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

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