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REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Towards a Co-operative Commonwealth, D. R. Gadgil, Panjab University Publication Bureau, Chandigarh, 1961. Pp. 109. Rs. 5.00.

Being the first in the series of the Brij Narain Memorial Lectures, this volume contains three lectures delivered by Professor Gadgil under the auspices of the Panjab University and reviews comprehensively the problems of co-operation in India and some other countries of Europe and Asia. The first lecture in the series briefly surveys the history, structure and the working of the co-operative movement in England, France, Germany, Scandinavian countries, Yugoslavia and Israel in which it developed first and flourished most to indicate the chief characteristics of co-operative activity and the extent and direction of its spread. The second lecture examines the history of co-operation in the less developed countries with particular reference to India, where the effort has been sponsored largely by governments. In the last lecture, an attempt has been made to arrive at an over-all judgement in relation to the limits of expansion of 'co-operative' activity, to suggest an appropriate broadened interpretation of the term 'Co-operative Commonwealth' and to discuss the attitudes and institutions relevant to this. The author reiterates his belief that the Indian political and economic situation requires at present a categorical rejection of competitive philosophy and psychology and the assertion of a belief in co-operation followed by the implementation of a programme of concrete logical action.

Guide to Current Agricultural Statistics, Revised edition, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India, Manager of Publications, Delhi, 1962. Pp. 147. Rs. 4.25.

First published in 1954, this revised edition of the Guide examines in detail the relevant publications giving statistical data about Indian agriculture, particularly the type of information contained in each publication together with its scope and limitation. Information is presented in regard to land utilisation statistics, area and production of crops, commodity statistics, irrigation statistics, forests, livestock and poultry, trade in agricultural commodities, consumption and stocks, agricultural prices, agricultural labour and wages and miscellaneous statistics regarding agricultural population, agricultural income, economics of farm management, co-operation, agricultural finance, land tenure and holdings, land revenue and agricultural income-tax, etc. One of the appendices gives the details of crop estimation surveys in India. This Guide would prove useful to research workers and students of agricultural economics.

Evaluation of the Gram Sahayak Programme, Programme Evaluation Organisation, Planning Commission, Government of India, 1961, Manager of Publications, Delhi, 1962. Pp. 144.

This study presents the results of an evaluation of the training and follow-up programme for *Gram Sahayaks* (village leaders) in nine States and one Union Territory. The enquiries for the purpose of this study were conducted between October 1960 and March 1961 in 22 purposively selected Blocks in 11 districts where the programme had worked relatively more successfully. The objectives of this study are (i) to analyse in the light of the accepted interpretation of rural

leadership, the procedure followed for the selection of *Gram Sahayaks* ; (ii) to assess the organizational and administrative aspects of the *Gram Sahayaks* training camps ; (iii) to examine the method and content of training imparted to the trainees ; (iv) to evaluate the performance of the trained *Gram Sahayaks* on their farms and in their villages ; and (v) to crystallize issues and suggestions having a bearing on the lines of improvement in the programme. The focus of the training was on important items of work that the leaders could practice in their own villages like building up soil fertility, introducing improved cultivation methods including improved seeds and implements, use of plant protection measures and preventive action against cattle diseases. Some of the important findings of this study are as follows : Ninety per cent of the village leaders reported the adoption of one or more practices as a result of the training they received. The *Gram Sahayaks* in the big holding group reported better adoption of practices than those in the medium and small holding groups. The *Gram Sahayak* programme succeeded more as an agricultural extension programme than as one for the training and development of village leaders and the institutionalization of such leadership. The study indicates the scope for improvement in the selection of leader-trainees, the arrangements for and the contents of training. It was noted that the inclusion of traditional leaders in the camps helped the extension aspect of the programme in the camp villages. This seemed to indicate the desirability of an integrated approach to rural leadership and of reliance on natural or traditional leaders for the extension of the comprehensive development programmes. One of the useful suggestions made to strengthen the programme with wider rural coverage and popular participation is the setting up of integrated training camps of longer duration in all the States.

Study of the Problems of Minor Irrigation, Programme Evaluation Organisation, Planning Commission, Government of India, 1961, Manager of Publications, Delhi, 1962. Pp. v + 264. Rs. 4.15.

