

APPENDIX A

METHODOLOGY

The technique for the rapid rural appraisal of a nationally focused project must, by its nature, differ from one that is site-specific in scope. Given this approach, the problem of a statistically reliable sampling of a national project cannot be solved within the time and funds available. A number of site visits that differ by region, province, accessibility, climatic conditions, crop mix, and socioeconomic status of inhabitants, yield fascinating but anecdotal information; a valid sampling technique is not possible.

The problem is further complicated because sole focus on the project objectives raises more issues than it solves. The project suffered from spurious specificity: objectives of specific crop yields per hectare on experimental farms. This objective was inappropriate, because for all crops there is such diversity of testing of dozens or even hundreds of varieties that an "average" yield, however defined (and this was never done), is meaningless. In some cases (wheat and barley) the research objective on improved yields on these crops was not really paramount. It had basically been improved before the project began. What was more important was the breeding and testing of early maturing strains combined with resistance to lodging, wetness, and disease.

Whatever the project objectives in agricultural research, whether institution-building or yield improvement, the critical methodological, intellectual, and practical problems are in making the link between production in a research setting in the laboratory or on the experimental farm and that which is taking place in the farmers' fields. In Korea, the transformation of research results into practical farm production and increases in income is a product of the "guidance" system, the extension service. Both research and guidance are functions of the Office of Rural Development. Although the project only marginally mentioned average farm yields, the inescapable conclusion from early project information available in Washington was that this issue should be central to the evaluation, and therefore considerable time should be spent in determining the effectiveness of the guidance system.

The team thus determined that the evaluation should consist of gathering four levels of data recording the sequence from national policy to the farm level:

- National information on crops, yields, incomes and expenditures together with relevant data on macroeconomic statistics related to agriculture; grain pricing and procurement policies, employment, imports and exports, etc.;
- Experimental station crop and research results at the key stations throughout the country engaged in efforts related to the loan;