AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
http://ageconsearch.umn.edu
aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

Vol XXXVI
No. 1

JANUARY-
MARCH
1981

ISSN 0019-5014

INDIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

INDIAN SOCIETY OF
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
BOMBAY

REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Employment Pattern of Labour Force in Coimbatore Taluk, P. K. Aiyasamy and B. Natarajan, Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, 1980. Pp. 50.

This is the first publication in the series of studies on rural structure sponsored by the Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development Studies of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for wider dissemination of results of research among scholars and research workers engaged in the field of rural development. This study makes an attempt to identify the socio-economic characteristics of the rural labour force and to examine the pattern of employment and levels of unemployment based on a survey of 100 rural households comprising 508 persons selected from four villages in Coimbatore taluk in Tamil Nadu conducted in 1976-77. Information is presented on the characteristics of the area studied, distribution of earners, literacy level, occupational and employment status of the earners in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, employment and mobility of labour. It presents the policy implications emerging from the analysis. The study indicates the pervasiveness of unemployment among the selected households in the area. Adopting a full employment norm of 300 man-days in a year, it is noted that only 6 per cent of the 177 earners in agriculture could attain this level of employment and a large majority were unemployed and/or underemployed at some point of time in the year. In the non-agricultural sector unemployment was also noticed for village artisans and service personnel. The extent of unemployment got minimized substantially in villages having fairly stable irrigation facilities, adopting labour intensive crop-mix and successive crop rotations complemented by dairying and possessing industrial centres.

Rural Development and Technology — A Status Report-cum-Bibliography, P. R. Bose and V. N. Vashist, Centre for the Study of Science, Technology and Development, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, New Delhi-12, 1980. Pp. xiii + 373. Rs. 100.00.

An attempt is made in this volume to summarise the various programmes of rural development initiated since Independence by the Central and State Governments in the form of a status report and to compile a comprehensive bibliography on rural development and technology pertaining to the period 1970 to 1978. The status report describes the progress of programmes relating to community development, *Panchayati Raj,* hill area development, applied nutrition, drought-prone area. small farmers' development agency, tribal area development agency, pilot intensive rural employment projects, integrated rural development, food for work, *Antyodaya,* desert development and some of the programmes

completed by various laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The bibliography contains 4,090 references on various aspects of agricultural and rural development grouped under 32 broad subject headings. The references are further analysed in the statistical appendices which provide information relating to the year-wise distribution of publications, size of the team and authors who have contributed to this field and their affiliations to organizations and areawise distribution of publications. The appendices also contain information relating to the journals and newspapers covered by the bibliography. The volume includes a directory of 232 important institutions engaged in rural development works and an exhaustive author index. It would serve as a valuable reference guide to students and teachers and to all those engaged in the fields of social sciences and rural development. The Foreword critically appraises the rural development efforts in India and raises certain basic issues relating to the role of science and technology in and its impact on rural development.

Profiles of Rural Poverty, International Labour Office, Geneva, 1979. Pp. v + 50. 7.50 Swiss francs.

This booklet is an adaptation of the original work published under the title "Poverty and Landlessness in Rural Asia" in 1977 and presents the important findings of this study with some additional material on Africa and Latin America to provide a comparative perspective in a simple language. It begins with a summary outline of the phenomenon of rural poverty in Asia, its extent and causes. The general issues are illustrated in the second chapter by the profiles of four case studies, one each from Bangladesh, Tamil Nadu, Malaysia and China. The magnitude of the problem of poverty in Africa and Latin America is briefly considered in the third and final chapter. The main conclusion emerging from ten empirical studies of trends in levels of living in the rural areas of seven Asian countries is that though the average income per head in the developing Asian countries has grown more rapidly in the past two decades than ever before, economic growth has resulted in an increased impoverishment of a significant proportion of the population. Evidence suggests that the unequal distribution of productive assets, especially land, is identified to be the principal factor in the process of poverty generation. The new data from Africa and Latin America, fragmentary as they are, also lead to the conclusion that the experience of growth in the last quarter of a century has not succeeded in mitigating the problem of rural poverty in these two continents. The study recognizes the limitations of the policies and programmes devised to make a dent on rural poverty but stresses that policy options for poverty eradication are not beyond the imagination of planners and policy makers in the Third World and what is needed is the will to face up to the challenge of poverty. The booklet is very

informative, illustrated with charts and diagrams and will command a wider readership.

Proceedings, Symposium on Cropping Systems Research and Development for the Asian Rice Farmers, The International Rice Research Institute, Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines, 1977. Pp. 454.

