

is complacency—the premature conclusion that the programs already undertaken will suffice. They will not. The first positive steps have brought dramatic results because there was so much room for improvement in the cultivation of the Indus Plain. But fundamental shortcomings persist. There is still much hard work to be done. Just as our first message was one of hopefulness in a time of gloom, so now we want to offer some sober appraisals in a time of confidence.

One of the central themes of our report was *interaction*. We found that the agriculture of West Pakistan was beset by numerous deficiencies. Efforts to correct any one of these could have only limited success, because the uncorrected shortcomings would still set a low ceiling to agricultural productivity. On the other hand, simultaneous measures to provide additional irrigation water; reclaim deteriorated land; supply chemical fertilizers, plant protection, and improved seeds; instruct farmers in the proper use of these materials and in modern agricultural methods; increase the ease and rapidity of loans to farmers; and improve marketing procedures and facilities—all concentrated on the same area—would be mutually supporting and would yield far greater increases in output than the same efforts scattered over different places. For these reasons we recommended the formation of the Land and Water Development Board and of local administrations, each responsible to the Board for supervising physical improvements and a number of agricultural programs in a single compact area. Because Pakistan has a limited supply of administrative resources, we recommended the strategy of starting project areas in succession, with development of no more than about a million acres being undertaken in any one year. We still adhere, in the main, to this broad concept. But now it appears that we overestimated some of the difficulties. Since the publication of our report, the farmers of West Pakistan have demonstrated more initiative and more willingness to adopt modern agricultural practices than we anticipated. This is indicated by the rapid spread of private tubewells—about 6,500 a year—and by the eager adoption of chemical fertilizers—usage increasing at about 20 per cent per year recently. Furthermore, it seems evident that the distribution of fertilizer, seeds, and other materials of agriculture can be accomplished efficiently through ordinary commercial channels. Thus, the agricultural administration can concentrate on providing water, agricultural advisory services, credit, and storage and marketing facilities, leaving the problems of distribution of agricultural materials and even some of the work of supplying irrigation water to private initiative. The resulting economies in the utilization of scarce administrative and technical manpower may permit a considerable acceleration of the program.