

Book Reviews

‘PERSPECTIVES IN AGRICULTURAL TYPOLOGY’

Edited by

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In 1964, the International Geographical Union set up a commission on Agricultural Typology. Since then, agricultural geographers world over, have taken keen interest in the concepts, methods, analytical techniques and description of agricultural types. In India, however, such studies are lacking and, therefore, the present volume which contains fifteen published and unpublished articles, concerning various facets of agricultural typology, would be a gap filler. Most of the articles use Kostrowicki's ideas as the basis of their study and represent different areas from the continents of Asia, Europe, Africa and America.

In the first brief article, Topchiev et. al. deal with methods of typification and regionalization. The second article by Kostrowicki gives an outline of types of agriculture in Europe. Other articles by Szczeany, Tyszkiewicz, Szyrmer, V. R. Singh and N. K. Singh, Hill, Lal and Roy represent works based on I. G. U. Scheme of agricultural typology.

Special mention must be made of the articles which do not use I.G.U. scheme as the basis. Gregor identifies resource productivity patterns in U. S. agriculture with the help of principal component model. Ali uses factor analysis and cluster analysis to study the agricultural typology of Bangladesh. Bryant and Wong, while analysing the changing agricultural structures around Canadian metropolitan centres at two points of time develop a comparative frame work and a typological approach based on multivariate analysis. Nitz's description of 'Agrotopes' makes a very interesting reading, while Herrmann et. al. are successful in providing information about the agriculture in G. D. R. Lastly Kampp in his article on types of farming in Denmark suggests that in Denmark it is only possible to get data either for the whole country or for a single holding, thus making it difficult to attempt agricultural regionalization.

The appendices and the bibliography are very useful for young scholars. All in all, the editors deserve compliments for bringing out a well organized book, representing on going work in different countries on agricultural Typology.

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