

FOREWORD

The development and manufacture of agricultural machinery in India has come a long way in the past five to six decades. From a meagre beginning made by some pioneers to manufacture and sell ploughs made of cast iron, the country has progressed to be the leader in the manufacture of agricultural tractors in the world. The relevance and importance of agricultural machinery in the country can be gauged from the fact that more than Rs 30,000 crores is spent in the manufacture and sale of such implements and machinery annually. This has gone hand in hand from the level of a begging bowl to the bread basket. Agricultural production has grown from a level of less than 40 million metric tonnes of food grains in the 1950s to over 209 million metric tonnes in 2003-2004. The country has also built up substantial quantity of buffer grain stock.

While the typical Indian farmer relies on a mix of human, animal and mechanical sources of power, it is seen that primary tillage operations, in general are carried out by tractors either owned or custom hired by him. India is on the threshold of witnessing a revolution in the adoption of agricultural machinery due to increased migration of rural workers to urban areas and increasing cost of farm labour. Moreover, there is a need to increase the productivity of land, which calls for timeliness of operation. The manufacture of agricultural equipment in the country is reserved for the non-organised sector and many designs of locally developed machines are usually available on demand, though not marketed professionally. One of the foremost requirements of the extension worker is to create awareness of new technology and adoption of modern methods. In order to achieve this end result, the need for a ready source of information on agricultural machinery and its manufacturers has long been felt.

This compilation on agricultural machinery and manufacturers addresses the needs of farmers, extension workers, scientists, students, engineers, manufacturers and teachers by providing succinct and relevant information. In keeping with the need of the hour to create awareness about the use of renewable sources of energy and generation of employment at the rural level, technologies and machinery for the rural household have been provided in a good measure with a comprehensive list of manufacturers. The painstaking efforts of the authors in collecting and compiling this repository of information with appropriate photographs and drawings is expected to go a long way in furthering the cause of popularisation of agricultural machinery in the country. I congratulate the authors for bringing out this much needed publication.



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