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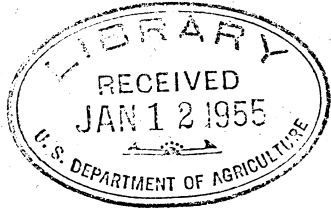
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BOOK REVIEWS

EVALUATION REPORT ON FIRST YEAR'S WORKING OF COMMUNITY PROJECTS ; Programme Evaluation Organisation, Planning Commission, New Delhi, 1954. Pp. v + 321.

The report under review evaluates the working of the community projects during 1952-53, their first year. The Programme Evaluation Organisation which was set up for the purpose organised evaluation centres at 19 out of 52 projects. The observations in the report relate mainly to these centres.

The gist of the 321-page report is contained in the compactly written first 51 pages ; the parts two and three are devoted to statistical statements and accounts of individual project evaluation centres.

The report concerns, in the main, with the analysis of the overall trends. According to the report the community projects have been able to take people with them and inculcate in them progressive outlook and co-operative action, but on the whole the pace of the progress both in physical achievements and money expenditure has been slower than expected and planned. Besides, the pattern of development in various community projects has been uneven.

The lag in achievement and the ununiformity of development pattern for the first year have been explained mainly by the organizational defects, such as delays in financial and administrative sanctions, lack of properly trained personnel and inter-departmental co-ordination. Among other reasons prominence has been given to the lack of proper prior study of the problems and the needs of the project regions. The analysis of the major trends has been continued in the evaluation of the agricultural extension methods. Here too the same factor—organization—has been found to be defaulting, the fault concerning mainly the adequacy and regularity of the supplies of improved farm materials. The social and cultural rigidities operating as obstructions to progress have been noted only in regard to compost pits.

The study of the public participation—the sheet anchor of the community development programme which was expected to attain twin ends ; (1) to enthuse people and (2) to add to public investment—reveals that there has been some achievement in regard to the first one but that too has not been channelised into institutions to give it a permanent mould except in a few centres. The latter involves a quantitative estimate which has been considered difficult to compile from the available information.

The analysis in the report eschews the study of such socio-economic factors as inherent production potential and simultaneous enforcement of land reforms, causing success or failure of different projects and extension measures, and it also omits the formulation of the quantitative estimates of increased production or employment probably because sufficient data are not available at this stage to arrive at definite conclusions. The reader, however, is promised further publi-

cations in the series which would be based on the first-hand field investigations. They would probably answer the problems left out in this report.

The analysis in the report leads to concrete suggestions in regard to reforming the project organisation and the procedural pattern. Some of these suggestions have already been accepted and implemented by the Community Projects Administration at the centre. There are various other suggestions probably of greater importance from the point of the economic betterment. However, as they are scattered and most of them only incidentally mentioned, they are likely to attract less attention. Suggestions regarding credit liberalization for small farmers and the need to shift emphasis from credit-worthiness of the farmer to the credit-worthiness of the use, are a few instances.

The omnibus measures for economic progress of rural areas are devised mostly to suit those sectors which are most adaptable to change. The common experience is that some groups which are placed at disadvantage, such as those of small farmers are likely to be left over in the process. It has happened in regard to the co-operative movement. It would have been interesting if the evaluation report had thrown light on how the needs of these low income groups are satisfied in the implementation of the community projects and what has been the response of these groups to such measures.

Among other suggestions the stress of the report on the need for accurate and reliable records to be maintained by the community projects for the progress of their developmental activities and results is most appropriate as evaluation studies are no substitutes for comprehensive and correct progress reports. Again the observation of the report that the pilot extension projects do not make headway as fast as the community projects which touch the wider array of public welfare programme is in line with the U. N. Commission report on community projects in South East Asia which apparently advocating the priority of solution of economic problems has emphasized also the employment of the social incentives for the purpose. The problem however boils down to evolving a suitable proportion of social incentives that would give maximum economic results. But this can be obtained after a number of surveys over a period.

The analysis in the report is clear and convincing, its language lucid and refreshing and style balanced yet candid—a combination of rare qualities among government reports. India is having current evaluation of her developmental efforts for the first time and the pioneering work of the evaluation organization in the field will set a tradition for a long time to come.

C. H. SHAH

INDIAN LAND PROBLEM AND LEGISLATION; G. D. Patel, N. M. Tripathi Ltd., Bombay, 1954. Pp. xvi + 534. Rs. 15.

This book which follows the author's "Agrarian Reforms in Bombay" published in 1950, is a modest contribution on the history of land tenures and land reforms in our country. The book under review has been split up into two parts; the

first part covers the various types of special land and inam tenures in the Bombay State, the laws enacted from 1950 to 1953 to abolish them and the effects and the defects of such legislation ; the second part is devoted to the study of all-India land reforms like Bhoodan, consolidation of holdings, tenancy, and jagir and zamindari abolition.

