

## CHAPTER VI

### CASES OF CO-OPERATION

Analogous to the situation of co-ownership in respect of ownership of a holding is the situation of co-operation in respect of operation of a farm. The situation of co-operation in farming arises thus when two or more operators operate a lot, each having his own demarcated share of the lot.

As can be seen from Map IV, there are 35 lots in Block P which involve co-operation. This constitutes about 33.7% of the total number of lots. Looking from the standpoint of operation, 79 farms are co-operated. This represents about 50.4% of the total 137 farms in the Block. The extent of co-operation in the Block is thus considerably large.

Some of these co-operated lots have two co-operators. Others have three. Table 6.1 shows that there are 26 lots with two co-operators, while Table 6.2 shows that there are nine lots with three co-operators.

The acreage operated by each co-operator, as shown in Column 4 of the two Tables, is necessarily less than the acreage of a lot which is usually three acres. It varies between cases, ranging from as small as half acre to as large as  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres. Table 6.1 shows that in those lots operated by two co-operators, the most frequent size of a co-operated sub-lot is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres. There are 42 sub-lots of this acreage from the total of 52. This is the outcome of equal division of a lot of three acres into two sub-lots. The remaining sub-lots are of different other sizes ranging from half acre to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres. Table 6.2 depicts that in those lots operated by three co-operators, a sub-lot of one acre is the most frequent cases, accounting for 16 out of 27 sub-lots. Again, this is the logical outcome of dividing a lot of three acres into three equal sub-lots. The rest of the sub-lots in the Table vary between half acre to  $1\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

The existence of the situation of co-operation in the Block is due to a number of circumstances, set out in Column 6 of the two Tables. Most notable among these is that it arises from the situation of co-ownership of lots. As we have seen in the previous Chapter, all co-owners operate their sub-lots. Hence they are co-operators. It can be observed that all the 12 cases of co-ownership depicted in Table 5.1 occur again here, either in Table 6.1 or Table 6.2 according to whether the co-owners are two or three.

TABLE 6.1

## CO-OPERATED LOTS WITH TWO CO-OPERATORS

(1) Case No.	(2) Lot No.	(3) Co-operators	(4) Area of Co- Operated Sub-Lot (Acres)	(5) Situations of Operation	(6) Circumstances Giving Rise to Co-operation
1	2826	Rumair bin Warhil Tahmin	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	Co-owner/Co-operator "	Co-ownership
2	2827	Siti Hatanah Haji Jalaluddin	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	Co-owner/Co-operator "	
3	2835	Haji Nor bin Taharid Mohd. Saom	1 2	Co-owner/Co-operator "	
4	2837	Jusier bin Tenedi Hanan bin Sabari	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	Co-owner/Co-operator "	
5	2844	Serip bin N. Tahir Haji Dinyari bin Suro	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	Co-owner/Co-operator "	
6	2847	Taib bin Nor Salim Kardi bin A. Saoud	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	Co-owner/Co-operator "	
7	2882	Haji Ali bin Sarkam Haji A. Hadi	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	Co-owner/Co-operator "	
8	2797	Haji Ibrahim b. A. Rahim Amdah bin Ali	$\frac{1}{2}$ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Husband/Co-operator Tenant/Co-operator	Partial Tenancy
9	2814	Arshod bin Haji Ismail Ahmad bin Taha	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	Owner/Co-operator Tenant/Co-operator	
10	2878	Hj. Ibrahim b. A. Shuhor Hj. Salleh	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	Owner/Co-operator Tenant/Co-operator	
11	2878	Yusuf bin Hj. Sidak Loso	1 2	Owner/Co-operator Tenant/Co-operator	
12	2883	Haji Hashim bin Sidak Haji Asraf	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	Owner/Co-operator Tenant/Co-operator	
13	2888	Haji Mohd. Ihsan Tahichen	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	Owner/Co-operator Tenant/Co-operator	

TABLE 6.1 (CONT.)

