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REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Rice: A Survey of Selected Markets in the Middle East, International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, Geneva, Switzerland, 1984. Pp.vi+84.

The study presents an overview of the Middle East market for rice and surveys the market opportunities for the developing countries to diversify and increase their exports of rice and to enable them to adopt their production and marketing activities to the requirements of the markets in the region. Only three countries were studied in depth for the market survey, namely, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. It contains a general assessment of the situation in the region as a whole and provides information on recent developments in rice marketing in the three countries surveyed, including intra-regional trade, regional co-operation on import policies, overall quality requirements to satisfy consumer habits and product preferences, imports, exports and apparent consumption, market characteristics, trade channels, prices, trade practices and government subsidies, market access and medium-term prospects for the development of this market.

Nepal's Experience in Hill Agricultural Development, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, His Majesty's Government of Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal, 1981. Pp xi+234.

This volume contains the proceedings of a seminar on Nepal's experience in hill agricultural development jointly organised by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Agricultural Development Council from March 30 to April 3, 1981 at Kathmandu. It includes 21 papers—12 from Nepal and 9 from neighbouring countries and international organisations, in addition to a summary of the seminar proceedings by S. E. Ong. The objectives of the seminar were (a) to make an in-depth study of the constraints in hill agricultural development; (b) to investigate the problems of technology transfer and adoption in various hill agricultural development projects; (c) to explore the need for institutional innovations in the process of hill agricultural development; and (d) to exchange experiences on hill agricultural development with neighbouring countries in South and Southeast Asia. Of the total cultivated land of 2.3 million hectares in Nepal, only 0.6 million hectares or less than one-third of the total is found in the hills. Hill agriculture is limited to small valleys and terraced slopes. About three-fourths of the cultivated land is under upland terraces. Despite abundant water resources in the hills, less than one-fourth of the cultivated area is irrigated. As much as two-thirds of Nepal's population lives in the hills. A special feature of hill agriculture is integrated crop-livestock system. The hills region also possesses important comparative economic advantages for fruits and vegetable production. The lack of infrastructural facilities like roads, storage and marketing is an important constraint for increasing commercial production of fruits, vegetables and some food crops in the hills. The factors contributing to the low productivity of livestock are identified to be poor quality and inadequate feed, low genetic potential of indigenous breeds, high incidence of diseases and absence of suitable marketing channels for livestock products. It is recognised that these constraints can be over-

come with the introduction of appropriate technology and proper research programmes. Within the Nepalese framework of agricultural development, the major issues are concerned with establishing a judicious combination of crop and livestock enterprises, harnessing of available water resources for irrigation, provision of infrastructural facilities, production incentives and farm inputs. Besides these considerations, hill labour migration, designing appropriate technology for the improvement of hill agriculture, and institutional innovations have also become issues of major concern to policy-makers in Nepal.

The twelve papers dealing exclusively with Nepal's experience of hill agricultural development which are included in this volume make an attempt to identify some of the major problems facing hill agriculture, assess the potentials for development of food crops, plantation crops and livestock, describe the technological innovations and improved management practices required for hill agricultural development and trace the growth of various agricultural institutions in the hills of Nepal. The rest of the papers deal with the experiences of hill agricultural development in Tibet, Hongkong, North-Western Himalayas of India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. The volume includes a selected bibliography on hill agriculture in Nepal.

Approaches to Participation in Rural Development, Peter Oakley and David Marsden, International Labour Office, Geneva, Switzerland, 1984. Pp. x+91. 15 Sw. frs.

The study owes its origin to a resolution adopted by the Panel on People's Participation which was set up in 1981 by the ACC Task Force on Rural Development to examine the issue of the participation of the *rural poor* in rural development. It is based on United Nations documentation and other sources. An attempt is made in the study to take a pragmatic look at the concept of 'participation', to analyse approaches which has been used to bring about such participation and to evaluate critically a number of rural development programmes or projects in which participation of the rural poor is considered a vital element. It traces in a subtle and sensitive manner the roots of alternative interpretations of participation to fundamental differences in perceptions of the development process, illustrates approaches to participation through sketches of concrete initiatives and analyses the emerging elements of a strategy for participatory development.

The study contrasts two broad interpretations of participation. Under the first where participation is viewed as an input to development, outsiders 'mobilise' the people to take part in activities which are determined from the outside. Under the second, participation is regarded as 'empowering' the poorer sections of the people to take independent, collective action in order to overcome their poverty and to improve their social status. The case studies reveal both the different interpretations of participation that are practised in the field and the enormous complexities involved in operationalising the concept. As examples of the practice of participation, the study cites the small farmer development programme in Nepal, rural health programmes in a number of countries, the Bhoomi Sena (Land Army) experience in the Palghar district of Maharashtra State in India, an animateur's work with fisherwomen in north-east Brazil and the socialist reconstruction programme of rural Ethiopia. These case studies illustrate a wide diversity in initial objectives,

the methods used to promote organisation and participation and the results achieved. Each of these case studies has revealed that participation is not an easily manipulable 'thing' but it is a concept of many dimensions. In none of the case studies, can it be argued that participation has been achieved, apart from perhaps participation in terms of benefiting from the development project. The study emphasises the multi-dimensional nature of the act of participation in rural development project. It comes to the irresistible conclusion that the over-riding obstacle to meaningful participation by the rural people in the development process lies with the prevailing socio-political structure.

