

The Australian Development Studies



Newsletter No 4

February 1986

Dear Colleagues,

This issue of the Newsletter reports on a broad range of development issues. It includes a brief summary of some of the papers presented at the Australian Agricultural Economics Society conference; a report on a research proposal that has arisen from the Agricultural Economics mission to the People's Republic of China; and an overview of Australia's role in improving Third World health. It also covers new initiatives in development education; the undergraduate degree courses in development studies now available to Australian students as well as information on a new women's development agency and a child survival project.

I would like to remind you that the Newsletter is intended to provide an exchange of information, so if you have news of forthcoming conferences or seminars, or have conference reports that you would like to make known to others interested in development-related issues, please let me have the details. The Network will also be pleased to publicise recent books, monographs or papers of interest to members.

Australian Agricultural Economics Society Conference, Canberra, February 1986

The papers presented that were of relevance to Third World development focussed largely on South East Asia and Tonga and covered a wide range of agricultural issues from the transfer of new rice technology in Sri Lanka and the evolution of land tenure among the Iban or Sarawak, to crop adoption and risk aversion in Indonesia and farm household agricultural decision-making in Tonga. The conference provided a useful opportunity to discuss work in progress and get feedback on new agricultural and economic modelling techniques. Several papers arose from research being undertaken in Tonga as part of the South Pacific Smallholder Project, funded by ACIAR and co-ordinated in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Business Management, University of New England. Together these papers provided insights into both the project and Pacific Island agriculture.

*Newsletter Enquiries to: Pamela Thomas
Australian Development Studies Network
National Centre for Development Studies
Australian National University, Canberra, ACT
Phone (062) 49 3897*

The project aims at improving agricultural production in South Pacific countries and focusses on the semi-subsistence smallholder sector, the predominant agricultural sector in the Pacific. It is considered that growth in this sector requires an increase in the volume of produce marketed and the objective is to transform agriculture from a traditional, mainly subsistence industry into one oriented towards the market. A crucial question however, is whether the desired increase in productivity can be realised under the existing smallholder system. As policies designed to increase market surplus cannot be formulated without an understanding of production and consumption decision-making at household level, an intensive household survey was undertaken in four villages at varying distance from the capital Nuku'alofa. This included information on household resources, income and expenditure, time allocation, food consumption, cropping activities, other productive activities and an attitudinal survey of farmholders goals. The three papers briefly discussed here, were based on micro and macro-level data.

Effects of Price and Income on Rural Household Demand in Tonga (A. Kingston, E. Fleming and G. Antony) In Tonga, as in many Pacific Island nations, agricultural exports over the last 20 years have declined while the level of food imports has increased dramatically. There is a recognised need to both improve the performance of the agricultural sector and to reduce food imports, and the challenge facing the government of Tonga and many other South Pacific nations is to foster expansion of local production to satisfy local demand and increase agricultural exports. However, increasing the level of agricultural exports may lead to increased prices for domestically produced foods and this price change may induce increased food imports so the benefit of the new export opportunities would not be realised. This paper considered the price implications for consumption and production behaviour in semi-subsistence households where the household is both consumer and producer and feels both aspects of changes in food prices.

Consumption and production patterns for root crops, local meats, imported staples, imported meats and non-food items were analysed. Although households in different locations produced locationally different results for each commodity, it was found overall that the level of demand for imported foods was relatively unresponsive to changes

in price, posing policy problems for government. If government introduced a tariff on imported food this would not significantly influence the level of demand, while it would help redress Tonga's deteriorating balance of payments, it would penalise rural households.

Modelling the Smallholder Farming Sector in Tonga (Julie Delforce and J. Brian Hardaker) Using data from the attitudinal surveys which were designed to elicit the major goals which influenced household agricultural decisions, Delforce and Hardaker outlined their attempts to model smallholder farming systems and to incorporate within the models the priorities of decision-makers including key variables like social context. In the Tongan case-study presented, the difficulties of adequate modelling became apparent. The family, the church, the national government and the community in general were all found to exert considerable influence on agricultural production and consumption and that the influence of these factors varied with location and time. Household sale of produce was often linked to requirements for immediate cash to pay school fees or church contributions, while harvesting and slaughter of animals was often linked to village, church or family feasts. Further difficulties in modelling lay in attempting to analyse the trade-offs between factors influencing decisions. The paper drew considerable response, but it was concluded that the most promising line of enquiry for modelling farm household decisions may be via the Stone-Geary utility function derived from LES estimates.

A Simultaneous Equations Model of Domestic Marketing of Root Crops in Tonga (E. Fleming and M. Fearn) This paper considered the factors that lead to the decision to market root crops and outlined the different types of market responses to supply and demand and the impact of these responses on Tonga agricultural policy.

The marketing activities of five different types of sellers at the Talamahu market in Nuku'alofa were investigated. The types outlined were trippers, or irregular sellers who attend the market for social purposes, marginalists, who are predominantly subsistence producers who sell small quantities irregularly, buyer-sellers, the regular market attenders who have a market orientation, profiteers who conduct transactions in an impersonal manner and attempt to maximise profits, and target suppliers, who supply the market to earn a predetermined amount of money to satisfy a specific consumption need like school fees, church contributions or weddings, after which they withdraw from the market. Market prices have little to do with their decision to sell and a low commodity price means the greater the quantity of produce supplied to meet the income requirement, just as the higher the price, the lower the quantity supplied.

