CHAPTER VII

FUTURE OUTLOOK

The present chapter attempts to make a brief review of the findings of our analyses in the previous chapters and also make necessary suggestions to mitigate the problem of land use pattern and agrarian system in the state. It will not be exaggerated to maintain that even if agriculture is the most important sector in both the valley and hill areas, the level of development in the two regions is not uniform for many reasons. The pattern and practice of agricultural operations followed in the two regions are also different. In the valley areas permanent settlement does exist by covering all the cultivable and non-cultivable areas under cadastral surveys. Land revenue is collected by the Government by fixing rate of rents according to the types of land such as homestead land, most fertile (class A), less fertile (class B) and so on.

Whereas, in the hills areas permanent settlement does not exist except in some Head Quarters of Hill districts. Cadastral surveys are not yet carried out in the entire hill regions except in some areas of District Head Quarters. Instead of imposing land revenue, Hills House tax which was introduced by the Britishers is
still in force. In short, land use pattern in the valley areas is within the purview of Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act 1960, whereas in the hill regions it is under custom, connection and tradition of the different hill tribes. Customary laws regulate the land use pattern in the hill areas.

Further it is also revealed that the pattern of land use in the state is characterized by low percentage of cultivable land and limited irrigation facilities. The wide practice of shifting cultivation in the hill areas leads to reduction in the production of both timber and food grains. Mass devastation of forest areas further creates the problems of soil erosion, situation and salinization, thereby reducing the fertility of the soil. Not only that lack of proper organization in the land use system due to fragmentation of land holdings, non-availability of proper credit facilities, unorganized marketing system etc. makes the problem more sounded.

The study also reveals that most of the cultivable lands are used for growing cereals mainly rice and maize. Rice is the most important crop grown in the valley areas of Manipur. Except in the two valley districts of Manipur i.e. Bishnupur and Thoubal, cash crops constitutes a very negligible proportion of the total cash crops
grown. Most of the agriculturists in the valley areas, do not grow pulses and vegetables for wide commercial purposes, rather they are grown in the form of kitchen garden. Therefore, out of the twelve months in a year most of the paddy fields in the state lie idle and unused. After Rabi crops the paddy fields remain unused or underutilized till the monsoon comes. In short, cropping intensity index is comparatively very low in comparison with other state particularly than that of all India average. Most of the cultivators used to engage themselves in other non-agricultural activities such as handlooms and handicrafts in the lean season.

It is known that agricultural land use and productivity depend upon the patterns of human behaviour, nature of land and climate and location specially the scope and extension of market. Since most of the people are traditional in their outlook and illiterate, it appears that they do not try themselves to be acquainted with modern techniques of production and are compelled to stay at the subsistence level.

So far the land reform measures are concerned the effectiveness of the measures undertaken is far from satisfactory. Though some of the surplus land holdings above the permitted
ceiling, were acquired and distributed the problem of fragmentation of land still persists on. Cooperative movement though initiated amongst the farmers, still the progress is far from satisfactory. Cooperative Societies concerning with financial and marketing activities are yet to develop at a faster rate. The present state and progress of development of such type of Societies are still far lagging behind the all India level.

In fact the overall agricultural performance in both hill and valley areas has been disappointing. The ‘Green Revolution’ techniques do not seem to have made much of an impact here. The overall growth rate of agricultural production has averaged barely 2 percent per annum over the last 20-30 years which is in fact less than the rate of population growth.

Policy Implications:

In order to raise agricultural productivity and to reorganize the agricultural sector in the state separate agricultural policies for hills and valley areas need not to be formulated. A common integrated agricultural policy should be formulated for both hills and valley areas since the two are faces of the same coin. The pattern of land use is the outcome of the combined working of land,
labour, capital and techniques of production in the process of agricultural production. The seasonal characteristics of rainfall necessitate development of some sort of irrigation without which the success of Green Revolution in the state has very little chance. As already discussed Green Revolution calls for uninterrupted water supply, use of HYV/ better seeds fertilizers and modern techniques of cultivation. Now the following suggestions can be put forth for better utilization of land resources in the state.

