



# Abstracts

Technical Information from the Africa Bureau's  
Office of Sustainable Development—AFR/SD

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## Health

### Best Practices and Lessons Learned for Sustainable Community Nutrition Programming

Ndure, Kinday Samba; Maty Ndiaye Sy; et al. Academy for Educational Development; African Food and Nutrition Research Organization; USAID/AFR/SD, Washington, DC. August 1999. 74 p. \$11.05 paper  
**PN-ACG-662**

This document provides guidance for improving the effectiveness of community nutrition programs (CNPs) in Africa by illustrating pertinent country examples that reinforce effective approaches to community nutrition programming. It suggests ways that different governmental and nongovernmental actors can collaborate effectively, and emphasizes the importance of nutrition as an integral part of development.

The key finding is that successful interventions are conceived and implemented in a decentralized manner, centering around the community and encouraging participation in every step of planning and implementation and at all levels of decision-making. This includes properly targeting programs to benefit those at highest

risk, enlisting the participation and commitment of governments, establishing monitoring and evaluation systems to provide managers and supervisors the information needed to address and rectify programmatic issues, and carefully linking interventions with other development sectors such as agriculture and microcredit. The document also outlines a practical, five-step way to establish CNPs using these experiences: 1) identify key partners involved in planning and implementation of a CNP; 2) understand the nutrition situation at hand; 3) select the most appropriate program approach; 4) develop the institutional framework for implementation; and 5) design an appropriate program action plan.

### Rapid Assessment Guidelines Part I: Health-Seeking Behaviour for Severe and Complicated Malaria

### Rapid Assessment Guidelines, Part II: Recognition of Illness Symptoms for Severe and Complicated Malaria

World Health Organization, Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases; USAID/AFR/SD, Washington, DC. September 1999. 24 and 28 p.

**Part I: PN-ACG-700**

**Part II: PN-ACG-661**

These guidelines are intended to help investigators, using limited resources, rapidly assess both how caretakers deal with symptoms of severe or complicated malaria in young children, and the extent to which caretakers recognize these symptoms. The assessment in Part I involves four phases: 1) reviewing existing information about caretakers' medical advice-seeking behavior; 2) interviewing mothers and other caretakers to find out what they do when a child

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has severe or complicated malaria; 3) conducting focus group discussions; and 4) conducting in-depth interviews with mothers of children who currently have malaria in an effort to verify and enlarge the picture gained in phases 1 and 2. Specific outcomes of the assessment may include identification of knowledge and beliefs about signs and symptoms of malaria; patterns of consultation and treatment for fever and for different signs and symptoms associated with severe malaria; patterns of clinical presentation of malaria in children; factors that prevent families from seeking timely and appropriate care; and prevalence of different health-seeking behaviors and of target behaviors to be modified.

The assessment in Part II involves three phases: 1) interviews with hospital and health center personnel, aimed at understanding the signs and symptoms of malaria that are associated with hospital admission; 2) interviews with key informants and with mothers of children who have previously had malaria; and 3) verification of the information gained in phases 1 and 2 through in-depth interviews with mothers of children who currently have malaria. Specific outcomes of the assessment may include identification of signs and symptoms that are or are not believed or recognized by the community; signs and symptoms associated with malaria when treatment is not given or is delayed, or when practitioners who are not likely to give an antimalarial, such as traditional healers, are consulted first; and where people go for treatment for each of the different signs and symptoms associated with uncomplicated malaria and with severe and complicated malaria. Guidelines and tools are presented in both parts for conducting each of these phases, as well as for analyzing, reporting, and disseminating results. Both include references.

### **Manuel de Formation pour la Recherche Qualitative (Training Manual for Qualitative Research)**

Hudelson, Patricia. World Health Organization; USAID/AFR/SD, Washington, DC. September 1999. 90 p. \$12.35 paper  
**PN-ACG-483**

This guidebook aims to provide a general view of the concepts, methods, and tools currently used in qualitative research, and to demonstrate their application in the development of health programs. It is primarily an introductory guide for program managers, project

directors, researchers, and other decision-makers. It may be used as a resource in training workshops and is an equally useful model for researchers on the ground. Lastly, it is hoped that this guide will enlighten and encourage the appropriate use of qualitative methods as a means to develop adequate and effective health programs.

Chapter 1 presents an overview of qualitative research and its possible uses. Chapter 2 describes the data collection methods most widely used in qualitative research today and discusses the advantages and disadvantages of each. Chapters 3 to 5 discuss sampling questions, study approaches, as well as report editing in the scope of qualitative research. Chapter 6 offers several examples of study approaches in which qualitative research was used to respond to specific interests and needs of the health programs concerned. The annexes contain resources to be used as additional training materials by practitioners in the field. Available in French only.