The first part of the book is purely of historical interest. He describes various types of minor tenures in the Bombay State. The author traces the origin of each of these tenures and shows that political considerations were predominantly responsible for their creation. The study relates to the technical and administrative aspect of the tenure reforms Acts, except for the brief references to such aspects as compensation, revenue receipts from these areas after reforms and the slow pace of execution of the reforms. In particular, the analysis of socio-economic effects of these reforms is rather fragmentary.

The second part of the book which is concerned with all-India land reforms opens with a chapter on Bhoodan. The author in his usual way explains the genesis and the growth of the ideology. He has brought together from various sources the details about the aims and objects of the Movement, programmes of distribution, ideological and institutional opposition to the Movement and Bhoodan Legislation in some of the States like Hyderabad, U. P., M. P. and Orissa. The author quotes Shri Vinoba Bhave, the father of the Movement, to answer criticisms against this weapon of land redistribution and also himself volunteers to answer some of these charges. He also indicates the pitfalls in the way and suggests suitable remedies. Here again, revenue aspects figure prominently throughout.

Some of the portions of the treatment of land reforms such as the prevention of fragmentation and sub-division of holdings, tenancy, abolition of zamindaris and jagirs are highly instructive and useful. But others appear to be hackneyed and involve considerable repetition.

It should be pointed out that the treatment of the problems has been more common-place than original. Since, however, the book is meant essentially for the assorted readers such as administrators, lawyers, politicians and social workers the treatment had to be simple and understandable. It was probably for the same reason that the author might have attempted to keep the study mainly factual in nature.

N. H. SHAH

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ; D. S. Chauhan, Laxmi Narayan Agrawal, Agra, 1953. Pp. 354. Rs. 12.

Literature on 'Agricultural Economics' is comparatively scarce in our country and therefore, any new book on the subject is always welcome. Dr. Chauhan's book is more so, as it claims "to provide a clear and full understanding of the subject of Agricultural Economics."

The book is divided into eight chapters. In the first chapter, the definition, nature and scope of Agricultural Economics are briefly discussed. Agricultural

Fundamentalism is the theme of the second chapter. In the third, the features of the agricultural economy as distinguished from the industrial economy are set forth. In this connection, the Law of Diminishing Returns as applied to Land has been analysed. The types of farming—specialised, diversified and mixed—and the problem of selection and valuation of farms are discussed in the fourth. A brief historical review of the economic transition in India is attempted in the fifth chapter. Incidentally, the impact of social environment on the economic life of the people, the rural-urban relationships, and the reorganisation of villages are also discussed. As a model, the working of the village organization in the U. P. composed of the Gaon Sabha, the Gaon Panchayat and the Panchayati Adalat are analysed. Famines are the subject matter of the sixth chapter. In the last two chapters, the problems of resource utilization are dealt with. Some important factual data about the major River Valley, Irrigation and Power Projects launched in India, are also given. A number of maps, sketches and snaps are interspersed to illustrate the discussion.

The chief merit of the book consists in the author's attempt to blend together the theory of agricultural economics and the discussion of Indian economic problems. The discussion however on both the theory and the problems becomes inadequate with the result that sometimes it does not give a clear understanding of either to the reader. That may be due to the small compass of the book and the wide scope of the subject embraced. For the same reason, certain relevant important topics could not be covered.

Moreover, the arguments and analysis are sometimes confusing. For instance, while discussing the environment of villages, the author brings in the controversy of culture and civilization; "The rate of variation in culture and civilization depends upon biological inheritance, physical environment and cultural endowment" (p. 35) and jumps to the conclusion that "It is our environment which is mostly responsible for the present state of economic backwardness" (p. 36). After a moment the reader is told "it does not mean that environment is wholly responsible for our present backwardness." This leaves the reader wondering. "Besides, what we call modern economic progress is commercial, industrial and urban civilization. It aims at power, profit, greed, and glorification of the individual rather than at social stability and solidarity. Even in the West the social consequences of it have been very unhappy, and life is becoming more artificial, complicated and unhappy" (p. 123). These lines remind us of the remarks of Ruskin! That is not all. Regretting the urbanization, which has taken an "ugly shape," the author writes "Urbanization..... has taken such an ugly shape that water, light, air, soil, the basic environments of life are becoming more and more difficult to procure. The environment is becoming gradually unfit for a happy life....." However, he admits that "These pecuniary processes may be considered satisfactory on economic grounds, but humanly speaking they are low forms of activity. The mechanical ingenuities, the pecuniary pride and the splendid devices in providing the material basis of life are simply the symptoms of spiritual failure" (p. 143). The author thus seems to forget at times that he is writing a book on economics!

"Physically, our cities have failed to provide the basic conditions of life, socially there is no civic and community life and culturally the human personality

is dwarfed" (p. 143). His attack on cities continues till he calls their existence, as "parasitic" as depending upon 'rural exploitation' and so on. A student of economics will find it difficult to agree with all this.

