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## REVIEWS IN BRIEF

*Agricultural and Horticultural Seeds, Their Production, Control and Distribution*,  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 1961.  
Pp. xLvi + 531. \$6.00.

The volume attempts to provide a world-wide review of some aspects of production, control and distribution of seeds of agricultural and horticultural crops and is based on information supplied by technicians in many parts of the world, upon published literature on the subject and the personal experience of some of the authors. It was prepared by the Crop Production and Improvement Branch of the Plant Production and Protection Division of F.A.O. as a contribution to the World Seed Year 1961.

The volume has been divided into two parts and a comprehensive bibliography is appended to each part. Part I, 'General', consists of 7 chapters and deals with development, evaluation and choice of varieties of seeds, ecology, agronomy, evaluation and control of seed quality, seed distribution and trade and promotion of the use of good seed. Part II entitled 'Seed Production of Specific Crops' provides information on most of the well-known agricultural and horticultural crops. The 10 chapters in this Part deal separately with the following crops: cereal crops; drug crops; fibre crops; florist crops; grain legume and pulse crops; herbage, fodder and green manure crops; oil crops; perennial tropical crops; roots and root vegetable crops; and vegetable crops. The information has been presented for each crop under six headings, namely, (1) climate and soil, (2) pollination, isolation and rotation, (3) planting and cultivation, (4) nutrition and irrigation, (5) diseases and pests, and (6) harvesting and threshing seed. The authors claim to have given more emphasis to the information regarding crops of the under-developed parts of the world, which lie mainly in the tropics and sub-tropics.

The study observes that the ultimate objective in the development of an efficient seed production industry is the establishment of a system of seed certification adapted to specific conditions, standards and crops. The administrative and legal arrangements in this respect require to be supported by field inspections and the growing of pre-control and post-control plots. The study indicates a number of promising examples of international collaboration in matters relating to the evaluation and control of seed quality. The section on seed distribution and trade discusses the technical operations related to seed processing and the economic operations associated with marketing and the general structure and operation of seed trade. Seeds of agricultural and horticultural crops are distributed in many ways, by government agencies, co-operative societies of one type or another, private enterprise in the form of seed trade and by the direct distribution from farmer to farmer. It is recognised that all those concerned with the business of seed distribution and marketing can make a great contribution to crop and seed improvement in general by appreciating the many technical factors involved, and by ensuring that the farmer receives high quality seed of authentic variety at a reasonable economic price. It is also necessary to forcefully drive home to all farmers and gardeners the point that the cost of seed is very small compared with all other production costs; and the small extra cost of high quality seed used per

unit area of land will be recovered many times over the resulting higher yield and better quality of the produce.

*Community Development and Economic Development, Part II-A, A Case Study of the Ghosi Community Development Block, Uttar Pradesh, India*, Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, Bangkok, 1960. Pp. ix + 100. \$1.00.

*Community Development and Economic Development, Part II-B, A Study of Farmers' Associations in Taiwan*, Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, Bangkok, 1960. Pp. viii + 95. \$1.00.

The first publication embodies the results of a case study conducted to ascertain through intensive field investigations the impact of community development programme on agricultural development in particular and to throw light on the contribution of this programme to economic development in general. The field investigations were carried out by the Planning Research and Action Institute, Lucknow, under the sponsorship of the Secretariat of ECAFE, in six selected villages of Ghosi Community Development Block and six selected villages from a similar area not covered by the programme in U.P. during March-June, 1958. Data were collected from 97 households in the block area and 107 households in the non-block area and also from 12 agricultural labour households in each of the selected block and non-block areas as also from 15 households of craftsmen from the block area.

The study of the impact of the programme has been made with reference to the following indicators, namely, (1) growing of new crops and adoption of improved practices of cultivation; (2) increases in productivity; (3) levels of living of the population and their indebtedness; (4) capital formation; and (5) development of village industries. Some improvement on all these fronts has been reported, credit for which can be claimed by the community development programme. At the same time, the study has revealed that agricultural extension work in the selected villages needs improvement, particularly with a view to building up the confidence of the cultivator in the ability of the extension worker to advise him in regard to the adoption of improved agricultural practices.

Besides aiming at improving the material side of life, the community development programme also has as one of its objectives the changing of the outlook of the village community, and their all-sided development. From this angle, the study has reported solid gains in that the attitudes of the people are changing in directions that favour progress, namely, reduction in expenditure on social ceremonies, increase in productive investment and a greater appreciation of the need for educating children. The study has concluded that the community development programme is essentially a sound programme, but to ensure significant results, sustained work over a long period, say, over ten years, is necessary.

The object of the second publication is to throw light on the role of the farmers' associations in the agricultural development of Taiwan in recent years, so as to be of interest to countries contemplating establishment of institutions for rural