

BOOK REVIEW

THE BENEFITS OF FLOOD ALLEVIATION—A Manual of Assessment Techniques by Edmund C. Penning-Rowsell and John B. Chatterton, Gower Publishing Company Ltd England, reprinted 1986, pp. 1 to 297, price 75 pounds.

Both for Structural measures (such as flood embankments, dams, retention reservoirs etc.) of flood control and management or non-structural measures (such as flood plain land use control, flood warning schemes, flood insurance programmes etc.) it is becoming necessary to carry out proper economic analysis to quantify benefits of such measures in terms of flood damages averted. Somewhat similar analysis is needed in case of the assessment of benefit to be derived from agricultural drainage. This manual of assessment techniques provides a good compilation of nationally applicable standard flood damage data from United Kingdom. For cases where standardization of data is not possible, authors have provided a standard method of site questionnaire survey. The manual also provides description of two computer models for simplifying the calculation of discounted benefits for comparison with scheme costs. Both these models provide many options to allow for flexible operation. Besides the chapters dealing with flood damage information for residential areas, retail, retail service and offices, industry and related services, the manual also provides guidelines for the assessment of benefits and details of two case studies.

The book is well illustrated. Besides a number of tables, bibliography and questionnaires, it also includes eleven appendices. It would be a very useful reference for all those who are involved in flood control and management.

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