

**A CRITICAL REVIEW OF RESEARCH IN
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS IN INDIA**

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apt has been made to evaluate search works in Agricultural Eco-
 nomy in the last 75 years. Compared to
 the variety of problems in this
 field, studies have not been many, nor are they equally
 covering all aspects of the Agricultural Economy.

This Review, following a general account of the field, outlines a methodological framework with which the research and investigational works have been examined. The framework is not new, - it is only a restatement of what is known as Scientific Method. Such a frame of reference, however, is necessary to examine any social research aiming at the explanation or resolution of social phenomena or problem. The subsequent chapters deal with specific aspects of India's agricultural Economy and try to subject the studies to critical scrutiny. In the process it is attempted to bring out not only the methodological issues involved, but formulate rather general approach to problems of research in specific directions. Some of these points are summarised in the conclusion.

It is often easier to criticise a work
 than to praise it. This is an unpleasant task; when
 - those by pioneers and those by
 are examined by the same measure
 unfair. However, such an

a view to deriding pioneers who have broken new ground and thrown new light as they themselves were groping in the dark, but with a view to learning where they were right, and where they went wrong and why. The need for such assessment at the present time in India cannot be overemphasised. The wise learn from the experience of others.

This study owes its origin to a suggestion by Professor D. R. Gadgil, back in 1951. During these years it had to be kept aside for long periods for more pressing work. To what extent it has suffered on account of this discontinuity, I do not know. If I have persisted through these years I owe it to the inspiration of Prof. Gadgil. He has encouraged and guided me at every stage of my work and given many many hours of his valuable time to discussing it with me. I owe more to him than I can express in words. If I have failed to live upto his exacting standards, the faults are entirely mine.

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