

FORSCHUNGSSTELLE FÜR INTERNATIONALE AGRARENTWICKLUNG E. V.

**Research Centre for International Agrarian Development
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In zwangloser Reihenfolge erhalten an dieser Stelle Institutionen, die für die Entwicklungspolitik und Entwicklungsforschung von Bedeutung sind, Gelegenheit zur Selbstdarstellung.

Originally founded in 1961 in Bonn by the late Professor Otto Schiller, the "Research Centre for Agrarian Structure and Rural Cooperatives" moved to Heidelberg in 1965. In 1970 it was renamed RESEARCH CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRARIAN DEVELOPMENT. The RESEARCH CENTRE is a non-profit organisation, incorporated as a registered society with approximately 50 personal members from academic, economic and administrative spheres. The basic financial support is given by the Baden-Württemberg Government, whilst more extensive research projects are financed either by various Federal Ministries or by academic foundations.

The academic staff of the RESEARCH CENTRE at present includes 3 agricultural economists and 2 rural sociologists.

Aims and Methods

According to its statutes, the RESEARCH CENTRE conducts research into agrarian policy, agricultural economics and rural sociology of developing countries. In a broader sense, this research is oriented towards the problems of rural development. The RESEARCH CENTRE is not engaged in training programmes.

Some 45 research assignments have been carried out in over 40 countries, engaging our present staff in regional field research in:

Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey; Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Gabon, Zambia, Cameroon, Dahomey, Togo, Ghana and Senegal; Tunisia and Libya-Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, Mexico and Costa Rica.

Most of these assignments required one to six months' field research by teams of up to three research workers. At the same time, the relevant literature was studied and bibliographies compiled. The results of these studies are contained in 12 monographs, over 100 articles in professional journals, more than 35 reports for government agencies and sponsoring foundations and in some 45 papers presented by members of the RESEARCH CENTRE in the course of 12 annual institute conferences.

Main Fields of Interest

In gathering and utilising information sources and experience, the main emphasis is laid upon:

- 1) new and existing forms of rural institutions — cooperatives and other co-operative forms of self-help in farming and for production promotion.

- 2) Preconditions and possibilities for the integration of rural and agricultural development measures: planning and evaluation of agricultural extension and regional development projects.
- 3) Theory and practice in employing socio-economic surveys within the framework of agricultural development strategy.
- 4) Agricultural mechanisation and employment: the concepts appropriate technology and selective mechanisation.

Library

At present the library of the RESEARCH CENTRE comprises over 5,000 volumes and more than 100 journals. Its main purpose is that of a reference library for all those working at the RESEARCH CENTRE, though it is open to others who are interested. The main emphasis is on questions concerning rural institutions in developing countries as well a literature on the planning and evaluation of agricultural development projects.

A special collection of works on the different forms of cooperation in the field of agricultural production includes all forms of interfarm cooperation with a direct effect upon the actual production processes in agriculture, e.g. machine-sharing, joint cultivation and joint land use, production cooperative etc. This special collection is intended mainly to give the experts in this field access to information from the developing countries, to unpublished studies and reports.

Questionnaire Retrieval System

In 1973, the RESEARCH CENTRE began condensing the results of its own surveys as well as those of other institutions working in a similar way with a view to making questionnaires readily accessible to other field workers.

The objective is to standardise and rationalise structured interviews which are necessary for the planning, execution and evaluation of agricultural development projects. The basis of the collection were 80 questionnaires in English, French, Spanish and German, which have been used in various developing countries in investigating different aspects of rural development. The individual questions were coded according to a detailed system and stored on magnetic plates. The code numbers make possible the specific retrieval of certain questions and combinations of questions.

The existing electronic data processing programmes offer a guarantee that the index of questions is always kept up to date. It is thus possible for new questions to be added to the collection at any time and for questions already recorded to be modified as a result of experience gained from current field research.