### **Designing by Dialogue: A Training Guide on Consultative Research to Improve Young Child Feeding**

Social Science and Medicine Africa Network; Academy for Educational Development; USAID/AFR/SD, Washington, DC. July 1999. 221 p. \$28.73 paper  
**PN-ACG-479**

Based primarily on *Designing by Dialogue: A Program Planners' Guide to Consultative Research for Improving Young Child Feeding* (PN-ACE-296), this guide is designed to help facilitators conduct workshops on how to design, carry out, and analyze the results of formative, consultative research on infant and young child feeding. This approach is based on evidence that community nutrition programs are more effective in changing child feeding practices and improving nutrition when program planners pay close attention to the participating families. The 12 topics included in the guide cover all the tasks and information needed to develop a proposal for conducting consultative research. The guide also contains information on how to analyze research findings and use the results to develop information, education, and communication (IEC) strategies for behavior change. An introductory chapter provides information for facilitators in such areas as course organization, pre-workshop preparation, workshop administration, and teaching methods.

## **Using Consultative Research to Adapt the IMCI (Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses) Feeding Recommendations to a Local Context: Training Guide**

Sy, Maty Ndiaye; Micheline K. Ntiru. Academy for Educational Development; USAID/AFR/SD, Washington, DC. 1998. 288 p. \$37.44 paper

French edition: PN-ACG-481

**PN-ACG-480**

This document presents a guide for a series of modules designed to train health professionals in adapting integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) child feeding recommendations to the local African context. The modules, based on the results of a regional seminar held in Dakar, Senegal, in July 1997, utilize adult training methods and an active, participatory approach to instruction. An introductory chapter discusses this pedagogical approach in some detail. The modules are as follows: overview of the nutritional status of children under five, nutrition education programs, and the difficulties of changing child feeding behavior; the benefits of adapting the IMCI nutritional component; research methods for effecting true change; practical application of the primary consultative research tools for improving child feeding; using consultative research to adapt the IMCI feeding recommendations to a local context; using trials of improved practices (TIPS), the core method in consultative research, which consists of testing feeding recommendations in households; and presenting and validating findings of TIPS. Each module covers instructional objectives; the time required for training; a series of sessions allowing for knowledge, information, and skills to be conveyed in a series of pre-planned steps; a sequence of instructor-led exercises that reflect a specific pedagogical progression and that actively involve the trainees; tips for implementing each activity; and teaching aids.



## **Economics**

### **Measuring the Compliance Costs of Excise Taxation**

Haughton, Jonathan. Harvard Institute for International Development; USAID/AFR/SD, Washington, DC. African Economic Policy Discussion Paper No. 14. December 1998. 17 p. \$2.21 paper, \$2.00 disk

**PN-ACF-305**

Taxes inflict three main categories of cost on society. Efficiency costs arise when producers and consumers alter their behavior in order to reduce their tax payments. Administrative costs are incurred by the government in designing, applying, assessing, collecting, and auditing taxes. Compliance costs, the subject of this study, are those costs borne by the taxpayer in complying with the tax laws. The most important work on this subject to date shows that administration and compliance costs are typically at least as important as efficiency costs, despite their low visibility. Moreover, the burden of compliance costs tends to be inequitable, falling more heavily on small firms. On the other hand, one of the alleged strengths of excise taxes is that they impose very low compliance costs. There is some limited evidence from a study of excise taxes in the United Kingdom in 1986-87 to support this assertion. This short methodological discussion paper defines, and then explains how to measure, the compliance costs of taxation. The paper summarizes the categories of compliance costs, discusses some of the conceptual difficulties that arise in measuring these costs, and reviews the main practical approaches to cost measurement.

### **Estimates of Unrecorded Cross-Border Trade between Mozambique and Her Neighbors: Implications for Food Security**

Macamo, Jose Luis. World Vision International-Mozambique; USAID/AFR/SD, Washington, DC; USAID/Mozambique. SD Publication Series: Technical Paper No. 88. June 1999. 70 p. \$3.00 paper

**PN-ACF-350**

This study assesses informal (unrecorded) cross-border trade (ICBT) between Mozambique and its neighbors and its impact on national and regional food

security. Specifically, the study profiles informal traders in terms of gender and geographical location, business category and size, commodities traded, marketing channels and functions, ICBT costs and revenues, and public officials' perceptions of informal trade. It also presents results of border monitoring of ICBT between Mozambique and its neighbors from December 1995 to November 1996, and assesses the causes and implications of ICBT in Mozambique.