The crops investigated were the staple root crops, yams, kumara, taro, cassava and kape. The hypothesis put forward was that "the supply functions of root crops in the Talamahu market, in Tonga, exhibit an arc shape". Findings of importance to formulating agricultural pricing policies were that the different types of sellers each with different motives for participation react differently to food pricing policies and that the influence of target sellers prevails over market behaviour.

It was suggested that the arc-shaped supply functions estimated for root crops will influence the success of pricing policies based on the concept of positively sloped supply functions. These policies may have the opposite effects to those intended and attempts to increase root crop prices may lead to reduced levels of marketed surpluses. The apparent lack of production response to price changes was regarded as "somewhat ominous for policy-makers concerned with enlarging the product distribution for the agricultural sector". "It could mean that semi-subsistence producers, who make up the bulk of farmers supplying fresh produce for domestic processing and consumption in South Pacific countries, respond to price incentives not by planting more crops but by altering the timing of harvesting, the extent of their participation in the gift exchange economy or the mix of food items in farm household consumption".

The paper calls for further research into farm household consumption behaviour in South Pacific countries.

Food for the World? Constraints to Agricultural Development in the Third World, Conference, September, 1985, Centre for Development Studies, Flinders University

The papers presented at this one-day conference provided disparate perspectives on an issue that is of vital importance to Australia's aid policy. Ron Knight considered the role of international agricultural research centres in increasing agricultural production; Les Heathcote put forward the environmental constraints to food production in the Sahel and the inter-related impact of climate fluctuations and environmental pollution. Chris Manning provided a more positive approach, outlining an Indonesian rice project which successfully increased food production; and David Ragless put forward suggestions that might help make agricultural development more successful. He stressed the need for considering social and administrative development and suggested that administrative development in some cases may demand higher priority than agricultural technology. (The papers from this conference are available as Conference Papers Series No. 3, from the Centre for Development Studies, Flinders University.)

Report of an Agricultural Economics Mission to the People's Republic of China, October, 1985, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Canberra.

After two decades of relatively low rates of growth, rural sectors in China are experiencing substantial economic expansion. Levels of production and incomes have risen sharply which has resulted in rapid rises in food consumption and expansion of trade in agricultural commodities. This has led to a marked fall in imports of grain, cotton and oilseeds. Australia, as a major exporter of agricultural commodities has a vital interest in these issues.

In mid 1985, a team of Australian agricultural economists visited China as part of a programme of exchanges agreed by the Joint Agricultural Commission established under the Australia-China Agricultural Co-operation Agreement of 1984. The aim of the

visit was to initiate a collaborative research project on Chinese agriculture with the Chinese government, to evaluate the possible future impacts of China's changing economic policies on agricultural production, consumption and trade. The project will be conducted in conjunction with the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries and the National Research Centre for Rural Development.

The report of the mission notes that the impact of economic reforms on agricultural production included an increase in agricultural production between 1978 and 1984 of 60 per cent, almost three times that realised in the previous two decades. Livestock production increased by 71 per cent and forestry by 60 per cent. "These gains have come from a variety of sources, the most important probably being the additional management and labour input provided by households under the new incentive scheme." Allocations of some inputs have risen markedly. Chemical fertilisers used rose from 8.8 metric tons in 1978 to 16.6 metric tons in 1983. The net effect has been for production to exceed planned targets and to create bottlenecks in the distribution system. Large production has resulted in large stocks of some commodities, notably cotton and grain. As a result of increased production and prices since 1978, farmers' incomes have risen substantially. In 1978 average income per person in the rural sector was 133 yuan. By 1984 this had risen to 350 yuan. Important differences between provinces however were noted.

The mission observed that this new wealth has had significant spillover effects in other sectors of the economy. For example there has been an unprecedented boom in housing construction, shops and other buildings. The priorities for disposable income conveyed to the mission were:

1. House improvements
2. Improved means of production
3. Better clothing, food and consumer durables
4. Further technical knowledge
5. Savings

The mission observed that increased demands for construction materials, better food and improved production methods were not being satisfied and this was encouraging the development of specialised and sideline enterprises. Consumption of food, particularly of edible oils, pork and other non-starch commodities, particularly sugar were also noted. Although grain consumption has risen by 20 per cent since the late 1970s and expenditure surveys in the cities show that higher grain consumption is associated with higher incomes, China's policy of self-sufficiency in basic foods has now largely been achieved.

The full report "The Report of an Agricultural Economics Mission to the People's Republic of China", October, 1985, is now available on request from John Chapman, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, P.O. Box 1563, Canberra, A.C.T., 2601.

An Inside Perspective of China's Economic Reform

In a paper entitled "China's Reform of the Economic Structure and its Open-Door Policy", Song Yifeng writes:

In recent years, we have introduced certain reforms in agriculture, industry, finance and trade which affect the forms of ownership, planning, management and distribution. These much-needed reforms have been markedly successful in mobilizing the enthusiasm of all concerned, re-invigorating the economy and promoting production. However, they are still partial and exploratory, and our efforts have suffered from certain incongruities and from lack of co-ordination.

