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REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Agriculture in East and West, M. B. Desai, First Indian Edition, National Academy, Delhi, 1970. Pp. 123. Rs. 3.00.

This book provides an introduction to the comparative study of the agrarian structure of the developed and developing countries of the world. The countries chosen for study include India, Japan, Mexico, Israel, Malaysia, United Arab Republic, U.S.A., U.K. and the Netherlands. The collectivist economies, such as the U.S.S.R. are dealt with in a separate chapter, but do not form part of the comparative study as they are basically different from the developed and developing countries. The book presents a comparative study of the place of agriculture in national economy, land use and cropping pattern and technological developments, land management, land reforms, capital and credit in agriculture and incentives for agricultural development in the developed and developing countries. The comparative study of the performance, policies and problems of the developed and developing countries concludes that the developing countries should assimilate a good deal from the developed nations to improve their agricultural productivity, not only through the use of massive modern inputs, but also from farming techniques and economies of scale. It is not enough that developing countries industrialize; but their industrialization should also have a content for bridging the gaps in technology and product quality between the developed and developing countries.

Land Problems and Land Reforms in Assam, Narendra Chandra Dutta, S. Chand and Co., New Delhi, 1968. Pp. xiv+159. Rs. 15.00.

This book is a revised version of the author's doctoral dissertation submitted to the University of Gauhati in 1964. It deals with the agrarian structure, land systems, land reform legislation and the impact of land reform measures on the agrarian economy of Assam. The assessment is based on available published material and analysis of data collected from a sample of 218 households in 15 selected villages in the zamindari areas of Goalpara and Cachar districts. The main trends of development in the agrarian structure of Assam, the evolution of land tenures in the Sate beginning from the annexation of the State by the British and the evolution of land reform policy are described in the first two chapters. In Chapters III to VIII the land reform measures taken since 1947 are analysed, namely, abolition of intermediaries, protection of share croppers, ceiling on land holdings, consolidation of holdings, acquisition of lands belonging to religious and charitable institutions and the problem of agricultural labour. The last chapter presents the main conclusions of the study.

The high density of population dependent on land for its living provides the background to the study of land problems in Assam. Owing to the pressure of population on land, the average size of agricultural operational holdings in Assam declined from 5.42 acres in 1953-54 to 4.13 acres in 1960-61. The outstanding features of the agrarian structure in the State were the existence of intermediaries between the State and actual cultivators, high rent and insecurity of tenure, increasing number of uneconomic holdings, fragmentation of holdings and landless-

ness of a large part of the agrarian population. Legislative measures have been taken since 1947 to tackle these problems. The intermediaries were abolished in the State by the Assam State Acquisition of Zamindari Act, 1951. The intermediaries were allowed to retain households, buildings including the land they stayed on, land up to a maximum of 400 bighas for the proprietors and 150 bighas for the tenure holders and gardens and orchards. Besides, 50 bighas of land were allowed to the intermediary free of revenue. It is observed that because of lack of trained and adequate administrative machinery and absence of reliable record of rights, the implementation of the Act has been very slow. Share tenancies have been protected and regulated by the Assam Adhiars Protection and Regulation Act, 1948. The share of the landlord has been fixed at one-fourth of the total produce if he contributed plough cattle; otherwise it has been fixed at one-fifth. The Act also regulated termination of tenancy and resumption of land for personal cultivation. An appraisal of the working of this Act showed that it failed to achieve its objectives. It is pointed out that over 40 per cent of the landlords were engaged in non-agricultural occupations and that nearly one-fourth of the Adhiars (share croppers) were landless. The ceiling legislation provided for the aquisition of surplus land after paying reasonable compensation and exemption of efficient farms from the provision of ceiling. The ceiling was fixed at 150 bighas or about 50 acres in the plains districts of the State. The implementation of the legislation revealed that not more than 20,000 acres were declared surplus upto March, 1965. As a measure of redistribution of lands, the ceilings Act proved ineffective.

On the whole, the study revealed that the impact of land reform measures on the agrarian economy of the State has fallen far short of expectations. The defective legislation and ineffective implementation have led to rural discontent in the State. To overcome these defects, it is suggested that a separate administrative machinery should be set up for the implementation of land reform legislation. As a supplementary measure, the study suggests the need for making adequate financial provision for meeting the credit requirements of the intended beneficiaries of land reforms. Land reform measures should be implemented by the State Government more enthusiastically and in all seriousness within the shortest possible time.

