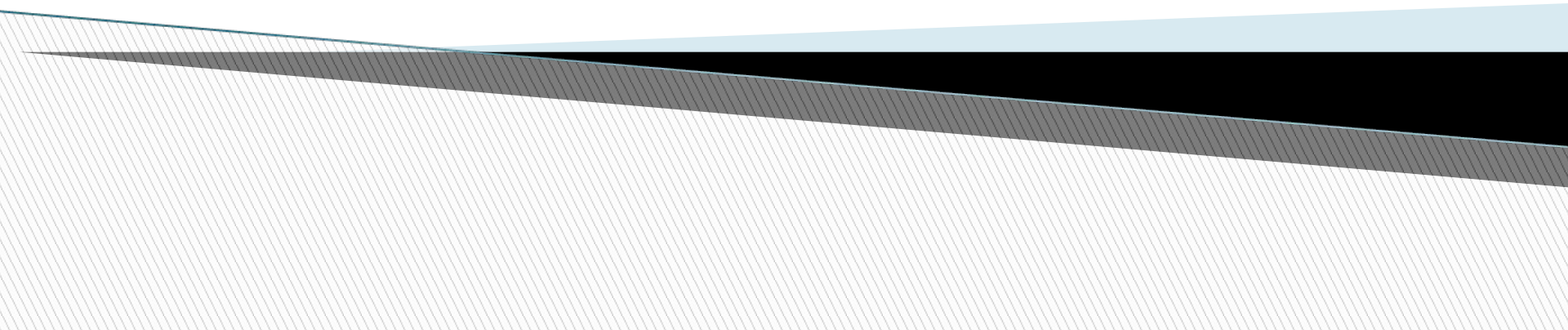


Farm Size & Productive Efficiency

Dr. Jayanti Bhattacharjee



Economic Holding

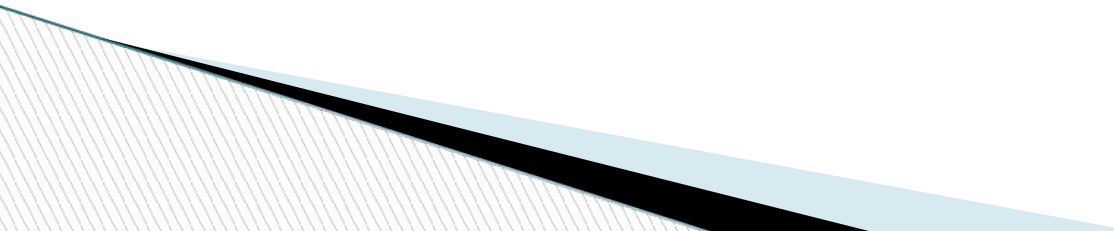
- Economic holding-a holding which allows a man the chance of producing sufficient to support himself and his family in reasonable comfort after paying his necessary expenses.
- The Congress Agrarian Reforms Committee-Economic holding as one which could provide a reasonable standard of living to the cultivator and give full employment for a family of normal size.

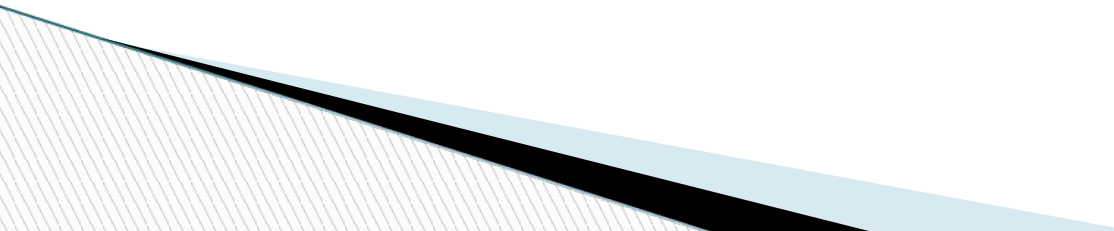
Factors on which size of economic holding depends

- **The fertility of soil**- The more fertile the soil, the less will be the amount of land required in order to provide reasonable standard of living to the peasant family. Size of economic holding is inversely proportional to irrigational facility & fertility of land.
- **Method of cultivation**-The more the use of agri machinery, like tractors ,the size of economic holding will have to be large. If farmer uses less mechanized techniques he cannot manage more than a few hectares of land

