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PREFACE

The diversity in Indian agriculture is a well established fact. This renders any general agricultural policy highly vulnerable to distortions. This vulnerability can be minimised with an assessment of the objective conditions of agriculture which may include highly region-specific factors. This thesis is the outcome of my search for such region-specific factors in the economic reality of Manipur.

Very little empirical work has been done in the various aspects of the economy of Manipur. The database also is comparatively untested. The present work involves a critical examination of the database related to the agricultural sector which has the major share in terms of total employment and state domestic product. A firm database for this sector is a must for understanding the linkages between agriculture and other sectors of the economy. Reconstruction of data however is beyond the scope of this work. Agrarian change can definitely be brought about by technological change and institutional change. Of these two, the former appears to be more amenable with less resistance from entrenched interest as has been the experience of any social change. Hence it is extremely important to understand the changes in the agrarian structure brought about by changes in agricultural technology and to compare these changes with the overall objectives of development e.g. higher rate of growth, reduction of inequality and higher employment rate etc. The current thesis is addressed to these questions.
The research was conducted under the guidance of Prof. M. Ibenon Singh who had the patience to see us working in our own way in fits and starts. Without his constant encouragement and guidance this thesis would have remained incomplete. No words are sufficient to express my gratitude to him. I am also grateful to Dr. N.V. Murty and Dr. K. Panda of Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University for guidance and help during the Library-work phase.

Colleagues in my department particularly Dr. Anur Kumaran for giving me access to his beautiful collection of economic literature

M. Saidhar Singh, Vice-Principal, Khm-Manipur College, Imphal and the 1999 batch of Economics core students of the same college who helped me during my field trips to Imphal.

M. Sukajit, Ph.D. scholar in Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi for his constant support and encouragement.

I also express my gratitude to the Librarians of

Manipur University
Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University
Ratan Tata Library, Delhi University
Central Statistical Organisation, New Delhi
Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi
Manipur Agricultural College, Manipur
My indebtedness to various scholars has been acknowledged in the thesis. I also thank the authority of Manipur University for granting me study leave for completing this work.

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