

AGENDA
for
NORTH EAST INDIA



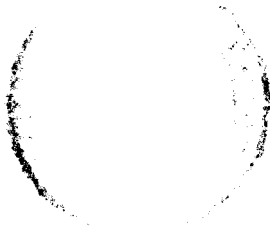
Edited by

B. DATTA RAY

North East India with its large untapped hydel power, mineral resources, virgin forests, sturdy people and vast water resources remain in the backyard of development. In the twenty-first century the crucial challenge facing North East India is how to achieve a balance between economy and ecology in order to ensure sustainable social and economic development preserving the basic cultural matrix, ethical values and equalitarian ethos. This calls for a truly democratic society that seeks to achieve economic efficiency and ecological harmony for the eradication of poverty and promotion of total human welfare. It is being increasingly realized that the pluralistic society has a significant role to play in counterbalancing the tendency to state absolutism. These are some of the crucial areas of social science research to which the papers included in this volume are directed. Research and analysis of population, environment, land, food and food security are issues of vital interest of the problem of qualitative demographic development. For this we need the formulation of the appropriate development paradigm of North East India. The papers included in this volume depict the emerging social milieu of North East India and suggest areas of research for the promotion of the welfare of the people in a strategically vital area, known as North East India.

B. Datta Ray, a Tamrapatra awarded freedom fighter, has authored two publications, *Assam Secretariat 1874—1947 : An administrative history of North East India and Tribal Identity and Tension in North East India*. He has edited more than twelve volumes on North East India. He is the founder-secretary of North East India Council for Social Science Research since 1974, a pioneer and premier research body in North East India. He is the editor of the *Journal of North East India Council for Social Science Research*, a forward looking research journal from North East India since 1977.

**AGENDA
FOR
NORTH-EAST INDIA**



Edited by

B. DATTA RAY

CONCEPT PUBLISHING COMPANY, NEW DELHI-110059

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner and the publisher.



ISBN : 81-7022-938-3

First Published 2002

© NEICSSR

Published and Printed by

Ashok Kumar Mittal

Concept Publishing Company

A/15-16, Commercial Block, Mohan Garden,
New Delhi-110059

Phones : 5351460, 5351794

Fax : 091-11-5357103

Email : publishing@conceptpub.com

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|------|
| <i>Introduction</i> | vii |
| <i>Acknowledgements</i> | ix |
| <i>List of Contributors</i> | xiii |
| 1. Policies of Food Security: An Agenda for Change — Madhura Swaminathan | 1 |
| 2. Globalization—Yet Another Threat to Food Security and Regional Parity in India — Ashok Kumar Maiti and Subhendu Chakrabarti | 7 |
| 3. Food Security and Agricultural Growth: Prospects for the North-Eastern Region — M. P. Bezbaruah | 20 |
| 4. Food Insecurity in India With Special Reference to North Eastern Region — P.M. Passah | 24 |
| 5. Food Security of North East India for Twenty-First Century — S.N. Goswami, B.K. Sarma and S.B. Singh | 31 |
| 6. Agriculture Should Get High Priority in the North-East — V.S. Mahajan | 36 |
| 7. Determinants of Production and Instability of Rice in North Eastern States of India — S.B. Singh, K.K. Datta and Kh. B. Singh | 40 |
| 8. The 21st Century and the Emerging Scenario and Issues of Social Science Research in North-East India — K. Alam | 47 |
| 9. Some Issues of Social Science Research in North-East India in the 21st Century — S.B. Chakrabarti | 56 |
| 10. Social Science Research in the N.E. Region in the 21st Century — B. B. Kumar | 65 |

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 11. | Identifying Researchable Issues for 21st Century N. E. India — Biman Kar | 69 |
| 12. | The North-East and Future Trends — K. S. Singh | 74 |
| 13. | Adult Education and Rural Development — Meghali Baruah | 76 |
| 14. | Enhancing Teaching and Learnings Integrated Systems Analysis — A.S. Guha | 82 |
| 15. | Health and Nutritional Status of the People of North-Eastern Region. — Pranay Jyoti Goswami | 93 |
| 16. | Tribal Population of the Brahmaputra Valley Under Changing Socio-Political Situation — N.N. Bhattacharyya | 109 |
| 17. | Judicial Intervention in the Management of Forests in the North East India — S. K. Agnihotri | 115 |
| 18. | Civil Society and the Politics of Peace-Making in North-Eastern India — Samir Kumar Das | 135 |
| 19. | North-East India in the 21st Century (With Special Reference to Nagaland) — Sukhendu Mazumder | 143 |
| 20. | Human Rights with Special Reference to Nagalim — Xavier P. Mao | 149 |
| 21. | Regional Disparities in Economic Development : An Inter-District Empirical Study of Arunachal Pradesh — Amitava Mitra | 155 |
| 22. | Elderly Population of Tripura — Paramita Saha | 165 |
| 23. | Housing Problems and Policies of Assam : An Introspection — Mouchumi Gogoi and Kamelash Kalita | 172 |
| 24. | Demand for Housing in Urban Area-Gauhati — K. Bez | 177 |
| | <i>Index</i> | 181 |

INTRODUCTION

North-East India with its large untapped hydel power, mineral resources, virgin forests, sturdy people and vast water resources remains in the backyard of development. These resources, should have changed the face of North East India with significant social and economic development

In the 21st Century, the crucial challenge facing North East India is how to achieve a balance between economy and ecology in order to ensure sustainable social and economic development preserving the basic cultural matrix, ethical values and equalitarian ethos. This calls for the existence of truly democratic society that seeks to achieve economic efficiency and ecological harmony for the eradication of poverty and promotion of total human welfare. Such a situation can be built up by having an appropriate social and political structure that ensures the participation of men and women in real terms in the decision-making process at the different levels of the state and society. It is being increasingly realized that the pluralistic society has a significant role to play in counterbalancing the tendency to monolithic state absolutism. These are some crucial areas of social science research to which the papers included in this volume are directed. Researches on population, environment land food security are issues of vital interest of the problem of qualitative demographic development. Increasing number of elderly population would be an important component of the population. They should have a constructive role. We need to invest adequate quantum of resources for expansion on research, education and training facilities for human resource development in broader areas of social existence. For this we need the formulation of the appropriate development paradigm of North-East India which would ensure a meaningful and ecologically sustainable structural changes in the economy of North-East India, For this a systematic analysis and research of the total basic issues

involving a balance between economy, ecology, population, human settlements patterns urban and rural areas physical resources, emerging scientific and technological knowledge application and resource management are required keeping in view the egalitarian ethos and social commitment.

Several aspects of human rights issues have surfaced. The new leadership of North East India is imbued with the changing world view projecting the values of individual liberty and equality in the enjoyment of civil, political, social and economic rights. We are to reflect upon them based on empirical data.

Some of these papers were presented to the workshop on the 21st Century and the emerging scenario and issues of social science research in North East India held in December, 1999 in the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of North-East India Council for Social Science Research. Shillong. The papers included in this volume, depicts the emerging social milieu of North East India and suggests areas of research for the promotion of human welfare of the people in a strategically vital area known as North East India.

B. Datta Ray