

discussed the four main Transfer of Technology (ToT) projects of ICAR on-going at the national level and focused much on KVK interventions that has impacted socio-cultural changes in the farming communities.

In second chapter, author presented the findings of some studies conducted across the nation. In most of the studies, the role and importance of new technology in farm production were highlighted. Very few scholars discussed the impact of economic development on social structure, social institutions and social practices. In chapter three, author discussed about the study objectives, methodology adopted in selection of sampled sub-region, blocks and villages of Chhindwara district in Madhya Pradesh State. The criteria followed in selection of respondents and use of data collection instruments is discussed. In the fourth chapter, socio-economic profile of the respondents is presented.

Prof. Chaudhary presented the respondents' views and opinions on Exposure to and Adoption of KVK in fifth chapter. The observations indicate that majority of the villagers know about presence and functioning of KVK in their villages. They utilised the services of KVK and experienced the benefit of change in cropping pattern which shifted from production for consumption to production for market. Role of KVK scientists, capacity building programmes, front line demonstrations by KVK representatives were perceived as enabling factors for the success of KVK projects. Respondents also perceived that KVK have still to pave its road among relatively poor farmers having marginal landholdings and residing in extreme remote areas. KVK needs to introduce few schemes especially for the benefit of poor and landless communities.

Author discussed about the respondents' perceptions on KVK, Agriculture Modernisation and Income in the sixth chapter. In the study villages, KVK succeeded in diffusion of new farm technology among majority of the farming community. As a result, it increased their income and institutional savings. In seventh chapter, author discussed about the impact of KVK on social changes. KVK intervention not only improved their income levels but also brought a sea change in their physical quality of life. It changed the villagers' attitude against out-migration. Productivity enhancement forced farming community to frequently visit urban areas to sell their produce. Exposure to urban culture changed their attitude towards health, children education, dress pattern, means of entertainment, environmental cleanliness and so on.

Few best case studies are presented in eighth chapter indicating the KVK interventions and the benefits accrued by the farmers. In the ninth chapter, Prof. Chaudhary suggested the policy strategies such as timely availability of quality inputs (Seeds, Fertilisers, Pesticides, Equipment's, etc), concept of community seed bank and seed village and community centres for value addition, etc.

This book will be of immense use to all the agriculture scholars, progressive farmers and NGOs who are involved in agricultural extension activities.

Dr. V. Suresh Babu

Bio-innovation and Poverty Alleviation: Case Studies from Asia, Edited by Edsel E. Sajor, Bernadette P Resurreccion and Sudip K Rakshit (2014), Published by Sage Publications, New Delhi.

This volume explores how bio-innovation might be linked to the problem of poverty and its reduction through an inquiry into a number of empirical cases of present-day bio-innovation in some of the Asian countries viz., Cambodia, China, India, Nepal, Philippines, South Korea and Thailand. This list of countries, of course, does not exhaust the complete list of countries in the region that have employed bio-innovation projects for an explicit or tacit purpose of contributing to poverty alleviation. Nonetheless, this selection of country cases does provide a sufficient mosaic of experiences in Asia from where the authors could characterise several important and critical factors whose convergence and mutual interactions illumine and define the links between bio-innovation and certain poverty alleviation outcomes. These cases span a wide range of small-scale community intervention projects and large-scale macro state programmes, with multiple focal levels, and at various stages of planning, implementation, and maturation.

The forms of bio-innovation in the cases studied comprise new technology applications and adoption in the field of medicine, fish farming, rice cultivation, genetically modified organism (GMO) cotton, organic vegetables, safe water supply provisioning, and fuel for cooking. But the basic point of departure of inquiry in each case examined is actual and / or potential ameliorative effect on the poor of each bio-innovation initiative.

The book offers important insights into various forms of bio-innovation efforts and their effects on poverty alleviation. The central question being addressed in these case studies is: In what ways, and under what circumstances and conditions, do certain bio-innovations affect the poor and poverty alleviation? What

may be the critical factors and conditions for improving bio-innovations' positive impact on poverty alleviation? The authors of this volume present some important insights from the cases that shape particular bio-innovations and their effects on poverty alleviation. The discussion in this book has been divided into four major themes: (a) actual, direct, and prospective benefits for the poor; (b) absence of positive impacts and institutional constraints; (c) major drivers of pro-poor outcomes; and (d) embedding bio-innovation in anti-poverty strategies.

In the introductory part, the editors have culled important insights from all the cases. It reads like a connective summary with a peep into each case briefly putting across the critical points each study makes on bio-technological innovation and poverty reduction. The very opening of the book is delightful outlining various major narratives about science, technology and development, and their implications to societal welfare. It lures the reader to glide into reading on and on. The book articulates an emerging consensus among science, technology, society experts, and development practitioners that while new technology and bio-innovations are important and necessary components in improving societal welfare - including alleviating poverty - these should not be inferred as either the sole driver or as the most critical element in lifting people out of poverty. It means to say that pathways to poverty alleviation that may involve science and technology cannot simply be technical fixes but have to handle relevant social, cultural and institutional dimensions for success. The book also deals with the role of private sector and the state players in promoting bio-technological innovations with a view to reducing poverty or enhancing human welfare.

Generally case study writers adopt the style of capturing and writing, which often becomes impressionistic. Contrary to this view, each case presented in this volume followed rigorous methodological care that it can help especially young researchers to learn how to introduce methodological soundness in case studies, besides the benefit of ideas being taken up for trial / demonstration in other

countries in this region. This is a highly readable book. Each case is immensely informative. Although written by several authors, the language and flow are so cogent and convincing that a reader who straight away opens up the book for reading cannot make out that it's an edited book.

Dr. R Ramesh