There is no pattern of economic structural reform that we can copy from; restructuring must be in accordance with our own actual conditions. We shall continue our experimenting and evaluate our experience from time to time so as to advance steadily in the achievement of this important historical mission. After sober investigation and study, feasibility analysis and well-conceived planning, and by means of experiments during the last few years, we are now going to accelerate the restructuring of the national economy as a whole. In this particular stress will be laid on cities.

Our reform is aimed at: invigorating enterprises (this is seen as the key to restructuring the national economy); establishing a planning system under which the law of value is consciously applied to develop a socialist commodity economy; establishing a rational price system and paying full attention to economic levers; separating the functions of government from those of enterprises so that government organs will perform their functions properly in managing the economy; establishing various forms of economic responsibility and conscientiously implementing the principle of distribution according to work done; and developing diverse economic forms and continuing to expand foreign and domestic economic and technological exchanges. In a word, China's structural reform aims at the establishment of a dynamic socialist economic structure. Our is on the whole a planned economy, a planned commodity economy, not a market economy that is entirely subject to market regulation. Under the reformed structure, production and exchange completely determined by market processes are confined to certain products. Our planned economy does not necessarily mean the predominance of mandatory planning; guidance planning will also be used. Guidance plans are fulfilled mainly by the use of economic levers; mandatory plans have to be implemented, but at the same time the law of value must be observed.

In general, there are three types of enterprises and products. In the first, production is organized under state plans which are mandatory in nature. This concerns the small number of products which are vital to the economy and the people's livelihood and the output value of which constitutes the greater part of the total output value of industry and agriculture. In the second, production is organized according to changing market conditions. This category covers miscellaneous commodities turned out by numerous small enterprises or individual producers, for which it is inconvenient or impossible to enforce unified planning and management. The output value of this category accounts for only a fraction of the total output value of industry and agriculture. The third is an intermediate category. For this type, in some enterprises, a higher proportion of production comes under state planning with the rest determined by the enterprises' own decisions according to changing market conditions; in others, the market predominates and state planning has a minor role.

It is quite obvious that this system of management differs completely from our previous system of rigid control and still more from the capitalist market economy. It is a system which is peculiarly Chinese, ensuring flexible control and orderly and dynamic activity with better economic results, and enabling the state to organize and develop production according to the needs of society. Such a socialist system of economic management will certainly stimulate co-operation among enterprises at home and abroad.

National isolation cannot lead to modernization. It is our firm principle to follow an open-door policy and further economic and technological exchanges with other countries.

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AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH FOR BETTER HEALTH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Australian medical research into Third World health problems is recognised internationally but much of this work is little known within Australia. Most of this research is carried out in collaboration with institutions in developing countries and sophisticated research at cellular and molecular levels carried out in Australia paves the way for new solutions to health problems elsewhere. Antonia Bagshawe of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at the University of Sydney reports on some of the current research into the major health problems that affect developing countries.

The pattern of ill-health in developing countries includes diseases found only in tropical climates as well as those that occur wherever there is poverty and deprivation.

Medical research is seeking cures or preventive measures for tropical diseases and ways to alleviate the diseases of poverty until living conditions can be improved. Major progress is being made in Australia into malaria, filariasis, dengue fever, hepatitis, cholera and schistosomiasis, as well as into overcoming nutritional problems.

Funding for this research is provided locally and from overseas, most particularly by the World Health Organisation which has nominated departments within a number of Australian institutions as specialised regional research and/or reference centres. These include departments of Fairfield Hospital, Murdoch University, the James Cook University and the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

Vector-borne diseases

Research into vector-borne diseases covers vector identification and control, and the development of new drugs and vaccines. Mosquito-borne diseases remain the most widespread in the tropical world and include malaria, elephantiasis, yellow fever and encephalitis. Studies into vector control and mosquito pathogens are being undertaken at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR), the Army Medical Research Unit (AMRU) and the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine (SPH & TM). Mosquito sibling species - genetically different mosquitoes which are indistinguishable in appearance - are being studied at the SPH & TM, Horn Island and the AMRU. This research uses mosquito chromosome preparations and enzyme patterns for accurate identification which will facilitate more effective control.

Malaria remains one of the world's greatest killers despite the development of anti-malarial drugs and global efforts to eradicate the mosquito. Current research investigates the parasite and the way it causes disease with the aim of producing new anti-malarial drugs and an anti-malarial vaccine. The AMRU is examining drug resistance of malarial infections, drug metabolism in man, the effect of different combinations of drugs and the best way of using the few remaining effective anti-malarial drugs. In collaboration with The Australian National University they are developing new drugs.

Research at the John Curtin School of The Australian National University has revealed biochemical changes, due to the effect of oxidative stress, that are harmful to both the parasite and to host tissue. From these findings a beneficial effect of the iron chelating agent desferal in cerebral malaria is being explored. Researchers at the University of New South Wales and the AMRU are studying enzymes essential to the malarial parasite and the effects of specific agents in blocking these enzymes. Substances with promising anti-malarial properties from which new drugs against malaria may be developed have been identified.

