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## REVIEWS IN BRIEF

*Agricultural Labour in India*, Edited by V. K. R. V. Rao, Studies in Economic Growth, No. 3, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, Asia Publishing House, Bombay, 1962. Pp. x+196. Rs. 15.00.

This monograph is based on the Seminar convened by the Institute in February and March 1961 to discuss "Conditions of Agricultural Labour with special reference to the First and the Second Agricultural Labour Enquiries." It contains a collection of 13 papers prepared by distinguished economists and statisticians as well as a review of these papers submitted to the Seminar. The Introduction by the Chairman ably sums up the discussion. Considerable light is thrown by the discussion on the ambiguities involved in the interpretation of the findings arising out of the methodological and conceptual differences in the two Enquiries. Lack of comparability between the two Enquiries due to differences in methodology vitiated any direct inference drawn from the Second Enquiry in regard to the apparent deterioration in the conditions of agricultural labour households in general during the intervening period. The conclusion however seems inescapable that the size of the problem of agricultural labour is such that it cannot be solved within the ambit of even a reformed and improved agriculture, and that industrialisation alone is the ultimate remedy for effecting significant improvement in the conditions of agricultural labour in the country. It contains some valuable recommendations for incorporation into the impending Third Agricultural Labour Enquiry.

*Traditional Forms of Co-operation in India*, G. P. Srivastava, Indian Co-operative Union in association with Four Oceans Publishers Private Ltd., New Delhi, 1962. Pp. viii+67. Rs. 7.50.

In this book, the author draws upon the impressively large volume of material—ancient Indian literature, archaeological finds, legends, evidence from the *Smritis*, *Puranas* and epics and the works of modern writers to arrive at a definitive and comparative picture of co-operation as it has existed in India and to examine how far it can be usefully employed in present day conditions. An attempt has been made to study the indigenous forms of co-operation in terms of the basic concepts and values that have governed Indian society in the past. The study provides convincing evidence about the existence of co-operation in India ever since the dawn of her history and reveals its richness of variety and its continuance over centuries in the social and economic life of the people. The guiding principle of traditional co-operation was *dharma*. The author stresses the need of reorienting the policy of co-operative institutions in the field of agricultural development on the basis of traditional forms of co-operation which are imbued with the deepest spiritual and moral significance.

*Planning for Minimum Income*, Edited by Jhaverbhai Patel, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Bombay, 1963. Pp. vii+194. Rs. 6.00.

This brochure is an outcome of the efforts made by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to get the people in the villages to plan for their socio-

economic development. One of the objectives of the Intensive Area Scheme sponsored by the Commission is to plan for securing minimum income for the village population by an integrated development of the various sectors of the village economy. This brochure presents plans of 14 villages in the Intensive Area Scheme. Six of these have formulated and implemented their annual development plans for the last four to five years, five have formulated their five-year plans for the period 1961-62 to 1965-66 and three villages in Bihar for the period 1962-63 to 1966-67. Data regarding six villages with past record of planning have been presented in Part I and that for eight villages with new plans in Part II. Appendices 1 to 8 contain statistical data for all the 14 villages. It is the objective of village planning to help attain a standard of minimum income of Rs. 240 per family per annum. Of the total of 1,410 families in the 14 villages, only about one-third of the families enjoyed the minimum income in the base year. The scope and possibilities of achieving the minimum income by the rest of the families as emerging out of the village plans are indicated. It is shown that by the pursuit of a combination of occupations and the development of the resources of the village economy, majority of families in the income group below the minimum level can hope to attain the minimum. The problems of attainment of the minimum income by the weaker sections of the villages are also considered.

*Village Planning Leads to Co-operative Farming*, Jhaverbhai Patel and M. B. Dixit, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Bombay, 1961. Pp. 189.

The main objectives of village planning in the Intensive Areas Scheme of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission are : (1) provision of fuller employment, (2) provision of a basic minimum standard of living to all the people in the village, (3) integration of agriculture with village industries, and (4) formulation of social security programmes. Co-operative farming in the Intensive Areas has grown in the background of village planning and retains all the aims and objectives of village planning. This brochure attempts to describe the programme of joint co-operative farming adopted in the Intensive Areas of U. P. as a means of realising the above-mentioned objectives of village planning. The introductory chapter outlines the objectives of village planning and deals with the coverage of the programme of joint co-operative farming societies and the results that would accrue from the implementation of the programme. A review of the working of five joint co-operative farming societies during 1959-60 in three Intensive Areas in Moradabad and Bijnor districts in U.P. is presented in the second chapter. The last chapter examines the working of 103 joint co-operative farming societies including the five pioneering societies in 89 villages in 9 districts of U. P., during 1960-61. The societies have planned to increase agricultural production by more intensive farming and have framed programmes for the development of village industries. An appreciable increase in the opportunities of gainful employment for the members of the societies was envisaged during 1960-61. While the actual level of programmes taken up by the societies differed with local conditions, the trend of evolving comprehensive programmes was observed in all the societies. It emphasises that the co-operative farming society working to achieve the objectives of village planning has to adopt values of real co-operative economy as distinct from those of competitive economy.

