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REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Agricultural Marketing in India, B. B. Mukerjee, Thacker, Spink & Co. (1933) Private Ltd., Calcutta, 1960. Pp. 220. Rs. 10.00.

This is the second edition of the book on agricultural marketing in India, first published in 1937. It discusses the nature and significance of agricultural marketing as a basic economic tool, and the recent trends in marketing in the framework of the Five-Year Plans.

The book is divided into fifteen chapters. Chapter II deals with the role of middlemen in the marketing of agricultural produce in the different parts of India and the irregularities being practised by them. In the opinion of the author, the abuses that have crept into the system are mainly due to the lack of control and organisation of the markets. Chapter III deals with the types of markets, the areas covered by them and the various charges to which the agriculturists' produce is subject. Chapter IV makes a brief survey of the different stages through which some of the principal commodities have to pass in their progress from the cultivating farms to the consuming and exporting points, while the sales practices prevailing in the country are described in Chapter V.

Chapter VI discusses the sources of finance for the marketing of crops and the relative importance of the different agencies. "The bewildering diversity of the weights and measures used in different parts of the country" which is one of the worst problems of agricultural marketing in India and the efforts made by the authorities to standardise them are discussed in Chapter VII. The next chapter deals with the problems of storage of agricultural produce.

In Chapter IX, the steps taken by the State Governments to prevent adulteration by grading and standardisation of the produce are discussed. The author quotes with approval one of the evidences given before the Royal Commission on Agriculture to drive home the point that the "defective organisation of our markets to some extent promotes adulteration."

A good transport net-work contributes in no small measure to the development of a good marketing system; in fact, the size of the market depends on the available transport facilities. Along with a brief description of the transport conditions obtaining in some parts of the country, the difficulties faced by producers and the transport charges, the author discusses in Chapter X how a judicious reduction in the rates gives a great impetus to marketing. Chapters XI and XII deal with future trading and problems of agricultural prices respectively.

The reorganisation of the structure of co-operative marketing on the lines recommended by the Rural Credit Survey would increase the bargaining power of the producer. A short account of the progress of co-operative marketing in the country is given in Chapter XIII while processing is discussed in Chapter XIV.

In the last Chapter dealing with the role of the State in the development of marketing in the country, the author complains that in comparison with some of the foreign countries, "till very recent times practically nothing was done by the Government of India in this direction." Tracing recent developments

in the country, the author foresees that agricultural marketing in India would gradually be socialised.

This book gives a good account of the different problems of agricultural marketing. It should be useful to the University students.

Regional Income Atlas of Madhya Pradesh, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal, 1960. Pp. 115. Rs. 5.00.

This Atlas presents the results of a macro-economic study in the dynamics of economic growth and attempts to give a comprehensive, co-ordinated and integrated view of the entire economic landscape of the State of Madhya Pradesh, as also brings into bold relief the key factors that seemed to have influenced the pace, process and pattern of regional development in the State. The statistical information relating to the economy is presented under eight broad heads and largely covers the period 1956-57. By means of forty-five tables and an equal number of maps, it describes the characteristics of each region in the State, and examines the inter-district and inter-regional variations in the level of economic development, relative contribution of primary, secondary and tertiary sectors to the domestic product at factor cost at district and regional levels, the nature and extent of inter-sectoral and inter-regional differences in the size, composition and distribution of working force and the possible effects of such distribution in the process and pattern of economic growth.

An analytical study of the size and composition of working force in the State in 1951 illustrated with the help of fifteen tables and maps, reveals (i) a high rate of participation by the population in gainful activity, (ii) marked regional variations in the size and composition of working force, (iii) striking differences in participation rates between southern and eastern districts on the one hand and northern and western districts on the other, (iv) high participation rates among women in southern and eastern districts and (v) high proportion of earning dependents in the working force.

