

India. Further, among the BRICS nations India stands at the bottom. Second Chapter included review of literature pertaining to regional disparities. Here the authors focused on three issues viz. (i) why and how 'break appeared in the growth rate of Indian States' (ii) inter-State growth differentials and (iii) studies pertaining to convergence relying on Indian and International experience. In Chapter-III, an analytical framework was designed, tested and fine-tuned based on the data of Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Subsequently, the same framework has been applied to Southern and Northern regions. While studying Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, significant variations, of late, were observed in the per capita income and poverty incidence. The causative factors dividing north and south are explained in Chapter-IV. In this regard, literacy rate, proportion of graduates, trained manpower, IMR, life expectancy and total fertility rate interalia have been taken into account for the comparative study. In addition, factors like infrastructure, urbanisation, efficiency of resource utilisation, quality of governance, political stability (tenure of Chief Ministers) etc., were also included in the comparative study between Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

A thorough analysis of data for the comparative study between the Southern region versus Northern region has been made in Chapter-V. It is pertinent to mention that the Southern region refers to four major States viz., Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

The Northern region covered the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan (originally known as BIMARU States).

For the purpose of study, different indicators like per capita NSDP, poverty ratio, agricultural output, IMR, public investment, access to basic services and assets, etc., were taken into account. With secondary data, a lucid analysis has been made between the two regions. In the concluding chapter, the authors interalia recorded the findings that incidence of poverty in the South had declined at a faster rate than in the Northern region. With the increase in per capita income, quality of life of the people living in Southern region improved. While focusing on governance, the authors observed an appreciable improvement in the Southern region. The authors lucidly concluded that 'once there is political will, there are many such avenues that our lagging States can pursue to shake off the burden of history and move forward'.

The volume is useful one for the researchers, academicians, policy makers and others. Such analytical study is seldom found in the recent years. The authors should be appreciated for bringing out such a worthy volume.

*Dr. E.V. Prakash Rao*

**Agricultural Diversification and Food Security in the Mountain Ecosystem – A Case Study of Uttarakhand**

by Prof. Noor Mohammad and Dr. S.C. Rai, 2014. Published by Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd., A/15 – 16, Commercial Block, Mohan Garden, New Delhi - 110 059, India, pp. 284, Price ₹ 900.

This book has been published by Prof. Noor Mohammad and Dr. S.C. Rai, based on the study conducted in Uttarakhand with its

heterogeneous geographical environment-- physical, techno-economic and socio-cultural milieu which provides huge potential for agricultural development, implementation of various programmes and policies for agricultural development which has brought about changes specially in agricultural land use; its huge potential for agricultural diversification due to diversified physiographic conditions leading to bio-diversity; and the southern part of the State having adopted almost all modern agricultural practices and inputs has started facing its adverse consequences. The study is based on primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected from 538 households chosen from 30 selected villages lying in different physical regions of the State and secondary data were collected from published and unpublished records of the government and semi-government institutions. This book comprises eight chapters. In the introductory chapter, authors compiled the information related to green revolution including use of modern farm implements, chemical fertilisers, economical inputs, etc., that brought about a spectacular change in almost every parameter of agriculture. In fact, the intensification of farming has a great natural base degradation potential which needs substantial change in farming systems. Keeping such questions in view, the study was carried out in Uttarakhand to realise six objectives; review of literature was done with emphasis on substantive conceptual literature, food security, agricultural diversification etc., and also included a few case studies. In Chapter-2, the authors discussed the research design and database, data processing and its presentation. Prof. Noor Mohammad and Rai discussed the physical

division, drainage systems, climate, natural vegetation, soils, etc., as well as the demographic characteristics of Uttarakhand State of India in detail. In this chapter only those aspects of geographical environment were considered which are interlinked with one another seeking to comprehend the agricultural diversification and food security situation in the State.

In Chapter-4, the general pattern of land use for the agricultural year 2005-06 was discussed in some detail including forest area, land not available for cultivation, other uncultivable land excluding fallow land, net sown area and spatial pattern of irrigation. The availability as well as the existence of a huge potential of water resources makes it incumbent and imperative for their national utilisation so that not only agricultural development takes place but also agricultural practices, cropping pattern and agricultural activities may be scientifically diversified.

Authors discussed the dynamics of agricultural land use and its diversification in Chapter-5. The spatial pattern of land use 2005-06 was compared with that of 1992-93 and 2003-04. They discussed five major categories of land use which have been systematically analysed focusing on those aspects which could help in agricultural diversification and food security. The status and role of irrigation was also critically examined in this Chapter. Crop combinational analysis was discussed at length by ranking of crops and crop combination regions. Agricultural diversification has been measured as the percentage strength of all the crops with reference to gross cropped area calculated

using Gibs-Martin formula to work out the index of crop diversification.

In Chapter-6, authors discussed agricultural diversification and food security-- -- AMeso Level Analysis. In this Chapter, the authors elaborated the concepts of food security, indicators of food security, database and methodology, spatial pattern of food security, district-wise consumption unit, spatial pattern of consumption units, carrying capacity of land, food security and food security in monetary value. The authors concluded that a total of nine districts covering nearly 73 per cent of the districts have food secure status. There are three districts viz., Rudraparayag, Bageshwar and Almora which have the status of food security, while two districts of PauriGarhwal and TehriGarhwal have moderate level of food security. The largest number of districts i.e., four districts of Dehradun, Hardwar, Nainital and US Nagar constituting nearly 31 per cent of the total districts have high level of food security with more than ₹ 15,000 per consumption unit per annum.

In Chapter-7 captioned, Agriculture Diversification and Food Security --- A Micro level Analysis, the authors examined the personal and household characteristics, farming characteristic of households, spatial patterns of agricultural landuse, agricultural diversification ---- livelihood based levels of food security were discussed at length emphasising the ground realities.

While summing up, the study offers several suggestions. The study of level of food security has been analysed at household and village level with reference to calorific and

monetary value. The study revealed that nearly 50 per cent of the households are food insecure. Out of this, one-third are severely food insecure, while the other two-thirds are insecure. Among the food secure categories, nearly 27 per cent farmers are very high food secure while only one-third are highly secure. The remaining 14 per cent are moderately secure. However, the overall status of food security is not satisfactory. The status of food security of households with reference to monetary value is better and satisfactory because the farmers increased their purchasing power by adopting diversified activities.

This book will be of immense help to academicians, particularly research scholars in the field of agriculture besides those involved in policy formulation and administration of various governmental schemes for evolving effective strategies in gaining food security particularly in the mountainous eco-system.

*Dr. E.V. Prakash Rao*

**Indian Economy in Transition : Essays in Honour of C.T.Kurien**, Edited by S.Janakarajan, L.Venkatachalam, R.MariaSaleth SAGE Publications Pvt. Ltd., Price ₹ 995.

India has achieved an impressive economic growth since the introduction of LPG policies during 1991. The economic transition paved the path for much greater role of private sector, enhanced flow of FDI's and balanced terms of trade. However, the way in which economic transition is achieved and the process of globalisation is a mixed blessing in view of many economic, social and cultural side effects. This volume is published in honour