(1) Case No.	(2) Lot No.	(3) Co-operators	(4) Area of Co-Operated Sub-Lot (Acres)	(5) Situations of Operation	(6) Circumstances Giving Rise to Co-operation
14	2819	Rahhtar bin. Ahmad	1½	Tenant/Co-operator	Whole-Lot Tenancy
		Sarmen	1½	"	
15	2828	Sulong bin Saidin	1½	Tenant/Co-operator	
		Tahir	1½	"	
16	2835	Ithman bin Sastre Arjo	2	Tenant/Co-operator	Partial Gift
		Isam	1	"	
17	2836	Sinan bt. Sidi	1½	Owner/Co-operator	
		Sidi bin Idris	1½	Father/Co-operator	
18	2820	A. Saad bin Saidin	1½	Owner/Co-operator	
		Abu Hashim bin Hn	1½	Relative/Co-operator	
19	2839	Sumadi bin Hat Kanan	1½	Owner/Co-operator	
		Sapari bin Hat Kanan	1½	Brother-in-law/Co-operator	
20	2853	Lehuri bin HJ. A. Hajid	1½	Owner/Co-operator	
		Katiman	1½	Brother-in-law/Co-operator	
21	2855	A. Rashid bin Nor Salin	1½	Owner/Co-operator	
		Kamiah bt. Nor salin	1½	Sister/Co-operator	
22	2871	Siti Halimah	2½	Wife/Co-operator	Whole-Lot Gift
		Shamul	1	Relative/Co-operator	
23	2802	Ahmad bin Abu Hashim	1½	Son/Co-operator	
		Hasnah bt. Abu Hashim	1½	Sister/Co-operator	
24	2880	Amin bin Hiran	1½	Son/Co-operator	Situation
		Hasiran	1½	Son-in-law/Co-operator	
25	2817	Tahet bin A. Wahid	1½	Neighbor/Co-operator	Situation
		Suradi bin Acagat	1½	Tenant/Co-operator	
26	2882	Sulaiman bin Salleh	1½	Son/Co-operator	
		Harubas bin Basiran	1½	Tenant/Co-operator	

TABLE 6.2

## CO-OPERATED LOTS WITH THREE CO-OPERATORS

(1) Case No.	(2) Lot No.	(3) Co-operators	(4) Area of Co-Operated Sub-Lot (Acres)	(5) Situations of Operation	(6) Circumstances Giving Rise to Co-operation
1	2788	Mohd. Khalil b. Hj. Ihsan Amir bin Jamal Kasruddin bin Bahir	1 1/2 1/2	Co-owner/Co-operator " "	Co-ownership
2	2789	Muzan bin Segaf Bel bin Yahaya Ajan	1/2 1/2 1/2	Co-owner/Co-operator " "	
3	2791	Mahmud bt. Enchu Rahim bt. Bahir Dunah bt. Tath	1/2 1/2 1	Co-owner/Co-operator " "	
4	2887	Haji Rahmad Hj. A. Rahim b. Hj. Ihsan Hj. Djalih b. Kandi	1/2 1 1/2	Co-owner/Co-operator " "	
5	2886	Araf bin Kandi Jauhari bin Kandi Gauri bin Kandi	1 1 1	Owner/Co-operator Brother/Co-operator "	Partial Gift
6	2881	Jaujan bin Hj. Omar Ashikinah bt. Hj. Omar Hj. A. Salam	1 1 1	Owner/Co-operator Sister/Co-operator Brother-in-law/Co-operator	
7	2812	Almad bin Teman Shamsuddin bin Teman Huran bin Masakat	1 1 1	Son/Co-operator Son/Co-operator Son-in-law/Co-operator	
8	2873	Sulan bin Hj. A. Latif Sofina bt. Hj. A. Latif Koringah bt. Hj. A. Latif	1 1 1	Son/Co-operator Daughter/Co-operator Daughter/Co-operator	Whole-Lot Gift
9	2886	Haji Ibrahim b. A. Rahim Badr bin Hj. Ihsan Ahmad	1/2 1/2 1	Co-owner/Co-operator Co-owner/Co-operator Tenant/Co-operator	
					Mixed Situation

Few reasons may be suggested why all co-owners operate and do not rent out their sub-lots. Some of these have already by implication become clear in the course of our discussion in the previous Chapter as to why co-owners acquire their sub-lots. One is that some of these co-owners are landless in respect of land other than these sub-lots. Co-operating these sub-lots is thus perhaps the only source of agricultural employment open to them, and perhaps also the only main source of income. Others operate their sub-lots solely to obtain the staple food of padi. To rent out these small sub-lots amounts to reducing drastically the amount of padi obtainable. Co-owners with large padi holdings, such as Kamaruddin bin Behir of case number 1, Table 6.2, operate their co-owned sub-lots perhaps for reason of scale. It is worth noted that Kamaruddin is a Committee Member of the local Perastuan Peladang, in charge of two tractors of the society.

Another circumstance giving rise to the situation of co-operation in the Block is tenancy. It is tenancy of two modes. First is where the de facto owner rents out one part of his lot and operates himself another part. A typical example of this is case number 9 lot 2814 in Table 6.1, where the de facto owner of the lot, Arshad bin Haji Ismail, rents out to Ahmad bin Taha  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of his lot, and operates himself the remaining  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres. There are in all six lots involved in this 'partial tenancy' as shown in Table 6.1. Next is where the owner rents out his whole lot to two tenants, each with a specified acreage. The representative example of this is case number 14 lot 2819 in Table 6.1, where Mokhtar bin Ahmad and Sarmon rent in and operate  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres each of the lot. Table 6.1 shows that there are three lots of this 'whole-lot tenancy' situation.

