

institutions and NGOs also is highlighted to join the force. In this effort, supreme care has to be taken to maintain high standards, second to none.

The government often loudly expresses its intent to create World Class institutions of higher learning. But more serious efforts will be needed to realise the dream of every Indian (rich or poor) to be educated and possibly obtain graduation. The youth, especially rural youth, who should become the nuclei of rural development and empowerment process, should be prepared for the important job of rural transformation and governance. A lot of important tasks like education, health, infrastructure, food and nutritional security are waiting for the competent youth to manage. Our institutions of higher learning should be prepared to create this critical mass.

The author is a prolific writer of books, articles etc., and has genuine interest in curing the ills of higher education. His critique on the ongoing system is quite incisive. The book is good reading and should be of interest to all those whose heart is in this area and who dream to clear the augean stables with the fastest pace.

– Dr. S.M. Ilyas

Economic Liberalisation and Indian Agriculture : A District Level Study, by Bhalla, G.S. and Gurmail Singh, 2012, Published by SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd., B1/I-1 Mohan Cooperative Industrial Area, Mathura Road, New Delhi - 110 044, (India), pp. 360, ₹ 795 (Hardback).

The book under review is an outcome of a research study conducted by the authors on 'Growth of Indian Agriculture : A District Level Study' to update the district-wise data from 1990-93 to 2003-06 with a view to comparing the performance of agriculture during the post-liberalisation period from 1990-93 to 2003-06, with the pre-liberalisation period from 1980-83 to 1990-93 and from 1962-65

to 1980-83. Adopting a comparative analysis, the book brings out the spasmodic transition of Indian agriculture from pre to post-green revolution and the deceleration from pre - to post-liberalisation period of over five decades consolidated in six chapters. The study was carried out in 17 states covering 281 districts on 35 crops for a comprehensive discussion of the cropping patterns and levels of agricultural output at the state and all India levels during the reference period.

After a brief introductory chapter, about the methodology adopted in conducting the massive study, second chapter is confined to the growth and productivity performance of agriculture which have been meticulously analysed and compared with those of the green revolution period. The author explains that the long-term (1962-2008) growth rate of crop production at 2.46 per cent per annum was achieved mainly due to cropped area and irrigation expansion in the pre-green revolution period. The authors have indicated that the pace of growth rate achieved in crop production during the green revolution period could not be sustained in the post-reform period. The decline was on account of a slowdown in the expansion of irrigation due to the decline in public investment and the failure to have fresh breakthrough in technology.

Chapter 3 is devoted to analysis of yield levels of all the crops taken together at the disaggregated district level. During 1962-65, the yield levels in most of the districts in India were abysmally low. An analysis of data on regional variations at the district level during 1962-2008 brings out the impact that the introduction of new technology has made in raising yield levels in various districts. Breakthrough in oilseeds technology under aegis of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds, leading to notable rise in productivity levels of oilseeds was noticed during 1980-93. The success of the new technology in raising yields is intimately related with the use of modern

inputs like fertilisers, tractors and tubewells. Authors have emphasised the need for strengthening rural credit institutions for not only spreading technological modernisation to backward regions, but also enabling small and marginal farmers to purchase costly inputs and machinery.

In Chapter - 4, growth rates of output and productivity have been analysed for the overall reference period. An attempt is also made to analyse the association, if any between growth rates of output and intensity of use of modern farm inputs. There is some evidence to believe that agricultural trade liberalisation has impacted the cropping pattern more than the productivity. It is also indicated that trade liberalisation provided favourable opportunities for export crops like fruits, spices and cotton, it has posed a serious challenge in maintaining competitive edge in the global market.

Chapter - 5 analysed the levels and growth of agricultural workers' productivity at the state and district levels during the reference periods. The regression estimates suggest that the prevailing inter-district differentials in per worker productivity in Indian agriculture can be bridged by expanding per worker cultivable land by promoting more intensive use of land resources, improving education and skill level of the rural labour force and the development of rural infrastructure such as rural roads and agricultural markets in the hitherto lagging regions (Bihar, MP, Maharashtra and eastern UP).

The strength of this book lies in the fact that it combines theory and practice, tabular and econometric techniques, as well as statistical measures to analyse significant issues related to agriculture in India. This volume is of immense benefit to students, researchers and practitioners in the field of Agriculture Economics.

– Dr. V. Suresh Babu

Horticulture for Tribal Development, by R.N. Hegde and S.D. Suryawanshi, 2011, Published by BAIF Development Research Foundation, Dr. Manibhai Desai Nagar, Warje, Pune – 411 058, Maharashtra (India), pp. 126, ₹ 120.

The book under review is an outcome of the work done by BAIF and MITTRA through the Adivasi Development Programme, Maharashtra (ADPM); which was the basis for the doctoral study by Dr. R. N. Hegde. This doctoral research is the basis for bringing out this document in the form of book with 10 chapters. The book describes the tribal situation in India, policies and government programmes for tribal development, importance of horticulture with regard to food security, economic prosperity and mitigating global warming. The authors have attempted to analyse the project concept, design and process of development in converting degraded lands into lush green orchards by small farmers. Further, the results of various impact assessment studies conducted by various academicians and research scholars on agri-horti-forestry (Wadi) approach have been documented.

The authors have laid emphasis on introducing the subject to the readers with tribal profile, development issues, culture and heritage, Nehru's vision of tribal conservation, historical perspectives and policies, tribal education and hostel facilities, tribal development programmes and their implementation and Central and state plans. They have also discussed about the major organisations involved in tribal development such as National SC and ST Financial and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Scheduled Tribe Financial Development Corporation (NSTFDC), Large Sized Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS), Tribal Research Institutions, Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).