Farm Management and Agricultural Economics—An Introduction, J. B. Hardaker, J. N. Lewis and G. C. McFarlane, Angus and Robertson Ltd., Sydney, Australia, 1970. Pp. vi+201. £4.95.

The main aim of this textbook is to introduce the students to some of the basic concepts and principles of economics and to demonstrate the relevance of these principles to problems of decision-making in agriculture, both at the level of the individual farm business and at industry, national and international levels. It includes an introduction to farm management, together with a discussion of agricultural marketing and agricultural policy issues. The subject-matter of the book is presented in three parts composed of 15 chapters. The introductory chapter deals with the scope of the book and the sequential relationships between the chapters. Part I—Basic Concepts and Principles of Economic Theory—incorporates six chapters, each dealing with scarcity, value and the price system; de-

mand, supply and the equilibrium price; supply and demand in agriculture; inputs, outputs and the production function; resource allocation and the production function; cost analysis. The three chapters in Part II—Farm Management—discuss the role and functions of management, farm financial analysis and the decision-making process respectively. Part III consisting of five chapters is concerned with Marketing and Agricultural Policy. It discusses the factors influencing the growth of demand and supply, resource immobility, concealed unemployment in the non-rural sector, the economic and social barriers to mobility of farm labour, impediments to capital movements, and examines the hypothesis that in countries with a relatively high level of living, a chronic farm problem is likely to emerge from the process of economic development. Policy implications for agriculture and the measures for improving the performance of the factor markets are briefly indicated. This part also discusses the importance of agricultural marketing, the functions and the efficiency of marketing, methods of price support and stabilization, the general features of price policy for agriculture, some institutional determinants of price policy, price programmes for selected agricultural commodities in Australia, and international trade and commodity policy. This book provides the students with the basic information and concepts which are necessary for enabling them to make rational judgments on agricultural policy issues. It makes an important contribution to the study of this subject.

Agriculture in Private Sector, Edited by S. C. Jain, Popular Prakashan, Bombay, 1970. Pp. viii+124. Rs. 18.00.

This book is the outcome of a symposium on the role of private sector in the agricultural development of India in which foreign and Indian scholars participated. It contains a collection of 14 papers dealing with different aspects of the main theme of the symposium. The contributed papers are grouped under two parts : Part I includes five papers contributed by U. S. experts in India, *viz.*, (1) "Role of Private Sector in the Agricultural Development of the United States—Lessons for India" by Dorris D. Brown, (2) "The Private Sector and Agricultural Development" by Russell O. Olson, (3) "Role of Private Sector in Agricultural Development—U. S. Experience and Its Application to India," by Robert B. Evans, (4) "The Role of the Private Sector in the Supply of Seeds" by Guy B. Baird and Wayne H. Freeman, (5) "Industry vis-a-vis Agriculture," by Ronald C. Heath. The papers in this part have highlighted the contribution made by the American private sector to agricultural development in the United States by providing transportation and communication facilities, supplying quick and adequate amounts of new and more responsive agricultural production requisites, providing efficient marketing, storage and processing facilities and resources, and encouraging strong educational programmes for the cultivator and urban consumer families and conducting research in agriculture. While the private sector deserves much of the credit for the rapid modernization of American agriculture, the government, at federal and state levels, has also played an important role in promoting viable agro-industries in the private sector and helping them to develop a modern efficient agriculture by providing an economic environment that stimulated private investment in research and development and by providing inspection and regulatory services to prevent monopolistic practices and assure quality and performance. The agricultural colleges and experiment stations in the United States have also

played an important role in the technological revolution on the farm. Though the structure of Indian agriculture differs greatly from the situation in the United States, the experience with the agricultural development in the United States indicates the importance of private initiative in the distribution of inputs and provision of other supporting facilities as well as farm production in rapid agricultural development.

