

Nevertheless, the reform of agricultural methods is as important to the success of the agricultural development program as the augmentation of the water supply. Research is required into the roots of the resistance just recounted, into the best methods for evading and overcoming these resistances, and particularly into discovering which effective methods of cultivations are likely to meet the smallest resistances. This field of research is by no means virgin, but still much more needs to be known before we can feel confident that new methods of cultivation can be introduced successfully.

Population Research

In the long run factors influencing population growth and the effectiveness of family planning programs may have a more important impact on the well-being of Pakistan than the factors influencing agricultural productivity that have been our main concern. The present rate of population increase in West Pakistan is at least 2.4 percent per year. The child mortality rate is reported to be very high for children under the age of 10. The most immediate effect of any agricultural improvement project is likely to be a reduction in this death rate accompanied, perhaps, by an increase in the birthrate consequent upon improved nutrition for expectant mothers. Since there is an upper bound to food production, enforced by the limited supply of water, a stable population size will be required eventually. While this problem is world-wide, it is particularly acute in the less developed countries. Research into suitable family planning methods, and most important, into techniques for making them acceptable, is needed. Since acceptance is likely to be slow, efforts along these lines, which are modest at present, should be accelerated.

Physical-Biological Research

Agricultural Research

It is contemplated that each of the agricultural development regions will be equipped with at least one agricultural experiment station. Each of these experiment stations, it is expected, will emphasize studies of problems of particular importance to its region, but at the same time their research program should be coordinated so as to supplement each other to the maximum extent feasible.

One of the main responsibilities of all the experiment stations will be the improvement of the yield and the disease resistance of food and fiber crops. An example of what might be done in the wheat improvement program will serve to suggest the possibilities. Advantage could be taken of the existence