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REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Food Industry Wastes: Disposal and Recovery, Edited by A. Herzka and R. G. Booth, Applied Science Publishers Ltd., England and New Jersey, U.S.A., 1981. Pp. viii+246. £ 20.00.

The volume includes seventeen papers contributed to a symposium on the disposal and recovery of food industry wastes organized by the Association of Consulting Scientists at Norwich, United Kingdom in November 1980. The symposium considered the methods of removal of waste particulate solids from food-bearing effluents and their subsequent disposal and the manner and extent of recovery of certain food materials in terms of quality, ultimate use and financial viability. The theme of the symposium has considerable significance to both the developed and developing countries which are caught in the vortex of environmental pollution. Among the developed countries, those belonging to the European Community have proposed, by way of Directives, legislation to control the concentration of specific pollutants discharged to the aqueous environment. The environmental "policy in these countries recognizes the advantages of seeking to prevent the creation of pollution at source . . . and it must be coincidental with economic and social development and technical progress." It is recognized that the cost of preventing and eliminating environmental pollution must be borne by the polluter. The first four papers in this volume review legislation to control waste discharges to the aquatic environment and its implications for industry, examine the effects of discharges to sewers and ways of minimizing associated costs and river pollution by odorous chemicals. Another paper examines the economics of effluent treatment by aerobic and anaerobic processes. A few others describe the practical applications of these processes for the treatment of specific wastes from food industry, dairies, breweries and distilleries and animal by-products manufacture. The last four papers in the volume respectively deal with the recovery of materials from effluents by membrane systems, research into utilization of food industry wastes, recovery of fruit and vegetable waste and screening of vegetable wastes and recovery of effluent solids. As the pollution of the environment has been accelerating in momentum due to the application of knowledge derived from the advancement in science and technology in the agri-business system, there is a growing awareness to initiate and adopt measures for the conservation of the environment. The studies presented in this volume merit attention of the environmentalists, industrialists, agri-business managers and the policy makers.

The Market for Dehydrated Vegetables in Selected European Countries, The United States of America and Japan, International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, Geneva, Switzerland, 1981. Pp. x+176.

The Scope for Increased Trade between Developing Countries in Vegetable Oils and Other Oilseed Products, International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, Geneva, Switzerland, 1981. Pp. xx+282.

Both these volumes deal with the basic theme of expansion of trade in agricultural commodities among the developing countries, based on surveys conducted by the International Trade Centre (ITC). The first volume up-

dates and expands the information collected from two earlier surveys done in 1971 and 1972 by the Tropical Products Institute, London and ITC to study the market for dried and dehydrated vegetables in selected European countries, U.S.A. and Japan by incorporating the results of field survey undertaken by ITC in 1979 and 1980. The study seeks to help the developing countries to promote an increase in, and a diversification of, their exports of dehydrated vegetables, to adapt their production and marketing activities to meet the requirements of the world market and to improve their bargaining position with regard to prices and other terms with the importers. The selected European countries included Belgium-Luxembourg, France, Federal Republic of Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom. The study identifies the world markets for dehydrated vegetables and the market segments, assesses the potential for these products in the markets surveyed, provides information on market requirements, especially the types of vegetables in demand, methods of dehydration, packaging and regulations affecting imports.

The second volume surveys the potential for increased trade in vegetable oils and fats and other oilseeds products in the markets of 15 importing developing countries and in seven major exporting developing countries. Divided into four parts, Part I of the study discusses the overall trade policies in oils and fats in the 1970s, the structure of imports, commercial policies and trade practices and prospects of imports for 1985 and also for expansion of trade in oils and fats as well as the scope for co-operation among developing countries. Part II presents data relating to population, area, land use, per capita income and discusses production, imports and consumption of oil and fats, commercial policies and trade practices followed and the prospects of production, imports and consumption of oils and fats in each of the 15 importing countries. At the end of each country report, an annexure provides information on the range of customs duties applicable on imports of oilseeds, animal oils, and vegetable oils. Part III deals with production and export trends and the structure of exports in each of the seven exporting countries. The last part provides an overview of production and trade in oil-meal in the selected 15 importing countries.

Both the volumes would prove useful to trade associations in both exporting and importing countries, processors and exporters and governments of the developing countries. Each volume would serve as an export promotion handbook and as a tool for training courses.

Economic Strategy for the 80s, L. K. Jha, Allied Publishers Pvt. Ltd., Bombay-38, 1980. Pp. vii + 152. Rs. 50.00.

