

PLEASE HANDLE CAREFULLY

Library books will give you Joy for Long
if handled carefully with clean hands

Agriculture In The Hills

A CASE STUDY OF MEGHALAYA

REFERENCE

Not to be Lent out

EDITORIAL BOARD

B. PAKEM

M. MIRI

J. B. BHATTACHARJEE

P. GUPTA

B. DATTA RAY

North-East India Council

for

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Published by :

B. Datta Ray,

On behalf of North-East India Council
for Social Science Research,
B. T. Hostel, Shillong - 793003.

© North-East India Council for Social Science Research.

Shillong, May 31, 1979.

Price: Rs. 35.00

3682/9

Printed by :

M. Chakravarty,

Ambee Print, Police Bazar,
Shillong - 793001.

CONTENTS

Introduction	...	iii
<i>I Problems of Agricultural Development</i>		
D. N. Borthakur	...	3
A. K. Sharma	...	11
Jogendra P. Singh	...	16
L. S. Gassah	...	22
<i>II Different Views</i>		
D. N. Majumdar	...	29
M. C. Goswami	...	38
<i>III Decomposed Evaluation of Agricultural Growth and Development in Meghalaya</i>		
Shri Prakash and N. P. Goel	...	49
<i>IV Land Relations and Changing Agricultural Practice</i>		
Binoy Lahiri	...	81
Parimal Chandra Kar	...	91
<i>V Nineteenth Century Experiences</i>		
Jayanta Bhusan Bhattacharjee	...	97
<i>VI The Multiple Dimensions of Development</i>		
D. J. Roy	...	107
R. L. Deb	...	111
S. P. Ghosh	...	122
B. N. Das	...	129
K. R. Dasgupta	...	134
B. B. Dutta	...	143
Appendixes		
Dr. B. Pakem—Welcome Address	...	i
Mr. S. D. Khongwir—Inaugural Address	...	ii
Our Contributors	...	ix

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture in North-east India, particularly in the hills, presents a challenging situation. The terrain in most of the hilly States—Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and even in Assam and Tripura, is difficult, fertility of the soil is low, and the inputs are meagre and primitive. Near eighty percent of the people are hardly able to raise the minimum of their food requirement. The problems of agriculture are manifold. The lack of uniformity in soil condition, the practice of shifting cultivation in wide areas, the absence of irrigation facilities, and the lack of adequate marketing facilities for the agricultural produce are only a few of them. The marketing of the produce other than cereals poses a serious problem in hill areas where road transport is difficult. This is particularly so in respect of potato, pine-apple, oranges, etc. These cash crops could contribute much for overall economic development. The scope of large-scale mechanisation and use of electric power for direct agricultural development in the hill region is very limited. The agriculture based industries have wide scope but they still now remain a distant dream. The cotton-ginning, production of citric acid, lemon peel oil, pickles from lemon, production of orange juice, fruit canning, etc. could be developed widely after making a study of the projected demand for the country as a whole. We need an integrated approach to

tackle the multidimensional problems of agricultural development in the hill areas of north-east India.

In 1976, the North East India Council for Social Science Research had thoroughly examined in a national seminar the problems of shifting cultivation in north-east India with the help and support of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the North Eastern Council, and the Govt. of Meghalaya. The seminar proceedings have been published and widely appreciated. The present volume is a follow-up study of the agricultural problems in the hill areas of north-east India, and we have taken Meghalaya as a case study. The basic agricultural problems in the hills are more or less uniform and the present study may show the direction. The close assistance of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the experts of the State Government has helped us immensely in this scholarly exercise.

We are grateful to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, North-eastern Regional Centre of the ICSSR, the Agriculture Department of the Govt. of Meghalaya, the Anthropological Survey of India and the St. Edmund's College, Shillong, for their general help and support to us in making this study. We are particularly grateful to Dr. B. Pakem, Dr. D. N. Borthakur, Dr. G. S. Arora and Rev. Brother M. G. Shannon for their generous help. Dr. B. P. Misra has helped us in producing this book. Mr. H. Gupta has rendered the secretarial assistance and Mr. M. Chakravarty of Ambee Print, Shillong, has sacrificed much in printing this book. We thank them all.

May 31st, 1979
Shillong.

B. Datta Ray.