*The Working of Panchayati Raj in Rajasthan* (April 1961 to March 1962)—*A Report*, Evaluation Organisation, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur, June 1962. Pp. 5+92+xxi. Rs. 5.00.

This report presents the results of a study of the working of the *Panchayati Raj* institutions set up in the State of Rajasthan on October 2, 1959. The main objective of this study started in April 1961, was to examine the trends in the working of these bodies and also the manner in which they discharged their responsibilities. A three-pronged approach was adopted in conducting this study, namely, (1) through direct observation of the statutory local bodies at the district and block levels, (2) through analysis of documents and collected data and (3) by interviewing the persons concerned with the various programmes connected with the rural sector. A sample of 58 per cent of *Zila Parishads* and 15 per cent of the *Panchayat Samitis* was selected for intensive study on the basis of stratified random sampling. The report indicates that the progress in regard to production programmes has been fairly satisfactory in most spheres. There has been some decline in certain items under social education and rural health and sanitation. The progress made in the co-operative sector in 1961 was considerably less than in the previous year. There has however been considerable increase during this year in the quantum of people's participation in the development programmes. A positive effort has been observed on the part of *Panchayati Raj* institutions, specially the *Panchayat Samitis*, to divert funds from the social amenities programmes to the production programmes. In regard to mobilisation of resources, except levying of taxes on land revenue, in most cases the *Panchayat Samitis* have not taken advantage of their authority to levy other taxes. The relationship between the various institutions, as also their functionaries at various levels has been, on the whole, reported to be cordial.

*Food for America's Future*, K. E. Priestly, Ethyl Corporation, McGraw Hill Co. Inc., New York, 1960. Pp. xii+167. \$ 3.95.

This book sets out to answer the questions : Will America be able to feed its estimated 245 million people in 1975 ? What has been done and what needs to be done to equip the farms in America to provide ample food for a rapidly growing population ? Twelve distinguished men specialised in agricultural research, soil science, education, farm machinery and electric power, agricultural chemicals, food processing and marketing and economics examine these questions. Reviewing past and present agricultural accomplishments, the book takes a realistic look at what is in store for the future. Starting with the basic question of America's land capability and progressing through other essential fields, such as agricultural research, education, management of land, labour and capital, technological developments for effective control of pests, diseases and weeds, and power farming, these specialists indicate the tremendous progress that have been made in food production, processing and distribution. They report on what is happening on "down on the farm" at present. And finally, they look ahead over the next decade and a half. Their views on how America will be fed during this period are interesting and informative.

*Dynamics of Land Use—Needed Adjustment*, Iowa State University Center for Agricultural and Economic Adjustment, Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa, U.S.A., 1961. Pp. viii+371. \$ 4.95.

This volume contains a collection of 22 papers submitted to a Conference on land resource use sponsored by the Center for Agricultural and Economic Adjustment in May 1960. It was structured to inventory the productive potential of agricultural land in the U.S.A., the demand for products from it and the programme or policy alternatives which might improve its use and help to alleviate the agricultural problem in a manner equitable to farm owners and operators. These papers represent an attempt by economists, agronomists and other social scientists to summarise existing knowledge, suggest fruitful hypotheses and stimulate analysis for improving the use of land and eliminating low returns to agricultural resources generally. The chapter on "Adjusting Land Inputs and Use Toward Production Control and Increased Returns to Farmers" by Donald R. Kaldor presents a critical analysis of the views contained in the first twenty papers dealing with various technological and economic aspects of land use and its relation to the problem of disequilibrium in the farm industry. Among other chapters of interest are (1) Need for Land and Resource Adjustment by Earl O. Heady, (2) Economic Potentials of Agricultural Production by D. B. Ibach, (3) Appraisal of Programs and Impacts on Land Use Adjustments by John A. Schnittker, (4) The Economic Role of Land Resource Institutions in Agricultural Adjustment by Walter E. Chryst and John F. Timmons.

*Community Development and Economic Development, Part I—A Study of the Contribution of Rural Community Development Programmes to National Economic Development in Asia and the Far East*, Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, Bangkok, 1960, Sales and Circulation Section, United Nations, New York, U.S.A. Pp. x+113. \$ 1.00.