1. There is enormous potential for development by proper harnessing of the abundant water resources of the region, especially groundwater programmes to accelerate the pace of irrigation development should be taken up at the maximum. The Sen Committee recommends a large step up in public sector outlays for major and minor irrigation works and for development of tube wells along with electrification of tracts identified as having a good groundwater potential.¹

2. Efforts should also be made to provide liberal credit to farmers as well as land consolidation and institutional devices to

¹Committee on Agricultural Productivity in Eastern India, RBI, 1983 under the chairmanship of S.R.Sen.
make groundwater development economical and accessible to small farmers be introduced to stimulate rapid development of well irrigation in the private sector.

3. Another important step that should be taken up towards better utilization of land is consolidation of fragmented lands and introduction of cooperative farming so that abundance groundwater can be used. The sluggish in using ground water may be due to fact that the returns to irrigation relative to the costs involved may be relatively low and highly fragmented holdings may further reduce the private benefit-cost ratio. In this context land consolidation could make a significant difference to the costs of and returns to well irrigation.

4. The next step to be taken up towards better utilization of land is organization of cooperative marketing societies. The petty farmers would like to dispose their output as soon as harvesting is over irrespective of prevailing market prices. It is because of the fact that they carried out their agricultural works by borrowing from village money lenders or land owners at an exorbitant rate of interest. So as soon as the harvesting is over they would like to settle their debts without waiting for a good price of their products.
Thus the fruits/rewards of their hard work almost went into the pockets of the Mahajans. Therefore, the government should take up appropriate measures to construct storage/warehouse and to maintain a minimum price support policy so as to reap a reasonable amount of profit.

5. Strict measures should also be taken up to check jhuming/shifting cultivation in the hill areas. Permanent settlement must be introduced through Autonomous Hills District Councils. By introducing permanent settlement credit facilities should be made available to the farmers so that modern techniques of farming can be introduced.

6. Cropping of cash crops such as potato oilseeds, sweet-potato, mustards, gingers, chillies etc. must be encouraged by providing good transportation system and easily accessible to the nearest marketing place.

7. In order to prevent shifting/jhuming cultivation in the hill areas horticulture farming should be developed on priority basis. The system which prevails in the hill areas of Himachal Pradesh should be introduced in Manipur also. In Himachal Pradesh the top thick forests areas are treated as reserved forests areas, deforestation
is strictly prohibited in these reserved protected areas. The horticulture farming is practiced in the middle part of hilly terrains/regions and terrace cultivation is operated in the foot hills and lower parts of the hill regions. The main advantages of such type of land utilization are that at the time of rainy seasons, rain waters are absorbed by the thick forests on the top of the hills. The excess water released is absorbed again in the middle part of the hills where horticulture farming does take place. This obviously prevents soil erosion and sudden floods in the valley areas. Paddy fields in the foot hills are also regulated by the water supply slowly released by the thick forests as well as the shrubs. This also maintains the fertility of soil. Moreover, it will also prevent siltation and salinization in the valley areas where rice cultivation are extensively carried on. Not only that it will also help to prevent ecological imbalance so that the problem of untimely monsoon and natural disaster can be mitigated to a greater extent.

8. Another important measure which should be taken up towards better utilization of land is to make avail the HYV/Hybrid seeds at large scale on subsidized rate. At present these
HYV/Hybrid seeds are available in limited quantity and cannot be made available to all farmers.

9. The government should also encourage undertake research programme which are agricultural development oriented in nature such as introduction of more productive and sustainable seeds.

10. In order to carry out successfully the new agricultural strategy in the state new technology should be introduced/implemented at large scale. This can be made possible only by reorganizing agricultural financial system. More branches of both nationalized banks and Agricultural Financial Institutions should be opened in the rural areas so that credits are made available to the poor farmers at low/reasonable rate of interest. In short more financial institutions should be developed in rural areas to mitigate the agricultural financial problems.

