement and participation of various public officers in the activities of APCs will affect to a great degree the effectiveness and functions of APCs. Of the various problems identified by APC members and communicated to various officials, Table 20 revealed that 35% referred to the absence of Agricultural Tribunals to settle land disputes, 33% to farmers not adhering to decisions of cultivation meetings, 30% to the need for timely credit, 20% to the lack of production inputs, 19% to the problems related to water management, 16% to the need for water pumps and farming implements, a similar percentage to the reclamation of saline tracts, while 11% referred to the difficulties in preparing the Agricultural Lands Register.

Table 20 Percentage Distribution of Officials by Problems Identified by APCs (N = 157)

Nature of Problem	No.	%
Absence of Agricultural Tribunals to settle problems of tenancy and other land disputes	55	35
Farmers not adhering to decisions of cultivation meetings	53	33
Need for timely credit from the banks at the Agricultural Service Centres	49	31
Lack of seed material, fertiliser and other inputs at the required time	32	20
Problems in water management	31	19
Need for water pumps, tractors and other agricultural implements	25	16
Reclamation of saline tracts for cultivation	25	16
Difficulties in preparing the Agricultural Lands Register	19	11

Only 33% of the officials had received the programme of work from the APC. 21% of the officials had corresponded very often with APCs on matters related to agricultural development and 48% have seldom or never corresponded, while 31% had not corresponded at all as shown in Table 21.

Table 21 Percentage Distribution of Officials by Frequency of Correspondence with APCs (N = 147)

Frequency	No.	%
Very often	31	21
Often	46	31
Seldom	28	19
Never	42	29
Total	147	100

60% of the officials said that APCs responded satisfactorily to their correspondence most of the time, 18% said this was sometimes, while 22% stated that they have seldom or never received satisfactory responses to their correspondence from APCs as shown in Table 22.

Table 22 Percentage Distribution of Officials by Assessment of Response of APCs to Correspondence (N = 120)

Time Period	No.	%
Most of the time	72	60
Sometimes	22	18
Occasionally	-	-
Seldom	11	9
Never	15	13
Total	120	100

The study revealed that 64% of the officials received specific requests from APCs on agricultural development problems of the area. Of the action taken by officials on this request the study revealed the following: 27% of the officials responded to the supply of inputs, 22% took action in supplying water pumps, tractors and various farming implements, a like percentage took part in the training of the APC and CC members, 15% took action to provide agricultural credit and 13% supplied information on cultivation and subsidiary food crops and a similar percentage provided information on development of livestock.

Visits of officials on business to Agricultural Service Centres varied considerably as shown in Table 23. 29% of the officials made 1 - 3 visits to the ASC, 17% made between 4 - 9 visits, 38% made over 10 visits to the ASC, while 16% of the officials never visited the ASC during the past year.

Table 23 Percentage Distribution of Officials by Official Visits to Agricultural Service Centres (N = 140)

Interval of Visits	No. of visits	%
1 - 3 times	40	29
4 - 6 times	19	14
7 - 9 times	05	03
Over 10 times	53	38
Never	23	16
Total	140	100

89% of the officials knew the APC Chairman while 57% knew the Chairman of CC. The study further revealed that only 21% of officials knew all the APC members, 33% knew most of the members, 35% knew few members and 11% did not know any of the members.

APCs had requested officials of various institutions to attend their meetings. Table 24 shows that 27% of the officials were requested to attend less than once a month, 47% to attend once a month, 6% twice a month and 20% were never asked to attend meetings at all.

Table 24 Percentage Distribution of Officials by Request to Attend APC Meetings (N = 136)

Frequency of Request	No.	%
Less than once a month	39	27
Once a month	63	47
Twice a month	8	6
Never asked	26	20
Total	136	100

On the extent of officials' actual attendance at APC meetings, Table 25 shows that 31% of officials attended all meetings, 38% attended some of the meetings, while 24% have seldom or never attended. It was revealed that the majority of officials (97%) who attended APC meetings had stated that they made worthwhile contributions to the meetings.

