PREFACE

The Sociological significance of agriculture is increasingly being recognized by contemporary sociologists. Its significance is all the more important in underdeveloped Afro-Asian countries where industrial and technological progress has not opened up vast opportunities and avenues of employment and large populations are still dependent upon agricultural produce. The possession or appropriation of agricultural land still defines and determines the parameters of social stratification in such countries. Such agriculture-based economics inspire a specific set of social, political, ethical cultural and ideological views and values. The meaning of such situational or conditional determinations can never be missed by serious and perceptive sociological investigators.

Accordingly, significant sociological investigations of the role of agriculture in the historical and contemporary march of human civilization are being conducted throughout the world. Indian sociologists and anthropologists have also carried out methodologically sophisticated studies on the role of agriculture in the stratification of Indian Society. Intensive and extensive researches regarding the role of agriculture in defining the political, ideological and cultural norms of Indian Society have been conducted as well by our sociologists. The studies pertaining to the role of implementation of Land Reforms in contemporary social
change in Indian Society have also come to the fore through compilation of various sociological anthologies and surveys.

The present study is an analysis and evaluation of the transformative role of implementation of Land Reforms Legislations in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Area of Study of this thesis is Tehsil Kulgam, a predominantly agriculture-dependent hilly area in South Kashmir.

The study, firstly, takes up for review some of the important studies carried out by Indian sociologists on the role of agriculture in Indian Society. Secondly, the of Land Reforms Laws promulgated and implemented in Great Britain, France, Germany, Soviet Union and India have also been summarized. Thirdly, an account of the initiation and evolution of agrarian transformation in Jammu and Kashmir State has also been given. Fourthly, the methodology and Data Base of the Study have been presented as well. Fifthly, the findings of the agrarian transformation of Tehsil Kulgam too have been outlined in this study. Lastly, a review of the present study and some suggestions for a more radical social, political and economic transformation of Jammu and Kashmir State have as well been encapsulated.

The present study is a humble contribution to the gathering sociological investigations on the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Hopefully it will inspire a fruitful and healthy debate on the relevance and meaningfulness of the implementation of Land Reforms Legislations in the present era of our history.