11. MLR & LR Act 1960 should be extended in the hills areas also. The main problem faced by the farmers in the hill areas is financial assistance in terms of loans or grants from the banking and other financial institutions. At present banking financial facilities cannot be made available in the hill areas because of the absence of permanent settlement. Generally, the banking
institutions provide loans or financial assistance only when adequate security is made available against the sanction loan amount. Loan can be easily sanctioned against the permanently settled lands, taking the same land area as the security of loan. Whereas, in the case of shifting/jhuming cultivation that cultivable area cannot be taken as the security of the loan and therefore, loans cannot be advanced/ sanctioned against them. Therefore, necessary measures may be taken up by the govt. or competent authority to make the hill people convinced that permanent settlement of land be implemented as early as possible so that all types of financial and non-financial facilities may be made available to them.

12. Last but not the least, in order to utilize the natural resources available in hill areas in abundant at the optimum level, drastic measures should be taken up to make the remote hill areas easily accessible to the nearest market by construction of new roads and bridges and also by improving the condition of the existing ones.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS:


5. Ahluwalia B.K. and Ahluwalia Shashi
   Social Change in Manipur,
   Cultural Publishing House,
   New Delhi, 1984.

6. Ahmed, S.


   Regional Imperatives in Utilisation and Management of Resources in India and USSR 1st Edn, Concept Publishing Company, New


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title and Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Dr. Datta Roy, B.</td>
<td>Social – Economic Profile of</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title and Publication Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Ganguli, J.B.</td>
<td>Marketing in North East India, 1st Edn, Omsan Publications, New Delhi, 1984</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
26. Hansra B.S, Perumal G and Chandra Kandam K


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Pub. Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Mathur, B.S.</td>
<td>Corporation in India</td>
<td>Sahitya Bhavan, Agra (Uttar Pradesh), 1995.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


40. Perdikis, N. (ed) The Indian Economy-
Contemporary Issues, Ashgate
Publishing Ltd., England,
2000.

41. Podhi, G.S. Forestry in India- A Critical
Study, Natraj Publications,
Dehra Dun (Uttaranchal),
1982.

42. Raju, V.T., Rao, D.V.S. Economics of Farm
Production and Management,
Oxford and IBH Publishing
Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi,
2002.

43. Randhawa, M.S. Green Revolution, Vikash
Publishing House Pvt. Ltd.,
Delhi, 1974.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher, Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49.</td>
<td>Ruddar Datt, K.P.M.</td>
<td>Indian Economy, Published by Chand and Company Ltd., New Delhi, 2012.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.</td>
<td>Shenoi, P.V.</td>
<td>Agricultural Development in India: A New Strategy in</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title, Publisher and Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
60. Vasant Desai
A Survey of Rural Economics,
Himalaya Publishing House,
Bombay, 1983.

61. Verma, R.K.
Development Infrastructure
for Rural Development, 1st
Edn, Jai Prakash Nath and
Co, Meerut (Uttar Pradesh),
1996.

62. Vijayaragana K,
Agricultural Administration in
India, A Comparative Study,
Concept Publishing Company,
New Delhi, 1994.
JOURNALS:


64. Economic and Political Weekly, Recent Development in Indian Agriculture: A state level Analysis, Vol.32, (March 29-April 4, 1997), Pp.A2-A18


73. Yojna; December 2009, Vol.53


75. Yojna: Boost Agriculture Production to Bridge Supply Gap, Chidambaram( Oct.51)

76. Agricultural Universities for enhancing agricultural Productivity, Profitability and sustainability of Indian
DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS:

77. A handbook of Manipur Hill Village Authority, Government of Manipur, Department of Law

78. Manipur Hill People (Administration) Regulation, 1947

79. The Manipur (Village Authorities in Hill Areas) Act, 1956


86. Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of


88. Department of Agriculture, Government of Manipur.

89. State Planning Department- Draft Annual Plan.

90. Land Reform Cell, Government of Manipur- Land Ceiling and Distribution of Surplus Land in Manipur.

91. Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 1960


95. Land Reform Cell, Government of Manipur-Land Ceiling and Distribution of Surplus land in Manipur
UNPUBLISHED PH. D. THESIS:


98. Bokul, Problems of Agricultural Labour in Manipur with special reference to Thoubal District (1989), Department of Economics, Manipur University.