As an instance of his complicated sentences the following may be read "In the final analysis, it is the concept of Resource Relativity, or the functional interpretation of natural resources in relation to volume and quality and also space and time that gives a clue to the growth of civilization and economic progress" (p. 204). Or for that matter "It is the universal process of action and re-action of man and his environment, or of the human community and the regional complex that symbolizes itself in a distinctive genus of life in a given region" (p. 347). The author then proceeds to the "inadequate, indiscreet and indiscriminate manipulation and utilization of resources" as the reason for the destruction of the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Babylon, Greece, Rome, India and China (p. 348). It must be remembered that the 'ecological complex' cannot be the sole reason and that other reasons are also to be explained to give a balanced and scientific explanation.

The mixing up of ethics, sociology and philosophy and economics in this way considerably undermines the comprehensive synopsis that give one the first impression of a first rate study.

N. A. MUJUMDAR

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF SAURASHTRA ; C. N. Vakil, D. T. Lakdawala and M. B. Desai, Information and Publication Department, Rajkot, 1953. Pp. xv + 664.

The necessity to carry out fact-finding investigations to help formulation of economic policy is now generally accepted in India. In spite of the recommendations made long ago in the Bowley-Robertson Report, 1934 not much was done even by the Government to organise systematic collection of economic statistics. The position was much worse in many of the Indian States where the standards of administration, the maturity of political and economic understanding as well as the resources, human and financial, were much poorer. As Prof. Vakil in his preface has pointed out, "Economic information was conspicuous by its absence in Saurashtra. The standard of administration was low, and therefore the statistics collected in or required for the process were few." When therefore, the various Kathiawar states were unified to form the State of Saurashtra, the new Government started with a handicap. The formulation of any proper economic policy was possible only if basic data about economic conditions was collected. The Government of Saurashtra decided to entrust the task of carrying out an economic survey of the State to the Bombay University School of Economics and Sociology. The task was undertaken in 1949 and the present report was published in 1953.

The survey consists of two parts—the first based mainly on the information that could be collected from published reports, unpublished official records, etc., and the second, based mainly on the results of a special investigation. The first part deals with all aspects of the economy of the state and presents valuable econo-

mic information and suggestions. The second part is interesting because it presents some very interesting data about urban and rural conditions. Data were collected by selecting certain representative urban and rural areas and collecting information from households by random sampling in urban and stratified sampling in rural areas. In the latter, while generally a 10% sample was taken, in the case of certain odd occupations where the number of families was less than 10, at least one family was included. The data give us a good picture of the economic conditions in Saurashtra. As in the case of most statistical enquiries, we do not get any startling conclusions but only get a confirmation of the general ideas that we already have about economic conditions. But even this is very much worthwhile. For example, it is interesting to note that there is a considerable similarity in the income structures of artisans and clerks (p. 435, table XXV-15). It is also useful to note that while the proportion of illiterate to total persons is less in the younger than in the older age groups, the difference is too small (p. 439). The overlapping of caste and class groups is also brought out (p. 440-41). Data on family budgets are very interesting. The fact that the lowest income group spends 72% of its income on food while the highest income group spends only 53% may seem obvious; but that the proportionate expenditure on clothing does not much vary (10% in lowest, 11% in highest) is rather surprising. The attitude regarding different types of food is also brought out. Rice, wheat, bajra and pulses are consumed by large numbers in all income groups; but jowar is not much consumed by the rich. The fact that the per capita consumption of foodgrains varies considerably between income groups (20.3 lbs. per month in lowest and 29.3 in highest though the increase is not regular) brings out the extent of poverty. The low per capita consumption of tea in higher income groups (Table XXV-38, p. 459) is surprising. Is it that in this area people drink tea only when they cannot afford to drink milk? In respect of rural areas also we get some significant conclusions. For example, we find that the highest incomes (per capita) are obtained not by non-cultivating owners but by supervisory farmers.

Prof. Vakil has pointed out that 'in many important ways, socio-economic inquiry is like a firm in an industry subject to increasing returns from external economics.' This is an important point to remember about factual economic investigations. There is a tendency to decry factual research. It is only by such investigations that we can check our economic analysis and see how far it is close to reality; and secondly, as the number of such enquiries and investigations increases, it will become more and more possible to compare the results obtained in different regions or at different times.

H. K. PARANJPE

THE ECONOMICS OF ESTATE FARMING; R. K. Hazari, *The Indian Society of Agricultural Economics*, Bombay, 1954. Pp. xii + 73. Rs. 3.

The publication is the outcome of the dissertation offered by the author at his M. A. Examination in lieu of one paper in Agricultural Economics. As the title suggests the book tries to study the economics of the estate farming as a form of organising farm production.

It has been divided into two parts : The first part gives the account of the working of the estate farm at Walchandnagar, and the second part studies the merits and demerits of the alternative forms of organising farm production. The author has discussed peasant and the co-operative farming as alternatives. The last chapter discusses the locational problems of estate farming. The appendix on capital deepening at the end winds up the discussion.

