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REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Fertiliser Statistics 1966-67, The Fertiliser Association of India, New Delhi, 1967. Pp. xvi + 489. Rs. 15.00.

This publication, being twelfth in the series published every year since 1956, attempts to provide basic information on fertilizer production and consumption in India. Divided into two parts, Part I deals with fertilizer statistics and Part II with related statistics. The data generally relate to the year 1966-67. The first part contains data on the industries concerned with the manufacture of complex, potassic and mixed fertilizers, locations, installed capacity, production, consumption, imports, prices, subsidy, targets of production and consumption of nitrogenous, phosphatic and potassic fertilizers in the Fourth Five-Year Plan and statistics relating to world production and consumption of chemical fertilizers, fertilizer consumption per capita and per hectare of arable and agricultural land, fertilizer prices paid by farmers, world trade in fertilizers and relative position of prices of wheat, rice and fertilizers in different countries. It also includes useful information relating to districtwise fertilizer recommendations for different crops in various States, statistics of urban and rural compost production and area green manured, plant nutrients removed by crops, soil testing laboratories, etc. Part II gives data regarding land use, index numbers of area, agricultural production and productivity, area and production of crops, imports of cereals and cotton, availability of cereals and pulses, storage capacity, targets of agricultural production in the Third and Fourth Five-Year Plans, area expected to be covered under the High Yielding Varieties Programme and requirements of fertilizers under the programme, and statistics relating to land use, area, yield and production of some of the principal foodgrain and commercial crops in the world. On the whole, this publication brings together all these data, both published and unpublished, with a view to giving an objective presentation of available information.

Farming Guidance in the Co-operative Movement in Japan, Seiichi Miyakawa, Co-operative Series No. 3, International Co-operative Alliance, Regional Office and Educational Centre for South-East Asia, New Delhi, 1967. Pp. 36. Rs. 2.50.

This brochure discusses the importance and role of farm management guidance in improving agricultural production and the part played by agricultural co-operatives in Japan in providing guidance and instruction in improved farming to their members. It deals with the necessity of farming guidance in the co-operative movement in Japan, provides an outline of farming guidance mechanism and discusses the recent changes in farming technique and management and the policy of agricultural co-operatives concerning farming guidance. It explains how this guidance is provided and how the personnel for the purpose is recruited and trained.

The State of Food and Agriculture 1967, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy, 1967. Pp. viii + 202. \$5.50.

This annual report which reviews in the usual pattern the world food and agricultural situation and policies during 1966-67 has devoted two special chapters

to the study of (1) incentives and disincentives for farmers in developing countries and (2) the management of fishery resources. Reviewing the food and agricultural situation and outlook, the report observes that following the setback of 1965, there was some recovery in world agricultural production in 1966. According to FAO's preliminary estimates, the combined production of crops, livestock, fishery and forest products increased by about 3 per cent from an index of 132 in 1965 to 136 in 1966 while the index of per capita production increased only fractionally from an index of 107 to 108 during the same period. The recovery has, however, been very largely confined to the developed regions where there was an expansion in total food production of 6 per cent. In Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R., the unprecedentedly large grain harvest brought an expansion of more than 10 per cent in food production in 1966. In Oceania, food production increased by 13 per cent in 1966 as compared to a decline of 6 per cent in 1965. In both Western Europe and North America, food production rose by 2 to 3 per cent. Among the developing regions, food production increased only in the Far East and Near East in 1966, the rate of increase being 3 and 2 per cent respectively over the level of production in 1965. In both Africa and Latin America, where there was no increase in 1965, food production declined by about 1 per cent in 1966. In the 33 developing countries for which production indices are now calculated by FAO, the increase in agricultural production between 1952-56 and 1963-65 exceeded or kept pace with the growth of population in 24 countries and fell behind it in nine. As regards changes in foodgrain stocks, a further reduction in wheat stocks is reported in North America in 1966-67. Stocks of a number of other products including cotton, dairy products and vegetable oils and oilseeds increased in 1966-67. The combined gross national product of the industrial countries is estimated to have risen slightly less in 1966 than in the previous year, when there was an increase of 5 per cent. Recent information for developing countries is still very limited, but in general the growth of gross national product was less in 1966 than in earlier years. The total demand for food in the developing countries appears to have been little affected by their slower rate of economic expansion in 1966, since population growth is responsible for the increase in demand. Consumer food prices have continued to rise in almost all countries and have risen distinctly faster than farm prices during the last five years in about half of the 27 countries for which data are available. This is caused mainly by a more rapid increase in processing and marketing costs than in farm prices.

