

BOOK REVIEWS

Locational Analysis in Agricultural Geography

BY RAINA J. L.

Pointer Publishers, Jaipur, p. 146, Rs. 145, 1989

After von Thunen's classic work on the Location of agricultural land use zones, 'Der Isolierte staat. . . .' was published in 1826, many scholars have contributed to the problem of locational analysis in agricultural geography. Many empirical studies followed which supported, rejected or modified Thunen's ideas.

In the present book under review, the author has applied Thunen's model and tested the hypothesis, analysing the landuse patterns in Jammu district of Jammu & Kashmir state. First chapters describe the physical background, systems of irrigation, distribution of crops and the factors affecting the distribution of crops in the study area. Next two chapters explain in detail the von Thunen's model and its application in other parts of the world. Chapters 7, 8 and 9 form the core of the study.

The author has carried out a landuse study of 137 villages in order to analyse the impact of distance from urban settlement on the intensity of landuse and cropping pattern, as well as the impact of the irrigation facilities and intensity of

irrigation on double cropping and the type of crops to be grown. For this he has considered 1) Zoning around the urban settlement of Jammu, (2) Zoning around the Ranbir canal and (3) Zoning on the basis of number of tubewells. The author observes that the intensity of land use does not show any relationship with the distance from the settlements. It is mainly the availability of irrigation facilities which influences the location of the crops.

The author further tests the model at the village level. Also an attempt is made to test the weightage assessment matrix as devised by Prof. Shafi. The author concludes that besides irrigation facilities, other factors like soil fertility, technology, crop preferences of different castes etc. also influence the cropping pattern.

This book would certainly prove useful to the research workers who are interested in the problem of location of agricultural landuse. The book is well organised, with good cartographic work.

V. S. Datye

Rural Settlements: A Cultural Ecological Perspective

SAVITA ANAND SHARMA,

Inter-India Publications, 1986, New Delhi, Rs. 225/- pp. 214.

Since India still lives in her villages, Ms. Savita Anand Sharma's contribution in the area of rural settlements is especially

significant. Using the concept of cultural ecology, a serious attempt has been made to explore the lesser studied attributes of