

This volume of scholarship is a valuable contribution to the understanding of various nuances of socio-economic problems that rural India face, and the strategies to address this through policies and programmes. Students, researchers, policy makers and administrators will find this a useful reference material on macro and micro level perspectives on rural India.

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***Socio-Economic Profile of Rural India (Series – III)***, Edited by C. Ashokvardhan and Varunendra Vikram Singh, Concept Publishing Company (P) Ltd., New Delhi, Price ₹ 1,600.

This volume is a compilation of State profiles of socio-economic development of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Rajasthan and Punjab by trainee IAS officers as part of their field exposure towards socio-economic development for different sectors focused on education, poverty, food security, unemployment, housing, sanitation, nutrition and health.

The authors have discussed wide scope of the rural socio-economic scenario and have studied growth profile of above said States in various sectors such as agriculture, horticulture, livestock, rural development, employment & skill development, education and health in introduction part of this book. Firstly, from the State paper on Haryana the village reports are in conformity with the overall picture that emerges from the overall analysis of the socio-economic profile of the State. Based on secondary data, Haryana achieved a very impressive growth rate since its formation in 1966. The State government has adopted a number of schemes to develop and strengthen its rural infrastructure. Also, the

State government has claimed to make consistent endeavours to improve the health indicators of the people by implementing & strengthening HBPNC, ASHA and ANM.

Rural society in Punjab is in the process of fast rate of transition. It is showing a fast rate of structural change both in terms of income generation and employment pattern. Punjab economy has been very well integrated into Indian economy both through backward and forward linkages and the process of planned development resulted into a remarkable development in agriculture by becoming pioneer on initiating green revolution. The authors also explained farmers' marketing co-operation issues and challenges in this Punjab State. As far as J&K State profiling, authors studied all aspects of rural development, however the data compiled could have been recent, may be up to 2016.

Socio-economic profile of Rural Rajasthan village study also provided detailed rural development parameters and their impacts followed by various case studies. It was concluded that during last fifty years, Rajasthan rural and agriculture development has credited suitable infrastructure for its development on various plans and programmes. Rural poverty in Rajasthan has been increasing over the time due to population explosion, also witnessed visible betterment in people's standard of living. There have been resource scarcity and natural calamities, but the State is moving towards rural upliftment. Himachal Pradesh profile is well compiled data on rural development aspects by various scheme-utilisation and followed by 10 village case studies.

Finally, the book got summarised on various development aspects such as human and institutional capabilities, agriculture growth core indicators: education, health, gender concerns,

social inclusion and property resources towards sustainable rural development.

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***Sustainable Rural Transformation through Agro-Industries (Project Analysis & Case Studies), Authored by Dr. U.K. Srivastava and Dr. Pramila Srivastava(2018)*** Published by Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi, India, Price : ₹ 2,500.

This book highlights the importance of Agro-Industries in bringing socio-economic changes in rural India and explains the entire process of setting-up an Agro-Industry, starting from project formulation to implementation. In India, more than 75% of the agro-processing is done by informal and small scale enterprises, failing in value addition, formal market access and adoption of right technology. Their products are mostly marketed in local markets with very low prices. The authors of the book have thoroughly analysed these issues and provided practical solutions to tackle these issues in a systematic approach and become a successful agro-entrepreneur.

The book has total 18 chapters, dealing with the entire project cycle for handling sustainable agro-industrial projects with reference to concept and formulation of bankable agro-industrial projects, financing of agro-industrial projects, implementation, monitoring and control of these projects. In the initial 7 chapters, authors have discussed thoroughly the total cycle of feasibility analysis and preparing feasibility report that included

analysis of market, technology, organisation and financial position. After discussing total cycle of feasibility analysis, in the later chapters, authors have provided a way forward for development of sustainable agro-industries in rural areas. The most insightful part is the 12 case studies, covering technology assessment, market analysis, project formulation and appraisal, term loans and working capital finance, direct procurement of raw materials, contract farming, monitoring and control systems. These case-studies definitely value to this book and the readers, as they can be used as reference guide.

The authors of this book, Dr. U.K. Srivastava and Dr. Pramila Srivastava, are highly experienced in project planning and evaluation of agro-processing units in the country. Both of them have already been associated with successfully operational agro-processing units. Each chapter is supported with schematic representation of concepts, lots of field data and case studies. However, it is felt that there is an overdose of flow-charts, interpretation of data and tables. Some of the topics are theoretical and testing the patience of the readers. Explaining the concepts with selective case-studies, based on their several years of research and experience in this field, authors have succeeded in their goal. Understanding the importance of providing suitable case-studies, authors have taken the support of a senior management consultant for writing practical case-studies on technology assessment, project appraisal and restructuring of stressed assets.

Over the years, both the Central Government and various State Governments have created enabling policies, including contract farming, liberal FDI Policy, direct procurement of agro products and setting-up of National Agricultural Market (NAM), which have opened