Table 25 Percentage Distribution of Officials by Actual Attendance at APC Meetings (N = 120)

Frequency of Attendance	No.	%
All meetings	37	31
Some meetings	46	38
Occasionally	8	7
Seldom	6	5
Never	23	19
Total	120	100

68% of the officials were aware that APCs had formulated annual development programmes. 69% of the officials had participated in formulating development programmes. There were a number of reasons given by the officials for not participating in the formulation of APC development programmes. 70% stated that they were not asked to participate and 30% that they were not directed by their respective departments to do so. The study further revealed that 87% of the officials were aware that APCs had initial working capital and banking facilities for overdraft and loans. On the efficient

utilisation of this capital (Table 26) 58% of the officials stated that the money was efficiently utilised by APCs. Further, 56% of the officials had advised APCs on the best use of the capital and the overdraft, while 44% did not do so. Of the officials who provided the APC with advice on how this money should be spent, 85% felt that their advice had been accepted, while 15% stated that their advice was not accepted by the APC.

Table 26 Percentage Distribution of Officials by Utilisation of APC Funds (N = 118)

Response	No.	%
Yes	69	58
No	49	42
Total	118	100

54% of the officials stated that government institutions had begun various work as a result of APC programmes. Of this percentage, 30% stated that the distribution of water pumps and tractors took place; 17% stated that the preparation of Agricultural Lands Register, distribution of fertiliser and agro-chemicals and issue of agricultural credit had started; 12% stated that the issue of agro-identity cards and distribution of seed material have already begun. A further 8% of the officials stated that the establishment of model farms, construction of minor irrigation works and organisation of demonstration plots had started.

On the implementation of APC programmes only 6% of the officials stated that APCs have implemented programmes without their knowledge, 64% were aware of the APC activities, while 30% were not aware that APCs implemented programmes without their knowledge, felt that they would have assisted in the implementation of such programmes had they been asked by the APC.

80% of the officials stated that APC members are aware of the assistance and guidance their institutions can provide to the APC. The study further revealed that 73% of the officials took specific action to keep the APC informed of the activities of their institutions while 27% had not done so. Of the various assistance provided by these institutions to the APC, Table 27 shows that 15% of the officials have provided information to the APC on various legislations and financial management of APCs, 14% have assisted in collection and maintenance of statistical data, 13% have provided training on the functions and objectives of APCs and assistance on the preparation of the implementation programmes, and 12% provided information on general extension methods.

Table 27 Percentage Distribution of Officials by Provision of Development Information to APCs (N = 105)

Area of Information	No.	%
General extension methods	13	12
Legislative (Agricultural Lands Law, Agricultural Productivity Law, Land Reform Law, Irrigation Ordinance)	15	15
Financial management of APCs/CCs	15	15
Functions and objectives of APCs/CCs	14	13
Use of agricultural inputs (fertiliser and agro-chemicals)	14	13
Preparation of the implementation programmes	14	13
Collection and maintenance of statistical data	15	14
Agricultural credit	-	-
Livestock development	5	5
Total	105	100

5. Training

Since the establishment of Agricultural Productivity Committees and Cultivation Committees, the Rural Institutions and Productivity Law Division as well as various government agencies have embarked on an intensive training programme of members of APCs and CCs. It was felt that an examination of the previous training efforts and the ascertaining of certain relevant factors will greatly assist in organising the training of APC and CC members.

5.1 Some personal characteristics of APC and CC members

- i. The study has revealed that 60% of APC members are over 51 years while only 35% of CC members are of this age group as shown in Table 28. The same Table also shows that 28% of the APC members and a like percentage of CC members are between 41 and 50; while the rest of the APC and CC members are below 40 years.

Table 28 Percentage Distribution of APC and CC Members by Age

Age Group	(N = 60)		(N = 62)	
	APC Members		CC Members	
	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 30	1	2	7	11
31 - 40	6	10	15	24
41 - 50	17	28	18	29
Over 51	36	60	22	35
Total	60	100	62	100

- ii. Table 29 shows an almost identical educational attainment of both APC and CC members. 7% have had no schooling, 55% upto the 5th standard and 38% passed the GCE.