Immunological research on malaria conducted at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI), the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) and John Curtin School, is directed at recognising antigenic differences and antigenic variation among parasite strains, parasite strain variation in place and time, and antigens which stimulate resistance to infection. These studies are essential for vaccine development and monitoring the effect

of vaccine, and require close collaboration with research workers in countries where malaria is endemic. The Institute of Medical Research (IMR) in Papua New Guinea is an important collaborator in this research. Hyperreactive malarial splenomegaly (big spleen disease) is easier to study in Papua New Guinea than other tropical areas because of the absence of other causes of spleen enlargement in Papua New Guinea. Collaborative studies between the Concord Hospital in Sydney, the NSW Blood Transfusion Service and IMR in Papua New Guinea have been in progress for over 20 years and have made major contributions to understanding this condition, demonstrating the abnormal function of the immune system to malaria in individuals who probably have an inherited susceptibility. These studies found an unexpectedly high mortality attributed largely to lowered resistance to infections and confirmed the beneficial effects of long-term antimalarial therapy.

Filariasis

Filarial worms cause a number of different diseases. Australian research is concerned with the forms of filariasis which lead to elephantiasis - previously present in northern Australia and still present in a number of neighbouring countries. A student from Thailand working in the Veterinary Department of the University of Sydney is examining metabolic products of the dog heart worm (a filarial worm related to those infecting humans) for their potential use in diagnosis in man and animals. The QIMR, with colleagues in India and Indonesia are working to improve current treatment and the SPH & TM and IMR in Papua New Guinea are studying the mosquito vectors of filariasis in Papua New Guinea.

Onchocerciasis, a major cause of blindness in parts of Africa and South and Central America is caused by another filarial worm. A closely related parasite infects cattle. Working with infected cattle preliminary trials of new drugs for treatment of the disease in man are being carried out at the James Cook University of North Queensland where studies are also being conducted on laboratory culture of the parasite, its metabolism and the ways it causes disease in animals. This programme will shortly commence work on the development of a vaccine and better methods of diagnosis.

Gastrointestinal infections

Current research into gastrointestinal infections is directed at identifying the important pathogens and developing vaccines and better treatments to reduce mortality and morbidity. Particular emphasis is placed on producing vaccines and treatments that are inexpensive and appropriate for use by paramedical workers and at home. The major gastrointestinal infections studied in Australia are diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera, pigbel, giardiasis, and strongyloides.

The University of Tasmania's programme investigates the causes and pathogenesis of diarrhoea. Recognition of the importance of rotavirus infections in young children has led to attempts to develop a vaccine. This requires accurate identification of the strains causing illness and is being undertaken at La Trobe University and Fairfield Hospital.

The development of an oral vaccine against bacillary dysentery would be of great value and in collaboration with the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the University of Adelaide is working on the definition of the protective antigens of the dysentery organism (Shigella) as a step towards this goal.

Cholera is another significant diarrhoeal disease in developing countries. The University of New South Wales is using genetic approaches to develop new generation vaccines and is developing methods to assess the efficacy of cholera vaccines while the SPH & TM is studying the taxonomy of cholera bacilli and the ecology of these organisms in the Australian environment. QIMR in collaboration with the IMR in Papua New Guinea is looking for diagnostic tests and ways to improve the vaccine against 'pigbel' - a serious bowel infection of children and adults.

A different approach to the problem of gastrointestinal infection is reflected in a study being undertaken by the University of Adelaide. Initially this study will determine the interest of Aboriginal communities in reducing diarrhoeal disease. If there is sufficient interest, this will be followed by a research programme to determine the efficacy of health education in reducing diarrhoeal disease. Lessons learned from this study may be applicable on a wider scale.

Schistosomiasis

Schistosomiasis which damages the bladder, kidneys, intestine and liver is widespread in parts of Africa, Asia and South America and its spread is directly linked to the expansion of irrigation programmes. Infection is contracted from water containing the snail intermediate host. WEHI in collaboration with researchers in the Philippines have spent a number of years studying the immunological basis of tissue damage and resistance to the disease with the ultimate aim of developing a protective vaccination. As part of this programme ADAB have financed the construction of a field station in the Philippines. The SPH & TM who have been studying various aspects of the disease and the snail host in the laboratory will be commencing collaborative studies based on this field station shortly.

Tapeworm

Species of tapeworm are responsible for hydatid disease and cysticercosis in man as well as disease in animals. The former occurs in parts of Australia and both are major health problems in some developing countries. Veterinarians of the James Cook University, Murdoch University and the University of Melbourne are among those working on these conditions in Australia and their research includes work on special identification, laboratory culture techniques, epidemiology, and the development of diagnostic tests.

Leprosy

New immunochemical techniques allow more definite distinction of the leprosy bacillus from related organisms, allowing the development of vaccines and improved diagnostic tests. The SPH & TM in collaboration with Papua New Guinea are reanalysing data collected by the school since

1962 to determine the effect of BCG vaccination on leprosy. Research is being carried out at the University of Sydney in the characterisation of antigens, and together with the SPH & TM and Papua New Guinea, the diagnostic value of serum antibody tests are being studied in patients and communities in endemic areas. Methods of measuring the cellular immune response of patients and vaccinated subjects are also being studied.

