

## Book Notes\*

Vernon W. Ruttan. *Agricultural Research Policy*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. 1982. xiv + 369 pp.

The book, written meticulously, combines scientific analysis with the wide professional and personal experiences of the author in the fields of international agricultural development and agricultural research policy. Realizing the importance of search for and development of appropriate technology to the arduous task of incessant productivity increases and continuous process of economic development, the author makes a successful case for agricultural research. The significance of the agricultural research policy is then claimed in terms of reorganization of the set-up and goals of global, national and local systems of agricultural research. It was averred that an effective and viable research institution must relate its goals to the particular needs of an economic and political environment in which it operates. In the absence of this relationship, technological change was considered to be of inappropriate type, with hazardous ethical and social consequences. It is in the light of these criticisms that the author attempts to provide to research scientists and managers a large context within which to make responsible and effective decisions.

Clive Bell, Peter Hazell and Roger Slade. *Project Evaluation in Regional Perspective*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1982. x + 326. pp.

The book is concerned with the analysis of economic effects of an irrigation project in Northwest Malaysia. Chapter 2 describes the economy and farming system of the region and also highlights the salient features of the scheme. The next chapter contains linear programming model of the paddy-farming sector. This model is used in Chapter 4 to simulate the conditions of the paddy-farming economy had the project not been undertaken. In order to capture the indirect effects of the project, a regional social accounting matrix has been constructed which is explained in Chapter 5. The next two chapters deal with semi-input-output models constructed to take into account such autonomous changes as the growth of output of goods other than paddy and increase in government investment and expenditures. Chapter 8 contains a social cost-benefit analysis of the project while the redistributive role of the agricultural price policy is discussed in Chapter 9. The concluding chapter addresses policy issues for project design and some methodological aspects.

Rashid Amjad (ed.). *The Development of Labour Intensive Industry in ASEAN Countries*. Geneva: International Labour Office. 1981. (Asian Employment Programme). vi + 337. pp.

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This volume explores the relationship between industrialization and employment, in general, and between the latter and development of labour-intensive industries in ASEAN countries, in particular. It consists of five case studies of the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia. It has been argued that small industries are more labour-intensive because they face scarcity prices of resources. By contrast, large-scale manufacturing is enabled by favourable government policy to have access to cheap and low-cost capital resources. The book studies current and past policies for the promotion of labour-intensive industries and surveys the relevant policy issues. It also highlights the characteristics, performance and problems of small-scale labour-intensive enterprises and draws policy implications.

M. M. Huq and C. C. Prendergast. *Machine Tool Production in Developing Countries*. Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press. 1983. (David Livingstone Institute Series on Choice of Technique in Developing Countries; Vol. 7). xiii + 132. pp.

The study deals with different aspects of machine tool production in developing countries. The first part contains a discussion on choice of technique along with a review of historical developments in the industry. It is concluded that lot size is the dominant factor in the choice of the least-cost method of production for a given component. In the particular example considered, cost reductions effected by choosing appropriate machines outweighed the impact of assumed changes in wages and interest rates. The second part is concerned with overall optimality from the point of view of the plant as a whole. It is recognized that taking into account the holding costs, utilization of overall capacity as contrasted with that of individual machine, material flows and plant outlays, an optimal choice for an individual part may not be optimal for the whole plant. On the basis of the preceding analysis, some useful observations regarding structure of machine tool industry in the developing countries and division of labour in these economies are made in the third part.

Pranay Gupte. *The Crowded Earth: People and the Politics of Population*. New York and London: W.W. Norton and Company. 1984. 349. pp.

The book deals with population planning experience in several countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. The demographic problems of these countries have been studied in relation to their culture and economy. The skillful use of anecdote plays down the dispassion of statistics and makes the book more readable. A major conclusion of the book is that population is a multi-dimensional problem which does not lend itself to global solutions. The population programmes of each country must, therefore, be tailored to its specific needs. The author observes that in the Third World countries large families are not desired *per se* but are the need of the hour. If adequate social security, public health services and educational and employment opportunities exist, people would perhaps then be made to opt for small families.

Paul Streeten and Richard Jolly (eds.). *Recent Issues in World Development: A Collection of Survey Articles*. Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1981. vii + 441. pp.

The book provides a review of research work in many areas of development policy. In addition, theoretical approaches have been critically appraised in the light of empirical findings

and the book identifies areas where more research effort is needed. The survey articles are mainly intended for policy-makers. Therefore, inter-disciplinary boundaries have been ignored with a view to providing practical guidelines for policy. In order to acquaint the reader with the different ways in which the problems have been perceived and analyzed, the authors have been encouraged to draw on literature from different schools of thought. In addition, nearly 2000 references have been listed in the book to serve as a guide to literature.

Nafis Sadik (ed.). *Population: The UNFPA Experience*. New York and London: New York University Press (for the United Nations Fund for Population Activities). 1984. xvii + 206. pp.

The book describes and assesses the population activities of UNFPA in various countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. These programmes were concentrated in the areas of family planning, population information, education and communication, basic data collection, population dynamics and women's programmes. The book also explains how the diverse needs and interests and the changing emphasis in the population sector have shaped Fund's mandate. Further, future directions for technical co-operation have been provided from a regional, substantive and operational standpoint. The appendices contain a list of UNFPA-supported publications in addition to a summary of principal demographic indicators for all countries and all territories of the world.