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GROUP 13. RESOURCE UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Chairman: S. J. J. De Swart, *South Africa* *Secretary*: Jimmy S. Hillman, *U.S.A.*

Consultants
Kazushi Ohkawa, *Japan* H. S. Kolesnev, *U.S.S.R.*

W. T. Allen, *Australia*
B. Andreae, *Germany*
M. A. A. Beg, *Pakistan*
John E. Bondurant, *U.S.A.*
G. Borodin, *U.S.S.R.*
J. Chataigner, *France*
J. Delphendahl, *U.S.A.*
Lom Frant, *Czechoslovakia*
J. Gonzales, *Peru*
Louis E. Heaton, *U.S.A.*
R. J. Hildreth, *U.S.A.*
A. F. Hunt, *Southern Rhodesia*
T. M. Katchuro, *U.S.S.R.*
T. Kempinski, *U.K.*
M. H. Khan, *Pakistan*
L. Kletzki, *U.S.S.R.*
Shison C. Lee, *Taiwan*
A. B. Lewis, *U.S.A.*
C. H. Lewis, *U.S.A.*
Fred Olson, *U.S.A.*
Leonard E. Poetschke, *Canada*
C. J. Robertson, *U.K.*
B. Singh, *Canada*
Larry Yost, *U.S.A.*

The Group agreed that three general areas of discussion would be profitable in any rational approach to resource use and development. These are:

1. An assessment or evaluation of physical resources, i.e. a listing, a mapping, or an accounting in a qualitative as well as a quantitative sense.
2. The growth of the economy and the development of all resources must be balanced and co-ordinated; but growth in term of what?
3. The objectives for growth and resource development need to be well defined in order to help resolve local and larger conflicts.

These three topics were interwoven throughout the discussion. Some time was given to the assessment problem, there being general agreement that public as well as private sectors should evaluate resources continually. Resources must be assessed with the idea that techniques, organization and social structures may all change. Resource use may be thought of in terms of planning from the particular to the general or vice versa. Technique, the technological process and scientific management are all factors to be taken into consideration, because modern economic growth is to be distinguished from premodern growth by these and other factors. For example, a modern commercial agriculture requires very different measures of what is meant by 'growth'.

GROUP 13. RESOURCE UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

First row, left to right:

H. S. Kolesnev, *U.S.S.R.*
S. J. J. De Swardt, *South Africa*
J. S. Hillman, *U.S.A.*
Kazushi Ohkawa, *Japan*
C. H. Lewis, *U.S.A.*

Second row, left to right:

A. B. Lewis, *U.S.A.*
T. M. Katchuro, *U.S.S.R.*
Shison C. Lee, *Taiwan*
Larry Yost, *U.S.A.*
T. Kempinski, *U.K.*

Third row, left to right:

Fred Olson, *U.S.A.*
Leonard E. Poetschke, *Canada*
Lom Frant, *Czechoslovakia*
Louis E. Heaton, *U.S.A.*
G. Borodin, *U.S.S.R.*

Fourth row, left to right:

W. T. Allen, *Australia*
M. H. Khan, *Pakistan*
John H. Bondurant, *U.S.A.*
C. J. Robertson, *U.K.*

Various observations were made by the participants with respect to what should be the objectives in resource use and in growth and development patterns. Problems related to growth and resource use were presented for Japan, U.S.S.R., England, Scotland, Central America, Australia, Republic of South Africa, Taiwan, Pakistan and the United States. The general consensus was that the major objectives of resource development should be:

1. To increase levels of living nationwide without noticably decreasing living levels of any group.
2. To decrease disparities in living standards between regions and to bring into national growth patterns stagnating groups or areas.
3. To operate all development programmes through the democratic process, especially local programmes.

Conflicts almost inevitably arise in growth situations because of goals and value conflicts. The economist must be prepared to assist with information on various alternatives and the prospective results of actions or inactions. Agricultural economists should remember that agricultural resource use is dependent on prosperity in other sectors of an economy. Agricultural economists, therefore, should not confine their horizons to agriculture only.

A major enigma produced by resource development and growth is that technological change often decreases the need for human labour which, coupled with under-employment in some rural areas, produces a special problem. It is socially desirable to have a safeguard in resource use and development plans so that no group is made worse off through increased efficiency and the implementation of development programmes.

Probably one of the most difficult general problems in resource use and development programmes is that of allocation. For example, it may be agreed that improved education is highly desirable—in the developing countries especially—but it was also agreed that a country cannot wait until everyone is educated before allocating resources for investment in other sectors. In fact, many countries have more illiterate people than can be educated in the immediate future. But it should be recognized that no plan for growth can go far without emphasizing a literate and an educated public.

Finally, it was recognized that one of the basic problems to be faced in effecting change and economic development in an area suffering from lack of development and population pressure, is changing the

attitude of the people, and their leaders concerned, with regard to their traditional way of life. A desire must be created for change, and those concerned must be taught how they, through their own efforts, can make the major contribution for developing their conditions. The extent to which this is achieved will largely determine the extent to which outside assistance will be effective.