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REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Farmers of India, Volume II—Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Kerala, M. S. Randhawa, M. S. Sivaraman, I. J. Naidu and Suresh Vaidya, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, 1961. Pp. viii + 428. Rs. 23.

The present volume, second in the series of publications entitled "Farmers of India" published by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, is a broad-based study of the economic and social conditions of the farmers of the southern Indian States, namely, Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Kerala, and presents all the essential details bearing on village life such as topography, soils, climate, vegetation, crops, irrigation, agricultural practices, land tenure, village organisation, and religious and cultural aspects. The study is based partly on the material provided by the Gazetteers and the Departments of Agriculture of the State Governments concerned and partly on the personal observations of the authors.

Supported by a number of photographs, the text brings out vividly the distinguishing features in village life, landscape and scenery between the villages of the four southern States on the one hand and between the villages of northern and southern India on the other. While the State of Kerala is pre-eminently the "Land of the Coconut Palm", Madras State, which is the most developed among the southern States, can rightly be called the "Land of Palmyra Palm". The rural area of Mysore has a distinct individuality, the distinctive feature being the numerous irrigation tanks providing water for the coconut and arecanut plantations. There are signs in the young State of Andhra Pradesh of the farmers' great enthusiasm in the various programmes of agricultural development.

A variety of food and commercial crops are grown in these States. Important among the former are paddy, millets, ragi, jowar and bajra while oilseeds, coconut, arecanut, groundnut, cotton, tobacco, sugarcane, chillies, pepper, cashew, tea, coffee, rubber, etc., are the important commercial crops.

The authors feel that as compared with North India, the villages in South India are comparatively cleaner. The people are on the whole intelligent and industrious and are largely superstitious.

The volume contains a wealth of information on various other topics relating to village life and is useful as a reference guide. It also contains a bibliography on each State and a subject index. A glossary of terms used in the volume enhances its value.

Handbook of Agriculture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, 1961. Pp. xiii + 761. Rs. 6.25.

The volume attempts to present in a compact manner factual information on all the important aspects of Indian agriculture. The seventeen chapters dealing with a wide variety of topics have been written by different experts in particular fields. The subjects studied include weather and crops, soils, manures and fertilizers, field and plantation crops, forage crops and grasses, fruit crops, cultivation