

PETER VON BLANCKENBURG (ed.): *Handbuch der Landwirtschaft und Ernährung in den Entwicklungsländern*, Bd. 1: Sozialökonomie der ländlichen Entwicklung. Stuttgart: Verlag Eugen Ulmer 1982. 464 pages, illustr., DM 138.-.

HANS-DIEDRICH CREMER (ed.): *Handbuch der Landwirtschaft und Ernährung in den Entwicklungsländern*, Bd. 2: Nahrung und Ernährung. Stuttgart: Verlag Eugen Ulmer 1983. 393 pages, illustr., DM 138.-.

Despite the efforts of development policy over a period of several decades the situation in many Third World countries is characterised by hunger, under-nourishment and absolute poverty. In some regions the economic and social problems have become even more intense and there is still no prospect of a solution. In view of this agricultural and, in a broader sense, rural development pose a major problem. Improvements in this sphere are a prerequisite for an assured food supply and, for a large section of the population, of secure employment and income.

Within the last ten years knowledge about the problems of rural development and of food and nutrition in developing countries has increased considerably as a result of technical cooperation and scientific research. It is thus most appropriate that the handbook of agriculture and nutrition in developing countries, originally published in 1967, has been reedited in this much revised and enlarged form. The two anthologies under review are to be followed by three more on plant cultivation and animal husbandry in the tropics and subtropics. Both volumes give a systematic introduction and survey of present knowledge of both these areas of development policy.

The first volume, edited by P. von Blanckenburg, deals exclusively with the social and economic problems of rural development. It is divided into five main parts: theoretical foundations, social structures and institutions, economy of production, agricultural development policy and agricultural planning. Each section includes contributions by German and foreign experts on the main problems of specific topics. It is impossible here to appraise each individual contribution. On the whole, however, one can say that the authors have succeeded, by and large, in the difficult task of giving a comprehensive survey of their topic within the limited space at their disposal and without sacrificing coherency.

Nonetheless, the topics selected do not cover the whole spectrum of the problems of rural development. And the editor makes no secret of the fact that an inventory of international agricultural assistance is missing, although individual contributions do touch on this aspect. This omission is attributed to lack of space and of scientifically established analyses, reasons which, however understandable, are nevertheless regrettable, since the ample experience of agricultural assistance over several decades, in particular the failures of the same, are of great importance for future development policy. With its 22 individual contributions and some 460 pages of close print this volume is quite

a bulky affair. Perhaps that is the reason why certain views on development policy have not been taken into consideration although precisely such anthologies lend themselves to documenting opposing scientific points of view.

The second volume approaches the food problem in developing countries at an interdisciplinary level. Here too, the editor, H.-D. Cremer, has succeeded in finding German and foreign experts as contributors in their respective fields. The volume first gives a detailed account of the world food problem and of the basics of food nutrition. This is followed by the question of food technology, of how to ascertain the situation of nutrition and of malnutrition and its consequences. The volume concludes with an account of various possible solutions and measures for improving the food situation. This anthology also presents the reader with a systematic documentation of contemporary research on this important problem.

Both volumes are meticulously edited and complete with numerous diagrams and index. They will doubtless become standard works in German on the problems of rural development and nutrition in developing countries. They will be of great help to scientists, experts on development policy, students and anyone interested in questions of development.

Wolfgang Quaisser

JAKOB WEBER: *Ländliche Kooperationen im regionalen Entwicklungsprozeß Indiens.* (Bonner Studien zur ländlichen Entwicklung in der Dritten Welt, Vol. 5). Saarbrücken - Fort Lauderdale: Breitenbach Publishers, 1982. 241 pages, DM 26.-.

The book deals with the impact of industrialization on rural areas and the role which a large cooperative society plays in improving agriculture and living standards of rural people. The area under observation is in Chotanagpur Division in South Bihar, a densely populated area with many Adivasi inhabitants. It is located close to the industrial centre of Ranchi. The underlying hypotheses of the study are as follows:

- Industrialization influences positively incomes and market integration of the rural society.
- The impact of industrialization decreases with the distance from the industrial centre.
- Cooperative activities strengthen the positive impact of industrialization.
- A non-governmental cooperative society is particularly suitable for motivating and mobilizing the rural people.

The cooperative society studies is the Chotanagpur Catholic Mission Co-operative Credit Society (CCCS), which was founded in 1909 and has a total membership of 50 000. Membership is open only to household heads of Cath-