

be taken care of before advancing for higher mode of action especially in GM crops so that each and every farming community will benefit from the technology. The book explains about the significance of technology in terms of both production and productivity especially cotton which is used as clothing material and majority of farmers are interested in adopting this technology. It also discusses the potential avenues and required institutional framework for smooth regulation of BT cotton technology in India. The book also focused on the significance of public-private partnership approach for seed supply channels through local and international stakeholders which are exclusively governed by regulatory norms of the countries involved in diffusion of the technology to farmers.

The book provides a glimpse of various issues involved in biotechnological aspects in general and BT cotton in particular and will be very useful for all the stakeholders involved in the biotechnology especially GM crops.

Dr. Siddayya

Tank Irrigation of Dry Zones in India: A Sustainable Livelihood by Sebak Kumar Jana, 2014, Published by Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd., A/15&16, Commercial Block, Mohan Garden, New Delhi - 110 059, India, pp: xxiv and 184, Price ₹ 600.

The book makes an attempt to present the effects that research has had in the past and to be continued in future for achieving long-term objective of sustainable livelihood of rural population. There are different kinds of approaches and different ways to measure, particularly groundwater which depends on

utility of tank irrigation systems in terms of development, efficiency, management and constraints. The major drawback of inefficient tank irrigation systems is solely due to lack of support among the stakeholders of tank irrigation management communities. On the other hand, particularly in dry zones, groundwater is continuously exploited over the years which created a sort of threat to upcoming generation which leads to huge water scarcity coupled with high investment.

The author highlights the significance of tank based irrigation especially for dry zones in India. The study explores the approaches for sustainable irrigation development, which not only act as surface reservoirs but also contribute towards finding the new tank investment trends, identifying both positive and negative impacts and also having greater share in improving livelihood of rural masses particularly in dry zones of India and more especially in West Bengal.

The book discusses the pattern of irrigation development among study districts in West Bengal. About 68.96, 85.71 and 70 per cent of block-wise decline in tank irrigation was observed in Paschim Medinipur, Bankura and Purulia districts of West Bengal, respectively. It also provides a blue-print of agro-climatic features of districts which can easily identify the changes due to irrigation developments over a period of time after developing tank irrigation structures in and around study area in West Bengal. The profitability analysis reveals different findings based on crops cultivated was observed across the tanks. This also helps in deciding the cropping pattern for increased agricultural

production. It also explained the potential irrigation gap between created and required irrigation for bringing up the land under cultivation.

The author studied the behaviour pattern of beneficiaries regarding willingness to pay for services approach which is very much needed for renovation of existing water structures which has direct influence on cropping intensity, cropping pattern and in turn depends on extent of tank irrigation, conditions and efficiency. All these cumulatively reflect the livelihood status of the rural people residing in the dry zones of India in general and West Bengal in particular.

The author highlighted the significance of groundwater in association with tank irrigation to refill the groundwater capacity of soil in dry zones. A separate board with the help of district magistrate is looking into the issues on tank irrigation through implementation of *Tank Improvement Act* for renovation of tanks. These kind of activities not only improve the dry zones in long run, but also solve the problem of negative externalities in utilising and managing the properties of public resources on sustainable basis. The study focused on the significance of public-private partnership approach for maintenance of irrigation management through local capacity building and enhancing skills of the stakeholders. The study also emphasised on technical know-how approach to tackle the problem of knowledge information of rural masses which can be addressed through *Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM)* approach.

In a nutshell, the author identifies the significance of participation approach in tank management which is very crucial in the present era of managing natural resources. This acts as a prerequisite for sustainable development of tank irrigation.

The book will be a useful reference source to researchers, scholars, academicians, planners, policy makers and civil societies in India and elsewhere working in the field of irrigation management.

Dr. Siddayya

North South Divide - Lessons from the States and Regions by Samuel Paul and Kala Seetharam Sridhar, SAGE, New Delhi, pages 235, Price ₹ 850.

This scholarly volume, written by the two eminent authors explained lucidly about the economic divide between the States located in northern India vis-à-vis southern part of India. By analysing proximate and foundational factors (as the study mentioned), authors have explained the historical experience of two regions – Southern and Northern regions of India.

The book is spread over six chapters with rich bibliography and many graphs and Tables. In most of the cases recent data have been used to explain the facts. The introductory chapter covered many issues pertaining to regional disparities. It was highlighted that China's situation based on Human Development Index (HDI) improved substantially during 2008-2013. In addition, HDI improved in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal in spite of less per capita income than