

velopment efforts, the position of women and the issue of solidarity. The problems of tea workers and that of ethnocide in the Chittagong Hill Tracts are also dealt with. Each chapter presents a capsule analysis of its theme. Most chapters are packed tightly with information but numerous case studies and personal experiences have been included for easy reading and comprehension. Some of these convey the obvious vitality of Bengali villagers.

The book is at its best when it deals with the political economy of Bangladesh. I was mildly disappointed not to find a detailed account of the international ties linking Bangladesh to countries such as Germany. In this context it would be very useful to be provided with an analysis of both aid and trade links between the two countries. A second aspect that would have merited fuller treatment is the problem of regional (and sectoral) disparities in the country. Methodologically, it would have been good to warn the reader more explicitly against relying too much on Bangladeshi statistics. In the light of the suggestion that Bangladesh is suffering from 'cultural schizophrenia', and yet local culture should provide the basis for proper development, a more thorough analysis of Bangladeshi culture might have rounded the book off. Finally, it could have done with a more detailed and up-to-date political map of the country.

These omissions are minor ones and anyone wishing to learn more can turn to the good bibliography and extensive documentary and statistical appendix. As for interpretations of the main developments in Bangladesh, I found myself agreeing with most of the authors. But their historical notions seem to be derived too one-sidedly from the 'nationalist' school of thought whose ideas are currently being re-examined.

*Bangladesh im Schatten der Macht* is a storehouse of relevant information on the fifth largest society in Asia. As such it may well become a reference work as well as a good general introduction. I hope it will find a wide readership and stimulate discussion on the role of foreign aid and trade in Bangladesh.

Willem van Schendel

**Bernd Schubert et al.:** *Proposals for Farming Systems-Oriented Crop Research of WAWI Highland Agricultural Research Station in Northern Thailand.* (Schriftenreihe des Fachbereichs Internationale Agrarentwicklung, 101). Berlin: Verlag Josef Margraf, 1986. XXXIII, 323 pages, DM 29.-

The present report was written by a team of eight postgraduate students under the guidance of Bernd Schubert from the Centre of Advanced Training in Agricultural

Development of the Technical University of Berlin. Form, contents and presentation are evidence of the Centre's long-standing experience in preparing such reports. The participation of persons with training in different fields – e. g. agronomy, animal production, soil science, nutrition and economics – makes this report a good example of the advantages of an interdisciplinary approach, and such an approach is necessary since the book deals not only with the fast changing conditions of life and work in the northern hills but also with nutrition, farming systems, crop rotation, mixed cropping, erosion control, improvement of soil fertility and restructuring of small family farms.

The topic is interesting in two respects as it deals with

- highland agriculture in northern Thailand and it concentrates on
- farming systems-oriented crop research.

Highland agriculture in Thailand is a comparatively new subject. Apart from a small fruit tree research project at Doi Sutep there were no serious efforts to investigate the hill economy until the Hilltribe Development and Welfare Centre was founded in Chiang Mai in 1965. It was in January 1970 that a first conference on social, economic and ecological aspects of upland agriculture in northern Thailand was held in Chiang Mai. The findings of this conference – interesting as they were – showed that knowledge about the highlands and their inhabitants was only slight, that the government had not yet any clearly defined policy towards the highlanders and that only very vague ideas existed regarding the possibilities of improving agricultural production in the hill region. Much has been achieved since the first Chiang Mai Conference, partly under the pressure of the fast growing population, partly under the political pressure to end poppy production in the hills.

The book under review which deals mainly with the socio-economic situation in Tambon Wawi and its new Agricultural Research Station located midway between Fang and Chiang Rai offers a good description of the physical and the socio-cultural setting of the project area. It permits a glimpse into the world of ethnic minorities in the "golden triangle". The following descriptions of the socio-economic setting and marketing make clear beyond doubt that economic development in remote and mountainous areas depends to a very large extent upon a good infrastructure and transport system. The accessibility of villages and fields finally decides which crops can be grown profitably; this is one of the reasons for the difficulties in finding a replacement for poppy, which is the main objective of many governmental activities in the hills.

On the basis of a sound assessment of the factors influencing life and work in the region, the authors discuss the priorities for farming systems-oriented improvements and research, giving due consideration to ecological factors and the possibilities for integrating crop and livestock production, which is very rare in South and

Southeast Asian agriculture. Since the transition from swidden agriculture to a sustained form of rainfed agriculture is necessary for various reasons, it is laudable that the authors recommend experiments with cropping systems and legumes instead of monocropping and the intensive use of fertilizers.

They also recommend research on improved cropping patterns combined with soil conservation measures, a sequence of on-farm trials for adaptation, verification and demonstration.

This book can be recommended to readers interested in hilltribes and in the development of highland agriculture in Northern Thailand. It will also be a good guide for young professionals of different disciplines when preparing similar research.

*Friedrich Wilhelm Fuhs*

**Helmut Schneider:** *Kleinindustrie in einem philippinischen Regionalzentrum. Das Beispiel der Municipality of San Fernando (Ilocosregion/Nord-Luzon) – ein Beitrag zur Rolle der Kleinindustrie im Entwicklungsprozeß.* (Frankfurter Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeographische Schriften, 49). Frankfurt/Main: Institut für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeographie der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, 1986. 536 pages, DM 34,50

This dissertation in geography is a welcome contribution to the growing literature on secondary cities in developing countries. It sheds light on the process of industrialization in a regional centre and questions some of the assumptions drawn from research on the primate city and/or based on more general social science considerations. The author is fully informed about the relevant literature not only within his own discipline but well beyond: an expert in business administration, e. g., could not present a more comprehensive and sound study on the same subject. Though this might enlarge the spectrum of readers of this study, a simple question might be asked beforehand: where are the theoretical limitations of geography? As a non-geographer, I would presume that some emphasis on the spatial aspects of industrialization might be imperative, but the approach chosen by the author is much broader: he touches upon Weber, Schumpeter, Geertz, the modernization theorists etc. I doubt if this was all necessary to tackle the subject. In addition he also dwells at length on the so-called "informal sector" debate (pp. 79 – 122). This is tempting, of course, because geography has not yet contributed much to it. Nevertheless, the author does not provide this dimension, he simply wants to show that as geographer he has integrated this debate into his discourse. However his all-encompassing approach causes him serious problems when it comes to demarcating the sector of study. What