The subject of the book is one of the ticklish problems of the agricultural economics. There is lack of unanimity of opinion even among master authors regarding conclusiveness of the merits of different types of production organizations in agriculture. Regarding treatment of the subject also there is no agreed opinion. Many would include careful consideration of the non-economic aspect of the problem as this problem touches the most vital part of the Society—the social structure. Results of research into the economics of the scale of production in agriculture are not available. The earlier researches in costs of cultivation only serve to evaluate methods employed. Due to lack of authentic evidence the subject demands very great care in its treatment. For the new entrant in the field the subject is therefore bound to prove tough. The present author has not escaped fully this handicap. The lack of clear comprehension of the scope of the subject and the emotional attachment to the investigation results further prevent clear perspective from being obtained.

The author travels the vast and shoreless sea and at the end of the discussion suddenly decides about the scope of estate farming in our country, without, even at that stage, giving its definition clearly.

The reader gets an impression from the arguments and the statistical evidence and citations brought to support them that the author would recommend estate farming for universal adoption. There is also a shift in the criterion to judge the merits of the alternative forms of organisation. The author puts his faith initially in the criterion of optimum combination of (1) economic efficiency (2) social welfare and (3) individual freedom. During the discussion the latter two seem to slip off, the emphasis being confined only to the first one. The three attributes of estate farming, *viz.*, (1) increased yields (2) capital formation and (3) the combination of agriculture with industry, adopted by the author to weigh the comparative merits of alternate forms of production organizations are indicators of the economic efficiency only. This shift in the basis of judgment has introduced a bias in the discussion. Particularly in regard to co-operative farming this has resulted into conflicting statements made at different places. The reader gets the impression that the love of social values of co-operatives and lure of economic attributes of estate farms pulls the author's thoughts in opposite directions leaving him indecisive at the end.

In our country there are very few estate farms which are scattered widely, differing considerably in organisation and sowing a variety of crops. Under the circumstances, a study of any one unit gives a biased picture. Besides, the unit studied has many favourable factors like canal irrigation and vicinity of big towns, assured labour due to famine areas around it and adequate finance. The study of this unit therefore increases the bias already inherent in the author's opinion for one case study.

The statistical statements at the end of the first part would have been more useful if they had been analysed and properly commented upon. The causes of trends like fall in employment accompanied by increased investment, production and profits could be fully understood without them.

During the war and post-war prosperity of agriculture the problem of scale and form of production organizations in agriculture had receded into the background. With the return of comparative normalcy it has assumed importance once again and economic planning has made the need for the study of this problem more urgent. The author should be congratulated for stressing the need for such studies by undertaking one himself at the right moment.

C. H. SHAH

INTRODUCTION TO RURAL SOCIOLOGY IN INDIA ; A. R. Desai, The Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Bombay, 1953. Pp. viii + 257. Rs. 8.

The theme of this book is the need to study the development of rural life in India and its present characteristics in order to deal with problems of rural reconstruction. While India was under British rule, the old type of rural life was destroyed in the economic and political interests of the foreign rulers, without its being replaced by a way of life which was socially, economically and culturally more advanced. The freedom which India attained six years ago has given rise to the opportunity of reconstituting life in India. Eighty per cent of India now lives in villages. The reconstruction of India is, therefore, largely rural. There is need to approach rural life with understanding as well as sympathy if its healthy growth is to be designed and achieved. The author in Part I of the book makes an analysis of rural life in India and stresses the importance of such an analysis for future progress. To readjust the balance between the rural and the urban, one needs to know how these differ in occupation, environment, size of the community, density of population, homogeneity or otherwise of the population, pace of life and social interactions. In several chapters, he deals with agriculture, land tenure, standard of life, joint family system, working of caste, political and artistic life, religion, growth of modern education and the changes that are taking place in rural life in India. In Part II, he gives extracts from prominent writers of the West dealing with the growing importance of a study of rural sociology.

The reconstruction of India is largely designed by urban agencies which, unless they are equipped with an analytical knowledge of rural life, are apt to make wrong proposals. In the present day, thought and life in India are clashing on a continental scale. India has been a leader of the rural way of Asian life. The U. K., the U. S. A. and the West generally are impinging on Indian life with a predominantly urban outlook. The incursion of science and technology from the West affects the old ideology, standard of life and pace of growth which India has sustained for long in her villages. Yet India has to take her place as a leading nation of the world because while in the material conditions of life she has to make a great leeway in things of the spirit her contributions are considerable and useful to the world. India owes it to herself and to the world to readjust her life to the basic common pattern that is emerging in the world.

Rural Sociology is a science that has hardly received attention in India. The Indian Society of Agricultural Economics has rendered a valuable service to the reconstruction of life in India by publishing this study of the subject by a competent writer and drawing attention to such studies already published elsewhere. The book may well be recommended to all those who are engaged in the task of planning and development of a new India.

S. V. RAMAMURTY

POST-WAR AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS AND POLICIES IN INDIA ;
S. Thirumalai, The Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Bombay, 1954.
Pp. xiii + 280. Rs. 12.

