

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

doors for setting-up small and large scale agro-industries in rural areas. In this context, this book finds relevance and is useful to all those who are in search of setting up of new agro-based industry in rural areas.

The book would facilitate the students, bankers, management consultants and aspiring entrepreneurs in agro-processing industries in India for better understanding of present scenario of the agro-industries, barriers in the present system, selecting a suitable project and implementing the project. Overall, it is an excellent textbook-cum-practical guide on procedures and practices in the field of agro-industries in India.

Dr. C. Kathiresan

Social Problems in India, Edited by Bhola Nath Ghosh & Himansu S. Ghosh, 2017, published by Concept Publishing Company Private Limited, New Delhi, India. Price : ₹ 1050

Each chapter of this book highlights a unique social problem, potential reasons behind it and plausible solutions to eradicate the same. If not addressed, these problems may plunge the nation into darkness and lead the country into socio-economic backwardness. The editors of the book made a good attempt to compile 15 articles on various burning issues the Indian society has been facing. One of the authors elaborated the evil of corruption which is the most pertinent issue today. He remarks that corruption in a civilised society is like a deadly disease, which will lead to disastrous consequences for the country in general and the society in particular, if not prevented through proper measures.

Corruption has a deep and pervasive impact on the functioning of the entire economy, the author rues.

Some authors in the book have touched upon the cruel practices in the society such as domestic violence against women, gender parity, bullying, inequalities among citizens, etc. No society and nation at large can ignore the need for holistic and people's-centered approach to poverty reduction and human development. To address this issue, the authors suggested that a radical change in discourse and development is called for which is away from sole reliance on micro-economic growth model to the one based on improvement in quality of life of the poor. The authors pointed out that emancipation of the marginalised and vulnerable sections from the inequalities, gender parity, illiteracy, poverty, hunger, life threatening diseases are the major concerns of any civilised society and democratically elected government. They opined that quality in human life can be achieved through affordable healthcare, right education and enforcement of human rights. This book systematically covered the problems in the society through critical evaluation and detailed research at the ground level. The authors made a detailed analysis of the situation in the country from a sociological view point.

In this book, the chapters especially on healthcare, maternal mortality, and cancer depict a gloomy picture in the Indian society. In the absence of proper medical infrastructure and adequate medical professionals and low economic status of vast number of tribal people, they are denied universal access to timely and affordable healthcare. The authors felt that basic amenities like safe drinking water, sanitation facilities are equally important for better health.