

- d) How to create employment opportunities for the large number of landless labourers and small farmers who constitute the majority of population ?

8.01.2 **Key Clues :**

- a) Each cropping pattern is highly location-specific. Identification or classification of local land units on a village level would provide a basic set of information for improving cropping systems.
- b) Boro rice expansion provided a drastic change in the existing cropping system.
- c) Voluntary installation of Shallow Tubewells (STW) has induced inequity in resource utilization on the one hand and lower efficiency of STWs use on the other hand.
- d) Important fields of activities for rural development were identified as follows :
- i. Group activities
 - ii. Creation of job opportunities
 - iii. Interaction between supply and demand of labour
 - iv. Institution building
 - v. Extension services
 - vi. Credit supply
 - vii. Education and Training
 - viii. Relationships among administration units, merchants and villagers
- e) Gap in concepts, motivations and strategies of development plan among different administrative organizations and villages seemed to bring unfavorable efforts in pursuit of development programme.
- f) The role of socio-economic study is crucial not only in providing basic data and their use but also provides information concerning the human activities within and outside the village. They help to understand the power structure, leadership and social tension in the village.
- g) Governments' endeavors to have development efforts penetrated into the village tend to be blocked because of administrative dislinkage between the union and the village. The lowest social unit has not so far been identified properly to administer the development project.

In order to test the validity, feasibility and applicability of those key questions and clues for improving the conditions and uplifting the living standard of rural population, action-oriented rural development experiments in some of the sample villages were proposed in the previous studies of the project. On the basis of the findings of JSARD an experiment of village-based multisector rural development is proposed.

The main features of the JSRDE project are characterized by "integrated participatory programme" or the "community participatory integrated rural development programme".

8.02 Joint Study On Rural Development Experiment (JSRDE) :

In this country rural development efforts have been supported by a large number of government and non-government agencies. The Joint-Study on Rural Development Experiment (JSRDE) Project is also in the series of such efforts, which started from April 1992 and completed in December 1995. It is an action research project initiated on the basis of the experiences gained during an earlier research study entitled "Joint Study on Agricultural and Rural Development" (JSARD), conducted from 1986 to 1990.

Main Concept and Basic Approaches :

Four guiding concepts were formulated on the basis of the foregoing research findings.

These were :

- (a) Organizing villagers in the village institution in its entirety, with leaders selected from the smallest cohesive social groups in the village;
- (b) Having the village institution linked with the local administrative institutions, i.e., Thana and union administration;
- (c) Enhancing complex land-use systems by applying need-based appropriate technologies, and
- (d) Creating off-farm job opportunities by bringing villages closer to towns and towns closer to villages in order to alleviate villagers' acute problem of landlessness and underemployment.

During experimentation it was observed that the Bangladesh village, was found to have a tightly woven network of informal social groups. These are represented by firm traditional leaders called matabbors. The leadership is, in most cases, expected to function not for development but for social norms of village life.

Further, it was also observed that village social system in Bangladesh included some negative notions as : (a) the elusiveness of Bangladesh villages, (b) the weakness of village solidarity, (c) the operation of a power-structure by village elites. These notions may arise in the face of competition for scarce economic resources.

In view of the above issues the JSRDE Project has experimented the "community approach" in forming the village institution, rather than the "target group approach", and encouraged villagers to establish a gram-based institution involving all the household. The leaders are selected from the smallest cohesive social groups such as bari, para, salish or sometimes busti, according to the prevalent social conditions. It was found that through "community approach" maximum number of villagers could be involved in the development processes both as a receiving mechanism as well as an institution.

