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## REVIEWS IN BRIEF

*Agribusiness Management Resource Materials (Vol. III) : Southeast Asian Agribusiness—Advanced Agribusiness Course and Seminar Materials*, J. D. Drilon, Jr., et al., Asian Productivity Organisation, Tokyo, Japan, 1975. Pp. iv + 326. \$ 11.25.

As a teaching material, this book on agribusiness management has been structured for a semestral course in regional training institutions in countries of South-east Asia. It presents a profile of agriculture in south-east Asian countries comprising Indonesia, Khmer Republic, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and the Republic of Vietnam, deals with the dimensions of challenge and opportunity in agribusiness and discusses the case method as a research and teaching tool for obtaining and organizing meaningful information on various commodity industries and as an approach towards the training of decision-makers concerned with these industries. It offers some comments on how the case method may be applied for policy formulation. The rest of the book is devoted to 26 case studies of selected agriculture-based industries in the region. Each case study discloses the environment in which the firm operates, points up the problems of the firm and in the process identifies certain parameters of the firm and the industry of which it is a part. The industries covered in these case studies are concerned with fertilizers, tractors and farm equipments, rice milling, agricultural chemicals, plantations, and palm oil. The course materials presented in this book will prove useful to agribusiness management students, teachers and farm managers in the South-east Asian region.

*Rural Co-operatives (A Study with reference to Andhra Pradesh)*, L. Raghunadha Rao, Sultan Chand & Sons, Delhi-6, 1974. Pp. xv + 220. Rs. 30.00.

*Co-operative Credit and Agricultural Development (A Study with reference to Jammu and Kashmir)*, Mahfoozur Rahman, Sultan Chand & Sons, Delhi-6, 1974. Pp. viii+144. Rs. 25.00.

Both these books have a common theme and deal with the progress of the co-operative movement in Andhra Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir respectively. While the first book examines the working of both agricultural credit and non-credit societies, the second book is concerned mainly with agricultural credit societies.

*Rural Co-operatives* which is a revised version of the author's Ph. D. dissertation, makes an attempt to evaluate the development of rural co-operatives in Andhra Pradesh during the period 1950-51 to 1971-72. Divided into 11 chapters, the first chapter of the book presents background information about

the State. The origin, growth and the main features of the co-operative movement in the Andhra and Telengana regions are discussed in the second chapter. In the third chapter the progress of the co-operative movement in the two regions in the pre-planning period is discussed with a view to highlighting its achievements and failures. The next chapter examines the progress of rural co-operatives during each Five-Year Plan period. Chapters 5 to 8 deal respectively with co-ordination between the financing agencies and the rural co-operatives at various levels, management of credit co-operatives, co-ordination of rural co-operatives with other village institutions and co-operative law and its execution. The potentialities of the hitherto undeveloped sectors of the co-operative movement in the rural areas of the State are discussed and the prospects for rural co-operatives are indicated in Chapter 9. The problems faced by the co-operative movement in helping to improve the economic conditions of the weaker sections of the rural society are analysed and remedial measures are outlined in Chapter 10. The summary and conclusions of the study are given in the last chapter.

The review of the progress of the co-operative movement in the State showed that the number of villages and rural population covered by the primary credit societies increased from 53 per cent and 14.5 per cent in 1955-56 to 89 per cent and 48 per cent in 1965-66 and to 93 per cent and 55 per cent in 1968-69, respectively. The number of primary credit societies and the number of members enrolled by them stood at 15,181 and 1.9 million, respectively in 1968-69. The percentage of overdues to advances declined from 41 per cent in 1950-51 to 22 per cent in 1955-56 but gradually increased to 45 per cent in 1968-69 and further to 66 per cent in 1970-71. A sample survey of 25 multipurpose societies in the State conducted by the author in 1967-68 (about which detailed information relating to methodology, sample selection, etc. is not given in the book) revealed that "these societies met only 19.2 per cent (of the) credit requirements of their members. The share of the moneylenders in the supply of loans to the cultivators was 60 per cent of the total requirements. Only 17.3 per cent of the loans were advanced by the co-operatives to the small farmers." The important conclusion emerging from these findings is that despite over two decades of planned efforts, the performance of the co-operative rural credit societies has not been satisfactory. The crop loan system also failed to achieve its objectives. The need is apparent for revitalizing and strengthening these rural co-operatives into viable ones to enable them to meet all the production requirements of their members.

The working of marketing, processing, farming, irrigation, labour contract and dairy co-operatives showed that except marketing and processing, these co-operatives are independent of each other. It is suggested that all these co-operatives should be directly linked with credit co-operatives but at the same time they should also maintain their separate identity.

