

## 23 Statistical Requirements

There are numerous good studies of the response of specific crops to the relative increase in the price of that crop, but total agricultural response is less well documented. For this purpose, it would be useful to gather data on the terms of trade between agriculture and industry, and data on quantity supplied over a period.

For the purpose of studying supply responses it would be useful to break down data for the responses of different types of farmers; e.g. small peasants, middle-sized farmers, large commercial farms and plantations, multinational corporations, etc. In this way the aggregated data at present available could be decomposed into the responses of different groups, the size and importance of which changes in the course of development.

In order to determine the impact of price policies on income distribution it would be useful to collect cost-of-living indices for different income groups. If, for example, the price of food rises by more than the general cost-of-living index, the cost of living of the lower deciles, who spend a higher proportion on food, rises by more, and with constant money income, their incomes fall by more. There is a dearth of such data, compared with the attention that has been paid to international comparisons of purchasing power.

It would also be useful if supply responses could be broken down by (a) responses of labour time supplied; (b) responses of specific crops with different labour intensities to higher relative prices; (c) responses of the marketed surplus in relation to changes in consumption retained in the household; (d) responses to the officially marketed surplus compared with non-official sales.