

S.S.m. 10. THARIAN GEORGE, K.—The Economics of Tea Plantations in South India—1983—Dr. Jose T. Payyappilly

The study is essentially focussed into the factors behind the so called stagnancy in the tea prices, with a historical analysis of the development of tea plantations in South India from its inception to late 1970s.

In the first chapter the author explains the main features of the plantation system of agriculture, the factors behind the introduction of tea cultivation in India by the British and the subsequent development of it in South India.

The Chapter II deals with the structural changes leading to the capitalist development of tea plantations in South India and its consequences. This section also includes the role played by the merchant capital (coast firms in South India) and the managing agencies for accelerating the capitalist development of tea plantations.

Chapter III is concerned with the pattern of tea production in South India, its differences with tea production in other areas, size-productivity relations, relationship with size of a tea estate and the age group of bushes, trends in area under tea etc.

Chapter IV contains an analysis of the evolution of the present day system of tea marketing with a clinical scrutiny of the factors behind the stability of tea prices compared to the trends in the prices of other plantation crops.

The evolution of small tea growers in South India, peculiarities of their production organisation and marketing and their problems are dealt with in Chapter V.

Chapter VI of the study is concerned with the labour in South Indian tea plantations. It analyses the peculiarities of plantation labour vis-a-vis the recent trends in employment, wages and the changes in their living conditions since independence.

Chapter VII analyses the developmental and financial problems of the Indian tea industry in particular. Chapter VIII summarises the main conclusions and the recommendations of the study.