This volume includes twenty-five technical papers presented at a symposium on cropping systems research and development for the Asian rice farmer and the discussions held at IRRI headquarters at Philippines in September 1976. The papers were contributed by an interdisciplinary team of scientists who are currently planning and implementing innovative rice based cropping systems. The papers are grouped under six broad thematic headings: (*i*) Framework for Cropping Systems Research and Development for the Asian Rice Farmer, (*ii*) Physical Aspects of Cropping Pattern Design, (*iii*) Economics of Cropping Systems: Description and Pattern Design, (*iv*) Testing of Cropping Patterns, (*v*) Component Technology: (*a*) Weed Science, (*b*) Insect-Pest Management and (*c*) Varietal Requirements and (*vi*) Cropping Systems Approach to (*a*) Adaptive Research and (*b*) Food Production. Each section except the first starts with an introduction by the Chairman of each session, which provides the guidelines followed by the presentation of papers. A list of references and discussion notes by the participants are presented at the end of each paper.

The first section contains two background papers which deal with many important aspects of IRRI's cropping systems research and development programme and its present focus. The subsequent sections cover the major themes of the symposium organized in five sessions. The first paper in the first section outlines the general methodologies for cropping systems research, as currently carried out in several Asian countries. The approach is centred upon the concept of cropping systems design. This is followed by a study on Asian cropping systems network in the second paper. It evaluates the main goal of the Asian cropping systems network designed to develop cropping systems technology that will increase cropping intensity in Asian rice farms. The second section contains a group of three papers of which one briefly surveys the effect of ecological and land use systems on soil conservation and degradation. Another paper dealing with the climatic and soil determinants in relation to cropping patterns reviews the principles of the classification, critically discusses the criteria and correlates the established zones with existing production patterns. The third paper describes how the physical factors interact to provide the complex agro-ecological determinants which must be considered in designing cropping pattern, citing Bangladesh's experience as an example. The third section includes five papers which respectively present the basic ideas about the scope, objectives, coverage, and methodological ap-

proaches of the economic aspect of cropping systems study and provide perspective with more details, utilizing data already collected, analysed and interpreted in the development of cropping systems study in arid tracts of India, Mexico, Thailand and Philippines. The fourth section contains six papers which discuss the results of cropping pattern testing under rainfed and upland conditions in Southeast Asia and the methodologies for cropping pattern testing in farmers' fields. The fifth section presents a group of seven papers, of which two papers deal with component technology for weed control in multiple cropping systems and insect-pest management and three papers are concerned with varietal developmental research in multiple cropping systems at the University of Philippines, Los Banos, IRRI and Taiwan. In the last section a paper reviews cropping systems approach to adaptive research and presents the results of adaptive trials conducted at IRRI to determine the feasibility of production programme. Another paper assesses the capacity of national institutions to introduce and service new technology. A third paper describes the cropping systems approach to production in the Philippines. The summary and discussion notes presented at the end of each paper greatly enhance the utility of the volume. The papers included in this volume provide valuable insights into the significane of cropping systems research undertaken by the scientists to help the Asian rice farmers increase their farm income and improve the quality of farm life. The volume is a valuable contribution to the literature on the subject and will prove useful to farm management and extension specialists.

Indian Farming—A Cumulative Index (Vol. 1-27, 1951-52 to 1977-78), Chhotey Lal, Prakash Chand and A. Shoaib Ahsan, Bharati Publications, Delhi, 1979. Pp. viii + 202. Rs. 90.00.

This volume contains a source index of all the 5,749 articles, editorials and notes contributed by 2,000 authors and published in the first 27 volumes of *Indian Farming,* a monthly journal issued by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The new series of this journal covered the period 1951-1978. The bibliographical compilation is divided into two parts, namely, Crop Sciences and Animal Sciences classified under the following subject matter headings: General agriculture; Agricultural implements and machinery; Soils, fertilizers and water; Crop protection; Seeds; Crop production; Horticulture; Forestry, Fodder crops, grasses and grasslands; Animal husbandry; Dairy farming and dairy technology, Bee keeping and sericulture; and Fisheries. It contains the source, subject and author indices followed by geographical and systematic indexes. The source index consists of bibliography of all contributions published in this journal. In preparing the subject index, it adopts the pattern of grouping, under crop heading, of entries on related subjects and uses the key words pertaining to various pro-

blems under independent headings. Geographical index is presented under local or regional names indexing only the concrete and not abstract ideas. The systematic index consists of scientific names, *i.e.* generic, species and family names of animals and plants of economic importance. The material presented in this bibliography is well documented. It will prove useful to teachers, scientists and research scholars.

AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN INDIA

A Monthly Journal of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture.

Main features :

* Articles from experts to enable critical appreciation of current trends and prospects.
* Extensive commentary on the agricultural development in India and abroad.
* Reviews on important agricultural commodities.
* Comprehensive statistical tables—crop production, wages, prices, import and export, rainfall and crop estimates.

Commanding a wide and influential readership in India and abroad, **Agricultural Situation in India** is an invaluable guide to business executives, administrators and students of agricultural economics.

Subscription { Single copy : Rs. 4.00 or £ 0.47 or $ 1.44
Annual : Rs. 48.00 or £ 5.60 or $ 17.28

Available from :

The Controller of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi-110 006.