In recent years, Western countries have been evincing increased interest in the problems of India's economy. The Institute of Pacific Relations, New York, which has been responsible for a number of leading publications about the South Asian and South East Asian economies, sponsored a research study into the "Post-War Agricultural Problems and Policies in India" early in 1952 and extended an invitation to the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Bombay, for conducting the same. This monograph which has been prepared by Mr. S. Thirumalai embodies the results of the study completed under the auspices of the Society. The monograph contains a thought-provoking foreword by Sir Manilal B. Nanavati, President, Indian Society of Agricultural Economics. Among other things, the monograph contains four maps, six graphs and sixty five statistical tables. There is no doubt that the present work is a worthy sequel to the famous Nanavati-Anjaria volume on "The Indian Rural Problem" which too was prepared under the auspices of the Society.

The publication has a wide canvas. Part I gives an account of the historical background. There are interesting Chapters on Indian Agriculture in Pre-War Period, War and Indian Agriculture, and Partition and Indian Agriculture. Chapter IV entitled "Main Problems" attempts to present in a nutshell the leading facets of India's agricultural economy. The author has drawn pointed attention to the problem of population pressure. Part II entitled, "Basic Factors in Indian Agriculture" contains three Chapters. The Chapter on "Land Use" utilises the data made available by the Census. Chapter VI presents statistical data about the production trends in food crops, non-food crops, plantation crops and livestock and forest products. Chapter VII on "Agricultural Capacity" contains an interesting discussion about the gap between the food supply necessary to meet the needs of nutrition and the available food producing capacity. There is also a discussion of the agricultural capacity in so far as the supply of raw materials to the industries are concerned. A detailed account of the various measures undertaken by different State organizations to bring about increased production of agricultural commodities is also presented.

Part III on "Basic Problems and their Solution" is perhaps the most interesting part of the entire monograph. This contains Chapters on Agrarian Reforms, Farm Organization, Technology in Agricultural Development, Agricultural Credit, Social Change and Rural Welfare. An important aspect of post-war and post-Independence economic history in India is the efforts made by State Governments

and the Central Government to introduce various types of reforms in the method of agricultural production and organization. Mr. Thirumalai has sought to find out whether there is any unified perspective underlying these diverse reforms. The Chapter on "Relationship between Technology and Agricultural Development" contains a valuable discussion of agricultural potentialities. An effort has also been made to find out how India compares with the rest of the world in respect of productive efficiency in the utilization of agricultural resources. The author rightly draws attention to the need for new investigations on the economic aspects of the measures to increase farm output. "The crucial problem that confronts the farmer, the physical scientist or the State which recommends the application of any technique or progress is 'What costs are involved in the adoption of new technique and to what extent and under what circumstances will it pay?'" There is no doubt that considerable resources have been utilised by the State authorities in India on technological research, but it is obvious that there does exist a considerable gap between the research that is being conducted in the specialised institutions and the practical utility of such methods. It is not always that a Government authority recognizes that all technological research is to have its counterpart in economic investigation, otherwise, what is technologically possible is not always economically feasible or practicable. The author has suggested a number of useful ways in which technology in India can become more useful to the country. It is in this sense that economic enquiries have a social product, though the method of investigation or the conclusions are not always as spectacular and as capable of catching the imagination of the powers that be as technological investigations are. The Chapters on Agricultural Credit, Social Change and Rural Welfare present broad account of the current position in regard to these problems. The latter particularly may be found interesting from the point of view of the Western reader who might like to know some details about the Community Development Projects and the National Extension Service.

The different ideas scattered throughout the book are brought together in the conclusion which incidentally discusses the role accorded to agriculture in India's Five Year Plan and also contains an account of the programmes of different political parties in regard to agrarian reform. The author rightly suggests that there is a real conflict between the current measures of land reform which propose a ceiling on the land holdings and the objective of efficiency in agriculture, which will not be attained without an enlargement of the size of the operating units. He rightly draws attention to the need for harnessing the potentialities of agriculture under a rational system of economic organization. According to the author, the land reforms at present initiated are more in the nature of measures for social amelioration and lack an economic perspective of efficiency in agriculture. The author concludes by laying emphasis on the need for formulation of an agricultural policy on a longer-term perspective. There is no doubt that this does imply a considerable extent of State control and direction of agriculture. The author has rightly pointed out that agricultural policy must first discover points at which friction and maladjustments are in evidence in relation to the policy of industrialization. The book, however, ends in an optimistic note which, in the opinion of the reviewer, is not borne out by the facts and the analysis presented in it.