Non-infectious and malignant disease

Infections overshadow cancer as a cause of death in most developing countries but as life expectancy increases, infectious diseases and adverse influences of the western life-style become more widespread. Meanwhile there are some cancers which are more specific to tropical and developing countries. Among these are primary liver cell cancer attributed to hepatitis B., Burkitt's lymphoma, nasopharyngeal carcinoma and cancer of the mouth. The virus of glandular fever (EB virus) is suspected of involvement in the causation of both Burkitt's lymphoma and nasopharyngeal carcinoma and is being studied by QIMR who are also studying betel nut in relation to mouth cancer. Their collaborators in this work are in Papua New Guinea and Singapore.

Western life-styles are leading to an increase in diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, mental illness, and degenerative diseases. Diabetes is of special interest in a number of Asian and South Pacific countries where as many as 25 per cent of some populations are affected. Workers at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the University of Sydney have assisted health workers in Fiji in evaluating the problem and developing appropriate approaches to management and prevention.

Nutrition and infant health

Children under five years are the most vulnerable group in developing countries as they are particularly susceptible to infections and malnutrition. The University of Sydney and the SPH & TM are collaborating with Papua New Guinea to examine nutrients in bush foods. Similar studies are being carried out by the Menzies School of Health Sciences in relation to bush foods used by the Aborigines. This Institution is also examining the causes of low birth weights. The SPH & TM together with the University of Sydney are researching feeding practices in the Pacific and West Africa, and their studies on the effect of maternal nutritional status on birth weight and perinatal morbidity and mortality will be relevant to developing countries. Respiratory and intestinal infections of more than 200 children under five years in Vanuatu are being studied by researchers at Fairfield Hospital. This study will identify intestinal and respiratory infections responsible for significant illness and factors which predispose to such infections, thereby assisting in planning control measures.

Overall, Australian Institutions and medical workers are deeply involved in improving health in Third World nations, although the work being undertaken in laboratories is easily overlooked by those working in other disciplines.

Author's note

I would like to express my thanks to the many people who provided information for this report.

Development Studies: An Expanding Area of Interest

A number of new initiatives in development studies in the tertiary, secondary and community sectors point to a growing feeling of need amongst young Australians for greater knowledge of development-related issues and an awareness of the importance of development studies as an area of study. The Jackson Report recommended that government make \$1 million a year available through ADAB to assist development education in the formal education system, the voluntary agencies and community networks.

The Community Sector

In 1985 the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) established a development education network in all main centres to co-ordinate the effort of voluntary and community organisations and to provide resource base and to spread information on development issues. The Development Education Group in Adelaide publishes a regular newsletter on development education activities and in November, 1985 hosted a seminar/workshop to clarify development education target and subject areas and educational strategies. Most Australian voluntary agencies concerned with Third World development are involved. The newsletter comes out six times a year and costs \$10 for an annual subscription. Write: Development Education Group, First floor, 155 Pirie Street, Adelaide 5000, or Janet Hunt, ACFOA, G.P.O. Box 1562, Canberra, A.C.T., 2601.

The Secondary Sector

The Australian Geography Teachers Association has been active in teaching development-related courses for some years and it is likely that the growing demand for development studies at tertiary level is in part an onflow from this. In January, 1986, the Australian Geography Teachers Association held a three-day conference at Griffith University, Brisbane, the theme for which was "Teaching Geography for a Better World". It addressed Third World development issues and worked on practical curriculum development and teaching methods. The keynote speakers were David Hicks from the Centre for Peace Studies, Lancaster and John Huckel of the Bedford College of Education. The papers presented have been published in "Teaching Geography for a Better World", John Fien and Rod Gerber (eds), available from Jacaranda-Wiley Press, Brisbane.

The Tertiary Sector

This year The Australian National University, Deakin University and Flinders University are offering undergraduate degree courses with majors in development studies.

The ANU course enables students to combine development-related units drawn from anthropology, economics, economic history, geography, history, political science and sociology and will allow students to focus on a specific geographical area. Currently these are the Pacific, South Asia or South-East Asia.

Further information from John Ballard, Political Science, or Caroline Ifeka, Pre-history, the Faculties, ANU.

At Deakin University, Third World development can be studied on or off campus as a major sequence in the policy studies field

of the BA in Social Sciences and as one element of the honours degree in policy studies being introduced this year. At undergraduate level, the major consists of three subjects: at first level, either Imperialism: Expansion of Europe and/or Imperialism: Clash of Cultures; at second level, Exchange and Society; and at third level, Development Experience in the Third World. A further third level course, Australia in the World, critically examines both standard trade and radical trade dependency theories and discusses Australia's trade and aid relations with the Third World, and comparative differences in economic structure and level of development.

Development Experience in the Third World is a multidisciplinary study of the post World War Two development experience. The course considers the meaning and process of development from the perspective of the economist, the political scientist and the anthropologist, and includes a course of readings on women's roles in Third World development, demography, health, nutrition, environment and resource development.

Further information, Kym Bills, Deakin University.

The Centre for Development Studies at Flinders University has mounted an interdisciplinary programme in the School of Social Sciences at both undergraduate and graduate levels. The major focus of the programme is on the processes of change and development in Third World countries and the programme's aim is to provide students with specific skills to enable them to evaluate and assess development goals, policies and projects. In the undergraduate programme development studies may be taken as a second major by students enrolled to complete another major in the School of Social Sciences. In the first year a major sequence in Development Studies consists of 12 units selected from economics, geography, history, politics and sociology. In the second and third years students must take the course Contemporary World Development but have a wide range of geographical and disciplinary choices of course. Diploma Courses and an MA in Development Studies are also offered.

