

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Our survey into the social and economic life of the farmers in Sekinchan has left us with a somewhat enlightening impression of life in the area.

Population appears to be fairly well balanced between the males and females. At present a large proportion of the population are in the younger age groups and this fact would indicate that in the future supply of labour would increase and hence one problem of the future would be to provide sufficient employment opportunities.

A study on types of household indicates that padi cultivation in this area is mainly a family affair i.e. almost every member of the family who is able, lends a hand in the cultivation of the padi-crop.

Whilst our analysis of the Sekinchan farming area has not revealed any glaring problems inherent to the area, nevertheless, the situation is far from satisfactory. First and foremost, farmers depend mainly on the padi crop for their livelihood. But as we know padi harvest is subject to fluctuations hence making farm incomes uncertain. During our survey we find that the farmers do practice a system of off-season cropping of brinjals, tobacco, yams and vegetables to occupy themselves during the padi off-season but this is not done on a big enough scale. This leads us to speculate that with greater encouragement given to diversification of crops, and the provision of other employment venues the incomes of the farmers could perhaps be increased.

Farmers have often complained of uncertainty of the water supply. In fact at the time of the survey there was drought in the area. Though the efforts of the Drainage and Irrigation Department has been commendable there is still much room for improvements. The opening of more irrigation canals and the employment of more trained personnel might see better results in padi production.

Perhaps, the most conspicuous "lack" in Sekinchan is land. Farmers generally have three acres of land. Hence in many cases farm incomes are low simply because farmers do not have adequate resources to work with. It is my belief that if land resources could be increased and due attention is given to the value of crop diversification the incomes of these hard working farmers could be

considerably raised

Finally, a more effective education policy should be implemented. We see that in Sokinchan there is a shortage of educational facilities and this coupled with skepticism of farmers has been largely responsible for the educational backwardness of the people. Encouragement and interest shown by the authorities concerned would indeed give the catalytic effect. The farmers certainly deserve all the attention and the moral support from the authority for are they not the backbone of a developing country like ours.

