

encompass the role of an agronomist, irrigation engineer, a scientist, a cooperative expert, an economist and a social scientist. The strategy adopted in the book is to set up a self-sustained development authority with an area of jurisdiction equal to the mainland India and make it responsible for bringing about this transformation even to modern agriculture. The production and destruction of resources are the two extreme points and in between these two the second one takes several forms in order to serve mankind.

Overall, the history of forest dwellers, resources and approaches for ecosystem were analysed based on the problems and distribution of forest type and its products that necessitate the conservation of forest for both national as well as global context. The author stresses the need for prevention of water resources by elaborating the existing status and problems in the irrigation systems and reservoirs. The author has not forgotten to analyse the impacts of urbanisation and industrialisation that cause damage to sustainable development of the region in his book. He also cautions the distribution of industry which not only pollutes the environment but also carnage the rural livelihoods. The author also discusses road and transport infrastructure that includes railways, waterways and surface transport systems and prescribed some policy initiatives for future endeavour.

Though data used are obsolete, this book presents obvious ideas for conservation and management of resources and presenting analysis of the various elements involved in integrated development of resources and resource systems that subject specialist, researcher, planner and policy maker will find this book interesting and useful.

– Dr. R. Murugesan

**Technology and Rural India**, Edited by : S. V. Prabhath and P. Ch. Sita Devi, Published in 2012 by Global Research Publications, New Delhi, Pages 274, Price : ₹350.

Science and technology are often hyphenated and spoken of in the same breadth. One would, however, like to differentiate the two. Technology generally (though not always) derives and draws from science, and often manifests itself in physical form — for example, as a piece of hardware. Science, on the other hand, is knowledge. In rural India, there is a dire inadequacy of both. Agriculture is the backbone of the rural economy that provides marginal subsistence to most of the country's population. Crop yields are far lower than what they are in demonstration farms, where science and technology are more fully applied. The scope to apply technology to both farm and non-farm activities in rural areas are huge, as are the potential benefits. Hence, it is time for technology to play its role in transforming rural India.

It is an acceptable fact that rural India faces a severe technology deficit. While serious shortages persist towards subjects like education, electricity, water, health facilities, roads etc., these are known and recognised by the public. However, the role of technology in solving these and/or other problems is but barely acknowledged, and the actual availability of technology in rural areas, at best, is marginal. The so-called digital divide is widely spoken and written about; the technology divide is hardly mentioned. Yet, this disparity is arguably more important, as it has far greater impact.

The progress of technology and development, irrespective of whether rural or urban areas, among Indian states is not uniform. This book 'Technology and Rural India'

examines the existing variability of rural technology and its path of development, thereby identifying the factors responsible for appropriate use and application of different technologies at the grassroots level. Keeping in view viability of technology across the fields, a composite index of appropriate technologies was discussed in the book based on five broadly accepted sections like a) Technology and Integrated Rural Development; b) Technology in improving rural Infrastructure; c) Technology for Service Industry vis-à-vis Rural Sector d) Transfer of Technology to the Rural Sector and e) Appropriate Rural Technology and Prototypes. The overall findings of the analysis support the general perception and application of resourceful technologies for rural development across the nation.

Rural technologies are considered as one of the most important pillars of sustainable development. The present discourse of this book, a compilation of articles written by technocrats, academicians, researchers and practitioners in their respective field of expertise, elaborates the need for establishing the sustainable technological development process at the various considerations – social, economic, political and environmental etc. Particularly, the authors viewed that access for technology and resources, which are by and large, must be ensured and protected for overall growth of the rural areas. Such effort will not only lead to optimum utilisation of resources but also generate more employment opportunities for the rural people.

The contributors of articles explained about the challenges for technology development, security measures, administrative reforms and role of governance in development administration, impact of appropriate and new technology in environment management and so on. They also provided suggestive measures to develop alternative, appropriate technologies for the

inclusive rural development. Further, the history of technology, resources and approaches for energy and ecosystem were also analysed based on the problems and distribution of type and its products necessitating the conservation of energy for both national as well as global context.

Obviously, this book presents brilliant ideas for all sections of stakeholders, users and institutions involved in transfer of technologies from lab to land. This also helps in focusing much better in tackling pertinent issues relating to conservation of technologies and management of resources and presenting analysis of various elements involved in integrated development of technology and resource systems that subject specialist, researcher, planner and policy maker will find this book interesting and useful.

– Dr. R. Murugesan

**Empowerment of Indian Muslims: Perspectives, Planning and Road Ahead** Ed. By Mirza Asmer Beg & A. R. Kidwai. Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd., Pages – i– xvi and 173, Price ₹ 550.

The book is the outcome of the research papers presented at the Heads of Departments meet organised at UGC Academic Staff College of Aligarh Muslim University. Altogether 14 papers were included in this volume focusing on the development needs of the Muslims in India. Almost all the papers emphasised the need for development of education among the Muslims. Hamida Ahmad in her (first) chapter on 'Empowerment of Muslims through Quality Education' opines that Muslims being the largest minority community of the country lag behind pathetically in education so her suggestion is 'must set high targets in this sphere'. Rais Ahmed in his paper suggested that by setting up of Education Trust, poor Muslim children can be imparted quality