This study attempts to provide a general review and evaluation of the minor irrigation programme in the country. The objectives of this study are "(i) to assess the nature, use and growth of minor irrigation works and facilities in the rural areas during the Second Plan period, and the impact of the minor irrigation programme on the cropping pattern ; (ii) to analyse the problems of utilization and extension of the existing works and facilities ; (iii) to examine the state of repairs and maintenance of the older works, and the problems and difficulties in this field ; and (iv) to discuss the problems of organisation, administration and co-ordination of the minor irrigation programme with a view to finding out avenues for improvement."

Field data relating to the period since 1955-56 were collected from 1,255 cultivator-households and 702 knowledgeable persons in 126 villages in 42 blocks of 21 selected districts in 14 States. The reference period for the enquiry was 1959-60. Nearly 88 per cent of the minor irrigation works in the sample villages were in use. In the sample areas, the total number of minor works per 100 acres of net cultivated area in 1960-61 was 3.1 and the average irrigable area per work was 9.63 acres. Among the minor works, other works such as *bhandaras*, etc., showed the highest irrigation potential (307 acres) per work, followed by tube-wells (158 acres per work), tanks (31 acres), pump sets (23 acres), *pucca* wells (6 acres) and *kutchra* wells (1.4 acres). About 29 per cent of the net cultivated area

in the sample villages were covered by the minor irrigation works, and 40 per cent by all works (major and minor), existing in the villages, as on the date of enquiry. The study revealed that there was an increase in the extension of cultivation and of irrigation. Intensity of cropping was found to be higher in the irrigated than in the unirrigated tracts in the sample. The extent of multiple cropping increased by nearly five points from 31 per cent to 36.2 per cent between 1955-56 and 1959-60 in the irrigated areas. There was no change in the unirrigated areas. Over this period, the share of paddy in the total gross cropped area increased by 2.3 points from 19.3 per cent to 21.6 per cent.

One of the significant findings of this study is that there is a problem of under-utilization of the irrigation potential even in minor works. About 54 per cent of the irrigation potential of the minor works remained unutilized in the *kharif* season of 1959-60 as compared to 31 per cent in the *rabi*. There was a heavy incidence of under-utilization among pump sets and private tube-wells. The physical conditions of tanks and the locational disadvantages such as works located close to one another or tanks not needed for irrigation because of adequacy of rainfall, were two important factors behind under-utilization of potential created by minor works. Inadequate and irregular maintenance of the irrigation works emerged as the most important factor behind the shortage of irrigation water reported by the respondents in many of the States. Reconstruction, renovation and improvement of the existing works are some of the measures suggested for solving the inadequacy of water. The study stressed that problems of co-ordination at the district, block and village levels are particularly serious in the field of minor irrigation. In the day to day working at the lower level, lack of co-ordination has its origin in the conflicting interests of different agencies in matters like authority to get work done on contract and to disburse funds for the works executed, authority to get work done by the block overseer, the power to give technical clearance to the work schemes, the power to grant loans and subsidies to individuals. The study highlights the need for paying greater attention to the achievement of administrative co-ordination at different levels. It points out the need for more effective supervision and maintenance of the minor irrigation works managed by the Government and the improvement of irrigation statistics in the country.

Extension Education in Community Development, Directorate of Extension, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi, 1961. Pp. xii + 458. Rs. 7.50.

This volume brings together a collection of papers on the educational methods in rural development, contributed by experts at the series of the All-India Work Seminars held at the Osmania University, Hyderabad in 1959. The volume is divided into four parts. The first part is designed to orient readers to the task of rural development in India. It begins with a statement on the role of extension education in community development and the succeeding chapters deal with the principles and philosophy of extension education; the objectives and methods of community development; the need for extension training; the role, organisation and administration of extension training centres and the administrative co-ordination of the programme. Part II consisting of four chapters, deals with an analysis of the task and suggests procedures for programme development. Part III consisting of eleven chapters deals with extension teaching and Part IV deals with the related activities and explores in four chapters the role of library in

extension training centres, home science in rural development, organisation and training of rural youth and evaluation of training programmes. Select references which contain useful material related to the subject under consideration are given at the end of each chapter and are systematically arranged in a summary form at the end of the volume. This volume will serve as a guide for all those engaged in rural development.

