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REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Economics of Land Consolidation in India, S. K. Agarwal, S. Chand & Co. (Pvt.) Ltd., New Delhi, 1971. Pp. xii+159. Rs. 20.00.

This book is a revised version of the doctoral dissertation submitted by the author to the Lucknow University in 1966. The object of this study was to focus attention on the after-effects of consolidation of holdings and the related transitional problems and the shortcomings of land reform measures with special reference to Uttar Pradesh. For the purpose of this study, an intensive enquiry of sample households in the district of Lucknow was conducted and the data related to the agricultural year 1962-63. To make an economic assessment of the programme of consolidation of holdings, a sample of 165 and 153 cultivators was selected respectively from five consolidated villages from Mohanlal Ganj tehsil and five unconsolidated (control) villages from Sadar tehsil of Lucknow district on the basis of two-stage stratified random sampling method. Conditions were compared over a period of time, i.e., 'before' and 'after' consolidation of holdings in the consolidated villages. The subject-matter of the book is divided into eight chapters. The first chapter describes the need for consolidation of land holdings, its origin, the legislative provisions in enactments and the progress made in consolidation of holdings in different States and outlines the scope of the study. The effects of land consolidation on the number and size of plots both in respect of ownership as well as operational holdings are discussed in Chapter II. With a view to finding out the impact of consolidation measures on the input-output relationship in agriculture an analysis of data relating to farm inputs and output of the selected holdings has been made in Chapter III. In the next Chapter, an attempt has been made to estimate the utilization of both human and bullock labour and to find out the extent to which the cultivators having compact and scattered holdings got employment during a year in the selected holdings in the two categories of villages. The extent of adoption of improved agricultural practices in the consolidated villages and the assets and indebtedness of the cultivators are discussed in Chapters V and VI respectively. The obstacles in the way of land consolidation are highlighted in the subsequent chapter. A case for more comprehensive integrated programme of consolidation of land holdings is made in the last chapter.

A few major conclusions of the study are as follows: Consolidation of holdings in the selected villages resulted in a reduction of the number of plots per holding and in an increase in the area of land, leading to substantial improvement in the situation created by fragmentation of holdings. The analysis of input-output ratios for six major crops in the consolidated and unconsolidated villages showed that for one rupee of investment on inputs, the returns on the consolidated and unconsolidated holdings were Rs.1.17 and Rs. 1.03 respectively. It is also reported that consolidation of holding resulted in saving of human and bullock labour and in an increase of employment on consoli-

dated holdings. Furthermore, as a result of consolidation of holdings an all round improvement in the economic conditions of cultivators was reported as compared to the conditions in the control villages. The main provisions in the legislation for consolidation of holdings in different States and a survey on land consolidation procedure in various European countries are given in the appendices.

Summary of Agricultural White Paper of Japan for 1969, Association of Agriculture-Forestry Statistics, Translation Series No. 20, Translated and Edited by Asian Productivity Organization, Tokyo, Japan, April, 1971. Pp. vi+75.

A brief summary of the White Paper on Agriculture of Japan for 1969 is presented in this brochure. Divided into two parts, Part I of this brochure deals with the trends in agriculture in 1968 and with agricultural policies for the fiscal year 1969. Important measures for agricultural development of Japan highlighted in this white paper include (i) promotion of high productivity and modernized agriculture; (ii) immediate adjustment of rice production and tailoring of agricultural production to demand, taking into account the characteristics of each region; (iii) stabilization of prices, modernization of distribution and processing of agricultural commodities; (iv) assurance of increase in income from non-agricultural sources for farm households wishing but unable to make a living from agricultural income so that they may maintain their living standards on a level similar to that of the non-agricultural workers; (v) provision of assistance to farmers wishing to abandon farming; and (vi) construction of new rural communities. The outcome of the Government's efforts in achieving the above-said objectives is described in Part I. The policies and measures which the Government had planned to adopt for the fiscal year 1970 are outlined in Part II. Conditions of agriculture in Japan in 1968 and 1969 were found to be far more exacting and severe than ever witnessed due to the delay in the structural improvement of agriculture. Japan has been compelled to bring out measures for protection of her agriculture. The situation has been aggravated by the urgent need to solve the problem of excessive rice production. Agricultural production in the fiscal years 1967 and 1968 marked an increase of 8.1 per cent and 3.6 per cent respectively over the previous year. This high production level was maintained though the production in the fiscal year 1969 declined by a slight margin. The agricultural population declined to 9 million workers, accounting for 18 per cent of Japan's total working population. The number of farm households also declined to 5.3 million in 1968. The continued increase in agricultural production which has been maintained despite the marked decrease in the number of agricultural labourers and the rise in their average age has been largely due to the development and extension of agricultural techniques. The rate of increase of agricultural income was no more than 2.3 per cent in 1968, whereas the income from non-agricultural sources marked an increase of 17 per cent, accounting for as much as 84 per cent of the total increment of farm income. The stagnant growth of farm income was caused

in large part by the low rate of increase in the Government purchase price of rice as well as by the sharp decline in market prices of vegetable and fruits.