Regarding international trade in agricultural products, it is reported that the value of world trade in agricultural, fishery and forest products increased by about 4 per cent in 1966. There were further large increases in earnings from fishery and forest products. For agricultural products proper, export earnings are estimated to have increased by about 2 per cent in 1966. The gain in export earnings was also very unevenly distributed among the different regions of the world. Much of the benefit accrued to North America where, mainly because of increased grain exports, earnings from agricultural exports increased by 13 per cent in 1966. For the developing regions as a whole, agricultural export earnings declined by about 2 per cent at current prices, which would amount to a fall of as much as 3 per cent in their purchasing power for manufactures. In spite of this setback, the developing regions have still retained much of the gain in export earnings that has resulted from the increase in international prices for agricultural products in 1963 and 1964. On the other hand, the gravity of

the decline in the purchasing power of their agricultural exports, which accounted for about three quarters of their total foreign exchange earnings, was accentuated by the need to divert still more of these earnings to pay for imports of food rather than the capital goods required for development. The food imports of the developing regions are estimated to have increased by 4 per cent in 1966, valued at \$4,500 million. The most important event in the field of international trade policies in 1966-67 was the conclusion of the Kennedy Round trade negotiations, under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Tariff cuts amounting to about \$40,000 million were decided upon, mostly between the industrialized nations. Although the major part of the tariff reductions concerned industrial products, agricultural products were included in trade negotiations for the first time. In general, these reductions will be spread over several years, but for developing countries, an acceleration is being considered in an attempt to increase the benefits accruing to them. An important recent tendency relating to food aid policies has been for the provision of increasing amounts of aid for the supply of agricultural production requisites, such as fertilizers, machinery and pesticides, and for the establishment of local industries producing such requisites. Food aid is increasingly being linked with measures for the agricultural development of the recipient countries.

Reviewing the agricultural policies and development plans, the report observes few major changes in agricultural policies. A noteworthy tendency in some developing countries is an increased emphasis on the intensive use of modern production requisites, in particular high yielding varieties of seeds and fertilizers. There is also some evidence of a wider recognition by the governments of developing countries and also in Eastern Europe and U.S.S.R., to give farmers adequate economic incentives to step up production. Progress in the improvement of agricultural institutions has remained low in the developing countries, especially as regards land reform. Numerous measures have been adopted to improve agricultural marketing facilities, although progress generally remains more rapid for export crops than for those mainly sold on the domestic market. In the developed countries, a major aim is to assist the declining agricultural population to obtain incomes commensurate with those in other sectors of the economy. Agricultural support measures in Western Europe have tended increasingly to be designed to promote structural improvements and the modernization of the less progressive sectors of the industry.

A special chapter in the report examines the incentives and disincentives for farmers in developing countries, and brings out that it is not enough to give these farmers the opportunity to use improved methods of production. Many obstacles have to be removed before they have any incentive to use them. Among the many causes of lagging food production in relation to demand in developing countries are stated to be (i) the absence of any real economic incentive for the average farmer to step up his production for the market by making greater effort, or by adopting improved methods as they become available to him, (ii) no assured outlet for his produce, (iii) low and excessively unstable prices which make the additional effort and outlay too risky to be worth undertaking, (iv) unfavourable and outdated rural institutions, especially in respect of land tenure, credit and marketing. This chapter attempts to set out how governments can, without excessive cost, improve the economic and social climate in which farmers live and work with a view to harnessing their initiative and enterprise for the achieve-

ment of national agricultural objectives. It suggests the need for adoption of several complementary measures in such spheres as price policy, marketing, land tenure, credit and the supply of farm requisites and the consequent need for action on a broad front. Much stress is laid on the importance of effective price stabilization measures at the farm level. It recommends that the governments of countries where production is lagging should study at the farm level the problems which their farmers have to face and the factors which make them cautious about adopting new methods and expanding their output. Such studies would have to be undertaken from the point of view of the farmers rather than of the Government or officials, which would provide a basis for policy decisions incomparably more useful than any that now exists except in a few countries.

