

# FOCUS ON RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTES

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## CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

*University of Cape Coast, Ghana*

### 1) *BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

The Centre for Development Studies was established in 1967 as a Social Sciences research unit at the University of Cape Coast under the name, Social Studies Project, with the support — both in terms of expert staff, equipment and research funds — of the Institute of Social Studies (I.S.S.), The Hague. It was established on the basis of Ghanaian-Dutch technical assistance agreement.

In 1973, on the expiry of the technical assistance agreement, the project was fully incorporated into the University as the CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES.

### 2) *ORGANIZATION*

The status of the Centre is that of a University Department. The Centre is headed by a Director, who, both for advice and supervision in policy matters, is supported by an Advisory Board.

According to the Statutes the composition of the Advisory Board is as follows :

- Chairman, appointed by the Vice-Chancellor.
- Head, Department of Economics.
- Head, Department of Geography.
- Head, Department of History.
- Head, Department of Sociology.
- Head, one of the Departments of the Faculty of Education.
- Head, one of the Departments of the Science Faculty.
- Assistant Director of Agriculture in the Central Region.
- Director, Centre for Development Studies.
- Consultant, Centre for Development Studies.

The drawing up and the implementation of the Centre's Research Programme is the first responsibility of the Director. The planning as well as the execution of the individual research studies is carried out by the senior academic staff, the Research Fellows, under the guidance and supervision of the Director. For the duration of the U.C.C. - I.S.S. agreement the Director is assisted in his task by a Consultant on secondment from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague. In the execution of research projects the Research fellows are helped by Research Assistants, middle-level research technicians, who are in-service trained Secondary School-leavers.

Staff members from the teaching departments of the University who, for one or more years, would like to devote themselves to part-time or full-time research may be granted the status of Associate

**Research Fellow** on application to the Advisory Board through their Head of Department.

Reputable scholars may be temporarily appointed to the Centre as **Visiting Research Fellows**. On the merit of their work they may afterwards be invited to become **Corresponding Associates**. The total research staff is 20.

### 3) *THE CENTRE'S RESEARCH PROGRAMME*

As a department of the University devoted to research into problems of development, the Centre's research activities may, in principle, be directed towards any development issues including issues of rural and urban, agricultural and industrial, regional and national, educational and administrative development. Also there is no reason why these research activities should be restricted to the economic aspects of development. Accordingly the Centre's attention is equally directed towards the economic, social, political and cultural aspects of development processes. Most of its studies are the result of an attempt to combine the different aspects into a common approach. In this respect the Centre aims at moving away from the academic division of labour existing between the social science disciplines.

The breadth of its research programme does not mean, however, that the Centre has no specific areas of attention; on the contrary. By its attachment to the University of Cape Coast, by its regional location and by the nature of applied and theoretical development thinking in the last decade, certain sets of problems have been identified as requiring the attention of the Centre.

Consequently the Centre has first and foremost concentrated on agricultural and rural development issues: — **the programme of agricultural development studies** including both the problems of production and distribution of specific crops and the evaluation of specific development policies. **The programme of rural development studies**, closely related to the evaluation studies, deals with the processes of socio-structural change in the rural areas.

A third area of concentration is a programme of studies in **integrated regional development** designed specifically in support of planning efforts undertaken in the Central Region. This field is barely two years old, and the formation of a multi-disciplinary team to undertake comprehensive studies is being systematically developed. It is to be expected that, in close conjunction with the regional development research programme, the Centre will play a significant part in generating a **programme of environmental studies** at the University.

The fourth field of studies focuses on the **socio-economic aspects of educational development**. As the University of Cape Coast is the main centre for training of secondary school teachers its academic staff are, more than others, aware of the frictions created between the educational system and the existing socio-economic structures. Over the year a number of research projects in educational development have been conducted. In co-operation with the Ministry of Education a task force is at present engaged in developing a more systematic research programme for this field of inquiry. In this respect the Centre

has taken over the function of the former Centre for Education and Nation Building.

A fifth area of specialization is **studies into alternative technologies**. The most recent field of studies which has been developed focuses on alternative technologies in development. There are several questions concerning the use of technology in West Africa which have yet to be answered satisfactorily. These include :

- (1) the range of existing appropriate technologies for the various development sectors ;
- (2) the socio-economic effects of alternative technologies, and
- (3) the possibilities for the development/manufacture of turnkey technology.

In line with the above research programme, the Centre is planning to organize its research activities in five specialized departments, viz.

I. Studies of Agricultural Department.

This Department will again be sub-divided into two branches :

1. Crop studies.
2. Policy evaluation studies.

II. Studies of Rural Development.

III. Studies of Regional Development.

IV. Studies of the Socio-Economic Aspects of Educational Development.

V. Studies into Alternative Technologies.

There is a scheme for staff development and training whose aim is to man each Department, or branch of a Department, with at least two or three senior academic members of staff who are experts in their fields. In addition to the five specialized departments the Centre will employ specialists in research methodology and statistics on its staff.

It is hoped as a longterm policy, that a Department for Environmental Studies — to be organized in close co-operation with the Science Faculty — will be established.

The Centre is taking steps to strengthen the links it has already established with other Research Institutes in this fields and to make contacts with other Institutes in the same field of study. The Centre is also drafting a five-year action-oriented research programme which will contribute to the understanding of social, economic and political aspects of the processes of integrated development, with emphasis on backward areas and less-privileged groups of the population.

#### **4) RESEARCH FACILITIES**

At the present, the Centre for Development Studies is accommodated on the top floor of the third wing of the Science Faculty Building, occupying 7 rooms. The present facilities (both office space and equipment) are inadequate so the Centre will in due course be provided with its own building and existing research facilities will be increased. The assistance for the construction of the new building and equipment will be given by NOVIB, one of the organizations under the Netherlands Technical Assistance Programme.