**Processes of Technical Change in British Agriculture: Innovation in the Farming of**

**South West England, 1935-1985 (RES-062-23-1831)**

**A Brief Introduction to the FMS SPSS data set**

The SPSS data file (RES-062-23-1831 FBS data for ESRC archive.sav) contains 215 variables entered either directly from Farm Management Survey (FMS) Field Books or derived from calculations using field book data and supplementary information (such as price indices). The file ‘RES-062-23-1831 SPSS data handbook.xlsx’ lists all of the variables (both in alphabetical order and the order they appear in in the SPSS file) and includes additional explanatory notes for each variable. Data cleaning was undertaken by looking for logically inconsistent relationships between various variables, querying and checking of anomalous results during data analysis and double checking a number of entries with the original field books.

The data file contains information on 168 farm holdings in Devon, Dorset and Cornwall from 1939 to 1984. The file contains 4,987 cases. Each case in the SPSS file relates to a specific field book for a specific year for a particular farm. The 168 farms selected for inclusion in the SPSS dataset represent a proportion of all of the farms in the University of Exeter FMS archive. Farms were purposively selected, initially on grounds of longevity in the FMS sample and then to achieve coverage of a cross-section of farming situations in the counties of Devon, Dorset and Cornwall.

For further information on the annual FMS (now the Farm Business Survey – FBS), the aims and objectives of this research please refer to the project’s outputs available from <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/my-esrc/grants/RES-062-23-1831/read>