While recognising that there is no universal model of participation, the study delineates some of the building blocks of a more complete analysis of the theory and practice of participatory approach to development. It makes a notable contribution to the advancement of our understanding of approaches to participation in rural development. Policy makers and those engaged in rural development work will find this study useful.

Rural Transformation: Readings, National Institute of Rural Development, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-30, 1984. Pp. xiv+632. Rs. 100.00.

This volume brought out on the occasion of the silver jubilee of the National Institute of Rural Development contains a collection of 29 papers dealing with the policies and programmes formulated and implemented for promoting rural development. The readings on rural transformation are grouped under four sections, namely, (a) Policy Frame, (b) Processes, (c) Programmes and (d) Administrative and Other Supportive Services. Section I on Policy Frame sets out with a discussion of social justice from a constitutional view-point, examines a few critical aspects of the problems of planned development and change in India and traces the evolutionary threads of institution-building and analyses its implications for rural development administration and Panchayati Raj. It also examines the studies undertaken among disadvantaged groups of people in the five States of Karnataka, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar with a view to highlighting the importance of the different psychological dimensions influencing the process of human development, namely, awareness, motivation, perception and attitudes. It includes a thought-provoking paper on the determinants and dimensions of rural poverty in Andhra Pradesh based on analysis of the National Sample Survey (State sample) data of the 32nd Round for the year 1977-78 and the effect of development on poverty.

The second section dealing with the processes of rural transformation, discusses the importance and role of voluntary organisations in the implementation of the programmes of rural development, involvement of people in the development process, role of mass media in accelerating rural change, problems faced in the transfer and absorption of technology for increased agricultural productivity, planning and management of rural environment and the approaches to rural development planning and methodology for formulation and appraisal of rural development projects.

The third section on programmes of rural development deals with the development of sheep, goats, pigs and poultry as subsidiary occupations for the rural poor, and dairy development and the major problems faced in the application of existing

technology for dairy development and the role of dairying in rural development. Further, it considers the problems and prospects of dryland farming in increasing and stabilising agricultural production in the country, assesses the impact of land reform measures in promoting equity and reducing income disparity in the agricultural sector and examines the approaches followed to evolve cropping patterns for rainfed areas of the semi-arid tropics of India. It also deals with the direction and progress of rural electrification in India and the role of Rural Electrification Corporation in agricultural and rural development. Besides, it analyses the achievements of the revised 20-point programme and reviews India's experience in the implementation of the minimum needs programme and draws some insights and lessons from this experience. Another paper in this section quantifies and analyses the economic impact of rural industrialisation on the rural economy, evaluates rural industries programmes and suggests certain policy prescriptions for accelerating the pace of rural industrialisation. An attempt has also been made in another paper to review in detail the progress of the programmes initiated for youth and children in the rural areas.

The last section is devoted to a consideration of the roles of administrative and other supportive services and social research in promoting rural and human resources development, in increasing production, and in improving the quality of life of the people. The other papers in this section examine the data base and data requirements for selected sectors, delivery systems for specific groups and inputs and orchestrating organisations concerned with rural development, marketing problems and marketing infrastructure for rural products, institutional arrangements for provision of rural credit and issues relating to credit for Integrated Rural Development Programme, draught animal power system in India and social audit of rural development projects. As rightly pointed out in the Foreword, though some of the papers included in this volume are not concerned with rural development, still they serve a useful purpose. The volume makes an important contribution to the growing literature on rural development. Scholars and policy makers concerned with rural development will find this volume informative and useful.

Rural Development Statistics, National Institute of Rural Development, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-30, May 1985. Pp. xxi+360.

This pocket book embodies important statistical information on rural development. The data in the pocket book are presented in 197 tables, grouped under ten sections: (1) Selected statistics and indicators, (2) Panchayati Raj, (3) Rural workers, establishments and employment, (4) Agriculture and allied aspects, (5) Rural development outlays—progress of special programmes and related aspects, (6) Rural industries, (7) Rural credit and co-operation, (8) Social service and related aspects, (9) Women and welfare and (10) Selected indicators for eleven CIRDAP (Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific) countries, viz., Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The reference year for the data is April 1982-March 1983. Data for earlier years are given in some cases where these happen to be the latest available. The pocket book will serve as a valuable aid in the search for information on the progress of rural development programmes.