

Focus on Research

INSTITUTE OF STATISTICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

(ISSER, University of Ghana, Legon)

1. HISTORY

The Institute was established in 1962 as an Institute of Statistics. Its aims were to provide a programme of teaching and research in statistics, to study methodological problems in relation to the collection and analysis of government statistics and to provide advisory services to government and university departments. In 1966 the Institute became the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) and began an active research programme into social and economic problems, besides continuing its responsibilities for teaching and research in statistics. Research topics are selected in the light of government needs and requests and also with consideration to long term research priorities and the need for teaching material in the social sciences. ISSER also has research associations with other universities and individuals and provides a base for research workers from overseas.

2. RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Agriculture

Agricultural research effort is focused on the evaluation of current production and marketing policies and the appraisal of proposed and ongoing programmes to increase production. The objective of this effort is to suggest improvements in government policies, programmes and projects where research indicates that more effective and efficient methods are required.

A programme of agricultural planning studies has been initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture. ISSER is examining the technical and capital input requirements for the expansion of certain industrial crops, namely cotton and sugar. Research has been undertaken to determine the prices that would need to be offered to farmers to increase production and the farm inputs necessary to meet domestic demand. In addition the foreign exchange savings realized from import substitution and the total marginal capital/output and technical input/output ratios will be calculated. The growth of domestic demand with the resultant increase of farm inputs will be projected to 1985.

Pilot studies are being carried out in the next area of priority; the production and processing of pineapples, rice and kenaf and vegetable oils, namely oil palm, coconut, groundnut and soybean.

Cocoa

Between 1891 and 1911 Ghana increased her production and trade in cocoa from 18 kilograms to 40 000 metric tons. It is hypothesized that the social and economic conditions under which this phenomenal increase in production occurred have given way to a new social and economic order. Cocoa is now no longer considered as one of the more lucrative investment alternatives due to the increased demand for social services mainly in administration and commerce. Returns to food crops and industrial raw materials now appear higher than cocoa, hence the apparent neglect of cocoa by the younger generation, although cocoa is still of vital importance to Ghana's economy.

In Ghana, cocoa is grown on some 1.5 million hectares of land, being intercropped on 0.6 million hectares. There are some 200 000 cocoa farm families controlling an average 8 hectares each. Individual

cocoa farm families use diverse methods of production but little is known about the economic returns to various production practices. Thus a study is being conducted to determine the relative profitability of cocoa in the country, the nature and extent of competition between cocoa and food crops and the returns to frequent harvesting and spray chemicals of the various varieties. Detailed long term management studies are being conducted in three villages in Ashanti.

Similar data have already been collected from farm compounds in two migrant settlements, Dominase in Brong-Ahafo and Kwabanta in the Eastern Region. Material from Dominase and Akokoaso, a settlement mainly inhabited by citizens in the Eastern Region, was used to look at the inter-relationship between social structure and cocoa farming and the pattern of cocoa farm development in contrasting ecological settings. It stressed in particular the existence of multiple interests in cocoa farms and the significance of matrilineal inheritance and descent for explaining the organization of production.

Government controlled cocoa development programmes involving the private farmer are currently expanding on a large scale in Ghana. Obviously these production patterns differ from those on private farms and different constraints operate. ISSER provided the base line feasibility data for one of these projects in Ashanti and is currently providing an evaluating and monitoring service.

A major constraint to the success of these programmes is the supply of labour, and since a large proportion of Ghana's cocoa farmers utilize hired labour on a casual and permanent basis, the private and public sector compete. Therefore a study has been initiated to investigate the withdrawal of labour from the private to the public sector through interviews with labourers hired by the Cocoa Rehabilitation Project at Suhum in the Eastern Region.

Although government is heavily involved in these schemes farmers are required to repay the costs when the trees start bearing. One problem encountered in planning projects has been to control cocoa sales to ensure repayment. Thus the Cooperative Buying Agency was given a monopoly in the Project at Suhum. This move motivated an evaluation of the potential of this Agency. Previous studies have documented the history of cocoa buying in Ghana and the operation of the agencies involved.

