

in promoting drip irrigation by introducing frequent demonstrations at farmers field. They should also develop confidence among the farmers by showing the miracle performance of drip irrigation.

9. We felt that the officials who are involving in promoting drip irrigation have inadequate knowledge about the technical details of drip irrigation. Since they are the promoters of the scheme, adequate training should be given to these officials who directly involve in developing drip irrigation.

**Agricultural Output Cost-Pricing Analysis : Issues
in the Context of Economic Liberalisation in India
by Ashok K.Mitra, March 1996, pp. viii+203.**

Introduction

The new economic policy set in motion since mid-1991 has progressively started posing new challenges to as well as creating new opportunities for the Indian economy. Direct and indirect impact of these policy changes are bound to affect the agricultural sector of the Indian economy. It is argued that impact of overall liberalisation of the economy would be higher investment and growth in agriculture induced by favourable terms of trade. In all these arguments, dominant role of market forces, both domestic and international, is visualised to be of crucial importance. In keeping with these policy changes, therefore, Indian agriculture not only has to become cost effective but also competitive internationally as well as in domestic market. In this changing scenario and under changing circumstances it would be of major interest to examine and analyse the extent to which the technological change introduced in Indian agriculture in seventies has had wider spread as also the cost effectiveness of such technological changes. The present study is an attempt in that direction. The study envisages to examine the nature of and extent of changes in production, input use patterns, factor input proportions, cost structure and value of output brought about by the interaction of price factor and technological change in agriculture during the last two decades.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are to examine (i) the trend in unit costs relative to yields, (ii) the changes in component elements of cost and (iii) behaviour of prices relative to cost with a view to ascertain the cost effectiveness of Indian agriculture in the aftermath of technological change with respect to major field crops across space and overtime. Further, the analysis is also attempted to bring out the extent to which the rising cost can be said to be an account of increase in the relative prices of the important factor- inputs or on account of increase in the levels of physical input use. Finally, the objective of the study is also to examine the implications of emerging cost-price relationships on the on-going process of economic liberalisation in India, with special