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Reviews in Brief

Agricultural and Rural Development in India: A Case Study on the Dignity of Labour, M.L. Dewan, Second Edition, Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi, 1987. Pp. xxiv + 227. Rs. 125.00.

This second edition of the book, which is concerned with a number of issues relating to agriculture and rural development, is essentially a reprint of the first edition, published in 1982. It includes a new introduction and some appendices which highlight the eco-system development in the Himalayas. The first part of the book gives a brief account of the dignity of labour camps organised in agricultural universities, colleges and schools in Maharashtra, which were involved in agricultural development programmes in the seventies. The major emphasis is on development and proper use of soil and land resources, irrigation and other natural resources. The second part of the book deals with the problems of development of the natural and human resources, advocates the project approach to agricultural and general development of India and proposes certain plans of operation for further increasing agricultural production, for improving the institutional set-up relating to land tenure, credit, prices, marketing, social organisation, education, training and research, family planning, for improving the efficiency of cattle and for increasing industrial production and the use of renewable energy sources. The book advocates that priority should be given to agricultural development over the development of other sectors of the economy and strongly recommends the use of organic manures for building up soil fertility and productivity, laying stress on the development of social and farm forestry. The book would serve as a primer to agricultural scientists, planners and administrators who are concerned with agricultural and rural development.

Integrated Rural Development, Perspectives and Prospects (1952-82), Jyoti Kumar, Mittal Publications, Delhi-35, 1987. Pp. xi+229. Rs. 140.00.

Integrated Rural Development Programme (A Case Study in Himachal), Parkash Mehta and R.C. Bharadwaj, B.R. Publishing Corporation, Delhi-52. 1987. Pp. vii+72. Rs. 75.00.

Planning for Integrated Area Development (A Case Study from Andhra Pradesh), K.L. Narasimha Murthy, B.R. Publishing Corporation, Delhi-52, 1986. Pp. 256. Rs. 125.00.

Rural Development in India (A Study of Industry, Business and Service Sectors), R.T. Tewari and R.C. Sinha, Ashish Publishing House, New Delhi-26, 1988. Pp. viii+88. Rs. 75.00.

Rural Development: An Inside Look at Problems and Prospects, Edited by R. Subramanian, Yatan Publications, New Delhi-24, 1988. Pp. xv+249. Rs. 180.00.

The books, above noted, discuss the different aspects of rural development in India, probes into the working of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and suggest measures to solve the identified problems at the regional and micro levels. The first book is the outcome of the doctoral dissertation of the author and discusses the rural development programmes launched during 1952-82, and based on the evaluation studies with regard to different on-going schemes throws light on the perspectives and future prospects of rural development. The study has used the method of historical research and

is entirely based on secondary data, available in published form. After describing the early efforts at rural development and their objectives and achievements, the study discusses the post-Independence attempts, with particular reference to community development programme and national extension service and evaluates these attempts. This is followed by a critical appraisal of the working of small farmers' development agency, drought-prone areas programme, command area development and integrated rural development programme. The epilogue provides a bird's eye view of the different attempts made towards rural reconstruction and development with a view to improving the socio-economic conditions of the downtrodden section of rural society. On the basis of comparison of the findings from different studies, the book has outlined some suggestions for enhancing the prospects of rural development in India. The study advocates a radical restructuring of the bureaucratic set-up and a multi-model approach to rural development for the successful implementation of IRDP.

The second book examines the impact of IRDP on the economic status of 80 beneficiary households, selected on the basis of multi-stage random sampling technique, from one block each from the two districts of Kangra and Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh, relating to the year 1983-84. For the purpose of comparison, 20 non-beneficiary households were selected from these two blocks. The study analyses and compares the changes in cropping pattern, income, employment, expenditure patterns of the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries in the two study areas. Straight line regression equations are estimated to study the relationship between income, employment, investment and the size of the farm. A comparative analysis of the economic activities of the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries in the selected areas of study has revealed that productivity measured in terms of income per worker and the number of employment days per household were more for the beneficiaries than the non-beneficiaries. The overall conclusion of the study is that the IRDP has made positive impact on the economic status of the beneficiaries and that the programme should be well spread in the rural areas with a view to bringing the rural poor above the poverty line.

The third book emphasises the need for planning at grassroot levels for successful implementation of development programmes on the basis of a case study of a micro region, Tanaku taluka in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. The study is based on primary as well as secondary data. Christaller's central place theory is used as an analytical tool for micro level planning. The study has made an attempt to identify and rank central places of various orders, delineate the tributary areas or complementary zones of the central places and identify the existing functional gaps in the study area. It also assesses the potentialities of human, agricultural and industrial aspects in the study area for recommending suitable development programmes and integration of all sectoral development programmes into a spatial framework in order to plan for integrated area development of the area. The plan period proposed in the study is spread over ten years starting from 1981. The study suggests that as agriculture has already reached the peak of its development in the study area, the agricultural surplus should be invested in agro-based industries, and allied activities, especially livestock, should be developed.