Further information, John Browett, Centre for Development Studies, Flinders University, Adelaide. Details of postgraduate courses in development studies will be outlined in the next Newsletter, together with information on the Network's proposed workshop on development education in Australia.

Background Information

The Centre for Development Studies, Flinders University

The Centre for Development Studies was established in 1980, in order to bring together people from a variety of disciplines with a common interest in development. Development is seen as encompassing those processes of social, political and economic change involved in the alleviation of poverty and the improvement of the living standards of the population of the Third World. The Centre at this stage has no staff of its own, and its activities are managed by a committee whose members come from several disciplines in the

School of Social Sciences, the School of Medicine, and the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Adelaide. The Director is Cherry Gertzel, Reader in Politics in the School of Social Sciences.

The activities of the Centre at present include:

1. An interdisciplinary seminar programme, which in 1981 included a series on class and development; in 1982 a series on education and development; in 1983 a series on newly industrialising countries; and in 1984 a series on the Australian Overseas Aid Programme. Some of the papers presented at these seminars have been published as discussion papers.

2. An annual conference on major development issues, designed specifically for people and institutions outside the University. In 1981 the conference was on North-South Problems and the Brandt Report; in 1982 the conference focussed on Development in China; in 1983 on Aid and Development, and in 1984 on The Politics of Poverty in the Third World. In 1985, Constraints to Agricultural Development in the Third World.

3. The encouragement of teaching on development. Undergraduates in the School of Social Sciences can take Development Studies as a second major, in which the core course is a multidisciplinary topic, Contemporary World Development. There is a small graduate programme, which offers an MA in Development Studies which students may undertake by course work, or by thesis or a combination of both. The programme also offers a Diploma in Social Sciences in Development Studies.

4. The encouragement of interdisciplinary research on development issues. At present one group within the School of Social Sciences is working on a project on food crisis management, with funding from the ARGS and Flinders University. Members of the Centre are also able to assist in the supervision of MA and PhD students working on development topics.

The management committee comprises: Dr. J.G. Browett (Geography); Dr. C.J. Gertzel (Director) (Politics); Dr. G.J. Hugo (Geography); Dr. R. Knight (University of Adelaide, Waite Institute); Dr. H.S. Leng (Politics and Asian Studies); Mrs. E. Martin (Chairman, School of Social Sciences); Professor M. McCaskill (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); Mr. A. Patience (Sociology); Professor A.J. Radford (Primary Care and Community Medicine); Dr. G.R. Teasdale (Education) and Mr. B. Witty (Community Aid Abroad).

The Child Survival Project

Increasing international attention has focussed on the problems of child survival and the attendant issues of a fair start in life for children throughout the world. Much of the concern has arisen from a realization that rates of infant and child mortality remain high in most developing countries. In comparison with infant mortality rates of about 10 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in most developed countries, China's rate is greater than 30 per thousand and that in Indonesia is between 80 and 110, reaching as high as 160 in some outlying provinces. Infant mortality rates over 100 are common in Asian and African countries.

Recently a number of programmes have been developed on both a national and international basis with the goal of lowering mortality levels. In 1984 the Ford Foundation initiated a programme on 'Child Survival and a Fair Start for Children' in an attempt to reduce mortality and to provide for the basic social and economic needs of children around the world. As part of this effort, in 1985 the Department of Demography of The Australian National University was given a grant to develop a training program in child survival, in association with faculty and graduate-student research in the area. The programme is being primarily developed through two sections of the Department, the International Population Dynamics Program and the MA programme in Demography, although contributions will be made by many of the Department's faculty.

The Child Survival Project is intended to alleviate the severe shortage of skilled researchers and policy-makers available to work in action programmes. The identification of successful approaches to achieving child health is one of its important aims, given that child survival has become an area of remarkably rapid change in recent years. Older techniques, such as baby weighing, are used in conjunction with innovations, such as the use of oral rehydration therapy and immunization.

The Child Survival Bibliography Project is one of the activities of the Child Survival Programme. Its purpose is to produce a series of manuals listing resources for research and teaching on child survival in Asia and the Pacific, with special emphasis on Indonesia and Australia. The intention is to enable researchers and policy makers, particularly newcomers to the field, to establish contacts and to have access to information with the minimum of delay and duplication of effort.

The manuals consist of several volumes, designed to be used as a set: 1) a core introduction to the most important literature in the field of Child Survival, including listings of some journals and descriptions of computer databases; 2) country manuals, in the languages of the countries, listing the institutions, experts, library resources and courses available within each country, and a bibliography of studies on that country which does not duplicate citations from the core list; and 3) a comprehensive bibliography on Child Survival, divided by topics.

For information: Co-ordinator, Child Survival Project, International Population Dynamics Program, The Australian National University, Canberra.

