

## G. Don't Underestimate the Potential

It is common to evaluate a donor on the size of its financial input, or resource transfer. Financial input is indeed a measure, but it is not the only measure.

The need for a steadily improving institutional capacity ranks at least equal to the need for capital and financial support in virtually every LDC. Improved institutional capacity cannot be bought with money alone. It needs direction, and it needs time. Neither of these are costly in terms of dollars, and neither is a ready made item for sale on the market.

Donors have shown a remarkable persistence in their inability to coordinate efforts, especially in research and extension. Yet some degree of coordination is essential if the same understaffed and underfinanced research or extension institution has to deal with many donors. It may well be that the best chance of achieving donor coordination will be to help the research and extension institutions to develop their capacities to the point at which they can effect the coordination of donor efforts and establish their direction. This is a completely feasible objective for the donor who has the will and the persistence and access to a certain level of technical competency which can be offered the Host Institution. It does not require a large capital input.

## H. Linkage, R/E and ITN

This summarizes some of the material discussed above.

Inadequate research-extension linkage has been one of the most persistent of problems. The technology innovation process provides a possible explanation. Research has operated at the left end of the model and extension at the right, leaving the center inadequately attended. FSR/E has moved in to fill that gap, and in doing so may provide the key to improving linkage. If it is the key, both research and extension must be involved for the potential to be realized. That involvement can be greatly facilitated if donors will develop projects with both entities instead of just one.

Another linkage that needs specific attention is that with the International Technology Network (ITN), which is the store house for the world's agricultural technology and scientific knowledge. Most countries are relatively passive in dealing with the ITN, either taking what is offered or not. Few have an active program to search the ITN systematically for technology and knowledge it needs or could use with great profit. Such a program needs to be developed for many LDC's, and it will cost considerably less than the investment needed to generate technology. Such importation will not be a stopgap for most countries. It will be a standard arrangement.