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## GROUP 6. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Because of different conditions among countries, particularly between the economically under-developed and the developed countries, the need for clarification of the concept of community development quickly became apparent. Participants dealt with the nature, accomplishments, and limitations of related programmes in their respective countries. Both economically developed countries and countries in process of development were represented. The range of programmes varied from comprehensive national programmes that have been in operation over a period of years to countries that are in the beginning stages of national or regional pilot programmes. These programmes have different names and different organizational structures but they show a common set of objectives.

The concept of community development formulated by the United Nations after much study and international discussion is as follows:<sup>1</sup>

‘The term “community development” has come into international usage to connote the processes by which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities, to integrate these communities into the life of the nation, and to enable them to contribute fully to national progress. . . .’

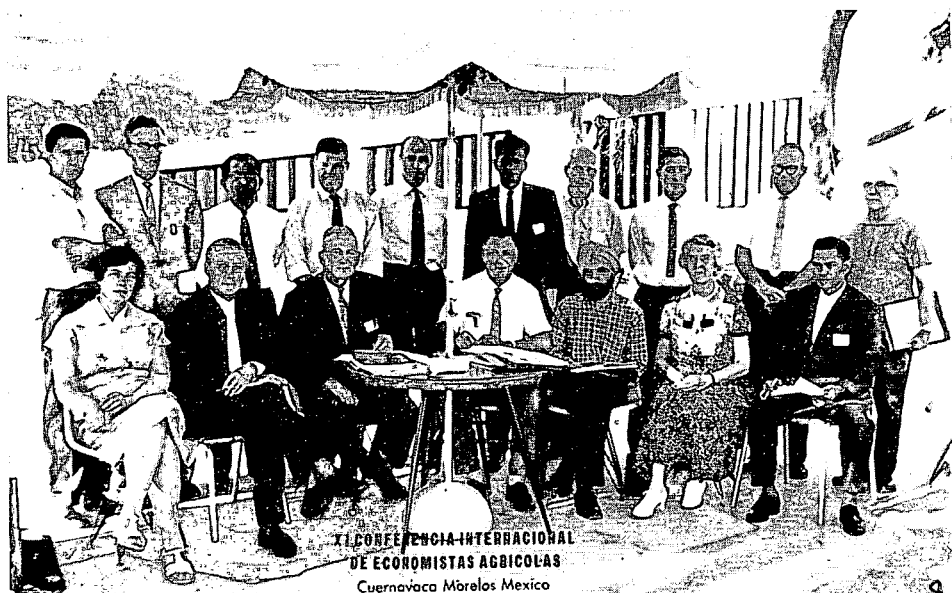
The definition is broad enough to cover the intrinsic characteristics of community development programmes in all countries, with due

<sup>1</sup> *Community Development and Related Services*, United Nations Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs, N.Y., 1960.

recognition that the term 'community' is flexible, depending on the stage of development of a country and its rural settlement patterns. The group recognized that the scope of these programmes, the methods by which they are carried out, and the priorities among their specific goals must differ among countries of different cultures and different stages of development. Thus, for example, in the United States, Canada, Italy, and other countries in an advanced stage of development, their programmes emphasize certain sub-regions of the country or sectors of the rural population where economic development has not kept pace with the rest of the country. In countries such as India and Pakistan the programmes are nation wide because of the generally low levels of living of the rural population. A concept of community development is an evolving rather than a fixed one, and the process is continuous and of a long-range nature.

The programmes have an important contribution to make to general economic and social development in all countries, developed as well as under-developed. So long as there exist large regional or sectoral differences in the well-being of the population of a country there is the need for these types of programme, especially in the economically under-developed countries where there are more low incomes. The programmes are not coterminous with all programmes essential to the general development of a country. Appropriate fiscal and taxation policies, land-reform measures, public health and public education are examples of government action that must be pursued over and above community-development programmes. Likewise, such things as highways, power development, and mass transportation and communication facilities require governmental and private action beyond what is feasible under even comprehensive community-development programmes on a national basis.

Community and rural development programmes, in the form in which they are currently being pursued, are of recent origin. The oldest—that in India—is only about a decade old. It is natural therefore that the experience has pin-pointed some important problems. Among the more serious are: (1) selection and training of personnel; (2) development of methods for getting greater participation and involvement of people at the grass root level; (3) development of more effective methods for achieving greater co-ordination of efforts at various levels between community development workers and subject-matter personnel of regular departments or ministries; (4) choosing between competing claims on limited resources and determination of



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 Kaslan A. Tohir, *Indonesia*  
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 Charles Gagne, *Canada*

priorities among the several objectives; (5) development of adequate techniques for evaluation of the progress of programmes.

Community development programmes seek multiple objectives of improved physical and human resource utilization through the fostering by government of self-help, local initiative, and voluntary co-operation. This total approach to the fuller development of human and physical resources poses many challenging problems on which economists and other social scientists can collaborate and make important contributions. Agricultural economists and rural sociologists have much to offer by sharpening and focusing their research on rural community development activities.

For the economist there are problems of resource allocation, economic planning, industrial location, market development, labour management, co-operatives, and many other problems which the programmes must wrestle with. For the sociologist community development can be viewed as (1) a process, (2) a method, (3) a programme, and (4) a movement. Each of these aspects has different sociological research implications.<sup>1</sup>

For universities and other institutions of higher learning there is the challenging task of developing adequate curricula for attracting persons who can contribute effectively to the implementation of the programmes.

<sup>1</sup> I. T. Sanders, 'Theories of Community Development', *Rural Sociology*, vol. xxiii, no. 1 (March 1958), pp. 5-7.