

ASPAP/DSA Trip Report:
April 19 - May 15, 1992

Agricultural Surveys and Policy Analysis Project (ASPAP)

(Projet des Enquêtes Agricoles et Analyse des
Politiques Economiques du Secteur Rural)

USAID contract No. 696-0126

Daniel C. Clay*

MSU Training Coordinator and Short-term Consultant, DAI/MSU**

Kigali, Rwanda
May 1992

*Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 48824, USA.

**Michigan State University, subcontractor, and Development Alternatives, Incorporated (DAI), 7250 Woodmont Ave., Ste. 200, Bethesda, MD 20814, principal institutional contractor for ASPAP, USAID Contract No. 696-0126-C-00-7777-00.

ASPAP/DSA Trip Report: April 19 - May 15, 1992

Daniel C. Clay

Analysis of results from the Agroforestry Study comprised the thrust of my work agenda during this trip. As planned, a first draft of a working paper on the structure of landholding and land degradation in Rwanda was completed. In collaboration with Théobald Kampayana, analysis was begun on a second working paper reporting study findings on the topic of wood production and consumption in Rwanda. The changing availability of wood products, how and where they are obtained, current constraints to production, and the ways in which farmers have adapted their farming systems over time to cope with fuelwood shortages are among the particular questions addressed in this paper. Meetings were also held with members of the D.G. Forêts with the objective of identifying and planning for a series of analytical reports in which DGF staff have special interest. Each of these activities is discussed in greater detail below.

Working Paper on the Structure of Landholding and Land Degradation

A serious problem facing Rwandan farmers today is the control of soil depletion and erosion. One important facet of the Agroforestry Study has been devoted specifically to this and related questions. During this trip, an initial draft of a working paper analyzing the structure of landholding and land degradation in Rwanda was prepared (ASPAP/DAI Rapport N° 191). An abstract of this paper follows:

Population pressure has induced dramatic changes in the structure of landholding in Rwanda. More than ever before farmers must rent the land they operate, their holdings have radically diminished in size, they must travel longer distances to and from their parcels, and they see no alternative to farming the steep and fragile slopes once held almost exclusively in pasture, woodlot and fallow. Based on data derived from a nationwide sample of 1,240 farm households in Rwanda, linkages between these changes in the structure of landholding and land degradation are examined.

With regard to the particular investments farmers make to improve the productivity of their holdings, it is found that traditional inputs such as compost, manure, and mulch invariably go onto fields owned by the farmers and especially onto those located nearer to the family compound. The same holds true for field improvements such as the installation of terraces, grass strips, drainage ditches and the planting of trees. However, despite a considerably higher level of investment, these prize parcels are the most seriously degraded of all.

Rwandan farmers are clearly losing an uphill battle against soil depletion and erosion. Until more is known about how farmers perceive the notion of resource conservation, and until programs can be developed to

encourage farmers to embark on longer-term strategies that meet their needs, from both environmental and family planning perspectives, the situation will most assuredly intensify.

Working Paper on Wood Production and Consumption in Rwanda

Théobald Kampayana has taken the lead on a working paper that reports study findings on the topic of wood production and consumption in Rwanda. The changing availability of wood products, how and where they are obtained, current constraints to production, and the ways in which farmers have adapted their farming systems over time to cope with fuelwood shortages are among the particular questions addressed in this paper. It was initially anticipated that a first draft of this paper would be complete by the time of my departure. However, due to competing demands on Théobald's time over the past two months or so, notably for the Study on Women and Development, progress on this important document has been delayed. In our revised time frame we plan to have a complete draft ready for distribution and comment no later than mid-June.

Agroforestry Analysis at DGF

To further advance the analysis phase of the Agroforestry Study several meetings were also held with members of the D.G. Forêts, specifically for the purpose of identifying and planning for a series of analytical reports and research notes in areas of particular interest to the DGF. There appears to be much room for collaboration between the DGF and DSA. For example, their need for information on the uses and placement of tree and shrub species coincides remarkably with the research that Christof den Biggelaar is currently undertaking in collaboration with DSA. Likewise, interest has been expressed in the area of wood production and consumption, the topic currently under investigation by Théobald Kampayana. Other areas of potential DGF involvement include: crop-tree associations, prices and marketing of wood and wood products, tree species and slope, and regional (prefectural) variations in agroforestry needs. Data files from the Agroforestry Study have been passed on to DGF researchers with the understanding that all analyses and reports based on these data will first be reviewed by members of the DSA study team before they are disseminated.

Persons Contacted

USAID/Kigali

Kurt Fuller, Agricultural Development Officer
Damascène Ngaboyimana, ADO Project Manager

MINAGRI -- Division des Statistiques Agricoles (DSA)

Anastase Murekezi, Directeur
Serge Rwamasirabo, Analyste
Théobald Kampayana, Analyste
Samuel Munayenza, Statisticien
Greg Lassiter, Représentant Contractuel, DAI, Projet ASPAP
David Tardif-Douglin, Analyste des Politiques Agricoles, DAI, Projet ASPAP

D.G. Forêts

Célestin Ahimana, Ing. Forestier
Robert Leprohon, Conseiller Division Gestion
Gilbert Roulay, Conseiller en Aménagement

Projet Aménagement des Ressources Naturelle (ARN)

Glenn Smucker, Représentant Contractuel
Robert Winterbottom, Représentant Contractuel
Dan Tunstall, Consultant, World Resources Institute
Jake Brunner, Consultant, World Resources Institute