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PITSILIA CROP EX-POST EVALUATION:
CENTRAL PITSILIA:
KYPEROUNTA, PELENTRI, AGROS

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KEYWORDS

Highlands, Integrated Rural Development, Project Design, Cyprus

1. INTRODUCTION

This report is the result of the investigations made on 22 October 1996 in three different villages from central Pitsilia (Kyperounta, Pelentri, Agros), by a working group of five people, from various countries (Cyprus, Greece, Portugal, Tunisia, Algeria), in the context of an intensive course on development of mountainous regions, organized by the M.A.I.Ch. and the ARI of Cyprus.

The group met with six people in Kyperounta, three in Pelentri and two in Argos. The chairmen of the three villages were present.

The group carried out the survey on the following aspects of the integrated rural development project of Pitsilia :

- Boreholes and irrigation associations (IA),
- Farmers education centers
- Agro-industries
- Village and farm roads
- Health centers

The work done by the group was intended to assess the differences between before and after the implementation of the project. This assessment was based on the opinions expressed by the people who were interviewed.

The assessment will be presented in the five tables which will be accompanied by the group's opinions and suggestions. A scale of one to five has been used to evaluate the items , as follows:

- 1-poor
- 2-fair
- 3-medium
- 4-good
- 5-very good

At the end, some general remarks and suggestions will be presented.

2. PROJECT ASSESSMENT

Although the population numbers are not completely representative, they reflect the opinion of the Kyperountas' chairman that in this village the population is not decreasing.

In these villages the implementation of the project concerned mainly irrigation, farm and village roads. Agro-industries appeared only in Agros and were neither financed by the project nor integrated on it.

TABLE I. General data and other information on the villages visited

Description	Kyperounta	Pelentri	Agros
Population 1960	1538	2094	1476
Population 1973	1806	2253	1256
Population 1996	≈2500	≈2500	≈1200
Works carried out			
Boreholes	2	3	2
Ponds	1	1	0
Farmers education center	no	no	yes
Villages and farm roads	yes	yes	yes
Health centers	Hospital	0	Rural Health Center
Domestic water supply	yes	yes	yes
Soil conservation	yes	yes	yes
Increased irrigated area	1000d	537d	355d
Agro-industries	0	0	4

Boreholes and irrigation associations were implemented in the three villages but, for many reasons, the villages profited differently from them. For instance, Pelentri has irrigated and that is not being cultivated intensively, because more farmers are part-time farmers. The result of the implementation of the irrigation systems was an increase on local incomes. The good marketing results are mainly due to the new village roads that allowed the farmers to reach other areas more easily and exchange their products, and not to any specific marketing strategies. However, in Pelentri a co-operative already existed.

TABLE II. Facts and other relevant information found during the survey of 22/10/1996. Boreholes and irrigation associations

Description	Kyperunta	Pelentri	Agros
Cropping patterns	2	1	4
Cultivated land	5	4	3
Farm land	5	4	3
Farm incomes	5	5	5
Farm mechanization	5	4	5
Irrigated farming	5	4	3
Operation I/A	5	5	5
Marketing	3	4	3

The improvements in and creation of farm roads were, according to people interviewed, a very good improvement to local farming, by saving time, allowing new techniques and by making access to local markets easier. Improvements in village roads helped transactions with town markets and increased people's mobility. Many habitants of the three villages work in town (especially in Limassol). It also opened new entertainment possibilities, mainly to the young people.

TABLE III. Facts and other relevant information found during the survey of 22/10/1996. Village and farm roads

Description	Kyperounta	Pelentri	Agros
Traffic flow	5	5	5
Type of vehicles used	4	4	4
Traveling time savings	5	5	5
Savings in petrol and maintenance	5	5	5
Increase of local mobility	5	5	5
Easy commuting	5	5	5
Visitors	5	5	5
Depopulation	1	1	1
Accessibility to farm inputs	5	5	5
Increase of mobility to towns	5	5	5
Products' transfer to the market	5	5	5

Having local health facilities seems to be one of the things most appreciated by the people. Although the hospital and the health center do not have all the facilities, people think that they are very well treated by local doctors. For instance, in Pelentri, a doctor visits the village twice a week to see old people that are not able to go to the hospital.

TABLE IV. Facts and other relevant information found during the survey of 22/10/1996. Health component

Description	Kyperounta	Pelentri	Agros
Hospital	x	0	0
Rural health center	0	0	x
Visits	5	5	5
In-patients	5	5	5
Operations	4	4	4
Specialists	3	3	3
Children medical care	5	5	5
Time saving	5	5	5

All people contacted were very pleased with the training center and considered its formation very important to improve their skills and productivity. One of the things mentioned was the assistance given by the technicians, directly to the farms.

TABLE V. Facts and other relevant information found during the survey of 22/10/1996. Farmers training center.

Description	Kyperounta	Pelentri	Agros
Number of participants (462 courses)	≈9000		
Increasing educational level	5	5	5
Answering to farmers needs	5	5	5
Participation	4	3	3
Applicability of the courses	5	5	5
Extension service	5	5	5

3. GENERAL REMARKS

In general, everyone contacted was very pleased with the project, although some were more enthusiastic than others.

The group considers that the objectives of the project were accomplished and that local farmers saw their objectives reached.

In our opinion, we can observe that the integration of the project was only partial.

In the future, we consider that social and cultural issues should be more integrated with the productive ones. Integration should cover all the activities of the society, and also consider new techniques (for example, we are now seeing a new change in holidays patterns, agrotourism and mountainous tourism are increasing all over the world).

And we can not forget that a project of rural development can not focus only on agriculture because if the project concerns mountains, all the environment should be taken into account. The development patterns of lowlands can not be directly transported to the mountains. We should realize that mountainous ecosystems are, these days, the only ones where we can observe the natural state of the planet.

We do not deny that integrated development is needed and important, but we must carry out ourselves to integrated projects and plans, in order to achieve sustainable development.