An International Women's Development Agency

This agency, established in December, 1985 is an Australian-based organisation which works with overseas women's groups as development partners. The agency assists women to develop skills and gain access to resources. This may require funds, services personnel or other forms of assistance. Currently the agency is assisting a Muslim women's health training programme in the Philippines, a marketing study in the Solomon Islands and local women's clubs who are building toilets, concrete floors and roofing materials in Honduras. The agency also provides consultancy services in project design and evaluation and in the identification and management of projects in Australia and overseas, as well as providing

practical advice to women's organisations on project development. Income from consultancy fees is used to maintain the agency and its projects.

Incorporated as a voluntary organisation, its committee comprises Wendy Rose, President; Ruth Pfanner, Vice-president; Caroline Ifeka, Treasurer and Wendy Poussard, Secretary and Executive Officer.

For information: International Women's Development Agency, P.O. Box 372, Abbotsford, Victoria, 3067. Telephone: (03) 419 3004.

The Society for International Development

The Society for International Development (SID) is an independent association with worldwide membership. Its aim is to promote a sense of community among individuals and organisations in the field of world development, to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences and to advance the understanding of development at all levels. SID was founded in 1957 and now has around 6,000 members in a number of countries. A branch of SID was established in Canberra 12 years ago. It holds debates on development issues, as well as both formal and informal debates. Membership is drawn from concerned people from a number of professions.

SID members and anyone else interested in development issues are invited to meet casually at the A.N.U. Staff Centre, at 12.30 for lunch and discussions: 1st Wednesday of each month, out-of-town guests especially welcome!

The following seminars have been arranged:

Public seminar/discussion: "The Philippines: Where to From Here?". Speakers: Dr. H.C. Hill (Director, Aust-ASEAN Project) and Dr. Robyn Lind (University of N.S.W. and Department of Foreign Affairs). Coombs Seminar Room B, A.N.U.; Wednesday 26 February, 1986 - 8.00 pm.

Public seminar/discussion: "The New Overseas Student Policy". Speaker: Ms. Leonie Wells (O.S.O., Department of Education). Main Lecture Theatre, Forestry Department, A.N.U.; Thursday 13 March, 1986 - 8.00 pm.

For further information on SID contact: Neil Byron, Forestry, the Faculties, The Australian National University, G.P.O. Box 4, Canberra, A.C.T., 2601; telephone: (062) 49 2539).

Inquiry into Australia's Relations with the South Pacific

The Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence is conducting an inquiry into Australia's relations with the South Pacific, with particular reference to:

1. current regional issues of political, economic and security concern to Australia and to other South Pacific countries;
2. Australia's foreign, economic and development assistance policies in the region;
3. the impact on Australia of security, political and economic developments in the region.

The Sub-Committee will hold public hearings and informal discussions with interested organisations and individuals throughout Australia. Written submissions are also being called for. These should be in by 16 May, 1986.

If the South Pacific is your area of interest and you want more information on this inquiry contact Dr. Lee Kerr, Secretary, Sub-Committee on the South Pacific, Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, Parliament House, Canberra, A.C.T., 2600.

Women and Development Network of Australia.

The Women and Development Network of Australia was established in August 1981 to examine the effects of social and economic change through development planning upon poor and disadvantaged women, particularly those in the Third World and to promote awareness of issues relating to women in development among the Australian public.

The Network comprises a number of regional groups and is made up of women who work in a broad range of professions.

For further information contact your regional office:

PO Box 339, Abbotsford, Melbourne VIC 3067;
GPO Box 1209, Canberra ACT 2601; c/- Women's Information Service, 169 Liverpool Street, Hobart 7001; GPO Box 242, Brisbane 4001; c/- OSB, 262 Pitt Street, Sydney 2000 and c/- World Workshop, 1st Floor, 155 Pirie Street, Adelaide 5000.

Each of these groups holds regular meetings and seminars on development-related topics. The next Canberra meeting will be:

"Philippine Focus", a discussion with Aida Santos Maranan of Gabriela (the national women's coalition in the Philippines). Wednesday March 5, 7.45pm 2nd Floor YWCA Building, Mort Street Canberra.

Reminders and Forthcoming Conferences

Conferences which include sections on Third World development issues are:

1. Institute of Australian Geographers Conference, Perth, 12-16 May, 1986. Very reasonable Apex air fares are available to Perth and all Network people in Perth, regardless of discipline, are reminded that there will be a special paper given by Professor Harold Brookfield entitled "Third World or New World? - A Wake-Up Call for Geographers", followed by discussion on future paths for development research. They are invited to attend this important session. Contact: Brian Shaw, Department of Geography, University of Western Australia, telephone: (09) 380 2707.
2. Asian Studies Association of Australia Conference, Sydney, 11-16 May, 1986. Contact: Christine Inglis, Department of Education, University of Sydney.
3. Australian Institute of International Affairs Conference "Inside the Triangle", dealing with Australian/Indonesian/Papua New Guinean relationships. Melbourne, 14-16 April, 1986. Contact Conference Secretary: AIIA Victorian Branch, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, Vict. 3002, telephone: (03) 636 199.