Table 29 Percentage Distribution of APC and CC Members by Education

Level of Education	(N = 60) APC Members		(N = 60) CC Members	
	No.	%	No.	%
No schooling	4	7	4	6
Upto 5th standard	33	55	34	57
Passed GCE	23	38	22	37
Passed degree	-	-	-	-
Total	60	100	60	100

- iii. Unlike education, the occupations of APC members and CC members vary considerably as shown in Table 30. While 73% of APC members are cultivators, 94% of CC members are cultivators. 17% of the APC members are landed proprietors and 10% are businessmen or involved in various other occupations. Only 4% of CC members belonged to the latter three categories.

Table 30 Percentage Distribution of APC and CC Members by Occupation

Occupational Status	(N = 60) APC Members		(N = 62) CC Members	
	No.	%	No.	%
Cultivator	44	73	58	94
Landed proprietor	10	17	1	1
Businessman	3	5	1	1
Other (government pensioner, government servant)	3	5	2	2
Total	60	100	62	100

5.2 Previous training

The study revealed that a higher percentage of APC members have had a training on APCs, 72% in the case of APC members and 56% in the case of CC members. The most active institutions providing training for APCs were the Rural Institutions and Productivity Law Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture. Again the Rural Institutions Division is the most active institution providing training for CC members. APCs have also greatly contributed to the training of CC members.

The study indicates the period when APC and CC members have had their training. 72% of APC members and 94% of the CC members received their training 3 months after the establishment of the APC while 28% of APC members and 6% of the CC members had their training 6 months after the establishment of the APC.

Of the various topics for training of APC and CC members, Table 31 shows that 57% of the APC members and 10% of the CC members have had training on the Agricultural Lands Law, while 40% of APC members have had training on the Agricultural Lands Register, issue of agro-identity cards and functions and objectives of APCs. The study shows that 35% of CC members have had training on the first topic, 24% on the second and 29% on the third. It was also revealed that 30% of the APC members and about an equal percentage of CC members have had training on agricultural credit and water management, while 27% of APC members received training on improved methods of cultivation. 38% of CC members have had training on the same topic, and almost a like percentage (23%) of APC and CC members have had training on the use of fertiliser. 36% of APC members and 34% of the CC members have had half-day training while 62% of APC members and 64% of the CC members have had one-day training; 2% of both APC and CC members have had training for more than one day. All APC and CC members have responded that the training had helped them to function more efficiently as APC and CC members.

Table 31 Percentage Distribution of APC and CC Members who Indicated the Topics Discussed at APC and CC Training Courses

Topics	(N = 60)		(N = 62)	
	APC Members		CC Members	
	No.	%	No.	%
Agricultural Lands Law	34	57	37	60
Agricultural Lands Register	24	40	22	35
Issue of agro-identity cards	24	40	15	24
Functions and objectives of APCs	24	40	18	29
Agricultural credit	18	30	18	29
Water management	18	30	18	29
Improved methods of cultivation	16	27	22	35
Use of fertiliser	14	23	14	24

5.3 Suggestions for future training

33% of the APC members listed the following topics for future training: financial management and accounting procedure, formulation of implementation programmes, members' responsibilities, and water management (Table 32). The same Table shows that 66% of CC members have listed new agricultural legislation as an important.

topic to be considered in future training. 59% pointed out to improved methods of cultivation and 30% stated that financial management, accounting procedures and water management are important topics for future training. The Table also shows that 27% of APC members and almost a like percentage have stated that new agricultural legislation and training of members as being also important topics for future training. The same Table also shows that 24% of CC members stated that group participation of government officials and members is an important topic for training. Also, 12% of CC members pointed out that training on agricultural credit should be considered in the future.

Table 32 Percentage Distribution of APC and CC Members who Indicated Topics in Future Training Programmes for Better Management of APCs and CCs

Topics	(N = 60)		(N = 62)	
	APC Members		CC Members	
	No.	%	No.	%
Financial management and accounting procedure	20	23	19	30
Formulation of implementation programmes	20	23	-	-
Improved methods of cultivation	-	-	37	59
Member responsibilities	19	33	-	-
Water management	19	33	19	30
New agricultural legislation	16	27	41	66
Training of members	15	25	-	-
Group participation of government officials and members	-	-	15	24
Agricultural credit	-	-	8	12

On the subject of providing APC and CC members with training opportunities in the agricultural development of their areas, 50% of APC members stated that they need training on improved methods of cultivation, while all of the CC members mentioned the importance of this topic. 46% of APC members and 35% of CC members described the cultivation of subsidiary food crops as being important, 37% of the APC members and 37% of CC members stated that agricultural credit was also important, 33% of APC members and 30% of CC members indicated that a training on water management was needed 30% of APC members and 24% of CC members stated that training on new legislation was important (Table 33). The same Table also revealed that 30% of CC members stated that training on livestock development is required and 35% of the CC members pointed out that they required further training on the formulation and implementation of programmes. About the best hour for training, the study revealed that about half of both APC and CC members prefer morning sessions, about 1/4 prefer the afternoon session and the rest were indifferent.