The second book : *Co-operative Credit and Agricultural Development* examines the role of co-operative credit movement in agricultural develop-

ment in Jammu & Kashmir. It analyses the working of primary co-operative credit societies, the central co-operative banks, State co-operative banks, co-operative land development bank and examines the working and role of the nationalized banks in financing agriculture in the State. A critical evaluation of the system of co-operative credit is attempted in the last chapter.

The agricultural economy of the State is characterized by a heavy dependence of the population on agriculture for their livelihood, small size of holdings, progressive diminution in the average size of holdings as a result of sub-division and fragmentation, single crop system and defective methodology of agricultural operations, and the predominance of moneylenders as a source of finance in the absence of strong institutional agencies of credit. The review of the progress of agricultural co-operation in the State revealed that in spite of the generous financial assistance by the Government, many agricultural societies remained dormant and required to be revitalized. Farmers also could not take advantage of technical development in agriculture for want of adequate finance. The primary agricultural credit societies have never been economically viable units. These societies covered only 44 per cent of the rural population in the State in 1970. They provided only 55 per cent of the total credit requirements of the members in 1969-70. The amount of loans advanced to member-borrowers is based on the production plans irrespective of their requirements. For the success of co-operative credit, a two-tier system has been recommended. The need is stressed for reorganizing and revitalizing the co-operative credit structure to carry out the programme of expanding credit. The book contains valuable suggestions for the improvement of the working of co-operative central banks, the apex bank and the co-operative land development bank in the State.

*Dissertations in Economics, 1921-1971*—Abstracts of M.A. and Ph.D. Theses, Golden Jubilee Publication, University of Bombay Publications, Economic Series No. 22, Edited by C. H. Shah, Department of Economics, University of Bombay, Bombay-32, Distributors: Popular Prakashan, Bombay-34, 1974. Pp. xlv + 672. Rs. 60.00.

This publication embodies abstracts of 227 theses out of 235 submitted for the M.A., M.Sc. and Ph. D. degrees in economics to the University of Bombay from 1921 to 1971 and a Preface by the editor, evaluating the contributions of the researchers. The theses are categorized according to major sub-fields of economics and in each sub-field, they are arranged into sub-groups separately and chronologically listing first those submitted for Ph.D. degree followed by those submitted for M.A. and M.Sc. degrees. Each abstract gives a brief summary of the main features including the name of the author, the title of the thesis, the name of the guide, year of submission and the number of pages of the thesis. Each abstract provides a broad statement regarding the objectives of the thesis, a statement of hypothesis, if any, a brief description of the research methodology and the contribution

of the thesis to human knowledge. Out of the 227 theses abstracted, 152 were for the Ph.D. degree and 75 were for M.A. and M.Sc. degrees. Group-wise, agricultural economics claimed the first place with 55—38 Ph.D. theses and 17 M.A. and M.Sc. theses—out of 227 theses abstracted. The themes chosen covered a wide range reflecting contemporary theoretical and empirical interests of the period and the aptitudes of research scholars. This publication is a valuable reference guide to the students of economics.

*Economics of American Agriculture*, Walter W. Wilcox, Willard W. Cochrane and Robert W. Herdt, Third Edition, Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, U.S.A., 1974. Pp. viii + 504.

First published in 1951, this third edition of the textbook on the economics of American agriculture is a significant improvement over the earlier editions. As in the second edition, the subject matter in this new edition is dealt with in six parts. Part One examines the farm production sector and Part Two deals with the farm product marketing, consumer demand and the overall price and income trends for U.S. agriculture. The determination and function of farm prices are examined in Part Three. Part Four discusses the ways in which changes in overall business conditions affect the farmers and their farm business, explores the growth problems of American agriculture, examines the foreign trade problem and its impact on the American farm economy, and the structure of foreign trade in agricultural products and the potential for expanding such trade. The distribution of returns among the owners of resources, the nature of economic units receiving returns, and the factors affecting those economic units, the use of land and water resources, the inputs used in agriculture, the economic aspects of controlling environmental pollution by agriculture, taxation and social control of land use are discussed in Part Five. A succinct account of the past, present and possible future farm policies in the United States is given in the last part. The data relating to the various aspects of the agricultural economy have been updated to 1970s and many sections in the book have been revised. A few new chapters have been added to this edition, which include "Changing Structure of American Agriculture" (in Part One), "Imports, Exports and American Agriculture" (in Part Four), "Human Resources in American Farming," "Farm Inputs, Credit and Finance" and "Agriculture and the Environment" (in Part Five) and "The Future of American Farm Policy" (in Part Six). Points for discussion and a list of references are given at the end of each chapter. The authors' claim that they "have sought to strike a balance between factual description on the one hand, and the use of analytical methods and economic analyses on the other" appears to be justified. Though this textbook is mainly intended for the students in the U.S. Universities and colleges at the undergraduate level, their counterparts in the developing countries will also find it very useful.