

came from government and NGOs throughout the world, from staff at various international agencies, and from the World Bank's departments of urban development, population, health, nutrition and rural development. Twenty two papers were presented at the workshop. The Report of the workshop, which was published in 1988, contains a summary of the proceedings.

Although it is commendable that the Institute involved itself in issues of social development and community participation, the report contains little that is new. Much of what was said at the workshop had been said previously in numerous United Nations reports and other documents. Indeed, given the anti-poverty emphasis of the MacNamara years, it is somewhat surprising that the Institute awoke (in 1986) to the realisation that it needed to be more sensitive to the social development perspective. It is almost as if the organisers of the workshop had never heard of the efforts of the United Nations to promote integrated socioeconomic development planning in the late 1960s, or of the World Bank's sponsorship of the redistribution with growth ideal in the mid-1970s. Similarly, discussions at the workshop on the definition of community participation, the need, benefits, and feasibility of community participation, etc, will be familiar to most social workers who have a knowledge of the issues.

Nevertheless, the fact that economists are interested in social development issues such as community participation is very important. The harsh austerity policies being implemented in many Third World countries today, by economists under International Monetary Fund conditionality policies, is having a devastating effect on the welfare of millions of ordinary people. Sensitising economists to these realities may mitigate the Darwinistic themes implicit in current economic development policies. More contact between economists and social development professionals is urgently needed. The Economic Development Institute is to be congratulated for initiating a dialogue of this kind. Hopefully, it will undertake many more similar ventures in the future.

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Successful Development in Africa. Case Studies of Projects, Programmes and Policies, Economic Development Institute of the Third World, World Bank, Washington DC, 1989 (222pp, US\$11.95).

This publication focuses on the countries of SubSaharan Africa. It is basically a collection of case studies of a variety of development projects, programmes and policies undertaken in selected countries. The common denominator, in the eyes of the authors, appears to be that all the case studies are based on activities that have been deemed successful. In Part I the case studies covered include an Agroforestry Project in Burkina Faso, an Ochorerciasis Control Programme in West Africa, a Gravity-Fed Piped Water System in Malawi, and the production and export of horticultural commodities in Kenya. In Part 2 the following activities are covered: a case study of the Export Processing Zone in Mauritius, the Economic Recovery Programme in Ghana, and the Macroeconomic Management of Commodity Booms, 1975-86, in Botswana.

The question that inevitably comes to the mind of the reader is: What is meant by the term 'successful' in this publication? The authors have, albeit with limited success, attempted to explain what is meant by this term. They concede that success has many dimensions, and also that there is always room for disagreement about how successful any particular policy or project has been. They then proceed to say that by successful is meant (pv) "that the policies achieved their intended objectives and that the economic benefits outweigh the costs".

This definition can be criticised from the point of view that it seems to look at success from the perspective of the authorities and not from that of the intended beneficiaries. What is also curious is the fact that the authors state that they selected successful projects for inclusion, but they confess that no systematic measurement or analysis had been carried out in some of the projects. For example, with the Burkina Faso project, the authors clearly state that (p14) "the clearest way to measure the economic success of the PAF would be a cost-benefit analysis that compared the total cost of research and development, training methods and labour to the market value of any increases in yields". Yet this was not done. The authors go on to say that, probably because the particular project is rather small, no one has yet done this, and so the dearth of accurate cost data makes the analysis a rather crude exercise. On the basis of this statement, it is unclear what criteria are used to declare particular projects successful.

Another example of the lack of clarity over what constitutes success is to be found in the West African case study of Ochorerciasis. The authors of this study also concede that (p38) "no one has attempted a complete cost benefit of the OCP, although the issue of how to do it (ie how to evaluate it) has sparked considerable discussion". It is clear from this statement that the obvious method of evaluating the project was not employed. This adds credence to this reviewer's concern that what was really meant by success was not clear, at least as far as choice of case studies was concerned.

Four of the case studies analysed development programmes, while the other three analysed micro-economic programmes or policies. The final chapter suggests some wider implications emerging from the case studies. The fact that micro studies have been included with macro studies is also cause for concern. The publication could have concentrated wholly on micro projects. The authors say that the case studies are intended for use in courses and seminars offered by the EDI, and that they should be of interest to officials and scholars concerned with effectively promoting economic programmes in other developing countries. However, the calibre of personnel identified as the target group would probably benefit more from lessons drawn from micro projects than macro projects. For example, it would be fairly easy for them to identify with a piped water project from Malawi, but not with Ghana's Economic Recovery Programme. The former is likely to be more in line with their day to day activities, and the latter would be viewed as being the responsibility of those in the top echelons of government, the policy makers. In this view, the macro studies should have been omitted from the publication in favour of further micro studies.

The publication is, however, well laid out. Each study starts by looking at a particular activity in the context of experiences in carrying out the activity, the degree of success, and implications for similar activities in other settings. An important thread running the gamut of the publication is that of learning from experience and adapting in order to achieve desired

objectives. The inclusion, in the Introduction, of summaries of all seven case studies is most useful. This will make life easier for readers who are not really interested in the minute details of each project but do want a broad overview.

To enhance clarity, annexes have been included. However, with some of these annexes only those readers who are literate in statistics will find them useful. Useful references are also included at the end of each case study. Notwithstanding the flaws mentioned, the publication is a useful practical contribution to the area of development studies.

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Agricultural Extension in Africa, Nigel Roberts (ed), World Bank, Washington DC, 1989 (114 pp, US\$11,95).

This monograph has been compiled from papers presented at two workshops on agricultural extension in Africa. The first was held at Eldoret, Kenya, in June 1984. It is focused on Extension and Research. The second seminar, on Agricultural Extension and its link with Research in Rural Development, was held at Yamoussokro, Cote d'Ivoire, in February 1985. The articles in this volume deal with the practical applications of the different methods of agricultural extension in Africa.

The book is another addition to the debate on the extension strategies that are most appropriate for the diverse conditions of African agriculture, and discusses the relative merits of the various extension methodologies of the developing world. The editor's defence of the training and visit system is very informative. Other issues discussed include the cost-effectiveness of extension; the weaknesses of African systems in generating technology; the tendency of government services to respond more to bureaucratic imperatives than to farmers' needs; the difficulties in forging more productive partnerships between researchers, extensionists, and farmers; the limited participation of farmers in the management of extension; the ineffectiveness of public services; and the fragility of institutions and infrastructure in most of SubSaharan Africa.

Teachers, lecturers and students of agriculture, extension practitioners, policy makers in rural development, and aid administrators who want to invest in rural development and extension, will find this book interesting and informative. It is a good guide to the more effective extension approaches in Africa, where one approach can not be taken as the answer.

Chapter 1, an appraisal of the extension methodologies most commonly found in Africa, lays the foundation for the papers that follow. The strengths and weaknesses of the four major approaches to extension: the commodity-based approach, the training and visit system, and farmer participatory extension, are each illustrated with specific case studies. This makes the monograph down-to-earth and very different from other records of technical workshops. Instead of just describing the diversity of the approaches to extension in Africa, the papers in this book give the perspective or conditions in which these approaches operate. The examples enable people, who may be using different names for the same approach elsewhere in Africa, to understand and identify with the strategies being discussed.