4. National Agenda for Women Conference, organized by the Women's Electoral Lobby, Canberra, 25/27 April, 1986. The Conference will include a Sunday session on overseas aid and the role of women in Third World development. Billeting, child care and fare subsidisation available on request. Contact: Jane Elix, 3 Lobelia Street, O'Connor, Canberra, telephone: (062) 47 6679.
5. 56th ANZAAS Conference, Sydney, 20-26 November, 1986.
6. Commonwealth Geographical Bureau Workshop on Small Scale Agriculture, Canberra, 2-5 December, 1986. Three main themes are anticipated to run through this workshop - the Relationship between National Economic Goals and Small Scale Agriculture; Change in Small Agriculture and Choice and the Small Farmer. For further information, contact Bryant Allen, Human Geography, Research School of Pacific Studies, A.N.U., G.P.O. Box 4, Canberra, A.C.T., 2601.
7. The 14th New Zealand Geography Conference, as part of the 56th ANZAAS Congress, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand, 26-30 January, 1987. Inquiries to Department of Geography, Massey University, Palmerston North.

Additional Reminder: If your Department or Organisation is holding a conference or seminar you think will be of interest to Network members and you would like information to be circulated through the Newsletter - please give me the details.

Newsletter Deadlines are May 16; August 15 and November 14.

New Publications of Interest

(Order from: Centre for Development Studies, School of Social Sciences, Flinders University, Bedford Park, South Australia.)

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| DP 7 | J. Browett et al., <i>Development and Defunct Economics: a Response to the Jackson Report on the Australian Overseas Aid Program</i> | \$ 3.00 |
| DP 8 | P. Denholm, <i>Development Education in Australia: Observations, Comparisons and Proposals</i> | \$ 5.00 |
| DP 9 | G. Hugo, <i>Some Policy Aspects of the Relationships between Internal Migration and Regional Development in Less Developed Countries with Particular Reference to Indonesia</i> | \$ 4.00 |
| DP 10 | J. Browett, <i>Industrialisation in the Global Periphery: The Significance of the Newly Industrialising Countries</i> | \$ 4.00 |
| DP 11 | R. Hassan, <i>Socio-Economic Constraints on Access to Public Services for the Urban Poor in Developing Countries</i> | \$ 4.00 |
| CS 2 | C. Gertzel et al., <i>The Politics of Poverty in the Third World</i> | \$ 4.00 |
| CS 3 | R. Knight et al., <i>Food for the World? Constraints to Agricultural Development in the Third World</i> | \$ 4.00 |

Published by the Asian Studies Association of Australia. Order from: George Allen and Unwin, P.O. Box 764, North Sydney.

- 8 Charles A. Coppel, *Indonesian Chinese In Crisis* \$13.95
- 9 R.E. Elson, *Javanese Peasants and the Colonial Sugar Industry* \$13.95
- 10 Benjamin A. Batson, *The End of the Absolute Monarchy in Siam* \$13.95

Order from: Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, The Australian National University, G.P.O. Box 4, Canberra, A.C.T., 2601.

- WP 1985/20 J. Dargavel and G. Simpson, *Forestry: Success or Failure in Developing Countries?* (free)

Order from: Department of Demography, The Australian National University, Canberra.

M.A. (D) Series

- 6 D. Lucas, C. McMurray and K. Streatfield, *Publishing Population Papers Working Papers in Demography*.

Order from: Bibliotech, ANUTECH Pty. Ltd., G.P.O. Box 4, Canberra, A.C.T., 2601.

R.T. Shand (ed.), *Off Farm Employment in the Development of Rural Asia*. (Papers presented at a Conference, Chiangmai, Thailand, August, 1983), 2 volumes \$ 6.00

Order from: Maureen Postma, Australian Catholic Relief, 154 Elizabeth Street, Sydney 2000

H. Newton-Turner and M. Postma (eds), *Feeding the World: Why Aren't We?*, Papers from the National Food Conference, Sydney, October, 1986 \$10.00

Order from: National Centre for Development Studies, The Australian National University, Canberra.

- Island/Australia Working Papers (free)
- 85/5 John Low, *Factors Affecting Off-Farm Labour Supply: A Case Study of Fiji Sugar Cane Farmers*
 - 86/1 Rodney Falvey, *Export Instability and the Pacific Island Economies*
 - 86/2 Geoffrey Waugh, *The Development of Fisheries in the South Pacific Region with Reference to Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Western Samoa and Tonga*
 - 86/3 Larry Dwyer, *Tourism*
 - 86/4 R.N. Byron, *Policies and Options for the Forestry Sector of South Pacific Island Economies*
 - 86/6 David Lucas and Christine McMurray, *Pacific Population Trends*
 - 86/10 Peter Forsyth, *Economic Problems on International Transport for South Pacific Island Economies*
- Working Paper Series (free)
- 85/9 Christine McMurray, *Recent Demography of Papua New Guinea*

Order from: Overseas Development Institute, 10-11 Percy Street, London, W1P0JB

Working Paper Series
1985/86

- 15 Tony Addison and Lionel Demery, *Macro-Economic Stabilisation and its Impact on Poverty and Inequality* £6.00
- 16 Mary Tiffen, *Land Tenure Issues in Irrigation Planning, Design, and Management in Sub-Saharan Africa* £3.00
- 17 Tony Killick, *Balance of Payments Adjustments and Developing Countries* £3.00

Please write or telephone Pamela Thomas, Australian Development Studies Network Liaison Officer, National Centre for Development Studies, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra, ACT 2601 or telephone (062) 49 3897 if you have any enquiries or information you would to include in the next Newsletter.
