



**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](mailto: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.*

*No endorsement of AgEcon Search or its fundraising activities by the author(s) of the following work or their employer(s) is intended or implied.*

## REVIEWS IN BRIEF

*The Peasants' Charter: The Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development*, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy, 1981. Pp. 35.

This document embodies the charter of the rural poor incorporating the declaration of principles and programme of action for the elimination of poverty and hunger in the world adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development held at Rome, Italy in July 1979. The Conference was attended by 145 governments which gave a mandate to the FAO to assist its member countries in implementing the provisions embodied in this document. The first part of the document considers the national programmes of action in developing countries with regard to the objectives of agrarian reform and rural development and the strategies that should be formulated to eradicate poverty and the policies for attaining growth with equity, redistribution of economic and political power, people's participation, integration of women in rural development, access to inputs, markets and services, development of non-farm rural activities and education, training and extension. The second part deals with the nature of international policies that are needed for strengthening and supporting agrarian reform and rural development, *viz.*, international trade, economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, foreign investment, development assistance and adoption of specific measures by the FAO and other organizations of the United Nations.

The document points out that rural development is a global problem, which has to be tackled simultaneously at several levels: by the action of rural institutions at village level, by the reorientation of national development policies, at country level; and by the realization of a New International Economic Order throughout the world. It is recognized that the responsibility for agrarian reform and rural development rests with governments and their people, but in order to be involved, people need to be motivated and encouraged to recognize the issues and to pledge their unswerving commitment to rural development with particular attention to the least advantaged sections of the community.

The goal of agrarian reform and rural development being the transformation of rural life and activities in all their economic, social, cultural, institutional, environmental and human aspects, national objectives and strategies to achieve this transformation should focus on elimination of poverty. It is suggested that these strategies should include the imposition of ceilings on the size of private holdings, mobilization of resources for increased investment, expansion of production and employment, strengthening of the economic base for small farmers, organization of farmers' associations, co-operatives and other groups of the rural poor as well as state farms,

introduction of technical innovations, efficiency in the use of resources through adequate incentives and prices, balanced development of rural and urban areas and equity and justice in the sharing of productive resources and the benefits of progress.

The need is emphasized for further improvement in the present system of international economic relations in order to overcome protectionist policies, distortions in international markets for production inputs and technology, inadequate technical co-operation and insufficient resource flows. A global rural development strategy is considered essential to the international development strategy for the 1980s. A number of measures are suggested to bring about equitable participation of the developing countries in world economic activity and to ensure the success of national efforts to attain rural development. The publication serves a useful purpose by widening the awareness of the problems involved in rural development among scholars, policy makers and social and political leaders involved in rural development.

*Proceedings of the International Workshop on the Agroclimatological Research Needs of the Semi-Arid Tropics*, 22-24 November 1978, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, 1980. Pp. vi + 230.

*Proceedings of the International Workshop on Socioeconomic Constraints to Development of Semi-Arid Tropical Agriculture*, 19-23 February 1979, ICRISAT, Patancheru, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, 1980. Pp. x + 435.

*Proceedings of the International Symposium on Development and Transfer of Technology for Rainfed Agriculture and the SAT Farmer*, 28 August-1 September 1979, ICRISAT, Patancheru, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, 1980. Pp. 324.

These three volumes embody the papers presented to and the proceedings of three international workshops conducted by ICRISAT in 1978 and 1979 to discuss respectively the agro-climatological needs of the semi-arid tropics, socio-economic and other constraints to agricultural production and the development and transfer of technology for rainfed agriculture and to the farmers in the semi-arid tropics. The first volume on agro-climatological research needs of the semi-arid tropics was a result of five-years of research in this area. The main objective of this workshop was to discuss the current status of agro-climatological research at ICRISAT and in the semi-arid tropics in Asia, Africa, South America and Australia and to suggest and plan a future course of action for climatological research. The volume includes 18 papers on the subject grouped under four sections. The first section deals with the importance of collecting good agro-climatological data for agro-climatological research in the semi-arid tropics and with the problems

encountered in the acquisition of such data. Examples of new approaches to a more meaningful interpretation of climatological data in agricultural research, development and operations and status reports of the agrometeorological services in Africa, Brazil and India are presented. The second section discusses water-budgeting models and their application focused on studies related to the dynamics of soil-moisture in Vertisols and Alfisols, soil-moisture budgeting techniques and their application. The third section is concerned with crop-environmental interactions aimed at identifying plant and atmospheric parameters in water-stress studies in relation to their effect on plant growth and yield. The fourth section considers inter-disciplinary needs of agro-climatological studies at ICRISAT. In particular, it discusses the advantages of crop-weather models, describes the various approaches used in crop growth, development and yield models and examines their relative merits and demerits. The beginning of each section presents the summaries of papers and the recommendations of the workshop on the basic topics selected for discussion.

