

of the farmers. The mere provision of the physical factors of production will not ensure their trial and adoption. Technical information must also be transferred. We believe that for this task, effective field agents are an essential element of our plan. Because they are essential, we recommend that the field agents concern themselves primarily with agriculture. The initial technical tasks are relatively simple, but they will grow more complex as the projects develop. The field agents should be trained during their service so that their competence increases with the complexity of the task. Field experience should be augmented by intensive short courses. This is a full time job. If this group of workers is also charged with community development responsibility, they will neither gain specialized knowledge nor have time for their main task.

Great flexibility should be provided in the schedule of activities for the field agents in the first few project areas. Different approaches should be used to test quickly the efficacy of varying systems. Considerable experimentation needs to be done in sub-units of a project area to work out the optimal number of field agents.

The village is an attractive base of operation for a field agent. With a resident agricultural worker in the village, contact with the farmers will be much more frequent than on a visiting basis. Demonstration plots, centrally located, as well as on the land of cooperating farmers should form an integral part of the agents' work. Difficulties of transportation as well as custom severely limit the exposure of farmers to demonstrations away from the village. Referring again to the Comilla Project in East Pakistan, 85 percent of the farmers regularly observed demonstrations and trials in their own village, while only 5 percent regularly saw the demonstrations at the agricultural office and farm. The distance to the farm was only 3 miles from the village.

Because of the small size and fragmentation of holdings, it would be physically very difficult to pattern the field agent's work entirely on contacts with farmers in their fields. To arrange field visits, to prepare cropping plans, to work out certification of credit applications - all will require ease of contact with the farmers.

If possible, field agents should be selected from among those who have grown up on a farm, preferably in the general area where they will work. The feel of the soil, the command to a bullock, the harvest in good years and bad years should be part of their background.

The rapid enlistment of peasant farmers in a change from traditional practice to intensive agriculture is obviously difficult, but some recent