The major concern of this book is "with what needs to be done to make the development process (in India) more responsive to the people's pre-occupations. The emphasis is primarily on the techniques of economic management, on getting the utmost out of investments in order that scarcities and high prices may not keep recurring and enough job opportunities should arise to enable the people to meet their basic needs." No other scholar in

the economic administration is better qualified to write on this basic theme than the author of this book. A distinguished civil servant, a seasoned administrator and one of the leading economists, the author has enunciated his economic strategy for the eighties clearly, forcefully and perceptively which even a layman can comprehend. The ideas are formulated within the parameters of the Indian economy and the problems of bringing about structural changes are not discussed for obvious reasons. The book is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter critically examines the planning process, the factors that have influenced the priorities and policies in economic planning and its performance during the seventies. In the subsequent chapters an attempt is made to revamp the economic strategy with a view to improving the machinery through which plans are implemented and make it more responsive to the needs of the people; to stimulate the rate of growth without continuing reliance on still higher taxation; to move from shortages to surpluses and to pursue a more vigorous policy for creating new job opportunities and to develop indigenous technology by making full use of imported technology.

The objective appraisal of the performance of the Indian economy during the past three decades no doubt recognizes many notable achievements. These include coping with the severe drought in 1979-80 without external food aid, absorption of the oil price hikes without any adverse effect on foreign exchange earnings, improvement in the average life expectancy of the people and control of many epidemic diseases. Though the massive investments have built up a great potential for accelerating progress, somehow they did not yield adequate returns. The economy became sluggish, losing the original momentum. In the agricultural sector, disparities were seen to be widening, despite or because of the Green Revolution. Within the farm groups, the larger farmers flourished while the smaller farmers were unable to make use of the new technology for lack of credit and other facilities. In the wake of rising discontent, quite a number of changes were made both in plan priorities and in government policies. The pursuit of growth was sought to be tempered with the search for social justice. The laudable effort made to meet the new challenges led to the strengthening and widening of the system of controls. Repeated increases in the tax burden, recurrent shortages, periodic price explosions and mounting unemployment have sapped the will of the people. Against this background, the author has outlined an economic package for curing the ills of the economy and put it on the rails. The author's constructive suggestions on how to tone up the administrative system deserve careful consideration at the hands of the policy makers. Apart from the changes suggested in the functioning of the administrative machinery, a reorientation of the system of controls in its application to the public and private sectors is advocated to bring about the requisite improvement in the management of the economy. A plea is made for accelerating growth by dispensing with higher taxation as a resource for development in the present decade. It should be possible to enlarge the state's resources for investment, without raising taxes, by effecting economies in administration and reducing the outflows on account of subsidies. As the public sector is meant to occupy

the commanding heights of the economy, it is assumed that it must earn the kind of returns on capital employed that private industry does, by setting profit targets for each public sector enterprise and by imposing discipline. Of all the changes to improve economic performance, a change in attitudes and criteria is considered essential. Poverty cannot be eliminated unless the products necessary to satisfy the basic needs of the people are made available in abundance. But it is not only through higher production of the goods needed by the masses that mass poverty can be banished. The author rightly points out that "It is not just the rate of growth but the content of growth which has to be attended to." His ideas on supply-demand management, control of inflation, generation of employment and the role of technology in promoting economic growth deserve careful study by administrators, policy makers and the students of economics.

Structure of the Rural Economy of Rajasthan (Report of a Field Survey), B. C. Mehta and Ashok Khandelwal, Published for Rajasthan Economic Association, Department of Economics, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur-4, 1981. Pp. 56. Rs. 8.00. (Distributors: Rajasthan People's Publishing House, Jaipur-1.)

In this short booklet an attempt is made to study the structure of agrarian economy of Rajasthan with particular reference to the weaker sections, the nature and extent of indebtedness of the selected households, and inter- and intra-regional differentials in the levels of agricultural development. The study is based on a field survey conducted by thirteen planning forums of participating colleges covering a sample of 504 agricultural households selected from 67 villages in 12 tehsils of the State. The reference period of the study was 1976-77. Two important features of land relations in rural areas of Rajasthan noted are the prevalence of usufructuary mortgage in about 22 per cent of the villages and the practice of share-cropping in 35 per cent of the villages. The proportion of the weaker sections varied from 20 to 40 per cent in different tehsils. The major conclusions of the study are: The distribution of land ownership of the selected households was very skewed. The distribution of livestock and buildings and structures and household assets was much less skewed. Agricultural productivity and farm incomes were very low, showing wide inter-regional differentials. The growth of institutional finance was uneven in the different regions of the State. Institutional financing was far below the requirements of the farm households. The canal irrigated areas accounted for nearly all farm investment and irrigation. In most parts of the State the agrarian structure was characterized by semi-feudal relations. Two alternatives are suggested to loosen the stranglehold of the feudal system: (1) redistribution of the available means of production in favour of the bottom 10 to 30 per cent of the households and (2) provision of alternative employment to the poorest of the poor families.