The second volume attempts to identify socio-economic and other constraints to development of agriculture in the semi-arid tropics and to evaluate alternative means of alleviating them through technological and institutional changes. It includes 23 papers submitted to the workshop grouped under eight chapters as well as the comments of the discussants and the Chairman's summaries of each session. One of the appendixes contain the French abstracts of the papers presented in English and five of the papers in French. Chapter 1 includes three papers which deal with the socio-economic analyses of existing farming systems and practices in the semi-arid tropics. The first paper in this chapter examines the salient characteristics of farming systems in northern Nigeria and evaluates the economics of existing practices and cropping patterns as revealed by micro level studies carried out in Nigeria. The second paper presents the results of village level studies conducted since 1975 by ICRISAT in six villages in three agro-climatic zones of peninsular India, analyses the rationale behind the practices of monsoon fallowing of deep vertisols and intercropping in rainfed agriculture and discusses the constraints on the spread of prospective watershed technology. The third paper presents an overview of the current level of dryland farming technology in use by the farmers in India through a study of cropping patterns, farming practices and economics of major crops in selected dryland farming regions of India. Chapter 2 discusses the socio-economic aspects of prospective technologies in semi-arid tropics of India. One of the papers in this chapter examines the physical constraints and human factors relating to the introduction of new technology in the rural areas of Senegal. It emphasizes that while some new techniques are available, their acceptance by the farmers is low. Another paper presents the results of the economic analyses of experiments conducted on Vertisols and Alfisols at ICRISAT Center from 1975 to 1978 to develop improved methods of soil, water and crop management. The analysis of steps in improved technology, run-off simulations and

watershed-based supplementary irrigation systems has yielded some useful guidelines about research strategies and also the cost-effectiveness of new techniques. The third paper in this chapter examines the rationale, possibilities of adoption, potential economic impact, likely constraints in adoption and consequent policy needs of improved sorghum technology in north-east Brazil. Chapter 3 is concerned with the socio-economic field assessment of prospective technologies in the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh and in the semi-arid tropics of Mali, sociological problems of introduction of two separate technologies, *viz.*, the wheeled toolbar and collection and use of water for supplementary irrigation of dryland crops in the semi-arid tropics of India, presents some ideas on farmer participation in agricultural development programmes and explores the methodology of on-farm research conducted within an agricultural research programme in Senegal and Ivory Coast. Chapter 4 which consists of two papers, deals with marketing reforms in Mali and with related developments in India. The three papers in Chapter 5 examine the economics of tractors, bullocks and wheeled tool carriers in the semi-arid tropics of India, in the French-speaking Africa and in East Africa. Chapter 6 presents analytical reviews of literature on socio-economic problems of farm and village production systems of the semi-arid tropics of West Africa, identifies high priority areas for research by ICRISAT and provides crop technology guidelines for those areas. Another paper in this chapter examines through an interpretive review of literature, the inter-relationships between interventionist policy, private grain marketing systems and grain production in the semi-arid tropics of West Africa. Chapter 7 includes three papers which discuss the nature and significance of risk in the exploitation of new technology, the role of risk in the semi-arid tropical agriculture of India and provide a theoretical framework for studying the role of risk and uncertainty in the farmer's decision-making process. Chapter 8 embodies three papers on rural labour markets. One of them discusses rural labour use and development strategies in East Africa and India. Another paper provides an overview of rural labour markets in West Africa with emphasis on the semi-arid tropical regions, draws some generalisations about rural labour markets in these regions and outlines the implications for agricultural research programmes. The last paper studies the patterns of utilization of labour and behaviour of labour market of a sample of 240 labour and cultivating households selected from six semi-arid tropical villages of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. One of the findings of this study is that prospective crop, land and water management technologies for semi-arid tropical India may offer considerable scope for increased employment particularly on Vertisols. In the discussant's comments on p. 381 the name of Shakuntla Mehra is wrongly identified as Shakuntala Nehru.