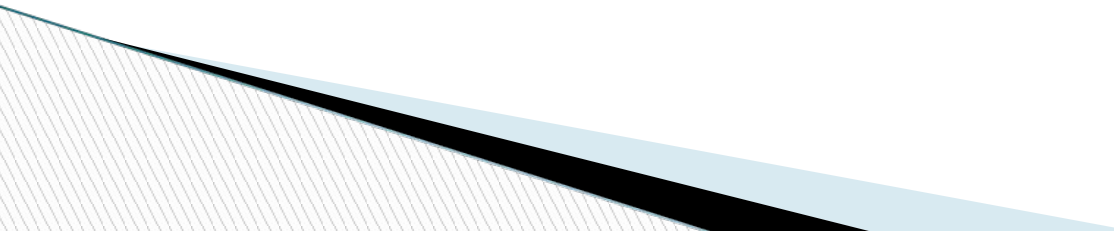
- **Nature of crops**-Size of eco holding also depends on the type of crop raised. Vegetable cultivation done with less hectares can provide full & continuous employment to an avg agricultural family. Wheat cultivation may require more hectares.

Size pattern of operational holding

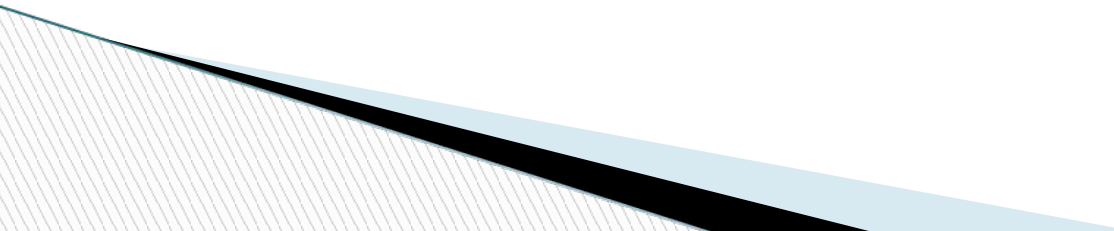
- A number of agricultural censuses have been held since 1953-54. The basic unit for study in these censuses has been 'operational holding' .
 - Operational holding-all land which is used wholly or partly for agricultural production and is operated as one technical unit by one person alone or along with others without regard to the title, legal form, size or location.
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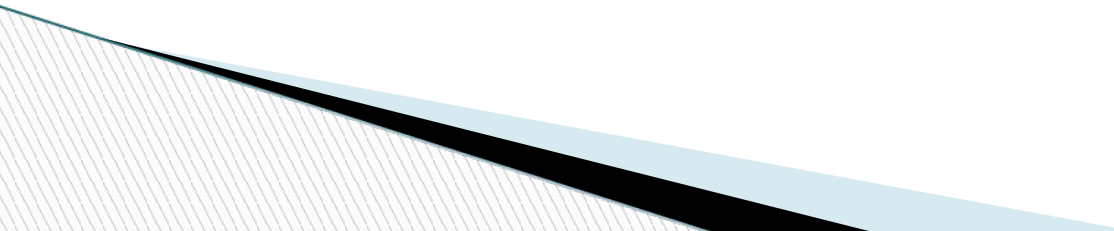
- Technical unit-that unit which is under the same management and has the same means of production, such as labour force, machinery and animals.
 - The purpose of agricultural census was to lay emphasis on actual cultivator and not the owner.
 - Two contradictory trends as regards the size of farms are revealed by these agri censuses.
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Contradictory trends

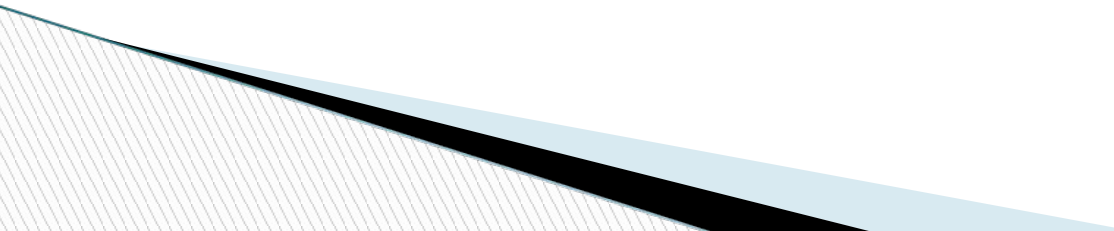
- There has been growing division of agricultural holdings partly due to growth of rural population and partly due to the operation of the law of inheritance among the Hindus.
 - Under ceiling of land holdings, large agricultural holdings have been divided-and surplus lands have been distributed to small and marginal farmers or transferred to benami owners within the family.
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Contradictory trends

