

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

This dissertation concerns the tasks of planning of the districts of North Bengal with aim of establishing a highly advanced milk complex catering to the needs of vast areas beyond and neighbouring foreign countries using with sea and land routes.

In pursuance of an idea expressed in P.C. Sarkar's *The Planning of Agriculture in India* published in 1966 strengthened by decades of grass root studies in terms of M.Phil, Ph.D. programmes and research projects, the key – note is that massive preparation for take-off in the countryside of this vast country is possible on the basis of inter area division of labour in terms of specific but different land endowments. Accordingly the districts of the North Bengal Division of the state of West Bengal are adjudged as the most suitable for integrated milk and milk processing zone. This, however, can only be done after a full-scale preparation for take-off. The actual take-off, according to Rostow, centres for two to three decades during which the economy get fully transformed and after which the development and growth is more or less automatic. Rostow mistook the export of cotton textile as an indication of the completion of the pre take-off stage. *in India.*

As a matter of fact, the growth of output per capita disguises heavily massive unemployment and poverty of our countryside. We have found that all the people living in the villages surveyed are living under poverty line, using the dollar equivalent of per capita family income. According to a reasonable method of measurement we used, we find that the present low level of exploitation of the highly valuable land resource can give some sort of full employment to <sup>less than</sup> ~~one~~ one-third of those who would like to depend on rural level enterprises.

We have made both non-mathematical and mathematical regression function methods to analyze the various productive units, more especially, crop and milk units. All production is limited by demand. As the lack of demand is the cause of the hopelessly low level of exploitation of the infinitely productive resource, the smaller units take the initiative of being not only employing more labour but also making the best combination of inputs.

Of the total milk produced in these villages, 70% is sold as non-pasteurized fresh milk to consumers mostly outside the villages, 24% to primitive processors of Bengali sweets *ghee* and *dahi* and only 6% to pasteurization agents.

So far reforms are blindly centered on the continuous increase of direct foreign investment. There is no urge of reforms in the interest of raising an efficient band of productive workers and raise their level of employment and productivity to the height of institutional level and in the process raise the level of global economy to an unprecedented peak. In other words, an amendment of the Vajpaee-Sinha type of continuous reduction of the rate of interest and the IMF-World Bank type of <sup>globalisation</sup> increasing <sup>interminably</sup> direct foreign investment in developing countries might be disastrous for the whole of world economy.

A great means of ushering in preparation for take-off in the countryside is the Raiffeisen type of cooperative covering such number of villages so that members have no difficulty to come on foot for the general meetings to exercise supremacy over their board. The Raiffeisens of the villages may form a voluntary association of all such Raiffeisens throughout a district.

The government accountants may check their accounts but may not interfere in any way.

In addition, the cooperation of the government sector is essential in many respects. (1) They must install a basic agency of extension (advice) in designing newer activities. (2) They must also make sure that rural Raiffeisens have no

difficulty to choose their technologists and managerial experts for their multifarious activities of getting numerous products and services produced. (3) The public sector has also the responsibility of appointing autonomous business houses to produce such services, as the association of Raiffeisens of the district needs. Production and distribution of electricity and setting up of district circular railways might be examples. (4) Restructuring in terms of new sets of legislation in consultation with the Raiffeisens would be necessary on some fronts. One such front is the proportional employment of men and women on newer and additional activities. (5) But the most important thing is that the state government and all governments must balance their budgets reducing their internal debt to zero.

One advantage of the Raiffeisens cooperatives as purely private sector is that there would be built-in checks against any deviation from transparency of the cooperation between the government and the business.

We find that income-elasticity of milk is consistently higher than that for cereals and cereal products as well as vegetables. Income-elasticity of demand for education and healthcare are still greater.

We fit Leontief system for possible special and general solutions. The model can be widened also for dynamisation in intervals of years to help the Raiffeisen cooperatives plan and develop newer activities maximizing the use of local resources.

Being relatively under-developed of all areas the districts of the North Bengal Division of the state of West Bengal have an advantage in that diversion of the lands from one use to other uses, say installing kilometers of pastures when necessary for the purpose of cooperative processing of milk under professional management, will be possible if only some of the Raiffeisens of the area covered for pasturing and processing cooperative join into a pact for the purpose and members of each of Raiffeisens approve and control such activity.