It is not obvious from the information provided by the Questionnaire why these two modes of tenancy arise. We cannot thus tell why in some cases only a part of a lot is rented out, and not the whole; and why in others a lot is rented out to two tenants and not to one. Perhaps we can explain this in terms of the economic capacity to operate of both the landlords and the tenants. Some of them may be too old and weak, or too scarce of capital, to operate the whole lot. It may also be intelligible in terms of land scarcity. A tenant renting in a sub-lot of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres or less operates it because he cannot find any bigger land to operate elsewhere. It may also be explainable in terms of other circumstances such as scarcity of employment opportunities. An interesting possibility, however, is that this phenomenon may be explained in terms of the various relationships, particularly blood relationship, between the landlords and the tenants. It is quite common here for an owner to rent out a part of his lot to his relative with the view of helping the latter to secure an employment and a source of income. It is unfortunate that the Questionnaire does not provide us with the information regarding the relationship of each tenant to his landlord. Otherwise, we can perhaps establish specifically that landlordism is not solely a cause of poverty but also a source of employment and income, and its underlying motive is not only exploitation but also consideration and helpful.

The next circumstance giving rise to the situation of co-operation in the Block is gift-to-operate. Again, there are two kinds of such gifts. An owner may make a gift of a part or parts of his lot to a giftee or giftees, while he himself operates the remaining part. This can be illustrated by case number 6 lot 2891 in Table 6.2, where the owner, Janjam bin Haji Omar gives one acre of his lot to operate to each of his sister, Askinson and brother-in-law, Haji Abdul Salam. All of them operate the lot and become its co-operators. Table 6.1 shows six lots of this 'partial gift', while Table 6.2 shows two. Alternatively, the owner may make a gift of the whole of his lot to more than one person. In this case, only the giftees operate the lot and are co-operators. This situation can be clearly seen in case number 7 lot 2812 in Table 6.2,, where the owner makes a gift of the whole lot one acre each to her sons, Ahmad bin Taman and Shamsuddin bin Taman, and son-in-law, Harun bin Maskat. Table 6.1 and Table 6.2 both account for two lots each of this 'whole-lot gift' as a circumstance responsible for the situation of co-operation.

In the above situation of giftee/co-operation, the giftees - as can be seen from Column 5 of the two Tables - are usually very close relatives of the gifter, such as sons, daughters and in-laws. In contrast with tenants, they pay no rent. It is obvious why these gifts are made. That these gifts are made in terms of sub-lots and not the whole lot is obviously due to the fact that the gifter in each case has only a limited amount of land.

Finally, some situations of co-operation in the Block are due to a combination of two or more of the above circumstances. An obvious example of this is case number 9 lot 2806 in Table 6.2, where the lot is co-operated by its two co-owners, Haji Ibrahim and Badri; and a tenant of Haji Ibrahim, Ahmad. Table 6.2 shows only this one lot of the 'mixed situation', while Table 6.1 shows two.

The prevalence of the situation of co-operation in the Block, like that of co-ownership, may give rise to a number of economic and other problems. As we have seen, the extent of co-operation here is considerably large being about 33.7% of the total number of lots or 50.4% of the total number of farms. This is of great significance. It means that whatever problems that may arise from and whatever implications that may attend the phenomenon of co-operation will affect the total situation in the Block extensively.

Foremost among the economic problems is the question in relation to unit of operation. As we have seen in the two Tables, the acreage of the co-operated sub-lots varies between half acre to 2½ acres. In all cases, it is smaller than the original lot alienated. At least 24 of these sub-lots are of one acre or below. A great majority of these co-operators do not operate padi-land anywhere else. Most of them also do not operate any other land at all. The problem of unit of operation is thus a very serious one here. We cannot exactly say how many of these sub-lots are operated drastically below optimum, and how many a little below, for lack of data on indices of efficiency. But from our experience and

observation, we are reasonably certain that for a family to operate a one-acre padi farm and do nothing else, the farm is too labour-intensive to be in a state of efficiency.

Next equally important economic problem is operational fragmentation of farms. If the co-operator, besides co-operating his relevant sub-plot, operates also other lot or lots in the Block, fragmentation of his padi farm emerges in so far as the scatter of the lots and/or sub-plots is concerned. It can be seen from Map IV that there are two fragmented farms involving co-operated sub-plots, while four other farms, though they involve sub-plots, are fortunately adjoining, and hence not fragmented in the sense of being scattered. Table 6.3 sets out all these farms.

