

Review of
Development & Change
Volume V Number 2, July - December 2000

Foodgrain production in North East India, 1970-71 to 1996-97

J K Khundrakpam

Abstract

Growing food grain shortage is an increasing concern of the north-eastern states. This paper, using the difference stationary time series, estimates the growth rate, instability and structural break in the growth of output, area and yield of food grain in the north-eastern states during the sample period 1970-71 to 1996-97. It observes higher but unstable growth in foodgrain output during the 1970s in most of the states and their deceleration since the 1980s. High area growth in the 1970s decelerated since the 1980s while yield growth stagnated or remained low. Thus, higher than average yield in these states around the beginning of the 1970s was in the 1990s sustained in three states only. Various factors are identified for slow yield growth. They are: heavier concentration of number and area under unviable holdings, though this may have led to application of additional labour inputs to generate more subsistence produce from a low production curve with diminishing return; predominance of share cropping with high rent; non-legislation and loop-holes in the implementation of land and tenancy reforms; shortening of Jhum cycle and reduction in soil fertility due to population pressure; disproportionate use of modern agricultural inputs and practice of multiple cropping, unlike elsewhere, more in un-irrigated areas; lack of marketing network and production for self consumption inhibiting generation of marketable surplus; and inadequate agricultural credits with weak and dormant co-operatives.

* * *

College resources and student performance: databases, recent trends and implications for private aided degree colleges in Karnataka State (India)

M R Narayana

Abstract

This paper has developed a general empirical framework for estimation of the impact of course-specific and college-specific resources on student performance in degree colleges. To implement the framework, available databases on student performance and college resources in the state are explored. In order to fill in the gaps in the secondary data, a design for primary data collection at the college level, on sampling basis, is developed. However due to paucity of data of student performance by course, this paper estimates (based on a pooled regression analysis) the impact of college-specific resources on student performance in all aided courses in 31 sample aided private degree colleges under All colleges, Other colleges, Minority colleges and Minority and SC/ST colleges in Bangalore districts of Karnataka State during 1991- 92 to 1997-98. The estimation results show that only a few variables may be distinguished as the common determinants of student performance in colleges of all management. And, regardless of the nature of management, the impact of grants-in-aid on student performance is smallest in magnitude but statistically highly significant. These analyses and empirical results are useful to policy makers, for instance, in providing with a basis for a

management-specific policy interventions for improving student performance, especially in the aided private degree colleges in urban Karnataka.

* * *

Banking sector reforms and the emerging patterns in commercial credit deployment in India

D Narayana

Abstract

Banking sector reform, which is a major component of Macroeconomic Adjustment Programme in India, has changed the trends and patterns of banking over the last six to seven years. This paper seeks to analyse the trends in credit deployment by industry, by bank group, by rural and urban areas, and by states over the recent period. The argument of the paper is that serious regional and sectoral inequalities are developing in the deployment of commercial credit in this country. The economic reasoning for nationalizing the major banks in 1969 was the imperfection in the allocation of credit. With bank nationalization there was a rapid expansion of the banking network into rural and semi-urban areas, and an increase in the share of agriculture and small industry and transport and trade in the total credit deployed. The banking sector reforms have changed this trend. The number of loan accounts has fallen by 60 lakhs in six years, and the fall is largely confined to agriculture, transport operators and trade. The new private banks and foreign banks are increasing their presence in the emerging business of loans for personal and professional services. There is a striking regional dimension to the developments of the last few years. The emerging banks and the existing ones are competing to expand in South and North-West India attracted by the growing credit business in a milieu with strong banking habits. This has resulted in a drastic reallocation of total commercial credit from the poorer agricultural states to Delhi, Maharashtra and Tamilnadu. The situation is one where private banks are left to 'skim the cream' without investing in the long-term development of banking habits.

* * *

Water management under traditional tank irrigation systems: with special reference to Mamulnamas

K Sivasubramaniyan

Abstract

That water management in agriculture is a sine qua non for increasing crop productivity is beyond doubt. Evidences show that centuries ago water management practices were effectively handled by the farmers under tank irrigation systems in South, India. These practices were necessitated mainly to avert a 'scarcity' condition and to enable a sustained water supply' throughout the crop growth period. This paper attempts to focus on the traditional water management practices adopted by farmers in two major tank irrigation systems in Tamil Nadu. Further, present performance of water allocation during normal tank supply period is also discussed in the selected villages served by the tank systems.

* * *

Doctoral Work**Measuring government size: a statistical profile of government expenditure***Mala Lalvani***Abstract**

The New Political Economy literature has brought to the fore the concept of 'Government Failure'. The State is considered as a strategic actor in an interactive game of interest groups. The powerful implication for fiscal policy made by Public Choice theorists is a reduction in the desired role for the Government. Errors of omission and commission on the part of the Indian government has caused the lens eye to be focused on its expanding size. In this study we look at a statistical profile of combined expenditures of central and state governments and of the centre alone. The results of our study lead us to conclude that the Indian government has indeed exhibited a marked increase in its size. What is crucial to consider, however, is the direction rather than quantum of adjustment.

* * *