Agriculture is dealt with in a separate section consisting of fifteen tables and maps. It presents information on the total agricultural incomes of the districts, the per capita value of agricultural output in the different districts, per acre value of crops, per acre yield of the different crops and crop pattern in the different districts for the year 1956-57. An analysis of the incidence of land revenue per acre in the districts indicates that the incidence is not related in many a case to the value of agricultural output, there being certain districts in the State which have relatively a higher per capita agricultural output and per acre value of crops but a lower incidence per acre of land revenue.

Incomes from animal husbandry, hunting, fishery, forestry, mining, factory establishments, small enterprises, house property, agricultural trade, commerce, transport and other services and from miscellaneous sources form the subject matter of the remaining sections.

This Atlas adopts a new technique of analysis, interpretation and presentation of economic data which may yield more meaningful results in understanding the dynamics of economic growth. The effort is praiseworthy.

Statistical Abstract of Madhya Pradesh 1958-59, Directorate of Economic & Statistics, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal, 1960. Pp. xxx+746+12. Rs. 7.25.

This publication is the second issue of the annual Statistical Abstract of the State of Madhya Pradesh. By pooling together all the essential statistical information for the State available in printed reports and records of the various departments of Central and State Governments and other organisations, the volume attempts at a systematic appraisal and quantitative assessment of the needs and resources of the State. By and large, the different statistical series presented under different heads here cover the period from 1950-51 to 1958-59.

Statistical information presented in the thirty-nine chapters covers a variety of topics, such as administrative divisions, rainfall and climate, area and population, medical and public health, education, printing presses and publications, judicial administration, registration, police and crime, prisons, State finance-income-tax, local finance and local bodies, excise, sales-tax, entertainment tax, land revenue, prices, banks and financial corporation, joint stock companies, co-operation, agriculture, food and grow-more-food campaign, forests, livestock and poultry, agricultural implements and machinery, mineral production, labour, trade unions, industries, transport and communications, trade, planning, Community Development Programme, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and statistical information on miscellaneous topics like classification, progress of small savings, results of the general elections and the Gramdan movement in the State. The last chapter gives some important statistics for the Indian Union relating to area and population of Re-organised States, national income, comparison of movement of net national output, estimated area and yield of principal crops, index numbers of agricultural, industrial and mineral production, and of wholesale prices and outlay and allocation in the Second Five-Year Plan.

This Abstract may be of value for the formulation of policies and plans for economic and social development and for systematic appraisal and evaluation of needs and resources of the State.

Report of the Working Group of the Government of India and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations on Methods for Evaluation of Effects of Agrarian Reform, Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture), Government of India, New Delhi, 1959. Pp. 92.

The Working Group on methods for evaluation of effects of agrarian reform was constituted by the Government of India in 1957 at the suggestion and in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the U. N. to advise on the most appropriate methods of evaluating the effects of the various agrarian reforms and to make suggestions for a long range research programme in this field.

The Report is divided into eight chapters. It describes briefly the work of the different official and non-official agencies presently engaged in collecting information on various aspects of the agrarian situation and sets out the more important issues relating to land reform programmes on which it may be desirable to collect information. It also reviews briefly various methods of appraisal of agrarian situations such as census or complete enumeration, sample survey, typological

group studies, case studies, the use of trained observers and meetings in villages and examines the application of methods of appraisal to defined issues of agrarian reform programmes.

The Working Group has suggested that evaluation may be in two stages : (i) concurrent and transitional, and (ii) subsequent evaluation. Since land reform measures in India, with the exception of abolition of intermediaries, are generally still at the initial stages of implementation, emphasis has to be placed on transitional evaluation which seeks to examine the extent to which the implementation of the measures serves the immediate objectives of legislation as also the difficulties encountered in realising them. Subsequent evaluation is concerned largely with long-term socio-economic effects of land reforms when the law has been in force for a period sufficient to influence agricultural production and economic development. It has suggested the organisation of concurrent evaluation of land reforms with as wide a coverage as possible with a view to discovering difficulties and removing them speedily. It has also drawn attention to the need for the organisation and co-ordination of long-range land reforms evaluation and research with the object of obtaining information about the effects of land reform measures in a form useful for the formulation of agrarian policies.