This report seeks to appraise the actual and potential contribution of rural community development programmes to national economic development in the region of Asia and the Far East, analysing their contributions to industrialization and agricultural development as aspects of the broader question of their effectiveness in that regard. Chapter 1 of the report describes the evolution of the concept of rural community development in the region and notes the several ways in which the contribution of community development to national economic development can, in principle, be made. Chapters 2, 3 and 4 examine the evidence on how far that contribution—to current output, to capital formation, and to the equally essential development of people, attitudes and institutions in ways that help society to become more productive—is being made today, or could reasonably be expected to be made under fully favourable conditions in the future. The main problems of organization and administration to which solutions need to be found are surveyed in chapter 5 and the conclusions of the study are given in the last chapter. Some of the programmes have been making a distinct contribution in agriculture, chiefly by teaching farmers to use improved inputs and adopt various other improved practices. The potential contribution of community development programme to economic development, if certain conditions can be met, is recognized.

*Land Reform in Italy—Achievements and Perspectives*, G. Barbero, Issued by Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in co-operation with the Istituto Nazionale di Economia Agraria, Rome, 1961. Pp. xi+199. \$ 2.00.

This study represents the results of a survey carried out in 1956 in six Italian regions where land reform schemes were being implemented. The twin objectives of the study were firstly, to investigate and ascertain the main features of the pre-reform situation and secondly, to describe and analyse the new farm units which land reform distribution created, to assess their economic viability and to compare them with the "private" farms. The survey covered in all 1,100 farm families in the six regions of the Po Delta (northern Italy), the Maremma (central Italy), Fucino, Puglia-Lucania—Molise, Calabria and Sardinia (southern Italy and islands). The study offers convincing evidence that the implementation of land reform has greatly increased production and employment. Production increases are ascribed to (a) capital investment, (b) labour input and (c) technological advances. The study presents a careful analysis of the input-output relationship of the sampled farms. It brings to light important regional differences, indicates the types of adjustment necessary for solving present problems and discusses the likely changes to be drawn from different estimates of future developments. The main conclusions of the study are the following. (1) By 1964 the land reform farms, taken as a whole and due mainly to large investment, could attain a labour return not very far from the average real wages. (2) Unless the gap in the technological level is filled, the capital requirement for private farms will be \$ 600 higher than that for the land reform farms. Unless there is a radical change, farm labour returns in 1964 are likely to remain one-fourth less than the average real wages. (3) It would be necessary to change not only the amount of capital per worker but also the proportion between "intensive" and "extensive" forms of capital. From the practical viewpoint, in the short run, the present ratio of man to land would call for more capital investment to increase the average productivity per unit of land. Its function as a substitute for labour is secondary. In the long run, "extensification", that is, more land and more capital per unit of labour employed, is the only way in which to increase labour productivity and labour returns. (4) To bring the short-term solution to the operational level, it is suggested that a clear distinction should be made between the small and the large farming units. By redistributing natural resources (basically land) and by adding various forms of capital, a process of equalizing marginal labour productivity begins and it creates a situation which is dynamic and leads to increased production efficiency. (5) Technological progress can be secured in farming activities only when it is preceded by a redistribution of resources. On the basis of these conclusions, the study further indicates the broad lines of a series of programmes for accelerating agricultural development in each of the six zones.

No significant difference was observed between the *per caput* income of the reform families and the private farm families. In 1955, food consumption accounted for about 65 per cent of the family income and included the value of home products. The value of home-produced food was about 50 per cent of the total expenditure in private farm families and was slightly lower for the reform farm families. As regards indebtedness, the reform families in 1955 had a higher consumption propensity than families on private farms. Research workers, policy-makers and planners may find this report useful.



*Farm Appraisal and Valuation*, William G. Murray, Fourth Edition, Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa, U.S.A., 1961. Pp. viii+440. \$ 6.50.

First published in 1940, this fourth edition of the book incorporates many changes. The addition of "Valuation" to the former title of "Farm Appraisal" is significant and important. A comprehensive presentation is made to assist the farm appraiser in difficult valuations such as those involving highway takings for Interstate highways, tracts on the rural-urban fringe where pressure from business and residential construction is raising market values, and cases of farm enlargement where small, unimproved tracts are commanding a premium. The author presents "the individual steps in actual appraisal procedure." More than one method of appraisal is now in use. The author feels that this is an indication of a healthy condition and if these differences of opinion did not exist, there would be less hope for progress in solving the difficult problems involved in farm appraisal. Though much of the information in this book is of special use for American conditions, there is considerable information of value to us, specially those dealing with principles of soil surveys, building inventory.