Table 33 Percentage Distribution of APC and CC Members who Indicated Topics in Future APC and CC Training Programmes Relative to Agricultural Development

Topics	(N = 60)		(N = 62)	
	APC Members		CC Members	
	No.	%	No.	%
Improved methods of cultivation	30	50	62	100
Cultivation of subsidiary food crops	28	46	22	35
Agricultural credit	22	37	18	30
Water management	19	33	18	30
New legislation	18	30	16	24
Livestock development	-	-	19	30
Formulation of implementation programmes	-	-	22	35

On the duration of the training the study revealed that 48% of APC members and 60% of CC members prefer half-day sessions, 40% of both APC and CC members prefer one day sessions and 10% of APC members prefer more than a one day session. The study revealed that 57% of both APC and CC members claimed they were capable of training other members.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Agricultural Productivity Committees and the newly reorganised Cultivation Committees have been in existence for a short time, the earliest committees were formed three years ago and others have been appointed only recently. Already a fairly large proportion of farmers and public officers working in the rural sector have become aware - even in a limited way - of their objectives and functions. It will obviously be some time before these newly conceived bodies for agricultural leadership learn their comprehensive role in local development, exercise their powers effectively and become completely accepted by both officialdom and farmer alike.

It would appear that farmers as well as public officers have not shown any special interest in the manner in which members of APCs and CCs are selected. They are primarily concerned about their ability, skill and knowledge in the management and operation of these two institutions. They are also interested in ensuring that practicing farmers are appointed to these institutions.

It is suggested that the selection of persons to serve as members of APCs and CCs should be on the basis of their knowledge and experience as farmers as well as their understanding of the problems of the area. They should be willing to devote time to the execution of the various functions that devolve on them as responsible members of an important village level institution. They should also be willing to learn as well as to be trained for the purpose for which they are appointed. They should be looked upon by the rural community as leaders and pace setters who possess integrity and have the interest of their fellow farmers at heart.

The APC and CC members do not make use of the expertise available with the experienced farmers in trying to understand and assess the development needs of their areas. The APC should serve as a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas for the farmers of the area.

The APCs should take meaningful steps whereby it would establish itself as a central agency for agricultural development within its area of operation providing not only production inputs, but also vital services such as extension and marketing. Opportunities should be provided for farmers and association of CCs to participate in discussions and training sessions which would facilitate proper co-ordination and programming in matters connected with the provision of services and inputs.

1962-63
PART I

20

APCs and CCs should in association with the related government agencies working in the area arrange for the dissemination of information relating to important agricultural practices, organisation of farmers' meetings, demonstration plots and so on. While initially they should organise training classes in association with the training units of the various institutions working in the rural areas, in the long term they should themselves organise training programmes for the benefit of the farmers of the area.

APCs should be able to mobilise the support of the farmers preferably on a collective basis in finding solutions to problems of water management, draught power, provision of production inputs and marketing of produce. At the moment the farmers look upon the APCs and CCs as agents charged with the responsibility of providing agricultural services and inputs and the efficiency of these institutions are accordingly judged on the basis of their ability to provide them.

The APCs and CCs have a more important role to play than merely looking after the functions of the supply of services and inputs. They should consider themselves as institutions responsible for the overall agricultural development of the area. They should be able to prepare meaningful production programmes that are capable of realistic implementation. In the initial stages preparation of production plans and programmes has to be done with the assistance of the development agencies in the agrarian sector, but the responsibility for implementation of these programmes should rest with the farmers themselves.

