

of years. Furthermore, the field staff of farm planners are in an excellent position to recommend specific areas of needed research.

While the farm planning technique has many features in its favor, it must be judged against alternative ways of transmitting and receiving information. In this connection, a host of questions need to be answered: What are the maximum and optimal numbers of farms a planner can handle? Will farmers have sufficient "faith" in the planner to accept his suggestions, or, similarly, how many farm visits are necessary before the farmer will "accept" the planner? How should the operating and control units be selected? What, and how fast, is the spread-effect of changes made on "planned" farms into nearby, but "non-budgeted", farms? Should cursory records be kept on many farms, or should detailed records be recorded on a smaller number? What is the cost of obtaining information, and the returns from transmitting information through farm planning, and how do these compare with other techniques? What are the staffing and training problems, and does the planning approach make maximum use of scarce human resources and talents in the country? What are the problems of keeping accounts and farm plans in areas of low literacy? This is by no means an exhaustive list, but it does give an indication of the types of questions which need to be answered.

The "Comilla" approach represents a different technique for the transfer of information to farmers. Since this experience has been very well documented,⁽³⁾ it is necessary to point out only a few of its most important aspects.

A major feature of Comilla is the Thana-Training-Center, an applied research and teaching unit which serves the ten-square-mile experimental unit. The basic method has been to organize farmers into co-operative associations at the village level, and to have leaders of the villages make regular visits to the Center for training. There, they receive instruction in record keeping and farm management, and are able to view experimental projects

(3) See for example, The Journal of the Pakistan Academy for Village Development, Comilla, and A New Rural Co-operative System for Comilla Thana.