

TEXTBOOK ON DIMENSIONS OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

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Textbook on Dimensions of Agricultural Extension

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN INDIA THROUGH YEARS

— Sunil Kumar, Mustfa Hussain

ABSTRACT

Rural development has assumed global attention especially among the developing nations and it has great significance for a country like India. Rural development focuses upon the development of the sections of rural economies, that experience serious poverty issues and effectively aims at developing their productivity. It also emphasizes the need to address various pressing issues of village economies that hinder growth and improve these areas. The Government of India has launched number of schemes for development of rural areas. The rural India facing the major problems of housing, absence of infrastructure in villages and towns to village connectivity by all-weather roads and absence of employment opportunities in villages. The national policy and programs for a successful rural development task should aim at diversification of economic activities, minimizing the dependence of rural households on agriculture and bringing about a significant increase in the share in both output and employment of allied activities, rural industries, business and service components of the rural economy. If this is not pursued, rural development merely remains as agricultural development and neither solves the problem of rural employment and poverty nor of equitable distribution of resources and income-generating assets.

Keywords: rural development, rural development, and employment.

For India, rural development has been an integral part of nation's socio-economic development. Rural development can no longer be identified with mere increase in Gross National Product or even per capita national income. The increased income should be distributed so as to result in significant diminution of inequalities of income and wealth. Every rural family should have its reasonable share in the generation of GNP and sharing increased per capita income. Integrated rural development means optimum utilization of