Population

Demographic variables are important as they not only influence development but are in turn affected by it. The high rate of population growth has been accompanied by a high growth rate of the labour force, thus the size, growth and structure of both the labour force and employment in Ghana have been detailed with attendant policy implications.

The population of Ghana, and the whole of West Africa, is highly mobile and each country is subject therefore to outside influences from its neighbours. The impact of international migratory movements in West Africa on social and economic development is being studied under the umbrella of CODESRIA.

A highly controversial area of government policy concerns fertility. Hence much of ISSER's population research is directed toward the value of fertility and health programmes. The extent to which socio-economic variables influence the utilization of health and family planning services is being examined in the Danfa Rural Health and Family Project, so that the impact of the Programme itself may be more effectively evaluated.

A continuous evaluation of the Ghana National Family Planning Programme is conducted, which largely relies on clinical records. Changes in development within the GNFPP have rendered the present clinical record forms inadequate, hence ISSER has revised and expanded these as well as developing edit procedures for edit checks and quicker evaluation. A pilot survey was carried out in Accra to measure the impact of the educational and clinical programmes.

Economics

Industrialization in Ghana started in earnest in the post-war period and was expected to usher in a period of unprecedented growth with import substitution, generation of employment and diversification

of the economy.

The actual performance of manufacturing industries is being analysed with respect to employment generation and income redistribution, together with any inter-relationship with the role of government policy since the post-war period.

The factors affecting industrial growth will be identified and analysed for selected manufacturing industries. The textile, chemical, wood products and footwear industries have been covered and it is planned to consider the food industry.

The natural beginning is to determine the extent of capacity underutilization and to identify factors which influence this level. Lack of skilled manpower has been blamed for distortions in development, thus a study first identifies the nature of this shortage and then investigates the causes and possibilities of meeting the demand. One criterion for the establishment of manufacturing industry in a country is the local availability of raw materials. However a sizeable number of manufacturing industries in Ghana today rely heavily on imported raw materials. The impact of this dependence is analysed on both the performance of the firms and the foreign exchange position of Ghana.

Education

Ghana's current educational policy is to reform the structure and content of general education so as to make it more positively responsive to the manpower needs of the country. A general study first identifies the broad relationships between the present educational system and manpower needs of the economy and provides statistics for the analysis of the two main problems, shortage in some sectors on one hand with the appearance of educated unemployed on the other.

The excess supply and demand for certain occupations is being evaluated with the suitability of the training received in the formal educational system from the point of view of employer and employee. A number of studies have been initiated to investigate particular situations. One is concerned with the future of Middle School Leaving Certificate holders, another with that of Secondary School leavers. These studies will identify and analyse the aspirations of these school leavers and the problems they encounter in their quest for further training and absorption into the labour force.

University education is being looked at in more detail. Firstly, the relationship between high level manpower requirements of the country and the enrolment and output of universities is being assessed. The public expenditure involved will be appraised against the rates of return.

Individual studies include the aspirations of university students with an identification of the factors leading to their course selection and their satisfaction with the course being followed. The relationship between academic performance at various levels is being analysed to evaluate admission requirements. The analysis also seeks to identify the importance of other variables for explaining ultimate academic success. The work experience of post graduates is examined in the light of satisfaction with employment, the suitability of university education for this and students' expectations and knowledge of the job market.

Urban and regional studies

Economic progress never occurs evenly within any country but tends to be concentrated within an urban tract. Effective development strategy must take into account the existence of urban areas and the larger regional framework within which they might function. Thus the economies of depressed rural areas may be brought into the productive sectors of the urban economy.