There is no doubt that the author has brought under focus a vast amount of material as well as a large range of problems. The difficulty, however, is that the

monograph does not give adequate importance to the need for integrating the studies on agricultural problems with the broader problems of economic development. The book does not provide an answer to those who seek solution of problems like the possible effects of policies of industrialization on the agricultural economy, the extent to which the growth of the economy is hamstrung by agricultural backwardness, the relative degree of emphasis that has to be placed on agriculture and industry in capital investment programmes, the possibility of an immediate improvement in the level of income of agricultural classes and its effects on capital formation and so on. This, however, is a defect of most of the studies pertaining to agricultural problems in India, and the monograph tries to make some effort to study the problems of agriculture in a more general perspective. It is possible to hold a view that the author should have gone further in this direction.

It must be recognized that on some of the problems suggested there is no sufficient basis to draw any firm conclusions. There is no doubt that students of economics in India as well as abroad owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics and Mr. Thirumalai for presenting this publication. The Institute of Pacific Relations deserve our sincere thanks for sponsoring the study.

P. R. BRAHMANANDA

STUDIES IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS—VOL. I ; Issued by the Economic and Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi, 1954. Pp. 145. Rs. 3/2.

This Brochure is a collection of fifteen articles which have already been published in the "Agricultural Situation in India." It is in four parts under the subjects, Food Problem, Commodities and Commodity Controls, Agricultural Statistics, and Rural Credit and Rural Institutions. The article on Consolidation of Holdings seems to have been grouped under "Rural Credit and Rural Institutions" through mistake.

The volume brings in one place articles which throw light on some of the current problems of Indian Agriculture. The selection of articles, however, should not have been restricted only to those that appeared in the "Agricultural Situation in India." There is no reason why genuine research articles which have been published in other journals should not be included in these volumes in Studies in Agricultural Economics. The forthcoming volumes can be made to serve a more useful purpose if the above suggestion is fulfilled. Such a selection of articles would help to honour those research workers and writers who deserve it and thereby provide further incentive for doing real research in Agricultural Economics. This type of encouragement is given in foreign countries. For instance, the American Farm Economic Association offers prizes to the best written research articles every year.

Further, the volumes now under preparation and publication may be compiled on a different line. Just as under "Agricultural Legislation in India" Series, land laws pertaining to different agrarian problems have been brought together under separate volumes, so also under the Series "Studies in Agricultural

Economics", extracts from unpublished theses prepared by various research scholars and articles published in various journals on the same problem, say Capital Formation in Agriculture, can be published in a single volume. This will enable the students and research workers in agricultural economics for whom these volumes are chiefly meant, to weigh the viewpoints of different schools of thought and proceed with their own studies and research after being fully armed with available data.

H. B. SHIVAMAGGI

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF INDIAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ; Issued by the Economic and Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi, 1954. Pp. 194. Rs. 3/6.

Here at last is a volume which will be very useful to the students of Indian Agricultural Economics. Combined with the Census of Agricultural Economics Research conducted by the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics during last year, this Bibliography enables us to gauge where study and research in Agricultural Economics in this country stand at present. A periodical supplement to this Bibliography giving additions to the literature on Agricultural Economics from time to time will greatly enhance the value of this publication.

The Bibliography has been divided into five parts containing 33 chapters in all. On each important aspect of Rural Economics, there is a chapter. A perusal of the books listed under different heads indicates that most of our publications in Agricultural Economics including some of the Reports are of general nature covering many aspects of the Indian Rural Problem while specialised studies on certain specific aspects are very few in number. It is for this reason that we find the names of the same books repeated in different sections. For instance, one cannot fail to notice the dearth of research on land taxation, economics of famines, mechanization of agriculture, etc.

H. B. SHIVAMAGGI

AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION IN INDIA—VOL. IV—LAND REFORMS (Abolition of Intermediaries) ; Issued by the Economic and Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi, 1953. Pp. xxxvi + 527. Rs. 12.

This is the fourth volume in the series on "Agricultural Legislation in India" compiled and published by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India. It deals with land legislation pertaining to the abolition of intermediaries. The purpose of these volumes is to present various Acts of agrarian reforms in one place and in a manner which would make comparative analysis possible.

The volume opens with a brief historical review of the land problem in India. This is followed by a comparative study of the different Acts. After this introductory analysis, all the Acts about abolition of intermediaries so far enacted in India have been reproduced under three separate heads for Parts A, B and C States. For a comparative study of land reforms in India the compilation will be very useful.

H. B. SHIVAMAGGI

PRINCIPLES OF APPRAISAL ; Giuseppe Medici, Edizioni Agricole, Bologna, Italy, 1954. Pp. ix + 254.

The science of agricultural economics is expanding its frontiers. Many of the border subjects have come to be studied by the agricultural economists. The book under review deals with such a border line subject. It studies the science of appraisal—valuation of land and other estates. The author of the book Giuseppe Medici is a renowned agricultural economist with several standard publications to his credit. He is the head of the Department of Appraisal, University of Naples and President, National Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rome. As he originally writes in Italian language his works are available to us only when they are translated in English. The present book has been so thoroughly written that it can be prescribed as a text book to all who are interested in the study of the subject.

