

to how information and communication technologies are instrumental in changing the way in which the government operates through horizontal and vertical interactions and information flows, apart from lowering transaction costs for citizens and government operations and public services which can be made more affordable to people at large.

The third part of the book discusses at length on rural development and e-panchayats by seven presenters which include e-panchayats and human development, a litmus test for rural development in Bihar, problems and prospects of e-panchayat in development and ICT for rural Bihar.

The book also attempts to clarify many fundamental questions/issues like why ICT in PRIs?, conceptual aspects of e-panchayat, can e-panchayat be a vehicle of good governance at grassroots level, RD and ICT role of panchayat in changed environment when mobile technologies play a dominant role in delivery of services. It further reiterates that investments in ICT alone by itself, cannot alleviate poverty or improve economic standards unless, the rural poor are made to participate in the opportunities that ICT offers.

Part four concentrates on Indian Society and e-panchayats highlighted by five presenters covering need of ICT for e-functioning basically for learning and education of the society. Another important factor of human resource development is stressed on training and deploying of a large number of front line service providers to ensure better service delivery to its citizens. In other words to say, that if the public services are well delivered to the rural populace then it can lead the state to developed state (Bihar). Part five gives the gist of bibliography and relevant appendix and list of participants who attended the Seminar.

In sum the book is rich in details and useful for policymakers, academicians,

researchers, students and NGOs. It provides relevant information on IT scenario in States like Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, etc. and its accrued benefits, illustrated with e-readiness, IT policy of Bihar, IT infrastructure and strategies with possible impediments and solutions that exist today in the 21st century for speedy implementation of e-panchayats in the State of Bihar, which is the need of the hour. On the whole, the book has covered all pertinent aspects of e-panchayat in a simple and non-computer jargon language for general audience in particular.

– Dr. P Satish Chandra

Area, Production and Productivity of Horticulture Crops., by C.Gangaiah, 2012, Published by SERIALS Publications, New Delhi – 110 002, (India), pp. 112, ₹ 395 (Hardback).

The book under review is an outcome of a research study conducted by the author on Area, Production and Productivity of Horticulture Crops in Kadapa District – a micro level study. Crop diversification has greater concern in the rainfed agriculture in view of climate aberration. Diversification largely depends upon farmer's attitude, consumer demand, government policy, trade arrangements and development of irrigation, rural connectivity and other infrastructure facilities. In this context, the author has aptly documented the pivotal role of horticulture in India, WTO issues on horticulture and area, production and productivity details of fruits (Pomology), vegetables (Olericulture), flowers (Floriculture), species, plantation crops, medicinal and aromatic plants. In the first chapter, the author has emphasised on Institutions and Policy Environment for Horticulture Development with reference to their objectives and achievements viz., National Horticulture Mission (NHM), The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), ICAR, The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI), Ministry of

Food Processing Industries (MoFP), Integrated Development of Coconut, Integrated Development of Fruits, National Horticulture Board (NBM), Integrated Development of Horticulture in Tribal / Hilly Areas, etc.

Dr. Gangaiah has made an attempt to refer the previous research studies and reports at macro level (1990 – 2009) and reviewed about 25 important studies in the second chapter as review of literature. In the third chapter, the author has presented the demographical profile of Kadapa district and its natural resources. In Chapter – IV, the author has analysed the status of fruits, vegetables, India's status in global ranking with reference to the area and production during the period 1990 – 2009, domestic supply and demand of horticulture products and potential export competitors. In Chapters V and VI, the author has attempted to examine the status of horticulture during 2001 – 2009 in Andhra Pradesh and Study Area Kadapa district during 1993 – 2009 on similar lines of Chapter – IV.

The author has discussed about the methodology adopted and the characteristics of the Obulavaripalle mandal in Kapada district and sampled households (105 No.) with respect to their occupation, landholdings, educational status, cropping pattern adopted, cost of cultivation of important crops, employment generated, etc.

In the last chapter, the author has summarised the findings and suggestions which are very superficial, except a few. The author has brought out a focused study of Obulavaripalle mandal (block), Kadapa district, Andhra Pradesh as a book. He could have tried to concise the volume through proper editing. This book is useful only to the beginners and planners of the district.

– Dr. V. Suresh Babu

Climate Change and New Challenges,
Edited by Vir Singh, Govind Singh Kushwaha

and Bipin Kumar, Published by Concept Publishing Company Private Limited, 2012, Pages-226, ₹ 750.

Climate Change is undoubtedly the hottest issue of our times. It also remains to be the most formidable challenge facing humanity, for an unfavourable change in the climate system of the bio-sphere beyond a certain point would not only pose a threat to the sustainability of production systems but also to the very existence of life on earth.

The effects of climate change can be already perceived in some fields, the most often in rural areas as natural disasters, drought and flooding, decrease of bio-diversity, invasive species, loss of agricultural productivity and even food shortage.

Increasing scientific evidence suggests that the impacts of warming will be more serious and will occur sooner than had previously believed. Eleven of the last 12 years are among the warmest years recorded since 1850.

The goal of environmental sustainability is to minimise environmental degradation and to halt and reverse the processes they lead to.

Chapterisation of the book and sequencing of the articles is very apt. The book is divided into three sections comprising 19 articles. The section of the book 'Living in a Climate of Uncertainty' emphasises new sustainable approaches to development for protecting the planet's fragile eco-systems and promoting the aims of human development. This chapter also deals with approach to sustainable development emphasising the need for new conceptions of global development that take cognizance of the fact that social and environmental problems are inter-connected. Sustainable development is emphasised to be about a more inclusive society which provides for better protection of the environment and use of natural