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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

and preservation, vegetables, diseases of crops, insect pests of crops, agricultural engineering, irrigation, soil conservation and dry farming, weeds and weed control, agricultural co-operation and marketing, agricultural legislation, community projects and agricultural extension, and farm accounts. A list containing the names of cultivated field, garden and plantation crops in all the prominent Indian languages is given in an appendix. The usefulness of the book as a reference volume is enhanced by a comprehensive subject index included in the end.

*Dry Farming in India*, N. V. Kanitkar with a Supplement by S. S. Sirur and D. H. Gokhale, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, 1960. Pp. v + 470. Rs. 21.

This is the second enlarged edition of the book first published in 1944. It contains the results of research carried out at the five experimental stations at Rohtak, Sholapur, Bijapur, Raichur and Hagari by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in collaboration with the respective State Governments, with a view to evolving such techniques as might be profitably used for adequate crop production in arid zones. The experimental stations have studied in detail the rainfall and other climatic factors as affecting crop production, disposal of rain water and soil erosion, physico-chemical characters of the soils in the dry tracts, germination, development and water requirements of important millets grown in the dry tracts, and agronomy or soil management.

The first part of the book containing fourteen chapters covers generally the period upto 1940. In the last chapter of this part the author has given a brief review of the salient findings of the research, outlined the dry farming methods suitable for scarcity areas and has also indicated the future lines of work for conducting research in the field. The second part (supplement) consisting of six chapters, presents all the relevant data on research in dry farming principles and practices conducted at different research stations during the period 1940-54, and deals mainly with soil erosion, its measurement and methods of controlling it. In view of the fact that in India there are extensive areas which are mostly dependent for crop production on rainfall which, however, is inadequate and extremely uncertain, the findings in this study should prove very useful to the farmer and to the students of agricultural economics.

*The Food Problem of India*, N. C. Agrawal, Vora & Co., Publishers Private Ltd., Bombay, 1961. Pp. 175. Rs. 8.

This is a revised text of the author's thesis entitled "The Population and Food Problem of India—An Analytical Study" which was awarded a Ph.D. degree by the University of Lucknow. It makes an attempt to study the problem of augmenting food production in India in relation to the expanding population, both quantitatively and qualitatively by examining the scope for extension of cultivation and by the adoption of intensive methods of cultivation, improved cultural practices, etc. The main theme of the book is the recognition of the existence of a difficult food situation which the author thinks, is likely to get out of control if suitable measures are not taken in time. Divided into eight chapters, the first