

# Technology Choice and the Problem of Development

- Economic Goals: efficiency, productivity, employment, exports, import substitution
- Social: drudgery, dignity, autonomy, leisure and culture
- Health: prevention, care and treatment
- Risk reduction: natural and human induced disasters
- Political: defence, peace and security, democracy, corruption
- Environmental: sustainability, efficient use of resources, alternatives

## **Choice of techniques: Amartya Sen**

**Technology: important variable in development strategy**

**Goals: efficiency, employment, resources, needs, priorities**

**Labour intensive or capital intensive? Use proper economic principles guided by social considerations**

**Usual Criteria: output, gestation period, length of life, requirement of labour and inputs**

**Developing country situation:**

- **Will more employment result in increased investible surplus?**
- **The issue of surplus labour: nature and quality, and technological appropriateness**
- **Will more labour add more or less to the product?**

## **Problems related to efficient use of techniques:**

- **poor health and nutrition**
- **inexperience with technologies**
- **weakness of scientific institutions**
- **issue of economy of scale**
- **inappropriate transfers**
- **access to knowledge and resources**

## **Underdevelopment as an obstacle**

**Lower productivity – lower consumption levels through low wages**

**Productivity of traditional crafts: skill levels are higher**

**What is technological progress? application of some elements of modern techniques can bring about revolutionary improvements in productivity**

**Divert R & D to own problems and resources**

**Impact of import of technology as a strategy: killing the manufacturing sector or spread of innovation?**