Six Billions to Feed, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy, 1962. Pp. vi + 41. \$0.50.

This brochure presents the results of the appraisal of the world's hunger and future needs in food supplies, of the methods used, and of the broad conclusions reached by Dr. P. V. Sukhatme. The study has revealed that at least one-third to one-half of the world's population, that is between 1,000 and 1,500 million people, still suffer from hunger and malnutrition. It came to the conclusion that the total supplies of cereals in the Far East would have to be more than doubled, and those of animal products increased to six times their present size, if a reasonably adequate level of nutrition is to be assured for the people of this region by the year 2,000. For the world as a whole, the broad conclusion is that, should population grow according to the United Nations' medium forecast, food supplies would have to be more than doubled by 1980 and tripled by the turn of the century in order to bring about a moderate improvement in the level of nutrition of the peoples of the world. This study provides a fairly reliable basis for the formulation of future food policies at the national and international levels.

Increasing Food Production Through Education, Research and Extension, C. W. Chang, Freedom From Hunger Campaign, Basic Study No. 9, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy, 1963. Pp. 78. \$ 1.00.

This publication stresses the important role played by agricultural education, research and extension in increasing food production, particularly in the developing countries. Composed of four parts, the first part of the publication deals with the meaning and scope of agricultural extension, extension programme planning and implementation, extension organization and administration, extension personnel and their training and extension pilot projects. The second part discusses the value of agricultural research and the stages of its development with particular reference to Taiwan as also the general situation of agricultural research in the developing countries, illustrates with examples drawn from several countries, how research organizations have been streamlined and central research bodies established for co-ordinating and financing purposes and indicates the importance of co-ordination between research and extension. The third part discusses the development of agricultural education, training institutions and short-term training courses for farmers. The role of international co-operation in promoting development of education, research and extension services is discussed in the last part of the publication.

Possibilities of Increasing World Food Production, Freedom From Hunger Campaign, Basic Study No. 10, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy, 1963. Pp. ix + 231. \$ 2.50.

This publication seeks to examine whether the land and the water resources of the world, if properly used, are capable of providing an adequate level of nutri-

tion to the rapidly increasing population by the year 2000. The objective of this study is to consider the possibilities of raising agricultural production within the framework of, and as part of, a rising standard of living. The publication discusses in seven chapters, the magnitude of the future needs for food in the world, the possibilities of extending areas under cultivation, of increasing crop yields, output of livestock products, the contribution of fisheries to world food supplies and the development of forest resources, and the prospects of increasing food production to provide a minimum satisfactory diet for the greater part of the world's population. On the basis of a study of the problem of food and population on a regional basis, it is shown that in the developed countries of Europe, North America and Oceania, present production capacity is considerably in excess of output and resources are certainly capable of taking care of any probable requirements, with capacity to spare. In the case of the underdeveloped regions, the physical resources are ample in Latin America and Africa, without approaching their full utilization, to meet the estimated increases required. But technical and financial assistance from the more affluent parts of the world is needed to build up and supplement internal resources. In the Near East, an increase in production in excess of three-fold would push utilization of resources much closer to the limits set by present technical knowledge. The need for a more than four-fold increase in food production in the Far East definitely raises the question of the adequacy of the basic physical resources. There is reason to believe that in this region, the balance between future food needs and known potentialities for production may prove to be delicate. It is concluded that the existence of large untapped natural resources and knowledge represents a challenge to the ability and goodwill of man to solve this problem.

Market Structure of Indian Agriculture—An Analysis, Arabinda Ghosh, Monograph No. 4, Department of Economics, University of Calcutta, Calcutta, 1963. Pp. 47. Rs. 2.00.

