

## Advance Praise

The result of intense and committed fieldwork into the transitions and transformations of agricultural and rural capitalism, of gendered work, of production and exchange, of feudal rents and relations and of local and global capitalist markets, this rich evocation of the flatland society of a mountain state is certain to inspire comparative research, debate and reflections far and wide in agrarian studies.

**Barbara Harriss-White**, University of Oxford

A bold and brilliant work by Fraser Sugden. Based on the ethnography of modes of production and compelling analysis of the complex and multilinear process of agrarian change in the Nepal Tarai, the book offers a fresh look at pre-capitalist formations in the age of globalisation in one of the world's peripheral economies. This book, for its unconventional approach, is a rare contribution to the study of Nepal's political economy.

**Suresh Dhakal**, Tribhuvan University

## Land, Labour and Agrarian Change in Nepal's Tarai-Madhesh

This book offers a historically grounded and multi-scalar analysis of agrarian change in Nepal's far-eastern Tarai. It shows how this region has since the 1700s evolved from a forested frontier home to relatively autonomous Adivasi (indigenous) cultivators to a feudal economy grounded in landlord–tenant relations, which has persisted alongside a rapidly expanding industrial and commercial sector. The book explores the changing land ownership patterns and distribution of surplus, the flow of labour between agriculture and industry, and more complex interactions with global capitalism. It thus offers unique insights into both the reproduction and transformations of class, ethnic and labour relations in Nepal during a period of rapid political transformation. It also offers deeper insights into how capitalism expands into regions on the periphery of the global economy and interacts with older economic formations.

**Fraser Sugden** is an Associate Professor in Human Geography at the University of Birmingham specialising in the political economy of agrarian and environmental change. He has written extensively on shifting class, gender and generational relations in agriculture globally, and their interaction with contemporary environmental, political and economic stresses. He has conducted intensive rural fieldwork across South and East Asia, with a focus on Nepal and the Eastern Gangetic Plains and, prior to joining the University of Birmingham, was based at the International Water Management Institute in Kathmandu, where he led a range of research projects on agricultural intensification, irrigation and land tenure.

# **Land, Labour and Agrarian Change in Nepal's Tarai-Madhesh**

**Fraser Sugden**



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