

Similarly given the absence of surplus land within the reach of farmers, it is also likely that demographic pressures on the land will compel a stratum of the smallest land holders, or at least members of their households, to seek wage labour opportunities outside the village.

Such a disintegration of the peasant's household is intimately related to three variables which we will now discuss in some detail, to examine how they were affected by the new technology. These are: the work process in agriculture and household division of labour; farm productivity and farm budgets; and finally, income differentiation between village households.

The Agricultural Cycle and the Work Process

The introduction of drip irrigation drastically altered the form of labour allocation in agriculture as well as the division of labour among men, women and children. The change can be summed up in the following points:

- a. Drip and its associated technology (plastic sheaths, built-in fertilization, mechanically controlled irrigation) alleviated the farmer's work; men's work in particular, from the burdensome tasks of preparing the field, and clearing the furrow canals before, during and after the planting season. Drip is labour saving during irrigation periods, and the tractor performs the following tasks (in addition to ploughing) which used to be performed by hand: harrowing of earth lumps after ploughing; manuring with organic zibl; and the mixing of manure with the soil before transplanting. All these tasks were performed by men.