

FOCUS ON RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTES

CENTRE FOR APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY of ZIMBABWE

The Centre for Applied Social Sciences is a department in the Faculty of Social Studies of the University with both teaching and research functions. In its research function, the emphasis is on interdisciplinary studies regarding problem-oriented issues responsive to applied social science research, with special attention being given to items of national development significance. Recent research projects either completed or in progress include studies on the role of women in development in Zimbabwe; family law and legal reform; educational and occupational placement; training for the manual trades; race, ethnicity and national integration; poverty datum line research; manpower inventory surveys and studies on agricultural development and rural resettlement in Zimbabwe. In line with its interdisciplinary brief, the Centre carries out much of its research in cooperation with other departments and faculties within the University. The Centre also conducts its research in close liaison with relevant Government ministries and seeks to ensure that its resources are utilized within the context of Zimbabwe's national development plans.

Funding for the Centre's research projects comes largely from donor agencies outside the University such as the Ford Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Overseas Development Institute. The Centre has an established reputation for the ability to programme, implement and successfully complete within projected time-frames research projects of academic excellence and pragmatic significance. Where practicable the attempt is made, in each research project, to produce material of three types: (a) reports with policy significance for planners, government ministries and other agencies; (b) articles and monographs with analytic depth; (c) dissemination materials, including video-tape and radio programmes, for target audiences.

In its teaching function, the Centre has responsibility for providing instruction on inter-group relations and applied social science research methods. Undergraduate and graduate courses are offered and supervision is provided for post-graduate students working on M.Phil. and D.Phil. degrees. Informal *ad hoc* training and consultation is also provided to scholars, agency personnel and members of government ministries on social science research methodology. In this connection, the Centre frequently arranges working seminars for scholars during the course of their research enabling them to expose their methodological and conceptual approaches to the constructive criticism of colleagues at a stage when revision is still feasible.

The Centre also acts as a forum for discussion regarding critical issues of national development. In this connection an annual «Issues in Development» seminar series is mounted, bringing together academics and selected members of the public for debate on specific topics. Particular emphasis is given to the experience of other African countries in the development process.

The Centre has built up a documentary collection of materials relating to development which is available to its staff and approved researchers. The Centre also publishes books, research reports and occasional papers. A publication list is available on application.

Research fellowship appointments to the staff of the Centre are made in accordance with project financing and implementation. Preference is given to Zimbabwean scholars. Facilities are also available for international scholars of established repute to work within the Centre by mutual arrangements, and provided that their research is consonant with the Centre's research interests and the needs of Zimbabwean development.