Part II contains nine papers by Indian scholars and industrialists, which critically examine the role of private sector in promoting agricultural development in India. Bharat Ram in his paper on "Role of Private Sector in Modernisation of Agriculture," stresses the need for permiting privately formed companies and corporations to undertake necessary and useful activities for promoting agricultural development. The paper on "Agricultural Development through Joint Stock Companies" by G. D. Somani and another paper on "The Case for Joint Stock Farming" by C. R. Ranganathan plead for the establishment of joint stock companies with a view to modernizing and commercializing agriculture. The paper on "Restricted Role of Private Sector in Agricultural Development" by R. S. Mehta concludes that no further concentration of land and resources through an additional private sector investment by the joint stock companies is worthwhile. For the development of agriculture, what is necessary is technological change and adoption of non-conventional inputs in agriculture. In the paper on "Private Sector's Role in Diffusion of Technological Change in Agriculture," K. V. Sri Ram gives examples of industries in the private sector which have directly contributed to agricultural development. Though there is growing opportunity for profitable investment of private funds, because of lack of understanding of farming, there has been considerable resistance to private investment in farming. Another paper on "The Role of Private Sector in Providing Goods for Farming" by R. Parthasarathy recognizes the importance of the private sector agro-based industries in educating the farmer in the use of farm inputs, ensuring adequate supply of capital inputs in time and eliminating the risks by suitable risk insurance measures. The paper on "Industrialist's Role in Agricultural Development" by S. C. Jain points out that a modern agricultural industry is possible if industrialists are associated with large scale farming activity. The last two papers in the book deal with the role of private sector in technological progress and in the distribution of agricultural products respectively.

Building Agricultural Research Systems in the Developing Nations, Albert H. Moseman, The Agricultural Development Council, Inc., New York, U.S.A., 1970. Pp. 137.

This monograph reviews some pertinent features of agricultural research programmes with special reference to U. S. experience and their interrelationships in a functioning national system. The applicability of the U. S. agricultural research system to developing nations is then considered followed by a detailed review of the patterns of agricultural research organizations in the developing nations. The role of technology in U. S. technical assistance programmes is critically examined. For illustrative purposes, research experience of specialized agricultural research institutes in crop development is highlighted. In the context of the growing awareness of the significance of new technology in agricultural

growth, the need for building and strengthening of indigenous research capability in co-operative technical assistance programmes is considered essential. Since future world food needs and agricultural growth will be increasingly dependent on improved technology, a sustained flow of new productivity inputs will be required, based on (*a*) adaptive research to fit innovations to specific environments, (*b*) protective research to forestall or minimize outbreaks of diseases or pests capable of causing widespread losses, and (*c*) innovative research to supply continuously higher yielding materials and practices. A review of the evolution of agricultural research capabilities of the U. S. especially the state agricultural experiment stations, furnishes evidence that a research capability or organization adequate to serve a modern agriculture will not emerge as a by-product from other activities such as education or extension. The experience from U. S. foreign aid efforts shows that limited attention has been given to the building of national systems for agricultural science, thereby reflecting the lack of awareness of such a need on the part of most developing nations, and more significantly, a continuing lack of concern on the part of many donor organizations and nations. A major deficiency in most past co-operative efforts has been the neglect of the ultimate goal of building increasing education and research capabilities into a national, self-sustained system. The special challenge is to associate the technical assistance resources which are currently available to a developing nation, as separate specialized projects, into a co-ordinated effort to establish such a national research system. The emerging national research systems for agricultural science in India, Mexico, Colombia, Chile and Peru provide experience for guidance in strengthening such systems in other developing countries.

Principles and Methods of Farm Management, R. K. Tandon and S. P. Dhondyal, Seventh Revised and Enlarged Edition, A. Joshi, Kanpur-2, 1971. Pp. 6+656+xvii. Rs. 20.00.

First published in 1957, this textbook on farm management has run into seven editions. In this latest edition the authors have incorporated the recent significant developments in the field of farm management. Divided into 18 chapters, the introductory chapter of the book deals with the importance of farm management studies. A historical account of the origin of studies in farm management in India, U.S.A., U.K., U.S.S.R. and Germany is given in Chapter II. The functions of a farm manager, definitions and the objects of farm management are dealt with in Chapter III. The economic principles as applied to farm management are discussed in detail in Chapter IV, with illustrative examples drawn from Indian agriculture. Chapter V deals with the factors determining the selection and size of farms and the yardsticks for measuring the size of farms. The steps involved in appraising the value of land and the use of regression analysis in land valuation are discussed in the next chapter. The subsequent chapters deal with the management of land from the point of view of its utilization, improving its productivity through the adoption of soil management practices and intensive crop rotations, management of labour and capital equipment on the farm, the role of the management in the organization and operation of the farm as well as selection of farm enterprises. Farm planning and budgeting and farm management layouts are described in Chapters XI and XII respectively. Chapter XIII deals with factors affecting farm profits, measures used for evaluating farm profits,