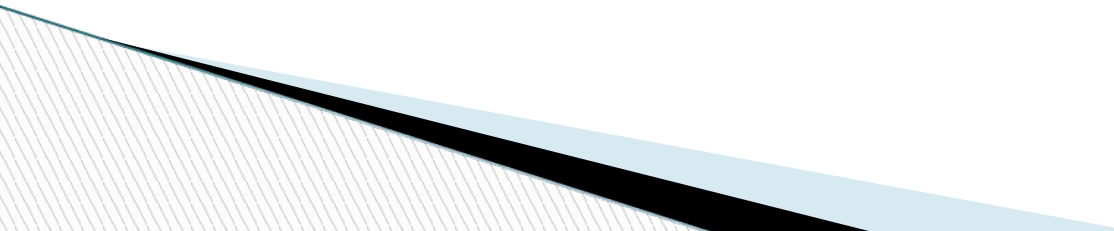
- However, President of Indian society for Agricultural Econ, pointed out that a direct transfer of land was not a significant phenomenon, and amounted to hardly 1 million acres.
 - Also, the success of new technology had led to the gradual eviction of tenants by the rich landowners on the grounds of personal cultivation
 - These two facts point out the possibility of decline in the number of small and marginal holdings and increase in the number of large holdings.
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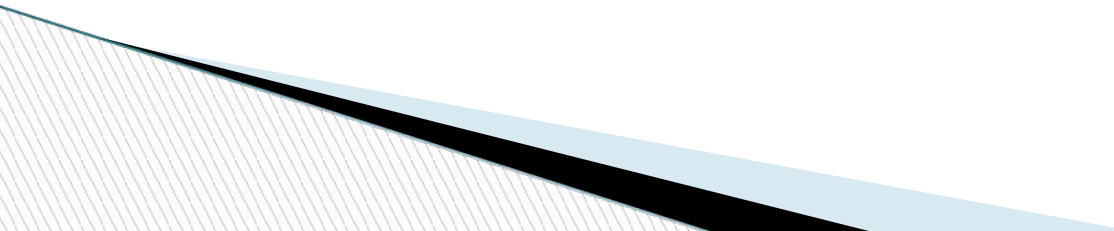
- ❑ Despite these contradictory trends, data reveal that the real change is with regard to large holdings
 - ❑ The number of large holdings declined and the area under large holdings also declined during 1980-81 to 2010-11.
 - ❑ There is a gradual but positive shift in favour of small and marginal holdings and the concentration of land with very large farmers is coming down.
 - ❑ However, state-wise percentage distribution of the number and operated area of holdings indicated wide variations.
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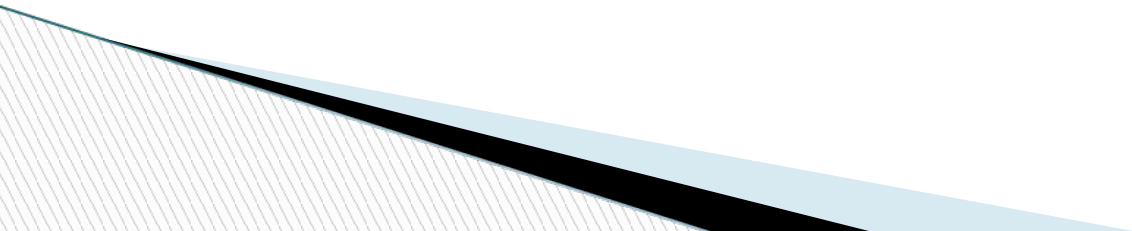
Problem of division and fragmentation of holdings

- Two-fold problem: Not only the average holdings are small, they are also fragmented.
 - Each holding consists of many small pieces which are found in different parts of the village.
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Causes for small size of holdings in India