The productivity gap between agriculture and other industries was higher in 1968 than in 1967. The ratio of net product per person engaged in agriculture to that in the manufacturing industry and non-agriculture was 35.1 per cent and 36 per cent respectively in 1968 as against 38.3 per cent and 38.9 per cent in 1967. The relative decline in the productivity in agriculture in 1968 was attributed to a number of causes such as the wide gap in labour productivity between agriculture and the manufacturing industry (5.8 per cent and 14.8 per cent respectively), and the low rate (1.5 per cent) of increase of agricultural commodity price which largely reduced the advantage enjoyed by agricultural commodities over industrial products in relative price. The analysis of trends of agriculture pointed to the need for introducing following three measures which are described in Part II, namely, (1) adjustment of rice production entailing an expansion in demand for rice and/or restricting its supply and provision of guidance for efficient agricultural production, (2) overall review of price and income policies, and (3) structural improvement of agriculture aimed at stabilized supply of foodstuffs and elevation of income and living standards of the farm households, and intended to accelerate the transfer of farm land and expansion of the scale of farm management through revision of the Farm Land Law as well as to foster organizations for collective production. Assistance and support to farmers wishing to shift to non-agricultural sectors and establishment of the agricultural annuity system aimed at guaranteeing the livelihood of agricultural workers at old ages were also proposed.

Agribusiness Management Resource Materials (Vol. 1)—Introduction to Agribusiness Management, J. D. Drilon, Jr., Asian Productivity Organization, Tokyo, Japan, 1971. Pp. 236.

Being first in a three-volume series dealing with the sound management of agricultural industries, this volume is intended for use in an introductory course in agribusiness. Part I deals with agribusiness as a field of interest, defines its concept and importance and outlines many of its dimensions. Part II discusses management from the standpoint of the major functions of the manager and Part III presents a number of cases covering firms operating in such industries as logging, log processing, poultry, and rice and corn production, processing and marketing. The cases provide a basis for class discussion of certain types of agribusiness endeavours. The illustrative cases obviously suggest the complexity of situations in which business firms in agribusiness operate and give an idea of the kinds of problems and challenges managers have to reckon with, and the scope of areas they must consider if their ventures should remain viably profitable. These areas extend from input market, production, processing, wholesaling and retailing to research and extension, and government policies and programmes.

Indian Vistas : Aspects of Change in Contemporary India, Edited by Ram Dhamija, Vora & Co., Publishers Private Limited, Bombay, 1971. Pp. viii + 290. Rs. 40.00.

This book contains a collection of 37 articles covering a wide range of subjects dealing with aspects of change in contemporary India published in the *Indian and Foreign Review*. The subjects covered include socio-economic, constitutional, political, scientific and cultural fields. Of special interest to the students of agricultural economics are the following articles included in this book: (1) "Indian Agriculture Against the Backdrop of Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development" by B. R. Sen, (2) "Cattle Development," (3) "Co-operative Movement" by K. K. Duggal and (4) "Tribal India in Continuity and Change" by J. D. Mehra. The article by Sen reviews some of the problems faced in Indian agriculture in the light of the Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development launched in 1964. It deals with the widening gap between food and population, green revolution, farm mechanization, price support policies and storage, land reform, farm inputs, importance of training manpower for the essential agricultural services, cattle improvement, development of forestry and improving the productivity of fisheries and international trade in agricultural commodities. A descriptive account of the problems of cattle development and the measures initiated for development of cattle in India is given in another article. The article on "Co-operative Movement" describes briefly the progress of co-operative movement in India and outlines the deficiencies in the structural, financial and operational aspects of the movement. A few suggestions are given to make the movement self-reliant. Inclusion of a select bibliography on each subject enhances the utility of this book.

The New Agricultural Strategy, Daya Krishna, New Heights, Publishers and Distributors, Delhi, 1971. Pp. xv + 226 + xxvi. Rs. 35.00.