The study shows that Mozambique depends on its immediate neighbors for agricultural food products (the main ICBT commodity), particularly in the south. The total trade in agricultural commodities was estimated at more than \$77 million, with imports accounting for \$55 million. In terms of informal trade, exports from Mozambique to its immediate neighbors amounted to \$37 million and imports to \$98 million, resulting in a negative trade balance for Mozambique of \$61 million. A major feature of ICBT in Mozambique is the fact that both small and large commercial traders practice it. Causes of ICBT include economic hard times, high customs duties and rent seeking by public officials, and unfavorable agricultural and macro-economic policies. ICBT also reflects the comparative advantages of Mozambique's southern neighbors in agriculture and manufacturing, and of Mozambique's own northern region in maize production, though not in storage, processing, and trade. The effects of ICBT are both positive, through provision of income-generating opportunities and opening up of new markets, and negative, through loss of tax revenue and violation of health and environmental requirements.

It is recommended that in order to maximize the positive effects of ICBT, the Government of Mozambique liberalize the practice by gradually introducing customs and tax rates that are lower than the costs of evasion. Includes references.



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## **Agro-Economics**

### **Analysis of the Comparative Economic Advantage of Alternative Agricultural Production Options in Tanzania: Final Report**

Sokoine University of Agriculture; Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness; Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Planning and Marketing Division; USAID/AFR/SD, Washington, DC; USAID/Tanzania. SD Publication Series: Technical Paper No. 102. September 1999. 81 p. \$10.53 paper, \$2.00 disk

**PN-ACG-111**

In a recent series of trade studies in eastern and southern Africa, the Policy Analysis Matrix (PAM) methodology was used to determine Tanzania's comparative economic advantage (CEA) in the production of major cash and food crops (coffee, cotton, maize, and rice) in different farming systems and agro-ecological zones. The methodology was also used to assess the effect of government intervention policies on the production of these crops. The domestic resource cost (DRC) results derived from the PAM indicate a CEA of producing cotton in the Western Cotton Growing Area, coffee in the southern zone, and rice in Morogoro. The production of maize in Morogoro and arabica coffee in the northern zone indicate a comparative economic disadvantage, implying inefficient use of resources to produce the commodities in these areas. Low yields are probably among the important factors creating this comparative disadvantage. The measures of distortion (nominal protection coefficient and effective protection coefficient) suggest that food crops were protected by government pricing policies. Cash crops, with the exception of coffee in the northern zone, were taxed. Government protection policy on food crops may be desirable due to some social and political objectives such as food security or poverty alleviation, which cannot be easily quantified.

Recommendations included in this study are as follows: 1) If farmers are to increase resource allocations to a particular crop, more effective measures are needed to improve production constraints and, consequently, farm gross margins, e.g., policy measures to

revive the production of Northern Highlands coffee. 2) Given the potential for high-quality output, measures are needed to improve quality, which has a high demand on the world market. 3) Policy measures are necessary to improve the quality of processing capacity. 4) Research should be conducted on the role of competing products, e.g., products that compete with cotton and their effect on the domestic textile milling industry. Includes references.

### **Analyzing Comparative Advantage of Agricultural Production and Trade Options in Southern Africa: Guidelines for a Unified Approach**

Hassan, R. M.; D. H. K. Fairbanks; et al. University of Pretoria; CSIR Environmentek; University of Swaziland; USAID/AFR/SD, Washington, DC. SD Publication Series: Technical Paper No. 100. September 1999. 29 p. \$3.00 paper, \$2.00 disk

**PN-ACG-110**

This study presents the unified analytic framework used in a series of recent studies of comparative economic advantage (CEA) in agriculture in southern Africa. The framework, which emphasizes the use of spatial analysis and geographic information systems (GIS) tools, was developed to enable the country studies to evaluate the CEA of alternative agricultural production activities in various agro-ecological zones and under different technology levels and land tenure systems; analyze the potential impacts on the economic efficiency of alternative productive systems of removing existing price and policy distortions in the structure of the economic incentives; identify points of policy, technology, and institutional intervention to enhance economic efficiency and maximize the productivity of agricultural resources; and build the country data components needed for regional analysis of CEA and agricultural trade in southern Africa.

