A Guide for Team Leaders in Technical Assistance Projects

Agency for International Development
Department of State
Washington DC 20523

This publication synthesizes experience gained in what might be considered the first period of institution building, up to the early seventies. Much of the material was gathered in an AID-supported research project to study the institution building experience. The project was implemented by the Committee on Institutional Coordination of the Big Ten Universities.

The book is case in the framework of technical assistance in institution building. It reviews the early concept of institutions and institution building and helps the team leader to understand his role, the context of his job, and the task environment in which he must operate. It addresses the various roles of the team leader, from adviser in his own right to leader and manager of a technical assistance effort. His responsibility to team members, not only in professional support but also in individual development is emphasized.

The team leader is faced with an unusual management task. He is often far removed from his own institution and must operate without the normal management support his institutional administrators enjoy. At the same time he must maintain a variety of linkages with the funding agency, the host institution, the host government, and often others. The book helps him understand the responsibilities as well as deal with them.

There are chapters on training, preparation of team leaders and members, and project evaluation and a list of references. Although published in 1973, it is the most recent document addressing the critical position of technical assistance team leaders.

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Agricultural Development: An International Perspective

Hyami, Yujiro and Vernon Ruttan
Johns Hopkins University Press
Baltimore and London; 1971

This book provides an exceptionally useful collection of data and analysis on the role of and the contribution of technology innovation in agricultural development. The data collection is thorough, the analysis is careful and complete, and the interpretations are insightful. The book is available in most donor offices.