This monograph attempts an analysis of the structure of the market for agricultural products with special reference to India, discusses the structural trends in Indian Agriculture and the impact of marketing orders on market structure. The salient features of Indian agricultural market structures as revealed by this study are the following : (1) Like many other under-developed economies, the Indian market is lop-sided and the export market is based on a few primary products. (2) The traditional market structure has been altered little in spite of the spread of regulated markets. (3) The agricultural processing market is imperfect. (4) Price discrimination is pursued vigorously. (5) Ease of entry into and exit from agricultural industry are not present. (6) Diversification is practised least. (7) The process of vertical integration is very low. And lastly, the effects of various marketing orders on market structures are mostly not at all conducive to healthy market development and contrary to the desired objectives.

Report on the Survey of Marketing-cum-Processing Societies in Punjab, Board of Economic Inquiry, Punjab (India), Economic and Statistical Organisation, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh, 1963. Pp. 52. Rs. 2.80.

This report studies the working of 57 marketing-cum-processing societies in the districts of Patiala, Jullundur and Ambala in the Punjab. Out of these

societies, only four societies undertook marketing and processing activities, and as many as 46 societies were engaged in marketing business while six societies had taken to processing only. The study reveals that many societies are faced with numerous difficulties for taking up the processing. It gives a detailed account of the co-operative cotton ginning and pressing societies and makes remedial suggestions.

Resurvey of Village Suner, District Ferozepore, Board of Economic Inquiry, Punjab (India), Economic and Statistical Organisation, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh, 1963. Pp. 91. Rs. 3.80.

This report presents the results of a resurvey of village Suner in the Ferozepore district of the Punjab, conducted in 1958, with a view to ascertaining and analysing the socio-economic changes which occurred during the period between 1932 and 1958. It briefly deals with the changes in the structure of population, housing and sanitation, irrigation, indebtedness, mortgages, redemptions and sales of land, cropping pattern, land holdings, sale of village produce, yields, tenancy systems and development in respect of literacy, co-operatives and gram panchayats, etc. The population of the village and the level of literacy recorded an increase between 1932 and 1958. During the same period, the pressure of population on agriculture also increased. With the enforcement of tenancy legislation in 1953, the occupancy tenants were vested with the proprietary rights in land. Cash rents per acre increased on all types of land during the period of resurvey. An increase in the average indebtedness per agricultural and non-agricultural family was reported during the period under review. A major part of the total debt was advanced by moneylenders; only about 10 per cent was advanced by Government as *taccavi* loans to the cultivators. Over one-third of the total debt was used for productive purposes, 30 per cent was incurred for marriages and about 27 per cent for consumption purposes. While at the time of the first survey, about 80 per cent of the total produce was sold in the village, during the period of resurvey, most of the produce was sold in the market. The practice of child marriage which was prevalent at the time of the first survey almost disappeared at the time of the resurvey.

Proceedings of Conferences—Volume VII: Seminar on Human Factor in the Growth of Rural Economy, Rabindranath Tagore Birth Centenary Celebrations, edited by G. C. Mandal, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, 1963. Pp. xi + 215. Rs. 8.50.

The Seminar on Human Factor in the Growth of Rural Economy was the seventh in the series of Conferences held at Santiniketan during 1961-62, to celebrate the birth centenary of Rabindranath Tagore. This volume incorporates the proceedings of the Seminar which was attended by representatives from various institutions in India conducting research in the field of agricultural economics and rural sociology. The purpose of the Seminar was to bring into bold relief the rural man in his totality. In addition to presenting the Welcome Address by S. R. Das, Opening Address by S. C. Chaudhri and Inaugural Address by S. R. Sen, the volume contains 13 papers which are grouped into two parts. The first part dealing with the ideas of Rabindranath Tagore is devoted to the study of co-operation, education and extension and the second part dealt with the social framework and discussed in detail the problems of small farms, agricultural labour and land reforms. The contents of the first part include the following

