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# INDIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



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*Programming Techniques for Economic Development with special reference to Asia and the Far East*—Report by a Group of Experts, United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, Bangkok, 1960. Pp. ix + 130. \$ 1.00.

This report reviews the developments in the evolution of techniques and methods of economic planning and presents them in a form that will serve as guidelines for official planning bodies, especially those in the ECAFE region, in preparing a comprehensive and logically consistent plan. It is prepared by a Group of five experts with Prof. J. Tinbergen as its chairman. The report is a fairly comprehensive document and contains valuable information on the various problems that need to be tackled before formulating a plan for economic development. The aspects covered are : planning the general rate of development and the development of the main sectors, integration of a programme of projects into one investment plan, planning the development of a large number of sectors as well as different regions, planning the short-term adjustments to external disturbances and planning of man-power utilisation, education and income distribution. Data needed for formulating these plans are also indicated. It contains a recommended list of priority tasks for future expert groups, namely, (i) appraisal of cost data on various industries already available and consideration of the design of research needed for their improvement ; (ii) analysis of data on coefficients and (iii) study of the use of shadow prices in planning within the region and the related question of choice of technology. Four econometric models on planning and a select bibliography on programming techniques are appended to the text.