The focus of the third volume is on the general problems of development and transfer of technology but in specific relation to small farmers of the semi-arid tropics. It presents the state of knowledge on the subject and provides an up-to-date review of work being done on technological advances

in the semi-arid tropics, that should improve the crops, the farming systems and the lives of the small farmers. It includes 32 papers on the basic theme of the symposium, which are grouped under six sub-themes and discussed in six sessions. The papers and the discussions review ICRISAT's research since its inception in 1972, and the relevance of that research to the theme of the symposium and explore the philosophy, concepts and practice of technology transfer and its problems and potential, particularly in the semi-arid areas of India, Africa and Latin America where ICRISAT pursues its mandate. A summary of discussion is presented at the end of each section. The last section summarises the findings of the symposium. The introductory section outlines the mission of the ICRISAT and presents an overview of its research efforts in crop improvement and transfer of technology to farmers of the semi-arid tropics. The second section is mainly concerned with the researches undertaken by ICRISAT for development of technology for the semi-arid tropics in regard to cereals, pulses and groundnut improvement and highlights ICRISAT's approaches to farming systems research. It also discusses how socio-economic constraints to agricultural development in the semi-arid tropics are evaluated at ICRISAT in order to better formulate research priorities in an *ex ante* sense and to improve the efficiency with which new technologies, once they are developed, are 'marketed' to farmers. The third section presents critical appraisal of the problems of the transfer of technology, discusses the basic concepts and methods of agro-climatic classification and homoclimate analysis and examines possible alternative approaches to agro-climatic analogues in the transfer of technology. It also focuses on the issues involved in maximizing the opportunities presented by organizations conducting research for appropriate technology transfer in agricultural development. Some techniques employed for quantification of rainfall distribution and soil-moisture availability in relation to crop-water needs are described. The relevance of agro-climatological analysis for the translocation of farming systems technology is discussed. The role of benchmark soil studies and watershed management in technology transfer in the semi-arid tropics and the importance of village level studies from the point of view of technology development and adaptation are highlighted. The fourth section reviews and discusses the co-operative programmes of ICRISAT in strengthening the national research efforts on the production of the five ICRISAT crops both in India and in other nations of the semi-arid tropics and in imparting training to the scientists at ICRISAT Center so as to develop their skills in research and technology transfer to manage the utilization and conservation of natural resources. The fifth section explores the interphase between research and development and discusses the role of national and international agencies in developing research programmes for meeting the needs of small farmers in the semi-arid tropics. The urgent need to overcome institutional bias against small farmers and to ensure timely supply of essential inputs is stressed. The sixth section reviews the experiences of India and Maharashtra and seven other nations in the semi-arid tropics in the development and transfer of technology to the farmers. Ways

of forging and strengthening linkages for smooth transfer of technology are discussed in the seventh session. This volume also includes French abstracts of English papers and the texts of three papers in French.

The studies included in these three volumes make notable contributions to the literature on the subject and throw much light on the problems and prospects of rainfed agriculture in the semi-arid tropics.

*Economic Planning: Principles and Practice (with special reference to India)*, Mamatha Patankar, Second Edition, Sultan Chand & Sons, New Delhi-2, 1981. Pp. xxi+552. Rs. 22.50.

This book is designed to meet the needs of students of economics both at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels in Universities of India. It focuses on the theoretical and empirical aspects of economic development and planning with special reference to the Five Year Plans of India. The subject matter is dealt with in 15 chapters. This revised second edition expands and up-dates information in chapters 12 to 14, presents latest data on the Fifth and Sixth Plans and includes a new chapter on "Development Constraints". The first three chapters deal lucidly with the theory of economic development, the characteristics of under-developed countries, the causes for under-development with special reference to India, the determinants of economic development and the development strategies. The fourth chapter discusses the various patterns of economic development ranging from the *laissez faire* capitalism of America to the collectivism of Soviet Russia and the liberal socialism of India. The next four chapters are devoted to a discussion of the theory and mechanism of planning in India, covering a wide variety of aspects such as the need for planning in under-developed countries, types of planning, problems of development planning and planning techniques. The discussion on investment pattern in different sectors, cost-benefit analysis, input-output analysis and the Mahalanobis model is simple and easily intelligible even to the uninitiated. Problems of mobilization of financial, human and natural resources are discussed in detail in the next three chapters. A critical analysis of India's Five Year Plans is attempted in Chapter 12, followed by a review of progress in Chapter 13 of the various sectors of the Indian economy. Chapter 14 presents new thoughts on future plan strategy and deals with People's Plan II which has a twenty-year development perspective beginning from 1978-79 and the finalised Sixth Plan, 1980-85. Issues relating to energy shortage, technology transfer, research and development are examined in the last chapter. The book provides a wealth of statistical information from diverse sources. The essay type questions at the end of each chapter and the select bibliography enhance the utility of the book to the students. It is noted in the Foreword that the book also contains an 'exhaustive index' but it is not found included in the reviewer's copy. On the whole, this textbook will be found useful by the students and teachers.