five papers : (i) Tagore's Reflections on India's Rural Problems by B. N. Ganguli, (ii) Community and Co-operation by D. G. Karve, (iii) Tagore and Co-operation by P. K. Ray, (iv) Three Villages : A View of the Impact of Sriniketan by G. C. Mandal, and (v) Agro-Economic Research and Agricultural Extension by G. V. Chalam and K. S. Rao. The second part included the following eight papers : (i) Class Relations in Bengal Villages by K. P. Chattopadhyay, (ii) Role of Social Factors in the Consumption Pattern of Handicraft Products by Suraj Bandyopadhyay and Kumarananda Chattopadhyay, (iii) The Role of Small Farms in Agriculture and Social Reconstruction of India by P. K. Sen, (iv) A Note on Family Farming by B. K. Chowdhury, (v) Agricultural Labour in South India by G. Parthasarathy, (vi) Problem of Agricultural Workers Restated by C. H. Shah, (vii) Land Reforms—Present Stage and Future Possibilities by V. M. Jakhade and (viii) Some Aspects of Land Reform Measures in India by Priyatosh Maitra. While paying homage to Rabindranath Tagore by recalling his contribution in this field, the Seminar highlighted the need of searching for the most appropriate approach to the problem of human mind and social organisation in the service of the development of the agricultural economy. Students of agricultural economics and rural sociology would find this volume useful.

Land Reforms in West Bengal—A Study on Implementation, S. K. Basu and S. K. Bhattacharya, Oxford Book Company, Calcutta, 1963. Pp. 119. Rs. 15.00.

This report presents the results of a study on the implementation of the recent land reform legislation in West Bengal, undertaken by the Department of Economics of Calcutta University in 1960 at the instance of the Research Programmes Committee of the Planning Commission. West Bengal was one of the first States to enact a law for the redistribution of land, with a view to making peasant proprietorship the base of rural economy. The object of this study is to assess the extent to which the main purposes of the relevant laws have *in fact* been fulfilled and also to investigate the economic and social effects of these laws and their implementation. A survey was conducted in eight districts in the North and South regions of West Bengal, on the basis of random sampling to assess the influence of land legislations on the share-cropping (*Barga*) system. The study revealed that even after ten years of operation of land legislation, the law was hardly effective in changing the traditional systems of sharing in produce and costs. A number of *mala fide* transfers of cultivable land by ways other than inheritance were made in anticipation of the law. Abolition of absentee ownership altogether along with ceiling on family holding is considered to be the most fruitful reform towards establishment of a new agrarian structure on the basis of peasant proprietorship.

The Agrarian System of Mughal India (1556-1707), Irfan Habib, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Asia Publishing House, Bombay, 1963. Pp. ix + 453. Rs. 20.00.

This book is a revised version of the dissertation submitted by the author for the D. Phil. degree at the University of Oxford in 1958. It embodies an attempt at a detailed and analytical study of the agrarian system of Mughal India during 1556 and 1707, based on an extensive use of contemporary Persian manuscript materials and the published chronicles and European sources. Divided into nine chapters, the book discusses some of the important aspects of the agrarian

system of Mughal India, namely, agricultural production, trade in agricultural produce and economic conditions of life of the peasantry, the structure of the rural society, the different aspects of the land revenue system and the machinery of land revenue administration as well as the nature of revenue grants. The tensions generated by the agrarian system of the time and the political conflicts which resulted from these tensions are reviewed in the last chapter. There are four appendices dealing with measures of land, weights, coinage and revenue statistics, followed by a detailed bibliography and a descriptive index. The historical evidences collected and compactly presented in this book provide an authentic account of the agrarian system of Mughal India. Those interested in the agrarian history of India will find the publication of considerable help.

Rural India in Transition, A. R. Desai, Popular Book Depot, Bombay, 1961.
Pp. x+183. Rs. 10.00.

This small brochure contains a collection of ten papers written by the author on the changes that have been taking place in the agrarian society. It deals respectively with Rural Sociology : Its Need in India, Sociological Analysis of India, Sociological Problems of Economic Development, Tribes in Transition, Community Development Projects : A Sociological Analysis, Problem of Rural Indebtedness, A Critical Note on Taylor's Evaluation of Community Development Programme, Community Development and Sarvodaya—Their Dangerous Implications, and Impact of Government Measures on the Life of the Rural People. The studies show that the rural change generated by the government measures has resulted in sharpening the contradictions among various classes comprising the rural society which in the context of the caste and other institutional background is unleashing tensions, antagonisms and conflicts that require to be properly comprehended.