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REVIEWS IN BRIEF

Smallholder Rubber Production and Policies, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Proceedings of an International Workshop held at the University of Adelaide, South Australia, 18-20 February, 1985, ACIAR Proceedings Series No. 9, Canberra, A.C.T., 1985. Pp. 151.

This volume contains 18 papers which were submitted to a workshop on smallholder rubber production and policies held at the University of Adelaide, Australia in February 1985, cosponsored by Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACAIR) and the Universities of Adelaide and Queensland. It also includes three invited comments on the major themes covered by the papers and the summary of discussions and recommendations of the workshop. One of the major objectives of the workshop was to identify priority problems facing the natural rubber industries of Southeast Asia and to focus on the processes of structural change which had been occurring in the recent past, especially in the two major producing countries of Malaysia and Indonesia. It also examined the roles of research, technology, economic trends and policies with particular emphasis on their implications for the development of the smallholder rubber sectors which account for the bulk of the world's natural rubber production. The other major objective of the workshop was to develop a set of research proposals on priority themes relating to rubber industry for collaborative research between the scientists working in the region. Plantation economists and those interested in studying the problems of natural rubber production will find this volume useful.

Social Forestry in India: Problems and Prospects, Birla Institute of Scientific Research, Economic Research Division, New Delhi; Radiant Publishers, New Delhi-19, 1984. Pp. xv+152. Rs. 85.00.

The book examines the problems and prospects of social forestry in India since Independence. Divided into ten chapters, the first chapter briefly traces the development of forestry during the British rule in India and after Independence. The second chapter discusses the progress and problems of social forestry during the six five-year plans. The next two chapters consider the choice of tree species and techniques of planting in different types of land and evaluates the highly controversial role of exotic tree species in social forestry respectively. Chapter 5 discusses the agronomic practices followed in the raising of the nurseries and Chapter 6 stresses the need for proper maintenance and adequate protection of tree species and for developing an effective system of monitoring and evaluation of social forestry programme. The rest of the chapters in the book discuss the importance of mass involvement, extension, research, training and education for the successful implementation of forestry programmes in the country and the organizational and financial requirements for the promotion of social forestry. The book includes three appendices which deal with the kinds of tree species suitable for planting in different climatic regions, the progress of social forestry in some States and the economics of Eucalyptus plantation respectively.

Chemistry and World Food Supplies: The New Frontiers, CHEMRAWN II—Perspectives and Recommendations, Edited by Gordon Bixler and L. W. Shemilt. International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and International Rice Research Institute, Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines, 1983. Pp. xvii + 169.

This volume presents the conclusions and recommendations drawn from the main points made during the second Conference on Chemical Research Applied to World Needs (CHEMRAWN II) organised by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and International Rice Research Institute in Manila, Philippines in December 1982. It also contains eight plenary lectures by experts, which examined in broad perspectives the scientific, economic, political and cultural issues affecting food production, processing, storage and distribution in the world. Attention is focussed on the new frontiers in food production and processing including genetic engineering, the biochemistry of plant trees, use of growth regulators and other chemical means of modifying crop performance, the potential of cell and tissue culture, photosynthetic activity and partitioning, nitrogen fixation and biomass utilisation. The role of chemistry in raising agricultural productivity is also considered in such areas as soil and crop management, integrated pest and weed control, agricultural resource and environment monitoring, animal and aquaculture systems, and control of major human and animal diseases that limit agricultural production in the tropics. The possibilities and potentialities of improving the preparation, storage and processing of foods are examined including the development of new and superior sources of food, use of chemical techniques to preserve the quality of food and prevent deterioration and losses during processing and storage, and application of chemistry in the assessment, analysis and quality control of food supplies. Students of agricultural economics will benefit by reading the lectures on "Our Greatest Challenge—Feeding a Hungry World" by M. S. Swaminathan, "Economic and Social Factors Influencing the Use of Chemicals in Agriculture" by W. David Hopper and "Feeding the World during the Next Doubling of the World Population" by Norman Borlaug. This volume makes a significant contribution to the growing literature on world food supplies.

Modern Milk Production: Its Principles and Applications for Students and Farmers, Malcolm E. Castle and Paul Watkins, Second Edition, Faber and Faber Ltd., London, 1984. Pp. 310. £ 8.25. (Agents: Oxford University Press, Bombay-39.)

Milk production is the largest single enterprise in British agriculture and it accounted for 22 per cent of the total value of all agricultural output. The high productivity of the dairy enterprise is a function both of the inherent efficiency of the cow and of the application of the accumulated knowledge as a result of research on dairy production in Britain. In this second edition of the book which was first published in 1977, an attempt has been made to outline the current developments and thinking not only on energy metabolism and reproductive physiology of dairy cows but also on related aspects of grazing management, feeding, herd management, breeding, building layout, slurry disposal, disease control and business management on the dairy farm in Britain. Though the book is mainly addressed to students and farmers in Britain, it will prove useful to students in the developing countries.