The book has been divided into two parts. Part I deals with the general problems, Part II is devoted to the study of specific issues such as appraisal of improvements, reclamation, water for irrigation, forage crops, etc. Each chapter in the book is more or less self-contained.

The terms used in the book have mostly Italian connotations which differ from those known to the English World. Besides, there are a few other terms which have a special appraisal meaning. Most of them have been explained in the glossary given at the end of the book. The book also contains mathematic formulae but those allergic to them may skip them over without losing the essence of the subject.

The main contribution of the book is contained in its first part. The author pleads here for the synthetic approach—combining the capitalization and the market price—to the problem of land appraisal. This is a distinct addition to the theory of appraisal known to English readers.

The problem of public appraisal of land assumes greater significance in India with the introduction of various land reforms, property taxes, and major irrigation and other works involving acquisition of land for public purposes. Even such pieces of reforms as redemption of debts require farm lands to be appraised by public agencies. The co-operative societies also need the help of this science to guide their lending policy. The book is therefore of topical importance to our country and apart from the students of the subject, others concerned with any of the above activities would also benefit by it.

C. H. SHAH

AGRICULTURAL PLANNING FOR MADRAS ; C. W. B. Zacharias, University of Madras, Madras, 1953. Pp. 191. Rs. 10.

This little book, which is more or less a companion volume to the author's earlier publication, Madras Agriculture, offers in an analytical way an interesting study of the intricacies of agricultural planning. The book deals with available facts in a very elegant and attractive style.

As the author says, planning in agriculture is an uphill task and it is more so in this country. Hence the subject requires a special study. The book consists of twelve chapters, dealing with the different aspects of planning. In the first few chapters, he has brought forth a very interesting study of the general principles of planning and the various stages in its execution. About land ownership in particular the author feels that it should vest in the cultivator with a provision that the land should not be further sub-divided. This idea, though very progressive, still requires time and patience for its successful translation in actual practice in this country.

According to Mr. Zacharias, co-operation is the best panacea for all the ills of agriculture. This is certainly true, for, as he himself puts it, "pending the formation of co-operative farms, individual farms of the economic size, which *in due course*, coupled with co-operative better farming societies, offer scope for an advance to a higher plane of production and income." He holds the same view with regard to the renovation of Indian rural credit structure. According to him, "if the co-operative structure is developed to the extent desired, that organisation itself will be sufficient to take on the task of credit supply," and further, "co-operation aided on the one hand by the powerful resources of the Reserve Bank and on the other by the Government, should be able to meet all the legitimate needs."

That portion of the book which deals with economic planning is stimulating. Elucidating the objects of economic planning, Mr. Zacharias says "the end of all economic planning is the increase in wealth production with a minimum expenditure of resources and the relating of the quantum of wealth produced in each line to social need." The author then deals at length with facts and figures of the developments achieved by the State of Madras in the fields of production, irrigation, etc. He has also paid a considerable attention to the arduous task of setting up proper machinery to carry out the plan. The author's ideas about the role of controls in planning too deserve attention. His concluding chapters impart sombre new ideas. In particular, his opinion that in order to achieve the goals set under planning, co-operation between private and public bodies, with particular reference to financial requirements, is very essential.

Although the author has drawn heavily on the conditions in Madras to illustrate his thesis, it offers interesting information to the reader about the all India conditions.

(Miss) S. N. LEEBA

REPORT OF THE MISSION ON COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA; United Nations, New York, 1953. Pp. 167. \$. 2.50.

This 167-page mimeographed report of the U. N. Mission has its essence contained in the first 42 pages dealing with the social and economic aspects of the national community programmes. The rest of the report deals with such aspects

as voluntary agencies, training of personnel, and technical assistance. The appendices which occupy nearly two-thirds of the report give outline sketches of selected community projects visited by the Mission in India, Ceylon, Thailand and Philippines.

The main thesis of the report is that in under-developed countries between the two competing needs of social welfare and economic betterment, the latter has greater urgency. The obstacle of the shortage of resources preventing economic growth however can be overcome to an extent by employing social incentives to ensure greater use of idle human resources and better use of other resources. The community development programme with its stress on self-help, co-operative action, local leadership and social welfare has in it these incentives in adequate measures. Further, to achieve the economic betterment the community development programme will be conceived within the balanced national development with agricultural production expanding faster than the rate of increase in population. The social incentives would be brought into play beside the normal features of the community programme, by a judicious policy of what the Mission describes as 'compensatory breach with tradition'—meaning technical changes bringing immediate results to be preferred to those giving long term results.

Though on the whole the approach of social incentives is wholesome, it is not free from drawbacks. It can be pertinently asked whether in general the economic growth induced mainly by social incentives would be sufficiently rapid. Besides, there is always a danger of overdoing it in action since the persons engaged in implementing the programme always feel the social needs of the community more pressing. The slow pace of overall progress of the community development projects in India during their first year of working despite a much larger expenditure on social services gives rise to both these doubts. This however, only stresses the need for further study of this standpoint because one year's experience may be inadequate to judge the results.