The body of the report is in two sections. The first discusses the construction of enterprise budgets; the calculation of private (market) and social (economic) prices for both traded resources and nontraded resources such as capital, labor, land, and water in a way that accounts for distortions; the use of sensitivity analysis to distinguish trend and current parameter values; identification of the nontradable components of traded goods; and the importance of limiting the number of categories in a CEA analysis. The types of

specialists to be included in the multidisciplinary team recommended for CEA research are also listed. The second part of the report discusses the use and application of GIS and spatial analysis tools for CEA research. Individual sections discuss characterizing the spatial diversity in study area production environments by relating their agro-ecological zones to major international climatic regions; using a grid-based GIS to simulate a region's crop potential despite variables of rainfall, heat units, soil types, and management; integrating survey data through the use of spatial sampling frames; and conducting spatial analysis of key CEA determinants. Includes references.

### **Comparative Economic Advantage in Agricultural Trade and Production in Malawi**

Nakhumwa, T. O.; D. H. Ng'ong'ola; et al. Bunda College of Agriculture, University of Malawi, Lilongwe; USAID/AFR/SD, Washington, DC; USAID/Malawi. SD Publication Series: Technical Paper No. 93. September 1999. 83 p. \$3.00 paper

**PN-ACG-108**

This study investigates Malawi's comparative economic advantage (CEA) in agricultural trade and production. It considers both low-input production technologies, including smallholders operating under customary land tenure, and high-input production technologies, comprising large estates operating under leasehold or freehold land tenure systems.

The study demonstrates that most of the agro-ecological zones for the various crops have a CEA in production of most of the crops selected for study. Cotton, paprika, macadamia, tobacco, and groundnuts have exceptionally strong domestic resource cost ratios in all areas of production. Except for tobacco, all these crops have a very strong demand and exceptionally attractive prices on the world market, and must be emphasized as the country's major export crops.

The study also reveals that the production efficiency of most of the crops can be increased greatly with increased productivity. Sensitivity analysis on price has demonstrated that changes in input prices affect the domestic resource cost ratios and hence influence the CEA. Not all crops would benefit from input price decreases unless the reduction translates into increased application of inputs to the recommended levels.

A comparison of the sources of disparity between private and social profits reveals output transfers as a major influence in the net policy effect in the agricultural sector. Thus, the gap between net social and net private profitability is mainly the result of low commodity market prices. Since the net private profits for all cash crops (low and high input) are far below the net social profits, the government may be taxing away a portion of the social profits for the commercial farmers, thereby hindering efforts to increase production. Includes bibliography.

### **Regional Agricultural Trade and Changing Comparative Advantage in South Africa**

Jooste, Andre; Johan van Zyl. University of Pretoria; USAID/AFR/SD, Washington, DC; USAID/South Africa. SD Publication Series: Technical Paper No. 94. September 1999. 177 p. \$3.00 paper, \$2.00 disk. Much of Appendix B (maps, tables C1.1 through C5.4) included in paper version only

**PN-ACG-109**

This study examines South Africa's comparative economic advantage (CEA) in agricultural trade for maize, wheat, potatoes, sunflowers, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, tobacco, beef, and mutton. Both rainfed and irrigation crops are studied, along with large- and small-scale production systems for maize and beef. The study includes an evaluation of the private and social profitability, the domestic resource costs (DRC) of different commodities within different agro-ecological zones, and a sensitivity analysis.

The DRC methodology used to determine the CEA of different products in different zones shows that farmers must exploit their CEA and be given incentives to do so by the government. Calculation of CEAs on the basis of returns to land and water revealed that policies such as the new Water Act will have a definite impact on water usage. Increasing the cost of water may have an influence on a crop's CEA. The constraints of each zone must also be considered. A crop may have a CEA over other crops, but be uncultivable throughout that zone due to climatic, biological, and physical constraints. In this situation, the second best option must be identified. The distance from markets must also be considered, as transport cost plays an increasingly important role in the competitiveness of agricultural producers.

In summary, the analyses show that water costs will influence the competitiveness of dryland production in relation to irrigation production. Other factors that should be considered are domestic and international demand, and supply forces. The balance between demand, supply, and CEA is not clear. A general equilibrium model that incorporates resource endowments and supply and demand forces is necessary to understand these forces better and provide a basis for policy. Includes references.

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## ***Environment***

### **Hazardous Wastes in Zambian Households: A Pilot Study**

Nriagu, Jerome O. Academy for Educational Development; USAID/AFR/SD, Washington, DC; USAID/Zambia. September 1999. 40 p. \$5.20 paper, \$2.00 disk

**PN-ACG-079**

A pilot study on hazardous household products (HHPs) commercially available in Zambia was conducted to provide a basis for integrating education on toxic substances into primary school-based club activities in that country. The study was based on visits to stores and major nonformal markets, focus group discussions with parents and children, and interviews with a variety of concerned people.