A series of questions framed to assess the immediate and more remote effects of the major subjects under land reforms have been listed in Chapter II. The appendices deal with the enquiries and surveys carried out from 1949-50 to 1955-56 by different agencies and surveys in progress in 1956-57, research schemes sponsored by the Research Programmes Committee of the Planning Commission, State agencies and their work, other agencies including universities, research institutions, colleges, etc., and their select topic of research work. A select bibliography on land reforms in India is also appended to the Report.

Report of the German Agricultural Delegation to India on Co-operative Farming, Farm Machinery, Fertilizer, Land Consolidation and Dairy Processing, Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, Government of India, Delhi, 1960. Pp. 85. Rs. 0.40.

This publication contains separate reports of five German experts specialised in different fields of agriculture and co-operation, who constituted the delegation sent to India in autumn 1958 on the basis of an agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. It deals with the problems of co-operative farming, horticultural and agricultural engineering techniques, storage, distribution and application of mineral fertilizers, planning and implementation of land consolidation and dairy problems in India.

Prof. Otto Schiller, the leader of the delegation, on the basis of an on-the-spot study of fifteen co-operative farming societies in different States of India, discusses in detail the problems of co-operative farming societies in India with special reference to co-operative farming (a) with joint or collective use of land, and (b) with individual use of land, and has made a number of recommendations for improving their working. More important of the recommendations pertaining to the former type are : (i) co-operative farming societies should not be formed rashly without investigating whether formal prerequisites exist or not ; (ii) special

efforts should be made to promote co-operative spirit which should not be taken for granted ; (iii) in determining the size of the society, not only the requirements of large-scale farming but the fostering of co-operative idea as well should be borne in mind ; and (iv) uncomplicated procedure of having uniform fixed wages should be followed during initial stages only and the change to a differentiated pay-scale should be made in time.

In regard to existing co-operative better farming and tenant farming societies, it is recommended that appropriate advisory work and provision of supervised credit should be given to members in such a manner as to systematically intensify co-operation in farming operations after the pattern of individual farming on co-operative lines. The possibilities existing for individual farming on co-operative lines should be carefully studied and used systematically, by means of a pilot scheme.

Measures to improve agricultural engineering and steps to meet the increased demand for farm machinery engineers, improvement of the nutrient rotation within the farms, basing of land consolidation on future development rather than on the present stage of development and problems of planning and equipment of dairy plants and of fodder cultivation, animal husbandry and cattle management form the subject matter of the other reports.

Rural Development and Credit Project in Delhi — An Evaluation Report covering Rabi 1957-58 to Kharif 1959, Indian Co-operative Union, New Delhi, 1960. Pp. 83.

This second interim evaluation report describes the activities and the results achieved during the period Rabi 1957-58 to Kharif 1959 (September 30, 1959) under an experimental programme of planned production credit introduced by the Indian Co-operative Union in the Mehrauli Block, about 9 miles south-west of New Delhi. The project was especially designed to serve farmers owning 15 acres or less. The report is divided into six chapters. The first chapter gives a general description of the project, its aim and objectives, methodology and working principles employed as regards selection of loanees, technique of farm planning and processing of loans, period of loans and rate of interest, security for loans and its supervision and recovery, extent of coverage, phases of operation and finance and administration. Chapter II deals with credit and technical assistance rendered during the second evaluation period. Chapter III attempts to evaluate the effects of the project activities on 69 farm families selected on the basis of random sample method, as regards their socio-economic characteristics, farming pattern, marketed farm surplus, tenurial status, gross and net farm income and off-farm income. It also examines the effect of the different types and combinations of loans on the incomes of the cultivators. Chapter IV assesses the progress of intensive pilot research-cum-action projects initiated in Kharif 1958. These include extension education and home science, youth club, adult leadership course, night literacy class, programmes for women, development of mass education media, village industries, village development activities, promotion of farm management research and supervised credit training programme. Chapter V deals with the cost of operation of the project and the last chapter summarises the achievements and results of supervised credit and rural development programme, indicates its shortcomings and examines the broader implications of features of the programme.

