

## Conclusions and Recommendations

### *The Strengths of the Responsibility System and People's Participation*

The *Responsibility System* has a number of weaknesses and strengths. These are briefly outlined in this section.

Eradication of Poverty. Most households thrive on the individual management of land. They work hard and accept the responsibility. Eighty per cent of all farming households in the County come under this category. Many, who lived in poverty before, are now thriving. However, they still worry about possible policy changes.

Appeasement of Initial Opposition. Fifteen per cent of all households (those who did not have sufficient labour, army families, and Martyrs families [the latter two receiving pensions from the Collectives]) feared for their security and were not receptive to the new system. However, since they have begun to realise that their basic living standards will not deteriorate they are beginning to accept the system..

Attitudes of the Chronic Jobless. The less than five per cent of households, that make up the idle and chronic jobless, naturally oppose the system, since previously they did well without working. However, they do not have any influence on the overall situation. Overall, therefore, rural people accept the *Responsibility System*.

Encouragement of the Inherent Initiative of the Rural Population. The inherent potentials of the rural populations have been drawn out. Rural areas are technologically backwards, but the human factor in this system has brought out the latent creativity that was hitherto subdued in the rural population.

General Applicability of the *Responsibility System*. The System is not location-specific. It is flexible enough to be applied not only to other areas in China but to other areas of the world. It is essential to be aware of its restrictive conditions and weaknesses before establishing the System. However, the key factors remain the form of ownership and control over the means of production. The Chinese version has, as its prerequisite, the public ownership of the means of production (here meaning land). Countries who may be contemplating establishing the public ownership of land could consider the *Responsibility System* as a means of making this change-over more widely acceptable.

After all, ownership of small, fragmented areas of land is not conducive to development on a large-scale, or to the economic benefit of individual households. Yet, State ownership and frequent policy changes do not always lead to amelioration of this situation. This is where the *Responsible System* can play a meaningful role. Even where situations exist where some landlords still own large tracts of land and hire labour, various systems can be introduced within the philosophy of the System that are neither detrimental to the landlords nor the labourers. These would not only bring about the overall development of agriculture but would be beneficial to the State, to the landlords, and to the hired labour; the latter because they too would have a share of the profits by distribution of dividends or other means.

### *Recommendations*

Encouragement of Land Transfer. In Miyi County, problems have arisen concerning the prevention and control of plant diseases and the elimination of pests. These problems are more in evidence in the valleys where grain and tropical crops are grown. However, the rural economy is not yet well-developed and farmers should not be compelled to adopt measures they do not understand. In rural areas there are few opportunities for off-farm employment. On the other hand, if skills are not adopted, it will be detrimental to agricultural development. Already, town and collective enterprises can support a large number of labourers. Incomes should be increased in these industrialised sectors to attract those without agricultural skills off the land and skilled farmers should be subsidised and technological inputs made available to them

Households who transfer their agricultural plots must at the same time, be guaranteed their grain rations.

Improvement of Rural Level Management. The rural level of management mentioned above: (a) household and (b) collective is suitable for mountain regions. It enables the better farmers to

increase their skills and at the same time enables those raised in a rural environment to retain their linkages with the land while working in industry.

Improvement of Socialised Systems of Production and Marketing. Regional cooperative and service organisations should be established. These should cover all aspects of production from input supplies to marketing techniques. These should be established right down to the village level and should be in charge of a number of affairs, as outlined below :

- o Contract arrangements; readjustment, evaluation, and management of land.
- o Construction, management, and use of large-scale water reservoirs.
- o Storage, usage, and replacement of former public property.
- o Contract arrangements in the context of guidance and supervision of former collective enterprises.
- o Planning and construction of services for water, pastures, forests, roads, and for village public welfare services.
- o Supervising State-purchasing of grain.
- o Other public service activities.

Establishment of Labour Organisations. Such organisations should be established at all management levels to facilitate the spread of advanced technologies and provide funds for various educational and service activities.

Establishment of Construction and Agricultural Development Funds. Shortage of funds is the principal obstacle in all areas of agricultural development. Therefore, cooperative organisations should be established in order to overcome this problem. They can collect funds from a number of sources.

- 1) The Agricultural Aid Fund - given by the State to assist and subsidise poor farmers.
- 2) Investment in cooperatives whether within the County itself or outside.
- 3) Fund-raising from the farmers themselves.
- 4) Foreign aid or investment.

Strengthening of Investment in Education. This is the key to all development. Education is the fundamental requirement for all productive activity and development.

Stabilization and Improvement of Rural Policies. To guarantee the steady development of agriculture, the present policies should not be changed but rather improved upon within a stable environment. This will encourage farmers to invest in their land and skills and will enhance productivity.