Although in some cases, especially with locally made products, the active ingredients were not indicated on the label, a survey of labels on consumer goods clearly shows that Zambians are exposed to a wide variety of HHPs. In all, the study identified well over 100 toxic compounds in common household products sold in the country. The total number of toxic compounds to which local consumers are exposed could be many times higher, and the human toxicity of some of the compounds is still unknown. Lists of these toxic compounds, as well as of the most toxic ingredients in antiseptic soaps, bleaching creams and skin toners, hair products, common pesticides, and cleansers are provided in the report.

Many of the HHPs, including cadmium-nickel battery powder, automotive brake fluid, mercury-based skin-bleaching soaps, hydroquinone skin-bleaching creams,

benzene-based creams, household insecticide sprays, auto batteries, and gasoline, are an integral part of the daily life of Zambians. Exposure to most of these HHPs can be reduced with public education and minor behavioral changes. Focus group and individual interviews, however, found that awareness of the health effects associated with exposure to these substances was very poor, and awareness of ways to handle or dispose of them even lower. Some of the hazardous substances, such as the mercurial soaps and hydroquinone creams, are illegal in Europe, but manufacturers continue to produce them for African markets. In Zambia, where they are also illegal, they have nonetheless become widely available.

At every focus group, someone knew of a child who had either gone into a coma or died from ingesting the cadmium-nickel powder. Information about the cause of these incidents, however, did not reach beyond immediate family members. Despite knowledge of the dangers of cadmium poisoning, few focus group participants knew of effective ways to dispose of batteries to prevent inadvertent contact by children, but parents in every group were extremely interested in learning more on the toxicity of these substances. All indications were that a simple education campaign on handling these common HHPs will be well received and used effectively by parents and communities. Campaign tips and references are included.

### **Integrated Pest Management Communications and Information Workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa: March 1998, Nairobi, Kenya—Final Report**

International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology; USAID/AFR/SD, Washington, DC. March 1998. 24 p. \$3.12 paper, \$2.00 disk  
**PN-ACG-499**

Presents the final report of a March 1998 workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya, to explore ways to enhance access to electronic mail and the Internet and improve communication and knowledge transfer of integrated pest management (IPM) technology in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The workshop, which was organized by the IPM Information Partnership, was attended by more than 80 participants, including representatives from SSA countries, international and development

cooperation institutions, NGOs, farmers, and the commercial private sector, as well as IPM researchers and practitioners and information and electronic information specialists. Proceedings of the workshop are available in *IPM Communications and Information Workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa: Workshop Proceedings* (PN-ACG-482).

Participants gained hands-on experience and a wider appreciation of the Internet, and collaborated in developing local, national, and regional strategies. Key issues discussed included property rights and intellectual ownership, quality control, the free-wheeling nature and diversity of email and the Internet, and the Internet and IPM. Follow-up mechanisms were developed for IPM information sharing and dissemination in SSA with eastern, southern, and western sub-regional nodes, and links between the key players and existing IPM-relevant networking initiatives within the region were improved.

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## ***Cross-Sectoral***

### **Training Manual for *Making a Difference to Policies and Programs: A Guide for Researchers***

Boly, Aliou. Training for Development; Academy for Educational Development; USAID/AFR/SD, Washington, DC. July 1999. 39 p. \$5.07 paper, \$2.00 disk  
**PN-ACG-478**

This manual was prepared for use by facilitators conducting a training workshop based on *Making a Difference to Politics and Programs: A Guide for Researchers* (PN-ACB-080), a study designed to train African researchers to involve decision-makers, the community, and other end-users in the research process in order to increase the likelihood that their research results will be used. The training workshop is divided into seven sessions. The introductory session helps the facilitator create a learning atmosphere where ideas can be exchanged among participants. Session II outlines the context of the workshop and prepares the participants intellectually and physically to do the work. Sessions III-V focus on identifying and involving key actors in different stages of the research. During these sessions, participants identify

the people to be involved in each stage of the research, define their roles and tasks, and devise strategies or methods for ensuring their full participation. Session VI demonstrates how the research results should be disseminated so as to maximize the likelihood of their use; facilitators are urged to devote ample time to this stage. The last session provides participants an opportunity to decide on follow-up activities to the workshop. The guide advocates teamwork, using Visualization in Participatory Programs (VIPP), a method that helps groups visualize collective ideas by writing them down on cards and papers of different sizes and colors and placing them on pinboards or walls in the training room.



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