A pilot study at Winneba and its region is being used to examine in depth the extent to which urban centres may be used as tools for development. The basic aim of the project is to answer the fundamental question to what extent public and private enterprise in a given settlement can influence the growth of that settlement and the surrounding settlements. Such areas of investment concentration could become the nuclei around which powerful forces of spatial diffusion of economic growth could exert their

influence. Certain analytical techniques are tested and developed so they can later be applied to a much larger study on urban and regional development.

Social studies

Problems associated with migration are of topical concern. The social studies section is investigating the movement of people to industrial towns and other centres of wage employment. Four industrial centres, namely Accra and Tema in the Greater Accra Region and Akosombo and Akwatia in the Eastern Region have been selected for study. The varied histories and characteristics of these. Four centres are expected to offer many divergent and interesting variables linked with mobility. Examination of these should elucidate the problems created by the exodus of people from their previous settlement and their settlement and nature of life in their new setting. The study is concerned in particular with the position of female migrants, to investigate their manifest and latent functions and the social problems they create and face.

Concern with the effect of out-migration on rural areas has led to an investigation of rural development. Work in this area broadly examines the interplay of traditional attitudes and values on the one hand and factors of social change on the other as aspects of rural development. Specifically it attempts to find out what rural people themselves consider constitutes social, and in particular, rural development; what they think should be the extent of local involvement in rural development and their views on related issues of rural development.

This work assumes that the success of any systematic programme of rural development is a function of the recipient population's awareness of the problems involved and the need for change or improvement.

Four areas, all of which had at least one ongoing project initiated by the government, were selected, namely Ayensudo in the Central Region, Woe in the Volta Region, Nsutam in the Eastern Region and Kwaso in Ashanti Region.

Statistics

A methodology and analytical procedure is being developed to estimate the demand for consumer goods and services from household budget data. Procedures are being worked out using data from the Pilot Survey of the National Household Budget Survey ready for implementation when the data from the National Survey are available. Cross-sectional time series estimates and checks will be completed using previous household budget data.

Theoretical research in statistical methodology continues. Particular areas of interest include studies of compound distributions and experimental design.

3. PERSONNEL

Director: K. Twum-Barima, M.A. (Camb.).

Deputy Director: K.T. de Graft-Johnson, B.Sc. (Lond.), Ph.D. (Iowa State).

The staff consists of two senior research fellows, 14 research fellows, two junior research fellows, one visiting senior research fellow, one chief research assistant, two principal research assistants, and one librarian.

4. PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTATION

The Population and Social Science Library is housed at ISSER. This library focuses on the requirements of research workers but also serves both undergraduate and graduate students. The current

holding stands at over 5500 books and monographs and 1800 reprints and journals. The library subscribes to over 250 journals and serial publications and has a considerable holding of past issues.

The results of research activities at ISSER are reported in the Technical Publications Series, and other occasional works such as bibliographies are also published. The proceedings of any international conference organized by ISSER are usually published in book form.

**CENTRE DE RECHERCHE, D'ETUDE ET DE
DOCUMENTATION SUR LES INSTITUTIONS ET LES
LEGISLATIONS AFRICAINES
(CREDILA, University of Dakar)**

1. OBJECTIVES

The Centre was created in 1960 to build up documentation on African legislations and to study African institutions from a political, administrative and economic point of view. Since CREA (Centre de recherches d'Economie appliquée) was created, in 1971, its activities have been limited to legal problems.

In 1973 a section of 'Public Law and Political Science' was created within CREDILA. Mr Bakary Traore is responsible for this section.

2. ACTIVITIES

(a) Analysis and permanent filing of legislative and statutory texts (political, administrative, judiciary, economic and organization financing, status of people) published in the official papers of the French speaking African states.

(b) Analysis and filing of texts, documents and legal decisions on specific subjects (nationality, constitutions, trade companies, organization and functioning of public services, political institutions, conflicts of laws and jurisdictions, contracts and obligations, family right, social right).

(c) Realization of research programmes. The current programme covers legal and economic problems related to patents in Senegal and in the African Office for Industrial Property (OAPI). The programme is financed by the University of Dakar, and its geographic area covers Senegal.