The genesis, progress and problems of the new strategy of agricultural development in India are examined in this book. Divided into ten chapters, the first three chapters of the book discuss in detail the three distinguishing factors of the new strategy, namely, the selective approach to agricultural development, use of new seeds and incentive price respectively. Detailed information relating to the economic and social infra-structure for the growth of agriculture is presented in the fourth chapter. It deals with the progress and problems of agricultural credit, agricultural marketing, storage and warehousing, agricultural research, education and training of farmers, rural electrification, transport and communication and agricultural administration. The next three chapters deal respectively with the problems of water resource use and water resource development; methods of application of fertilizers, their characteristics, consumption and production of fertilizers, measures to increase the benefits from fertilizer use; and scope, significance and progress of plant protection measures in India. A descriptive account of the evolution

and working of the programmes of multiple cropping, dry land farming and small farmers is given in the succeeding three chapters.

The general strategy adopted for agricultural development since Independence is broadly classified into three phases, namely, (i) general (1947-61), (ii) intensive (1961-65) and (iii) specialised (1966 onwards). Before 1960, intensive cultivation was only one of the various means for increasing agricultural production through the Grow More Food Campaign and the Japanese method of paddy cultivation. The emphasis shifted from production programmes to community development programmes and later to the intensive agricultural district and area programmes. The post-1960 approach to agricultural development is described as the 'selective' or 'intensive' approach because of the planned use of resources on areas selected on account of their higher potentials for growth. The new strategy was put into practice during the *kharif* season of 1966 through the cultivation of high-yielding varieties of seeds and consisted in a planned deployment of the limited resources of inputs and technology over certain selected water-assured areas of the country with a view to maximizing foodgrains production. The crucial factor in the new strategy is the use of high-yielding varieties of seeds. An account of the progress in regard to the work done for the evolution of improved varieties of seeds of foodgrain crops is given in the book. Another important factor in the approach under the new strategy of agricultural development discussed is the concept of incentive price. The Third Plan emphasized the necessity of assuring to the farmers certain minimum remunerative prices for providing the necessary incentives for increasing agricultural production. The role of support prices in increasing agricultural production is examined. It is pointed out that sophisticated economic models for estimating supply responses have limited value as a basis for determining support prices. The need is stressed to relate support prices to costs of and returns from improved technology for providing an adequate inducement to the farmer for augmenting agricultural production through the adoption of improved technology.

Analysing the role of infra-structure in agricultural development it is observed that in physical terms, the growth of infra-structure in India, though still inadequate, has been impressive.

The working of the new strategy based on the high-yielding varieties is expected to accentuate the disparities between different regions and different classes of rural population. A note of warning is sounded by the author that if effective corrective measures are not taken in time, the New Seeds may prove to be the seeds of New Conflicts in the country.

Economic Development and Social Change in Mysore State, Edited by T. K. Meti, Economic Series No. 11, Karnatak University, Dharwar, 1971. Pp. xxvii+553. Rs. 15.00.

This volume contains 26 selected papers submitted to the Seminar on economic development and social change in Mysore State organized at the Karnatak University, Dharwar in May, 1970. It also includes the Inaugural Address, Presidential Address and the Proceedings of the seminar. The selected papers are grouped under the following heads : (i) Social Services and Social Change, (ii) Industry and Allied Topics, (iii) Agriculture and Allied Topics, and (iv) Development, Banking and Finance. A summary of the conclusions and policy recommendations of the seminar are given at the end of the volume. In the section on Social Services and Social Change, Chandrasekhar Buggi examines in his paper the attitudes of peasants towards governmental programmes in Mysore and the fatalism of the peasants. It is pointed out in the paper that the old conservatism of the Indian villagers is fast changing and that the villagers are more receptive to innovations. The rigid fatalism of the Indian peasantry is also undergoing change, though the traditional attitudes and beliefs still persist in certain areas. Inamdar in his paper deals with the role of education in economic development. It is emphasized that investment in education is one of the most paying propositions and efforts should be made by the government to extend it to higher levels. The progress of general education in the Mysore State during the first three Plan periods is discussed in another paper.

The Section on Agriculture and Allied Topics contains 11 papers classified into three main categories : (i) two papers dealing with co-operative movement and agricultural taxation, (ii) seven papers dealing with evaluation of agricultural programmes, community development, agricultural productivity, capital formation, etc., (iii) two papers dealing with agricultural strategy in the State. The seminar took note of the fact that green revolution benefited only the bigger farmers and led to regional disparities. It has recommended the need for widespread diffusion of technology including the dry tracts. It also stressed the need for achieving sustained growth of small farmers, for sponsoring in-depth studies on diffusion and adoption of innovations and for strengthening the extension services. It is recommended that people's participation in the development programmes should be sought through their organizations at all levels. Evaluation of community development programmes should be made on the basis of change in the approaches and attitudes of the people in addition to physical achievements.