The agencies working in the rural sector must be made to realise that planning for improvement of the level of living of farmers ultimately rests with the farming community itself and that the role of the public officials should be an advisory one. Local level officers working for the APC areas should make available to APCs all relevant reports on subjects of interest or concern to them. In the same manner it is in the interests of the APCs to keep the local level officers informed of their activities and seek their co-operation wherever necessary. It cannot be denied that for a long time to come the APCs would require the technical advice and assistance of the various government agencies serving the agrarian sector.

For better co-ordination and more efficient and effective relationship between the APC and the various institutions, it is suggested that:

- i. Statistical Investigators and senior Co-operative Inspectors should work more closely with the APC. Further, once a sufficient cadre of these technicians is available, it is suggested that they should be based at the APCs;

- ii. Colonisation Officers and Supervisors of the Land Development Ordinance should also be based at the APCs wherever there are colonisation schemes;
- iii. Technical and civil engineering officers and marketing officers should make routine visits to the APCs at least once a week;
- iv. The cadre of KVSs should be increased and their competency improved.

The APC concept is generally accepted by farmers, APC members and the various public functionaries whose activities relate directly to the APCs. The Rural Institutions and Productivity Law Division in co-operation with other related institutions has since the establishment of APCs launched an intensive training programme intended to familiarise APC members, farmers and public officers with the concept and objectives of the Agricultural Productivity Law and the Agricultural Lands Law. However, these training programmes could only be introductory in nature and little has yet been done to make the APCs understand their working relationship with farmers and their agents, the CCs.

The importance of providing APC and CC members as well as members of related institutions with opportunities for training in the concept, philosophy and objectives of the Agricultural Productivity Law, as well as the management and operation of APCs is a prerequisite for the successful achievement of the objectives of these institutions. Therefore it is suggested that -

- (a) an intensive training programme for APC members be launched preferably on a regional or district basis focussing on the following:
 - i. Concept of the Agricultural Productivity Law and the Agricultural Lands Law;
 - ii. The role of APC and CC in the overall development of the rural areas;
 - iii. The relationship between the APC and various relevant government institutions;
 - iv. The relationship between the APC and the CC;
 - v. Financial and managerial aspects of APCs and CCs;
 - vi. The proper implementation and follow up of rural development plans.

Training should be viewed as a continuous process, each session lasting one day with an opportunity for participants to express their views and ideas. The training should be alive to the different educational levels of APC members and their varied background and experiences.

(b) an equally intensive training programme for CCs should emphasise -

- i. the role and functions of government officers working at APC and CC levels;
- ii. the rationale of the Agricultural Productivity Law and Agricultural Lands Law;
- iii. the role and functions of CC members in the development of their areas;
- iv. the financial and managerial aspects of CCs;
- v. the process of identifying problems, establishing priorities and drawing up agricultural development plans (this training should be organised at APC level taking into consideration the limited academic qualifications of the trainees); and
- vi. an intensive training programme should be conducted for all officers whose work impinges on APCs. This training should emphasise -
 - (a) the concept of the Agricultural Productivity Law and Agricultural Lands Law;
 - (b) functions, duties and relationship of these institutions to APCs;
 - (c) the preparation, implementation and follow up of rural development plans at APC and CC levels;
 - (d) the integrated approach to rural development.

This training should preferably be carried out at district level. As part of the total training activities, the Rural Institutions and Productivity Law Division should take the initiative to convene meetings at district level where APC members and public officers could meet and discuss problems of mutual concern and resolve difficulties. Such meetings should not be highly structured and should provide an opportunity for free expression of ideas.

The APCs in their short history have been able to provide - even in a limited way - necessary agricultural services and inputs to the farmers. Their efforts, however, in regard to the preparation and implementation of development programmes, farmer education and training, water management and allied matters have been minimal. An effective mechanism has not been worked out for co-ordinating all development activities within their area of authority.

This is partly due to the fact that a considerable amount of time has already been spent in settling agricultural disputes within their areas. This, however, will no longer be necessary as Agricultural Tribunals have already been established.

It is hoped that the APCs and CCs will, in due course, be able to enlist the active support and participation of the people of the areas in the execution of development programmes. This, however, will amongst other things, depend on the manner in which effective training and financial support is provided to them. Setting up new institutions is undoubtedly a difficult task but this has been achieved with considerable success. The manner in which these institutions will fulfil their objectives will depend to a great extent on the support that they will be able to obtain from both the farmers and the public officials.