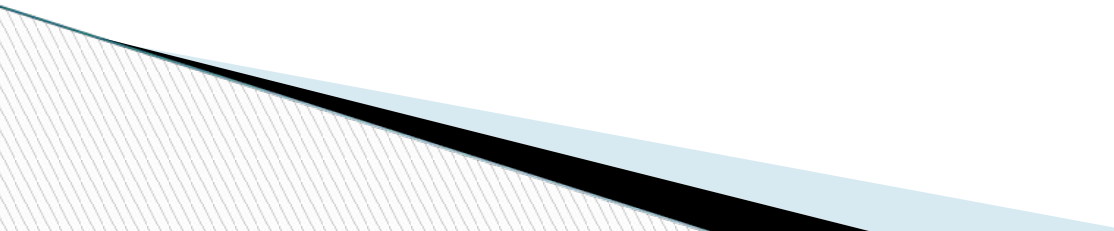
- **Growing population in the country:** with increase in population, land gets divided and sub-divided among a large number of people-size of holding diminishes
 - **The law of inheritance:** The succession laws coupled with growing population has brought down the size of holdings
 - **The decline of joint family system:** The breakdown of joint family system has led to the division and sub-division of holdings
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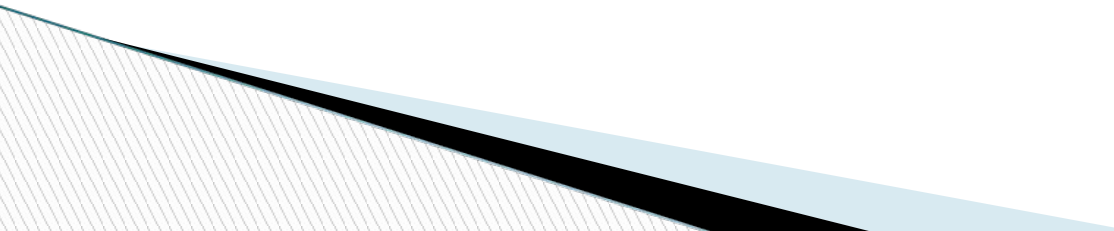
- **The decline of handicrafts and village industries:** With the decline of handicrafts, employment dwindled and people were forced to fall back on agriculture thereby leading to sub-division and fragmentation.
 - **Rural indebtedness and indigenous money:** The unfair practices by money lender have also been a cause for sub-division and fragmentation of holdings.
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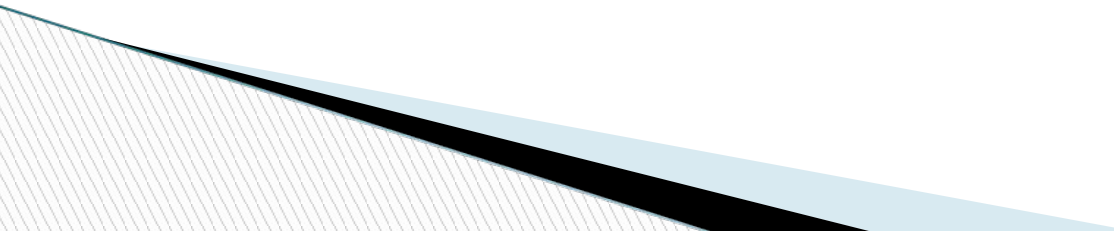
- The prevalence of sub-division and fragmentation of holdings is a hindrance in the use of improved agricultural practices such as better seeds, manures, use of superior agri machinery, etc.
 - Needs remedy
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Remedies for sub-division of fragmentation

- 1. **Creation of economic holding**: Land reforms were undertaken to increase the size of holdings and the consolidation of scattered holdings.
- Measures to be taken:
 - a) The ceilings on holdings should be fixed so that those whose holdings exceeds the prescribed size have to surrender their surplus land to the public authorities who will then redistribute among those who have uneconomic holdings.

- b) those farmers who have extremely small holdings may be induced to give up their lands and shift to other occupations in rural areas
 - c) the pressure on land may be reduced by starting of industries in rural areas to provide employment to the landless labourers and marginal peasants
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- **2.Consolidation of holdings:** The proper solution to the problem of scattered holding is consolidation of holdings.
 - Consolidation means bringing together in one compact block all plots of land of a farmer which are scattered all over the village.
 - Consolidation is done by first pooling all land in the village in one compact block and then dividing it into compact blocks among all the farmers in the viallage.
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- However, there is wide range of variation among the states in regard to consolidation of holding and the progress in this respect is slow.
 - It is cumbersome process
 - Farmers are attached to their ancestral land
 - Those having better quality of land are not ready to go for the process
 - Etc
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- **3.Co-operative Farming:** A permanent solution to the problem of small and fragmented holdings is co-operative farming.
- The Co-operative Planning Committee classified co-operative farming into four types:
 - i) Co-operative tenant farming ii) Co-operative collective farming
 - iii) Co-operative better farming iv) Co-operative joint farming

- ❑ However, co-operative farming was laden with much criticism and did not succeed in India .
- ❑ Joint farming co-operative is hailed as a strategy of agricultural development in India.