The fourth book is an outcome of the evaluation of Industry, Business and Service (ISB) sector of the Integrated Rural Development Programme, carried out by the Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow on the request of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The study is based on a survey of a random sample of 500 beneficiary families selected from

Almora, Azamgarh, Hamirpur and Muzaffarnagar districts of Uttar Pradesh, which received financial assistance under ISB during the three years, 1982-83 to 1984-85. The study examines the procedure adopted for the selection of beneficiary participants, formulation of the projects and availability of finance, infrastructural support and project administration, monitoring and follow-up of each sector of ISB. It presents evidences of both successes and failures of the programme. Improper selection and training of beneficiaries, inadequacy of marketing facilities, shortage of raw materials, lags in project administration and lack of co-ordination among the development departments are identified to be major shortcomings while reduction in unemployment by the creation of self-employment schemes and alleviation of poverty through occupational shifts are considered as positive achievements. The study revealed that the procedure generally adopted for the selection of beneficiaries was almost the same, but surprisingly 58 per cent of the sample households were found to have an annual income above Rs. 3,500. Lack of resources and expertise with the block officials to identify the target group and hesitation on the part of the rural poor to participate in the programme were the principal reasons for the negative impact of the programme. The projects formulated by the District Industrial Centres are generally of small scale industrial units requiring higher amounts of capital. Inadequate loans and delays in their sanctioning have also posed problems in the successful implementation of the programme. Although none of the sample units was reported to have generated wage employment, they provided self-employment in the rural areas along with a shift in the principal occupations of 65 per cent of the households from agriculture to non-farm activities. The ISB units were able to establish only marginal linkages with other economic activities of the area. Forward linkages of the ISB units were almost non-existent. It is suggested that these linkages could be established or strengthened only by the setting up of centres for supplying raw materials and providing marketing facilities to the producers.

The fifth book contains a collection of 19 papers presented at a Seminar on "People and Poverty: The Dilemma of Rural Developmental Transactions" organised by the Centre for Research, Extension and Integrated Rural Development at Gandhigram Rural Institute, Madurai in September 1985. The objectives of the Seminar were to (a) document the survey researches on the implementation of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) at the national and state levels, (b) bring into focus the programme imperatives and dilemmas, (c) outline the matrix of involvement of voluntary agencies in the identification of the beneficiaries and monitoring their progress and (d) develop a suitable organisational framework within the confines of a systems approach for effective programme implementation. The papers are grouped under four heads: (i) IRDP - Concept, Content and Operation, (ii) Implementation and Monitoring of IRDP, (iii) Voluntary Action and IRDP and (iv) Development Strategies and the Poor in India. The book has brought together the conflicting ideas on rural development and the dilemmas which have surfaced on account of misguided motives and distorted transactions that have been the nexus between the village people, government agency, rural institutions and voluntary organisations. The problems and prospects of rural development are presented in a lucid manner. The studies included in the book suggest the need for an elaborate infrastructure for providing facilities with regard to production, purchase, quality maintenance and marketing, an effective and comprehensive organisational, administrative framework with a view to involving other departments and developmental institutions to achieve total system results by means of

effective co-ordination and implementation of IRDP and group action from non-governmental organisations and institutions for bridging the gaps in programme implementation. Except for a few overlapping of ideas in some of the papers, the conclusions drawn are consistent with the empirical evidence.

ISNAR Agricultural Research Indicator Series: A Global Data Base on National Agricultural Research Systems, Philip G. Pardey and Johannes Roseboom, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1989. Pp. x+547. £ 35.00.

International Agricultural Research: A Data Base of Networks, Donald L. Plucknett, Nigel J.H. Smith and Selcuk Ozgediz, CGIAR Study Paper Number 26, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, The World Bank, Washington, D.C., 1990. Pp. 165. \$ 10.95.

These two volumes deal with the complicated issues relating to and the need for the creation of a standard data base for agricultural research both at national and international levels. The first volume is an attempt made by the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) to compile the statistical data available, while the second provides information on networks that are capable of providing the data base.

The first volume represents the culmination of an effort began by the ISNAR in 1984 to make a complete set of statistical data base for National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS). The major objective in compiling the indicator series was to improve the consistency, comparability and coverage of global agricultural research statistics. The volume is a thoroughly researched and extensively documented work, incorporating national agricultural research systems in 154 developing and developed countries for 27 years from 1960 to 1986. Divided into two parts, Part I of the volume is classified into four sections. The first section outlines the scope of the volume. The second section describes the conceptual and definitional underpinnings of the ISNAR Agricultural Indicator Series. It clarifies the concept of a national agricultural research system and discusses in detail measurement issues pertaining to the personnel and expenditure series. The method followed is one of synthesising available multiple observations and bringing them under a uniform time-series with a single base. Section 3 provides an overview of the multiple sources used, including the details of the three benchmark surveys of NARS in developing countries. Section 4 attempts to measure the actual research expenditures in NARS. The series reports expenditures in current and constant local currency units, as well as 1980 Atlas exchange rates and Purchasing Power Parity over GDP-converted U.S. dollar volume measures. It also gives complete details on the uniform conversion procedures applied to the research expenditures of all countries. Part II lists the personnel and expenditure indicator series for all the countries for the period 1960-64 to 1986 with notes on using the statistical tables. The personnel indicators include only research personnel and provide information about local researchers according to educational status, Ph.D, M.Sc., B.Sc. or equivalent, and wherever possible, to measure researchers in full time equivalent units. The expenditure series attempts to measure actual research expenditures, inclusive of salaries and operating and capital expenses. Despite the disparate nature of the data sources, the series represents a major effort to consolidate and completely restructure the previously available data

compilations. In terms of coverage, time period and number of indicators, it constitutes a substantial extension to available global compilations.