There is one more point. The community development programme envisaged in the first Five Year Plan of India as well as one discussed in this report is an omnibus developmental measure. It is likely to overlook the special needs if any, of different sections of the Society. For instance, the general social incentives through social services may not be able to evoke proportionate response especially from the small farmers who lack the wherewithal of economic progress. Unless these needs are studied and measures to suit them are devised, no significant progress can be expected from them. And these small farmers constitute a large majority in a country like India. One wonders why the U. N. Report has omitted reference to this important problem.

The report purposely restricts the discussion of the subject mainly to the principles, as they studied the problem only during the initial stages of the community development scheme and stayed in this region only for a short duration of six weeks. A detailed evaluation of the working of these principles in practice would have been of greater value. However, it does not rob the report of its main importance, as it helps to clear the ground in regard to the socio-economic rationale behind the community development programme.

Apart from the main theme, the report has many significant suggestions which are born out of the long experience of the authors in their respective fields, which deserve a sympathetic trial. The multi-purpose training of auxiliary agencies, the working of unlimited credit co-operatives instead of multi-purpose and limited co-operatives, the development of voluntary agencies in preference to voluntary projects, and the expansion of the multi-purpose approach to be multi-processed and multi-focussed are a few instances.

The report is thought provoking and one can reasonably expect it to be followed by more research works on the subject.

C. H. SHAH

ANIMAL NUTRITION RESEARCH IN INDIA ; K. C. Sen, Macmillan & Co., Ltd., Bombay, 1953. Pp. xii + 370. Rs. 15.

The Monograph under review is one of the series of Research Studies prepared on the recommendation of Sir John Russell in his Report (1937) on the application of science to crop production in India. As Dr. Sen, the author, has appropriately put it, it is more or less a critical review of the research work done in the field of Animal Husbandry and a careful analysis of the results of many of the experiments in Nutrition Research. As admitted by him, the Review is not complete for lack of suitable data for a number of experiments and in these cases, the author has attempted to piece together the available information and to describe the general conclusions. The work carried out by Indian workers in Foreign laboratories has also been included.

The Monograph contains 11 chapters, of which the first one provides the background compiling much useful information on the basic factors of Indian Agriculture. The soil conditions, climatic variations and population density of the different regions have all a bearing on factors affecting the development of Animal Husbandry in India. The agricultural economist will find some authentic data in this chapter, on the economic aspects of livestock development, such as the availability of cattle food, supply of cultivated fodder, extent of available grazing, productive capacity of Indian animals, milk production in cows, buffaloes and goats, sheep farming, poultry improvement, meat production etc. Similarly, the concluding chapter deals with dairy science, in addition to the nutrition of milch animals and its effect on their production. This information should also be of interest to economists. The other chapters deal with the technical aspects and possibly may not interest the general reader or the economist, but it is only on the basis of the results of such research experiments that any valid conclusion can be drawn on the economic aspects. Therefore, both the veterinarians and research workers in agricultural economics dealing specifically with the subject of livestock development have been provided in this Review a basis for further research.

The study reveals some interesting features in our agricultural economy. Omitting sheep, goats and horses, and considering the 215 millions of cattle only

the dry matter supply per head per day comes to about 4.4 lbs. as against the normal requirements of 8 lbs. assuming an average body weight of 400 lbs. for the Indian cattle. Thus, even for maintenance the available supply of roughages is 45% short of the actual requirements. Examining the supply of cultivated fodders, it is found that the scarcity is glaring when the density of cattle population is correlated to the unit of acreage of cultivated fodder crop. The percentage of total arable acreage devoted to fodder crop cultivation varies from 1 to 3 in Bihar, Bengal, Madras and Madhya Pradesh, is 7 in Bihar and Orissa, 9 in Uttar Pradesh, 13 in Bombay, and 22 in the Punjab. For the whole of India it is barely 5. This is an important aspect to be considered in the pattern of crop planning that may be visualised in the transition to efficient agriculture.

Though the Monograph has been originally prepared in 1943 but published in 1953, the results of the experiments reviewed in it will be of immense use in current researches where livestock development has been recognised to be an integral part of planning in agriculture and Rural Life.

S. THIRUMALAI

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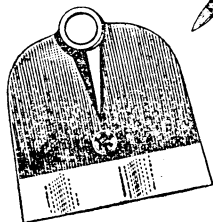
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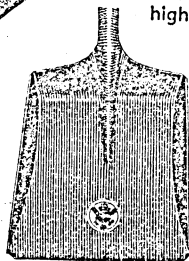


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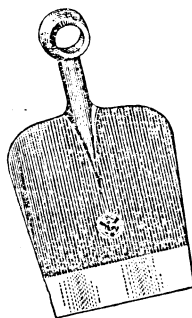
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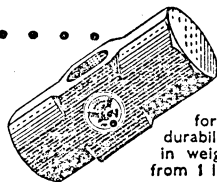


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