

African Rural Employment Network: Studies in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone

Project Details by Country

A. Sierra Leone Project Plans/Objectives:

1. To conduct a farm level study, including the analysis of demand for and use of labor in different farming systems and resource regions, of income and the distribution of income within and between different resource regions, of the linkages between rural agriculture and nonagricultural production, and the preparation of budgets for different agricultural production systems and production function analyses to examine the efficiency of resource use in different agricultural production systems.
2. To conduct a study on consumption to analyze income elasticities and the employment impact of present income distribution patterns.
3. To conduct a study on small-scale industry, including the specification and estimation of production functions for rural small-scale industries, linear programming analysis of production in rural small-scale industries with the aim of analyzing factor substitution among firms, and the use of chi-square and other tests to examine the factors that affect entrepreneurial performance, the objective being to determine whether policy could be developed that would enhance the growth of these industries and increase incomes and employment in the sector.
4. To conduct research on marketing and processing, including preparation of budgets of resource use and output for three levels of processing technology, i.e., hand processing, use of small mills and hullers, and use of large mills, the construction of a linear programming model to analyze the employment impact of different technological packages that might be adopted to facilitate the transition from on-farm hand processing to off-farm commercial processing of agricultural commodities, and an analysis of the regional price spreads, the factor intensity of different marketing systems, and the marketing margins for the major agricultural commodities in different regions in Sierra Leone.
5. To conduct research on migration focusing on estimation of econometric equations that determine the population distribution and hence labor supply in rural and urban areas.
6. To develop a rural economy model to evaluate the effects of policies on rural incomes, employment, and output and will provide a means of explicitly incorporating employment in policy analysis.

Sierra Leone Cooperating Institutions: Ministry of Agriculture, University of Sierra Leone

B. Nigeria Project Plans/Objectives:

1. To develop and apply methodology for generating primary data on output, employment, and incomes in rural areas with particular emphasis on food producing regions.
2. To analyze the determinants of rural employment and rural-urban migration and provide policy recommendations to Nigerian planners for increasing rural employment within the context of accelerated food production.
3. To facilitate the development of the research capacity of Nigerian agricultural economists.

4. To facilitate the development of a master's degree in agricultural economics at the University of Ibadan through provision of policy relevant research opportunities for graduate students.

Nigeria Cooperating Institutions: Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Ibadan - Department of Agricultural Economics

C. Ethiopia Project Details

Project Goals: To assess the Ada Wereda Rural Development Program in terms of its effect on output, incomes, employment, and income distribution.

Project Plans/Objectives:

1. To develop a conceptual framework for analyzing the socio-economic impact of the Ada Project over the 1974-76 period, including production, income, employment, and income distribution.
2. To undertake micro-level studies in the Ada District, including demand for labor in alternative production systems, demand for labor in off-farm rural activities, and determinants of seasonal and permanent migration.
3. To aggregate the results of the micro-level research to evaluate the effects of alternative policies on production, income, employment, and income distribution over the 1974-76 period.
4. To assist the Ministry of Agriculture in developing national strategies and policies for dealing with problems of rural employment and income distribution.
5. To assist in providing an improved theoretical and empirical basis for incorporating labor into project, sub-sector, sectoral, and macro-planning models and rural development evaluation techniques that can be used by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Planning Commission Office.
6. To contribute to the training of Addis Ababa University economists and agricultural economists through research experience for undergraduate and graduate students.
7. To facilitate the development of a community of African researchers through the African Rural Employment Research Network.
8. To contribute to the development of the capacity of the Institute of Development Research to carry out policy oriented research on rural development.

Cooperating Institutions: Institute of Development Research, Addis Ababa University

Project Summary: This contract is a continuation of an agreement reached under a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 17, 1974, that arose out of the institution building sub-contract MSU held with MUCIA under the title "Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) University /MUCIA Activity Agreement". The research results of this project were used by the management of the Ada Project, as well as the Extension and Project Implementation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. Additionally, the methodology developed by the Ada research team was useful in the Ministry of Agriculture's overall evaluation of agricultural projects.