This situation of fragmentation is augmented with regard to the whole farm when a farmer co-operates a sub-plot, or operates a fragmented farm involving a sub-plot(s) in the Block, besides operating a lot or more outside the Block. There are at least 16 cases of this nature of fragmentation in the Block, as set out in Table 6.4. It can be seen that with the exception of three cases all these farmers co-operate only a sub-plot each in the Block. It is obvious that the degree of fragmentation of these farms is increased by the farmers' mere operation of a sub-plot in the Block.

Co-operation of a lot among two or three co-operators may also give rise to various problems in relation to matters which affect the whole lot. Examples of this are decisions with regard to water supply of the lot, and decisions with regard to variety of padi to be planted in view of pest, birds, and passage-ways for those whose sub-plots are away from the earth track.

Besides these direct economic problems of co-operation, there are others as well that arise from these circumstances which give rise to the situation of co-operation. The practice of gift-to-operate, so prevalent in this Block particularly in relation to sub-plots, may pose its own problems. Economically, the incentive to operate and manage well may be less on a gifted land than on owned land. Socially, it may create discord among relatives, particularly if some are gifted while others of the same order are not. Psychologically, it lessens the challenge to the younger generation to look for employment themselves since they can hope for some relative to make a gift of land to them to operate.

These problems are also equally applicable to tenancy, insofar as it is a cause of the situation of co-operation. In addition to these, of course, landlordism can be a source of exploitation. Mostly, the rent charged in connection with these co-operated sub-plots is of 'bagi-dua' basis. Now 'bagi-dua' charge can be excessive with regard to highly productive lots has been discussed in Chapter I.

Finally, tenancy and gift as practised in connection with these co-operated sub-plots may produce a serious result. It has been noticed that the resulting units of operation are mostly small,

TABLE 6.3

FRAGMENTED PADI FARMS INVOLVING  
CO- OPERATED SUB-LOTS

No.	Farm No.*	Lot or Sub-Lot	Remark
1	F3	Sub-Lot 2789 Lot 2799 Lot 2800	Scattered
2	F6	Sub-Lot 2797 Sub-Lot 2806 Lot 2801 Lot 2805	Adjoining
3	F10	Sub-Lot 2817 Lot 2821	Adjoining
4	F56	Sub-Lot 2862 Lot 2866	adjoining
5	F124	Sub-Lot 2844 Lot 2856	Scattered
6	F125	Sub-Lot 2844 Lot 2848	Adjoining

\*Refer Map IV.



TABLE 6.4

FARMS WITH A SUB-LOT IN BLOCK P  
INVOLVING LOT(S) ELSEWHERE

No.	Farm No.	Sub-Lot(s) and Lot(s) of the Farm in the Block	Lot(s) Outside of the Block/Acreage/Crop
1	2	Sub-Lot 2780	Lot 2803, Block K, 3 acres, Padi
2	6	Sub-Lot 2787	Sg. Tonggi Kanan, 3 acres, Coconut
		Sub-Lot 2806	Sg. Sirih, 4 acres, Coconut
		Lot 2801	Batu 9, 7½ acres, Coconut
		Lot 2805	
3	13	Sub-Lot 2837	Batu 4, 1 acre, kampong cultivation
4	18	Sub-Lot 2853	Batu 8, 2½ acres, Coconut
			Batu 4, 2½ acres, Coconut
5	22	Sub-Lot 2866	Sg. Tonggi Kanan, area unknown, Coconut
6	57	Sub-Lot 2870	Batu 6, 3½ acres, Coconut
7	84	Sub-Lot 2839	Sg. Gulang2, 2½ acres, Coconut
			Sg. Sirih, 1 acre, kampong cultivation
8	88	Sub-Lot 2847	Batu 5, area unknown, Coconut
9	90	Sub-Lot 2856	Batu 5, area unknown, Coconut
10	101	Sub-Lot 2807	Block V, 1 acre, Padi
			Batu 7, 2½ acres Coconut
11	102	Sub-Lot 2807	Batu 7, 5 acres, Coconut
12	104	Sub-Lot 2891	Batu 7, 4½ acres, Coconut
13	114	Sub-Lot 2812	Block S, 1 acre, Padi
14	124	Sub-Lot 2844	Batu 8, 3 acres, Coconut
		Lot 2856	
15	125	Sub-Lot 2844	Ulu Tiram Berek, 1 acre, kampong cultivation
		Lot 2848	
16	135	Sub-Lot 2808	Batu 5, 5 acres, Coconut

and that most of the co-operators do not possess land elsewhere. Further, even the gifters and the landlords have in most cases only a very limited amount of land. Their own farms are thus reduced to the extent of gift and renting out that they make. Hence these practices of tenancy and gift are thus responsible for the creation of the situation of underemployment both with regard to the tenants and giftees as well as landlords and gifters.

In a growing population like that of the S.S., the prevalence of underemployment may produce a serious repercussion in that it serves to conceal the real magnitude of unemployment until such a time when the problem has become too serious to be easily tackled.