Purposes and methods

(a) Training of Senegalese students (Ph.D. Level) in techniques of industrial ownership. To this effect, seminars with intensive lectures are organized with the help of the Centre for Company Law of Montpellier University and of the French National Foundation of Company Lawyers.

(b) Census of African legislations on the matter. Inquiries with firms in Senegal and the African office for Industrial Property in Yaoundé.

(c) Elaboration of a brochure on patents in Senegal.

3. STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION

CREDILA depends on the Faculty of Law of the University of Dakar. It is administered by a director, who apart from his directorial functions is also responsible especially for the research in private law.

CREDILA has seven professional staff. The Director is Professor Pierre Bourel, Professor in the Faculty of Law. Other members of staff are:

- 1 Assistant
- 2 Short term undergraduates
- 3 Monitors
- 1 Librarian
- 1 Secretary.

Financial resources

Subsidies are received from French and Senegalese Ministries of Higher Education, and also from the Ford Foundation.

Working links

CREDILA has working links with the following institutions:

(a) In Senegal with the Faculty of Law. The Centre puts at the disposal of the students in their third year (in preparation for a degree or Ph.D.) the documentation necessary for the preparation and elaboration of personal works, research reports and theses.

(b) Collaboration with IFAN through Mr. Mamadou Niang, responsible for research in the department of social sciences.

(c) General delegation to scientific and technical research of the Republic of Senegal.

(d) In foreign countries there is close collaboration with the following institutes or research and documentation centres: C.A.F.R.A.D., Tangier; C.E.D.A.F., Brussels; African Law Centre, New York; International African Institute, London; Istituto Italo-Africano, Rome; Association internationale de droit africain; Centre d'Etudes des droits africains, Université de Paris I; Institut de Droit comparé, Lausanne; Office national de la Recherche et du Développement, Zaïre; Institut des Sciences juridiques du développement, Université de Nanterre; Service de Recherches juridiques comparatives du C.N.R.S., Paris; C.E.A.N., Institut d'Etudes politiques, Bordeaux; Centre pour le développement juridique africain, Brussels, Addis Ababa; Institut africain de Droit international privé, Rome; C.I.D.E.S.A., Brussels; Max-Planck Institut, Fribourg; Institut de Recherches interculturelles, Heidelberg; Institut Fur Afrika-Forschung, Hamburg; C.O.D.E.S.R.I.A., Dakar; Centre africain de Recherche, Alexandria.

This collaboration takes place in various ways, i.e. exchange of documents, research programmes, answers to questionnaires, sending of legislative texts, and so on.

4. DOCUMENTATION AND PUBLICATION

CREDILA collects two copies of official papers from French speaking African states (except Zaïre). The Centre also collects law reviews, journals and bulletins published by institutions in French speaking countries as well as some journals from Anglophone countries.

Publications

(a) The Centre publishes a quarterly bulletin of *African Law Documentation* (St. Paul Printing Office,

Dakar) in which are filed under headings of legal subjects the legislative and statutory texts published in the official journals of the black French speaking African states. Every year it devotes a special issue of this bulletin to one of these states. Already published are the alphabetical directories of legal texts of Dahomey (1972), covering the period from 1958–1971; of Senegal (1974), covering the period from 1961–1972; of Upper-Volta (1975), covering the period from 1961–1973; and of Gabon (1976), covering the period from 1961–1974.

(b) The Centre publishes periodical directories of Senegalese statute law. A directory on individual status has already been published. Directories on social law and obligation law are in preparation.

(c) Book collections of CREDILA (Pedone Publishers, Paris, and Nouvelles Editions Africaines, Dakar). In the series 'Thèses et Ouvrages de Reflexion Générale' 13 volumes have been published dealing with African constitutions, monetary and financial problems, political studies and the situation in agriculture. In the series 'Manuels et Traités', three volumes have been published concerning public finances in Senegal, general accounting of Senegalese enterprises and administrative law in Senegal.