The management of fishery resources is the subject matter of the second special chapter. It underlines the urgency of proper international management of fishery resources and the need for enforcing regulations aimed at controlling the size of total catch or total effort. A wealth of statistical information relating to various aspects covered in the report is provided in 16 annex tables.

Studies on Selected Development Problems in Various Countries in the Middle East, United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, United Nations, New York, 1967. pp. vi + 87. \$2.00.

This publication contains four studies relating to the development problems in the countries of the Middle East. The first of these studies attempts to identify the development constraints and strategies adopted in Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and Syria which have development plans, through an analysis of the salient features of the plans. Occasional reference has also been made to Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. After dealing with the main structural imbalances and growth problems, the study analyses the levels of saving and investment, compares the respective roles of the private and public sectors, examines the problems of the foreign sector and gives some indications regarding the planning of the development of manpower resources in these countries. The development plans of the first four countries mentioned above stress the need for diversification of the economy. While this diversification is sought in the direction of industrialization, agricultural development is also emphasized, either because of its potentialities or because prior to the initiation of planning a relative stagnation was recorded in agricultural production. A decisive role is given to the governments of these countries in the modernization of agriculture and the development of industry with joint ventures being envisaged to spearhead the effort where oil wealth can provide momentum for industrialization.

The second study is drawn up in the light of the recommendations and requirements of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. It attempts, in a preliminary way, to survey trade patterns, to identify inter-regional trade flows, to discern the limitations to and the possibilities of expansion of such trade and to analyse the existing instruments intended to promote it in the countries covered in the first study and in the United Arab Republic. It is observed that the existing level of inter-regional trade among these countries was and remains very low, being less than 7 per cent of their total trade, owing to such factors as narrow domestic bases and low stages of industrial development, and also to such different factors as political difficulties and lack of diversity in natural resources. Taken alone, however, the expansion of intra-regional trade, in the

Middle East as elsewhere, can make only a limited contribution to the solution of development problems. Efforts to achieve an expansion of intra-regional trade will have to be pursued through international co-operation at both the bilateral and the multilateral levels. In a region where such an expansion depends less on freeing the existing trade than on creating new trade, policies designed to improve domestic economic structures assume an importance.

The third study surveys the situation created and the governmental measures inspired by the rapid growth of population in the countries of the Middle East and its drift from the countryside to large cities with a view to focussing attention on the social aspects of industrialisation. It reviews briefly the settlement patterns, the problems posed by them and the plans being formulated to deal with them in Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria. As in other developing countries of the world, the flow of rural population to the cities has received its main impetus from the 'push' factors of pressure of population on cultivable land, extensive under-employment and the inadequacy of services and facilities in the countryside; and from the 'pull' of the real and supposed advantages of urban life. The relatively slow rate of progress in governmental efforts at rural development has failed to halt or curtail the rural 'push.' None of the countries reviewed has yet developed a long-term policy covering all aspects of urbanization. Such policies as have been developed do not necessarily stem from concern with the overall problem of population distribution, nor do they necessarily aim at a more rational pattern of settlement.

The fourth study deals with development planning and social objectives in Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and Syria with respect to such major sectors as education, health, housing and social welfare. It is noted that over the past two decades, the governments of these countries have taken increasing responsibility for improving living standards. The scope of government programmes in the social field has increased significantly over the past decade and there has been an upward trend in government expenditures to finance these programmes. Considerable progress has been made in the quantification of national needs, particularly in education and health and in the expansion of the scope of sectoral programming to encompass issues of national development. The study points out that in spite of this progress, the social chapters of development plans in these countries lack depth, breadth and inter-relation with the other parts of the plans. It emphasizes the need for taking bolder and faster action to arrive at even a minimum level of effective co-ordination and inter-relation of different objectives, considerations and opinions, during the entire planning process in the social field. Annexes I and II of the publication provide background material on the different sectors of the economy and the development indicators for the period 1960 to 1965 and relevant statistical data related to the analysis of development plans in the six countries of the region respectively. Annexe III contains the work programme of the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut.