

686-0201-005903

PD-AAI-196

END OF TOUR REPORT
FEBRUARY 1978 - APRIL 1980*

by
Edouard K. Tapsoba**

September 1981

*The preparation of this publication was financed under a contract (AID/afr-C-1314) between the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

**Formerly Graduate Student, Department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

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Introduction

The expected contribution of the consultant to the MSU project was to provide assistance in the design and implementation of a major farm level survey of both traditional (TRAD) and animal traction (ANTRAC) farming systems in the Eastern Organization of Rural Development (EORD). As part of the broader survey, the consultant conducted a study of the formal EORD government operated credit program and the informal credit system operating in rural areas of Eastern Upper Volta. The purpose of the credit study was to:

1. Identify major economic and institutional constraints hindering the effectiveness of the EORD credit program;
2. Evaluate the technical, financial and economic impact of the medium term credit program at the farm-level as reflected by the effects of ANTRAC obligation;
3. Describe the functioning and analyze the structure and performance of the informal credit system and farmers general attitudes toward credit, savings and investment; and
4. Derive policy implications in terms of improving the performance of the EORD credit program and in terms of designing alternative credit policies and lending programs to improve farmers income and welfare.

Other objectives included the training of field research personnel in order to establish a minimum information gathering capacity within the Economic Analysis and Planning Unit of the EORD.

The remainder of this report provides a summary overview of the program of work between February 1978 and April 1980. In the attached bibliography the reader will find a list of reports representing both the contribution of the author and the outputs of other MSU team members.

Design and Implementation of the 1978-79 Farm Survey

The author was fully involved in all initial stages of the farm survey. Drafting and testing of questionnaires, training of enumerators, drawing of sample villages and sample households took place between February and April 1978. The team benefited from the experience of a project consultant, Peter Matlon (30) in the drafting of questionnaires in February 1978 and from a follow-up visit in June of the same year.

The overall farm survey and the credit study were carried out over a twelve month period from May 1, 1978 to April 30, 1979. Over this period, a total of 480 farmers--355 TRAD farmers and 125 ANTRAC farmers--were interviewed once a week and for once a month to obtain input/output data and information on formal and informal credit and related issues. The survey methodology has been described in detail in a number of reports (overall methodology: 2, 30, 32; questionnaires: 33; codes: 38; program reports: 1-6, 30, 32; and original proposals: 7, 29, and 30). The various phases of the data collection are documented in (3) and (4). A total of thirty persons (14 enumerators, 11 statistical agents and 5 supervisors) participated in the farm survey. The overall administration and supervision of the survey was the responsibility of four MSU team members including the author.

Data Processing

Data verification was performed both in the field and at the ORD headquarters in Fada. A number of credit questionnaires were coded in Fada. All farm survey and credit data were keypunched at the national computer center--Centre National du Traitement de l'Information (CENATRIN)--

in Ouagadougou from April 1979 to August 1980.¹ Data editing and validation for the most part (i.e., 95 percent) were performed at CENATRIN between August 1979 and August 1980 using a canned statistical program--the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). The 88 base files for both farm survey and credit data were aggregated into seven major files at CENATRIN from April 1979 to September of 1980. The validation of remaining data and creation of aggregated files carried out at the MSU Computer Center in East Lansing from October 1980 to February of 1981. Detail on data processing and progress can be found in several reports (4-6, 30, 32 and 35). All data files were completed in February of 1981 at MSU with copies at CENATRIN in Ouagadougou and at MSU Computer Center. Documentation for all data files is provided in two reports (36 and 38).

Data Analysis

The data of 1978-79 farm survey and credit study have been analyzed and reported in a number of reports (3-4, 39-49). Preliminary results of the credit component can be found in two reports (40, 41) written in Ouagadougou in April 1980. In addition, the author participated in a general inventory of the EORD medium term credit. Major findings of this study were summarized in a joint report (18) which was subsequently presented at a workshop on Rural Financial Markets and Institutions at Wye College in London (England).²

¹The author went back to MSU in May 1980 to pursue in-depth analysis of credit data and complete his Ph.D. dissertation. After this date computer work at CENATRIN was performed by other team members.

²This paper was published in 1980; Thomas Stickley and Edouard Tapsoba, "Loan Repayment Delinquency in Upper Volta." In Borrowers and Lenders, edited by John Howell (London: Overseas Development Institute, 1980).

The author is currently working on a final report for the credit study which should be completed in November 1981. This report will summarize the most important findings and the policy implications of the study of the formal EORD credit program and the informal credit system. This report will draw on the results of the author's Ph.D. dissertation entitled An Economic and Institutional Analysis of Formal and Informal Credit in Eastern Upper Volta: Empirical Evidence and Policy Implications.

Other preliminary and final reports of the farm survey deal with various topics including farm sizes (35), farm household characteristics (42), animal traction (43), marketing (44) and crop production (45), technical, institutional and economic impact of animal traction (46), grain marketing (47), and cropping enterprises (48).

Conclusions

The objectives of the participation of the author in the overall farm data collection and analysis have been achieved. Preliminary analysis of the credit data has been done and more in-depth analysis has been completed and will be presented in a final report forthcoming in November 1981. The training of agricultural statistical staff has been generally satisfactory given the wide scope, great detail and complexity of the farm survey and credit research. It is hoped that the EORD will continue to consolidate and strengthen this farm system research nucleus and build it up into a sound and permanent information system unit.