

unter unseren Lebensbedingungen fahrtüchtig ist und seine Insassen voranbringt.

Wie das für den einzelnen ganz konkret geschehen und welche Hilfen der Anfänger dabei finden kann, ist Thema des dritten und letzten Teiles. Sich auf den Weg zu machen, es wenigstens einmal zu versuchen – dazu ermutigt Detlef Kantowsky ausdrücklich. Weiterführende Literatur findet sich deswegen nicht nur in einem Anhang, sondern sie wird im Zusammenhang vorgestellt und kommentiert. Wer Gleichgesinnte, Mitsuchende oder Mitübende finden will, wird auf eine Reihe von buddhistischen Zentren, Vereinen und überregionalen Vereinigungen verwiesen. Tips zur ‚alltäglichen Praxis‘ stehen am Ende. Sie kann dem gelingen, der den Mut hat, sich auf den Buddha-Dhamma einzulassen, der falsche Erwartungen ablegt und genügend Ausdauer und Geduld für eine anspruchsvolle, aber lohnende Arbeit an sich selbst aufbringt.

Der besondere Wert des Buches liegt in der Fächerung der angesprochenen Themen und der Fülle der behandelten Aspekte. Detlef Kantowskys Text bietet eine geglückte Mischung von authentischem Buddhawort und zeitgenössischer Interpretation, von historischer Darstellung und kritischer Analyse der Gegenwart, von buddhistischer Existenzsicht und Wegweisungen zum Selbergehen. Ein Buch für Einsteiger, die aber nicht lange Einsteiger zu bleiben brauchen.

Alfred Weil

JOHN FARRINGTON/DAVID J. LEWIS (eds.) with S. SATISH/AUREA MICLATTEVES: *Non-Governmental Organizations and the State in Asia. Rethinking Roles in Sustainable Agricultural Development*. London/ New York: Routledge, 1993. XXXII, 366 pages, £ 14,99 (Pb)/£ 45.00 (Hb). ISBN 0-415-08848-8 (Pb)/0-415-08847-X (Hb)

This is one of the most comprehensive studies on Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and their relationship to the state. This is a part of a four-volume series. The other volumes contain an overview and also deal with the conditions of NGOs in the other two continents, Latin America and Africa. Each volume is complete in itself.

The objectives of this book are

- to document the NGOs' experiences in agricultural technology development (ATD), particularly that involving interaction with governmental organizations (GOs),

- to analyse the contextual factors,
- to identify the advantages in NGO-GO interaction for future cooperation.

This book is worth reading for more than one reason. First, since their emergence in the 60s the NGOs have gained continuously in reputation, monetary strength and political power. Their share of total bilateral aid flows increased from 3 % in 1983 to more than 10 % in 1993. Secondly, the term NGO is more an idea than a definition. The diversities among NGOs are greater than among the 184 states of the UNO. The authors try to categorize and typologize the NGOs according to their strength, function, working area, objectives, mode of and attitude to cooperation with GOs etc. Thirdly, the question of methodology: how can such diverse organizations be compared with each other? What value have the results? Can these be generalized? And finally, do the NGOs operate 'bottom-up' – as opposed to the GOs' 'top-down' – as they claim to do, towards a pluralistic, democratic society? How justified is their claim regarding alleviation of poverty?

The authors try to answer all these questions with a refined methodology, – a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods with case-studies. They consider different types of states in Asia, e.g. Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, India, Nepal and Bangladesh. These countries are very different in size, population density, GNP per capita, percentage of population involved in agriculture and impoverished rural population. They have different experiences with the colonial past, with diverse forms of government (military, autocracy, democracy with long tradition or newly formed) and with specific cultural and administrative legacies. These differences are important for the scope of NGO-GO linkage. Similarly, the NGOs are subdivided into six different types – from large, national, supra-regional with multiple activities and intermediary functions to small national NGOs working in groups of villages in one locality, from BAIF (Bharatiya Agro-Industries Foundation), which operates in six Indian states and covers more than 1.5 Mio households to FIVDB (Friends in Village Development, Bangladesh) which promotes duck-rearing among its female group-members and has an action-radius limited to Sylhet-District. A total of 28 case-studies of the NGOs from the above-mentioned countries are presented in this book.

The authors are conscious of the difficulty of drawing any generalized conclusion from such diverse variables. With the necessary precautions they dare to do so. The results are not very surprising, but meaningful and noteworthy:

- There is a wide gap between rhetoric and reality: Unlike GOs, NGOs are supposed to be non-hierarchical and more concerned about the poorest of the poor. In fact, NGOs do not reach 10-20 % of the poorest in Africa and Asia and 20-30 % in Latin America. When a NGO expands in size it tends to be more hierarchical.
- Participatory research functions only at the stage of diagnosis, less in process, scarcely at all in evaluation.
- As far as relations are concerned, both sides, GOs and NGOs, have apparently learnt their lessons in the recent past, though there are still barriers. Nor is the cooperation between the NGOs of the North and the South and among the NGOs within a country as smooth as is often taken for granted.

The authors make a series of suggestions for a better NGO-GO link, which, according to them, is absolutely essential for the coming decade.

This book is not only of interest for those involved in development issues, but also for ordinary scholars. One can learn a lot about the application of different research methods.

*Asit Datta*

ECKART EHLERS and THOMAS KRAFFT (eds.): *Shāhjahānābād/Old Delhi. Tradition and colonial change.* (Erdkundliches Wissen, Heft 111) Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag 1993. 106 pp, 1 folding map, DM 68.-. ISBN 3-515-06218-1

This collection stems from an 1850 map of Shāhjahānābād/Old Delhi which, although known, has only now been accorded its due significance. Its painstaking reconstruction in the India Office Library in London and its redrawing by Gerd Storbeck, cartographer in the Department of Geography, Bonn University, highlight the singularity of the source. As Susan Gole, author of the final article of the volume shows, there is hardly any topographical material of Delhi (apart from a few British officers' sketches) which predates the trigonometric survey of North India carried out in the 1860s. The town plan of Delhi is furthermore the original work of an Indian, and probably Hindi-speaking cartographer, as convincingly shown in Jamal Malik's article. The reason for the plan's new colouring in subtle shades of brown is, however, not altogether clear, being more reminiscent of mid-nineteenth century European maps. Although never