



The Politics of Swidden farming
 Environment and Development in Eastern India
By Debojyoti Das

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An ethnographic case study offering a new explanation for the changes taking place in slash-and-burn farming in the highlands of eastern India.

‘This is one of the best books to date on swidden (jhum) farming. Based on engaged new fieldwork in Northeast India and a rereading of its history, Debojyoti Das gives us an important re-evaluation of agroecology, with global implications, and potential, going far beyond India. His book deserves wide attention.’

—Magnus Fiskesjö, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Cornell University, USA

‘Debojyoti Das’s masterful ethnography and history of Nagaland is an essential landmark. Take an egalitarian population of shifting cultivators at the edge of empire and nation, add the modern state, commodity markets and Baptist “improvement” and you get a “civilizing” revolution that Das examines in remarkable, complex and deeply insightful ways.’

—James C. Scott, Sterling Professor of Political Science and Anthropology, Yale University, USA

‘The Politics of Swidden farming’ is an ethnography of swidden farming practised – a characteristically remote, inaccessible and under-researched region of South Asia. The research ties on both archival-historical and contemporary ethnographic discourses on swidden farming and agrarian development among the eastern Naga community inhabiting the northeastern borderland state of Nagaland.

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About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Debojyoti Das is an AHRC-GCRF postdoctoral associate at Bristol University, UK. He received his PhD in social anthropology from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and has held several prestigious fellowships and consultancies at Yale, Sussex and the University of London. Das has published widely in journals such as the European Bulletin of Himalayan Research, Journal of Borderland Studies, Journal of the Indian Ocean Region and Economic and Political Weekly besides contributing to blogs.

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