Some of the project's most significant effects are intangible and are difficult to measure. The report however reveals that the combination of adequate technical guidance and finance for agricultural production is an effective method for getting small farmers to put improved agricultural practices into effect and to get increased yields per acre.

Farm Business Analysis of 30 Farms, Midhakur, Agra District, U.P. 1959-60, John W. Mellor and T. V. Moorti, Research Bulletin No. 1, Balwant Vidyapeeth, Bichpuri (Agra). Pp. 47 (cyclostyled).

This Research bulletin contains the results of the survey conducted in village Midhakur of Agra District, in Uttar Pradesh during 1959-60 for studying the various factors which affect crop-yields with particular emphasis on labour input and farm incomes with a view to analysing the potential for increased production through fuller utilisation of the fixed resources. The study covered 30 farms selected at random from a list of cultivators stratified into five groups by size of ownership unit. It also presents the results of case studies of seven selected farms.

The following are some of the findings : (i) the amount of land per full-time worker is the most important factor affecting incomes of the farms as well as crop yields. It appears that substantial increases in yields are possible through greater and more effective application of labour, and the incentive to press for higher yields and incomes as reflected in the assets and earning power of the farm may be a more important factor than simply the availability of labour. (ii) A positive relationship exists between farm family earnings and size of farm. Farm family earnings in the study averaged Rs. 1,310 per year which was about Rs. 200 more than what is needed to provide the families with a basic standard of living required by village social and physical conditions.

On the basis of their findings, the authors suggest that programmes designed to increase farm yields should consist of (i) improving the general standard of husbandry within the confines of traditional methods, and (ii) introducing improved practices and inputs. Further, the agricultural population has the financial resources to finance a substantial proportion of the capital requirements. The income levels of the selected cultivators which are representative of the area are sufficient to support higher level of taxation. There might not be any opposition to such a move if the taxes are collected by the Panchayats and the proceeds thereof are used for local improvements. There is also large potential for financing agricultural improvements internally if the farmers are convinced they will pay. The problems of credit and low incomes do not seem to be presently the limiting factors to acceptance of presently useful innovation. The problem is one more of physical supply of inputs and demonstration.

Measuring the Results of Development Projects, Samuel P. Hayes, Jr., Unesco, Paris, 1959. Pp. 100. 10 s.

This volume is an outgrowth of a conference held in Geneva in July 1954, under the joint sponsorship of the Department of Social Sciences of Unesco and the Technical Assistance Board of the United Nations. It is the first of a series to be published by the Unesco, bearing the general title "Monographs in the Ap-

plied Social Sciences.” The monographs in this series are devoted to the uses to which the social sciences can be put and the methods by which they can be most effectively applied in order to increase our understanding of social problems and enable us to assess more accurately the results of our efforts.

This manual is intended for the use of field workers engaged in investigating into the results of social development schemes. It discusses certain steps preliminary to evaluation, particularly the collection and analysis of data bearing on project results. It endeavours to demonstrate the ways in which certain social science measurements can be adapted to help field workers assess initial conditions before a project is begun ; to measure the extent to which various attempts at producing social change have been successful ; to determine the overall result of social development schemes ; and to identify the factors that are responsible in influencing the success of programmes of social change. The principal actions suggested as ways of moving towards better measurement, understanding and administration of development projects are briefly enumerated below.

Step one : Describing the project as regards the particular aspect of economic and social development involved and specifying the objectives that it is intended to accomplish as also the side results anticipated.

