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S U P P O R T

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

EVALUATION PROGRAMME

Progress Report of the Administrator

Summary

This report summarizes the progress made in thematic evaluations. Short reports on the completed studies on rural co-operatives and on educational innovation and reform are provided in addenda 1 and 2, respectively, to this report. The status is reviewed of evaluations now underway: National Agricultural Research Institutes, Industrial Training, and Manufactures Industries. Feedback measures to the completed study on Rural Women's Participation in Development, and a training course using the studies on Development Planning and Rural Development, are described.

This report is submitted for the information of the Council.

1. The thematic evaluation studies endorsed by the Governing Council in decision 80/22 have been pursued further. Two additional studies have been completed: one on rural co-operatives, in collaboration with the Committee for the Promotion of Aid to Co-operatives (COPAC); and the other on educational innovation and reform, in collaboration with UNESCO. Short reports on these two studies are submitted to the Council in Add. 1 and Add. 2 to this document in accordance with decision 79/10, operative paragraph 5(d). Programme Notes containing summary guidelines for the field are in preparation.

2. Three other thematic evaluation studies are in progress. One on national agricultural research institutes is being conducted jointly with FAO. Desk reviews of a large number of projects have been completed, and field studies in approximately ten countries are expected to take place in 1982. Several of the country studies are being carried out by, or in co-operation with, national institutions in the country concerned.

3. A study on industrial training is also in progress in collaboration with the ILO (as lead agency), UNIDO and UNESCO. It is being carried out in two phases, the first comprising a general review of the subject, detailed desk studies and field missions to four countries. This phase was initiated in 1980; but after missions to two countries, work was suspended as unexpected conceptual difficulties arose because of the complex nature of training industrial manpower. After further discussions among the agencies concerned, it is hoped to complete the study in 1982.

4. A study on manufactures industries is being conducted jointly by UNDP, UNIDO and the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. This study was undertaken in response to a request by the Committee for Programme Co-ordination (CPC) following its consideration of an earlier evaluation by the United Nations of UNIDO's technical assistance activities in the field of manufactures. ^{1/}Given the diversity of the field of manufacture, it was decided to focus on a global industrial priority theme, delivery of food, and on three related sub-sectors: fertilizers, packaging, and food-related metal products (i.e. agricultural tools and machinery). After a review of the data gathered in the desk analysis, it has been decided to expand the sample to cover a few projects selected at random in other sectors. A detailed desk analysis has been completed, and visits to five to eight countries are planned in 1982. Data for the in-country studies are to be assembled by national consultants.

5. Discussions have been initiated with WHO regarding a study on human resources development in health. Consideration is also being given to the possibility of examining the human resources requirements related to the International Decade on Water Supply and Sanitation. The final two studies endorsed by the Governing Council in decision 80/22, on telecommunication training and on public administration, remain to be initiated.

6. As indicated in previous reports of the Governing Council, the major purpose of thematic evaluations is to analyse UNDP and agency experience in order to draw conclusions on the substance of technical co-operation which can help to improve the identification, design and implementation of projects in the future. While the principle means of disseminating the results of the studies is through the publication of detailed reports and the distribution of Programme Notes to the field offices, attention is being given to seeking other ways of ensuring effective feedback.

7. Thus, in February/March 1982, UNDP organized a two-week Programme Management Workshop for 24 staff members of field offices, mainly at the Assistant Resident Representative level, which covered all aspects of the programme cycle: country programming, project planning, project formulation and design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Two of the completed thematic evaluation studies, Development Planning and Rural Development, were used to illustrate the course material with specific issues. Technical staff members

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^{1/} A more detailed account can be found in document E/AC.51/1982/6 of 17 February 1982 submitted to the twenty-second session of CPC.

who were involved in both the studies and the subject matter areas served as resource persons in the Workshop. This was the first time that a two-week course had concentrated so heavily on programme management.

8. A special effort is being made to ensure feedback from Evaluation Study No. 3, Rural Women's Participation in Development. Initial action was reported in the relevant report of the Administrator (DP/515, paras. 4 and 5), and continuing feedback is reported in DP/1982/16, as requested in Governing Council decision 80/22(II). This report indicates that considerable progress has been made through the United Nations development system to create a standing concern with women's interests in the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects, by means of action in three main areas: staff training, adoption of procedures designed to ensure women's participation in project activities, and the provision of guidelines and instructions to field and headquarters staff. Substantial progress has also been made in improving the data base for planning women's participation in development and in implementing the proposals for action that were made by the special programming missions to four countries that constituted an integral part of Evaluation Study No. 3.

