

CHAPTER III

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Purpose of this chapter is to present considerations for use by donors who are developing projects in agricultural research and extension (R/E).

A. R/E in Country Strategy

1. A publicly supported R/E program serves the specific purpose of providing of providing technology by which more product can be produced with the same resources or the same product can be produced with less resource use, at the same time protecting the nation's natural resources.

2. Economic analysis is not necessary to justify an R/E project. Much evidence indicates the potential value of research and extension. (See Appendix B.) Further, there is little evidence that development occurs in any country in any economic sector without innovation in the technology used by producers. Finally, history indicates that technology innovation is not likely in agriculture without a publicly supported R/E effort.

The economic issue, then, is to develop, design, and implement a project that will help the Host Country realize the economic potential of research and extension.

3. Virtually every LDC has an overwhelming need for assistance in developing its own basic national capacity in research and extension, a long-lasting, indigenous capacity to deal with the technology problems of agriculture. This includes the capacity to take charge of and manage the national R/E program, including those components financed by donors. This basic capacity can be modest, well within the ability of most countries to afford it, with proper planning and implementation.

4. Other institutional capacities are needed to deal with policy, markets, and infrastructure. Inadequacies in those systems will limit what can be expected from improvements in the R/E System. It is not necessary, however, to delay development of the R/E system until other institutional systems are adequate. Several institutional systems can be under development at the same time.

5. The potential of a project can be enhanced by extra-project activities. Two will be most helpful.