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development. The farmers' associations, established originally in about 1900 by tenant farmers to secure a guaranteed right to till the land, developed gradually into an effective institution for undertaking a variety of functions bearing on agricultural development, and cover at present all the 317 townships in Taiwan and nearly 85 per cent of the rural population.

The study relies both on the national data and the findings of a special field enquiry conducted in 1958 in nine rural townships—three each from northern, central and southern Taiwan—on the basis of random sampling. In all, 243 households of cultivators were selected for interview. For assessing the impact of the farmers' associations on agricultural development, it compares the results of this investigation with those of preceding enquiries, besides making a comparative assessment of the changes in the selected rural areas between 1956 and 1958. This method of measuring changes over a given period had to be resorted to in the absence of areas not covered by the farmers' associations, which rendered the technique of instituting comparisons with a "control" area impossible.

The main findings of the study are briefly summarised below. The farmers' associations render a variety of useful services to the farmer—partly on behalf of the Government and partly on their own. Thus, they have handled on behalf of the Government 4,90,000 tons of chemical fertilizer for paddy, and the sale to farmers of about 1,00,000 tons of beancake and large quantities of pesticides. Further, they have been collecting for the Government rural land taxes and surtaxes in kind, making proportional purchases of paddy and recovering the instalments due on the sale of land to the tillers. Among the other activities of the farmers' organisations are: (1) running a co-ordinated extension education programme (initiated in 1955) in collaboration with Government extension staff whose aim in recent years has been to increase the areas under the superior *ponlai* variety of rice and also to increase the production of wheat, soyabbeans, cotton, etc., through an increase in area sown and/or an increase in per hectare yields; (2) provision of deposit (including time deposits at attractive rates of interest) and loan facilities—about half of the total volume of institutional credit is channelled through these associations; and (3) helping farmers in increasing the intensity of land use through technological improvements, better seeds, improved cultural techniques, etc. In the post-war years, the farmers' associations have been reorganised as multi-purpose co-operatives and their activities though still mainly concerned with agricultural development have been somewhat widened in scope. These activities have been instrumental in facilitating the recovery of high pre-war levels of productivity which have, in some cases, been surpassed.

*Dutch Agriculture*, Foreign Agricultural Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, The Hague, Netherlands, 1959. Pp. 219.

This handbook presents in brief basic information on the various aspects of Dutch agriculture such as land and people, development of intensive agriculture, agricultural policy, land tenure legislation, agricultural organizations, co-operatives, dairy and grass land farming, livestock, fertilizers, plant protection service, advisory services, education, forestry, etc. Data have been presented upto the year 1957-58. The share of agriculture in the national income was estimated at

11.7 per cent in 1957. The number of persons engaged in agriculture declined between 1947 and 1957 from 19.5 per cent to 13 per cent of the total working population. The Netherlands government assists the agricultural industry not only by providing research, advisory and educational facilities and measures for agricultural improvements in farming, but also by an active agricultural price policy. This price policy is designed on the one hand to stimulate production and on the other to safeguard agricultural producers to some extent against risks resulting from wide price fluctuations. The agricultural price policy is operated by fixing minimum guaranteed prices for a number of important products which guarantees are related to the cost prices of the individual products covered. Not only the calculated cost prices but also other factors such as the development of marketing possibilities, are taken into consideration when deciding upon the agricultural price policy. More than 80 per cent of all farmers and growers in Netherlands are organised in Farmers' Unions and Organizations. This handbook is well illustrated with photographs and charts.

*An Introduction to the Principles of Agricultural Economics*, R. H. Tuck, Longmans, Greens & Co. Ltd., London, 1961. Pp. vii + 260. 25s.

This book is intended to be an introductory course on the theoretical or 'principles' side of agricultural economics. It is divided into three parts. The first part expounds basic economic principles while Part II develops and applies these principles to the internal structure and organization of agriculture with special reference to the United Kingdom. The topics discussed in this part include a preliminary general survey of capital in agriculture and its relationship to the farm management problem and land and labour in agriculture. Part III examines the relationship between agriculture and the rest of the economy, particularly the demand and marketing of agricultural products, population movements and changes in the state of supply of agricultural products, and the economic activities of the Government. Inclusion of a few diagrams in the place of tables would have enhanced the utility of the book.

*Report of the Nutrition Committee for the Middle East*, First Session—Cairo, 18-26 November, 1958, sponsored jointly by FAO and WHO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 1959. Pp. vi + 55. \$0.50.

*Report of the Technical Meeting on Nutrition in Food Policy and Planning in Asia and the Far East*, Bangkok, Thailand, 6-13 June, 1960, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 1961. Pp. vi + 49. \$0.50.

The first report reviews the nutrition problems in countries of the Middle East based on information included in reports prepared by members of the Committee as well as data contained in FAO/WHO working papers. It deals with surveys of food consumption and state of nutrition, education in nutrition, the training of nutrition workers, the development of nutrition services and the formulation of national nutrition policies. Cereals are the principal source of calories and protein, their contribution to total calorie supplies ranging from 53 to 73