Step two : Deciding the type of data to be used as indicative of the project results and the method of collection of such data. Four types of data are discussed in this section, viz., (i) already available data (registration and census data) ; (ii) additional records that organizations or individuals might agree to keep ; (iii) data obtained by systematic observation of behaviour ; and (iv) data obtained by systematic questioning.

Step three : Collection of the required data before the project is initiated, during the course of the project and after it comes to an end.

Step four : Analysing and interpreting the findings and reviewing them with the various interested parties.

The appendix contains a brief discussion of some statistical concepts and elementary procedures involved in selecting samples of persons to be interviewed and in summarising and analysing the data obtained. It gives a select bibliography on the subject.

The Small Family Farm—A European Problem : Methods for Creating Economically Viable Units, European Productivity Agency of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation, Paris, 1959. Pp. 103. \$ 1.50.

Consequent upon a considerable rise in the real income of the majority of the population, many small farms which were previously regarded as economically viable in countries of Europe can no longer be described as such. Even where incomes have not increased, the needs of the rural population have grown, thereby accentuating the difference between the incomes of the small farmers and of workers in industry and other occupations. The agricultural sector thus needs to be modified and small farms will have to be remodelled on an up-to-date economic pattern.

The present publication contains the methods and means adopted in thirteen European countries, members of the O. E. E. C., for creating economically viable agricultural units, which is a major consideration in the agricultural policy of these countries. "Typical" family, average standards of efficiency and adequate family income are taken as the criteria for defining an economically viable unit. The methods adopted for the formation of economically viable farm units are: (a) new settlement or enlargement of the holdings with land from large private estates, common land or reclaimed land, (b) consolidation of existing holdings, (c) the acquisition of land by government or private initiative, with the granting of credit facilities, and (d) easier leasehold arrangements. Part I of the report analyses the replies sent in by the various countries taking part and deals with the measures adopted to implement the methods, namely, the agencies responsible, the financial assistance rendered and the legislative and administrative arrangements made for the creation of viable units, the current position in the countries with regard to the number and distribution of uneconomic holdings and future programmes and prospects. Part II contains a summary of each country's reply. The annexures give the full text of the questionnaire and a compendium of the legislation in force in the various countries, relating directly or indirectly to economically viable agricultural units.

Demand Analysis for Foods, Statistics and Survey Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Japan, March 1960. Pp. 215.

This publication contains the results of a study conducted in 1958 for estimating the demand for food in post-war Japan with the method of cross-section analysis. The study is divided into three parts: (i) measurement of food demand in urban area, (ii) measurement of food demand in rural area, and (iii) development of food demand in post-war Japan. The findings of the first two parts are presented in the form of tables and graphs which occupy a major portion of the book. The third part of the study brings out some very interesting conclusions: (i) Nutrient intake in Japan has increased after the War by 8.8 per cent from 2,095 calories per capita per day in the pre-war years (1934-38) to 2,280 calories in 1957, and in addition it has improved in quality; (ii) Protein intake, especially of animal origin, has increased by 24 per cent from 54.9 grams to 68.1 grams during the same period, and also fat intake has increased by 83.4 per cent from 13.2 grams to 24.2 grams during the same period, and will increase remarkably in future; (iii) This increase of calory intake will be kept in future; and (iv) Consumption of grains and potatoes will not increase so much or may even decrease.

Land, The Year-Book of Agriculture, 1958, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Pp. xi+605. \$2.25.

This book deals with land and its use in the U.S.A. It is divided into ten chapters and contains contributions from writers, specialised in different branches of the subject. The first chapter surveys the American lands, their history and growth. Chapters II and III deal with the use and management of public and private lands respectively. The financial aspects of land, viz., income, valuation of land, credit, crop insurance, taxation, etc., are discussed in Chapter IV and ownership and tenorial conditions in Chapter V. Preservation and proper utilisation of the resources, problems of the growing economy and planning for a better use of land resources form the theme of the subsequent chapters.