The second volume provides a data base of networks in international agricultural research. It elucidates the role of networking in providing updated statistical data base for agricultural research. Networks are recognised as new organisational structures that cater to the needs of individuals and institutions. The data base is compiled on the basis of information gathered from field visits, publications and unpublished reports. The volume categorises networks into four groups, viz., (i) information exchange, (ii) material exchange, (iii) scientific consultation and (iv) collaborative research networks. It contains detailed information on about 30 items ranging from funding sources for each network, to whether the network operates training courses.

The data base for each international agricultural research centre included in the volume first presents the name of the institution and its acronym, if any, followed by presentation of information of the contact person for obtaining additional data on the network, its purpose and goals, year of establishment, whether it is affiliated to a lead institution, mechanism of its management, organisational structure, network expenditures/budget, funding sources, network publications, training and major accomplishments. The data base does not attempt to evaluate the networks, but some positive and negative experiences of the network are highlighted. Both these volumes would prove useful to research administrators and scholars interested in the study of national and international agricultural research systems.

The Forest for the Trees?: Government Policies and the Misuse of Forest Resources, Robert Repetto, World Resources Institute, Washington D.C., 1988. Pp. viii+105. \$ 10.00.

A Review of Forestry and Forest Industries in the Asia-Pacific Region, Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippines, 1987. Pp. viii+308.

Both the volumes deal with the theme of sustainable development of forest sector and the socio-economic and environmental role of forestry in overall rural and agro-industrial development, particularly in the developing countries. The first report documents the findings of the author and an international group of seven research scholars with regard to the effect of Government policies on the misuse of forest resources in ten countries on four continents. The report shows that with the professed goals of conserving forests and wise use of resources, the governments are aggravating the losses of the forests through mistaken policies. Though such policies were adopted for achieving industrial or agricultural growth, regional development, employment generation or poverty alleviation, these objectives have not been realised or have been attained at excessive cost. The report also gives an elaborate account of the extent and rate of deforestation in different countries of the world. The forest area of the world, according to scientific evidence, has declined by one-fifth from the pre-agricultural times to the present. The greatest losses have been suffered by temperate closed forests (32 to 35 per cent), followed by sub-tropical woody savannahs and deciduous forests (24 to 25 per cent) and tropical forests (15 to 20 per cent). Statistical evidences have been presented to substantiate the extent of deforestation from country to country. It highlights the acute nature of deforestation in open woodlands and savannahs in tropical countries. In the developing countries, the issues are more complex, because for hundreds of millions,

the struggle is for survival. The reasons for the rapid deforestation taking place in the third world countries are varied and complex. Some are rooted deeply in the patterns of development of the countries, namely, rapidly increasing populations, extreme concentration of land holdings, nature of land tenures and slow growth of employment opportunities. The study also emphasises that non-forestry policies in many countries have caused greater destruction of forests than misdirected and misapplied forestry policies. It contains valuable recommendations for policy reform in the forestry sector. The policy implications of the study shift the debate over how to manage forest resources for development. It makes a strong plea for creating a better policy framework towards sustainable resource management. The second part of the book includes country case studies which examine the forestry and non-forestry policies in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, China, Brazil, West Africa and United States. Forest-based industrialisation, timber exploitation, transmigration programmes and conversion of forests to other uses have made it impossible for the natural forests of these countries to sustain. The study provides rich material for researchers and all those interested in the conservation and wise use of forest resources.

The second volume is intended to serve as a factual compendium of the state of forest and forest-based industry development in the Asia-Pacific Region. It contains an overall assessment of the policies of Asian Development Bank in the forestry sector. Part I of the review prepared with the assistance of FAO and Part II undertaken by a Finnish Consulting firm Jaakk Poyry, together provide a comprehensive review of forest resources and forest industries, covering past development and future needs. Part I of the volume deals with the structure and role of forestry in the region, issues relating to the protection of the environment and meeting the basic requirements of rural communities, forestry institutions and development strategies and investment requirements for the forestry sector. Part II focuses attention on the trends and prospects for forest industries in 27 developing member countries, India and the People's Republic of China. The review is also concerned with environmental issues, watershed management and the implications for rural employment, increased requirements for wood-based energy and the crucial role of community participation in forest sector development. It highlights the extreme diversity within the region both between and within countries with regard to forest resources and socio-demographic characteristics that influence utilisation of resources. There is a need for country specific strategies for the development of the forest sector and resource utilisation, particularly with respect to conservation and improved measures to reverse the damage to the ecosystems.