PREFACE

There are plenty of natural resources in our Country. In spite of this fact, it is ironical that our country is continued to be backward. This is the basic question of geography that should be answered by research students. It appears that we have not in a position to use all the resources at our disposal. The full utilization of natural potential should be the first step in this direction. However, our farmers are lacking better knowledge of the environment and its condition. Therefore, it is essential to teach our farmers, the modern ways and techniques in utilizing the available natural resources. All cultivable lands should be brought under the plough. It is said that Britain was able to produce 34 to 40 percent of her food requirement in 1939. By 1944, she doubled her production. The systematic land utilization and regional planning are the contributary factors for the present progress of the west in the realm of agriculture. The planners in the west, select crops according to the suitability of soils and select industry to suit perfect geographical locations. This is the key to their success. It is necessary to make certain bold and significant beginning with research and survey in various fields to increase our crop efficiency. Some of the technique and methods of the west could be adopted to our conditions with fair degree of success.

The problems of plantation farming have come to the
fore front as research topics for geographers, sociologists and economists. This thesis is designed to study geographical factors which influence coffee plantation farming of a leading coffee growing state, Karnataka in general and Coorg district in particular. In this study, a few research methods like 'Regression' and 'Scattergram' have been used to measure the degree of relationship between physical factors and productivity in coffee estates. Further, an attempt is made here to find out the impact of coffee plantations on socio-economic conditions of labour in Coorg. Based on the analysis of the present conditions, the future prospects of the coffee plantations are also predicted. An effort has been made in paving the way for the further expansion of coffee cultivation.

This research work is the result of not merely a formal study of the coffee plantations of Karnataka State and Coorg District but it is indeed the outcome of a long-standing interested observations and mode of life of people in these remote places. When the author first visited Coorg which is the leading coffee producing district in Karnataka, he was much impressed by her majestic coffee estates with orange and pepper along the slopy hill, beautiful landscape, salubrious climate etc. These physical and cultural features of the district created an intense interest to know more about coffee and its related associations.

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