

BOOK REVIEWS

Agricultural Development in India : A Regional Analysis : by Surendra Singh, Kaushal
Publications, Shillong, 1994, Rs 300/- pp. 216.

Agriculture is an important sector of the Indian economy and many scholars have contributed to the issues related to agricultural development in India. In this book the author has focussed attention on regional dimension of agricultural development using district as the areal unit of spatial analysis. The study is related to changes in the regional agricultural patterns in the post-green - revolution period.

The present volume is divided into five chapters. The role of agriculture in an overall development, and the methodological aspects are discussed in the introductory chapter. The author identifies low growth as the major problem of agricultural sector and follows a region specific approach. Chapter two deals with the agricultural growth and its regional pattern. The processes and characteristics of growth structure are highlighted here with demand-led growth of pre-green revolution period being replaced by technology-based growth of the post-green revolution period. The author's observation that high growth areas are located around the four metropolitan cities of India and the growth rate decreases towards the hinterlands of these growth poles is highly questionable. Chapter three analyses productivity patterns and structural transformation in Indian agriculture. Regional varia-

tions of land and labour productivity and agricultural growth are studied here. It is obvious that irrigation and use of fertilizers are the most important determinants of high productivity levels. Spatial variation in labour productivity is attributed to size of holding and density of agricultural labour. The regional processes of agricultural growth potential, and empirical specifications for the Indian agricultural conditions are presented in chapter four. It is observed that the level of agricultural development is directly related to the production potential. The last chapter is devoted to agricultural regionalisation which also suggests area - specific feasible solutions of agricultural development. The author formulates a strategy based on decentralization of agricultural development through proper utilisation of growth potential.

Students of agricultural geography and research workers would find this volume very useful as it adopts a different perspective to understand the patterns and problems of agricultural development. This study is an important contribution to methodology and would be useful for preparing regional investment strategy.

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