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C O N C E R N

Conference of Clergy on Economic Rural Needs

- Cagayan de Oro City - May 11 - 14, 1964
- Manila - June 15 - 18, 1964

- CONCERN was the response to a request of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Harnett, Far East Director of CRS-NCWC, made to Mr. Lee Sanborn, Director, Philippine Program, CRS-NCWC and Father William F. Masterson, S.J., Director of the Xavier University, College of Agriculture, to consider the possibility of framing a co-ordinated agri-socio development Program for the Philippines, of such a structure that it could be carried out in distinct projects on the local level.
- The Objectives of the meetings, then were as follows:
  - A. Formulate a program of agri-economic projects for parochial, deanery or diocesan levels which will stimulate better human living conditions in the rural areas.
  - B. Set-up a tentative system of priorities within such a comprehensive program.
  - C. Assess the cost in the several specific components.

The meetings brought together forty-five Priests, Brothers and Sisters from major geographic regions of the country. Included were Diocesan, Clergy, Maryknollers, Franciscans, Scaraboro Fathers, Jesuits, Belgian Fathers, Christian Brothers, Lasallete Fathers.

Preliminary discussions indicated four major areas of concern. These then, became the basis of study and proposals. They were:

- |               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| I. Land       | III. Technical Support |
| II. Education | IV. Credit             |

The participants were divided into four commissions, membership on each being a matter of each own's own choosing --- Each commission devoted two morning sessions of two days to detailed probings into the problems and proposals related to its subject ... Reports were submitted in afternoon and evening sessions to the entire body and there refined ... The results are outlined in the following pages.

## I. LAND

The important problems related to LAND were classified into three main categories, namely:

- A. Acquisition and Protection of Land and Land Titles
- B. Internal Migration
- C. Soil Conservation

Both panels (Cagayan de Oro and Manila) were unanimous in their assessment of the problems and some workable solutions.

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### A. Acquisition and Protection of Land and Land Titles

1. Problem of NON-RELEASED LAND (i.e. Land still retained by the government as public land):

Many of these non-released lands are already occupied, although they have not been declared alienable and disposable.

2. Problem of RELEASED BUT NOT SUBDIVIDED LAND:

Large tracts of land have been released to the Bureau of Lands for disposal. But, since they are not surveyed, there can be no question of title issuance.

2. Problem of RELEASED, SURVEYED AND SUBDIVIDED LAND BUT NO TITLES:

This is due to the bureaucratic ailment, red tape, and inadequate staffing of the government offices concerned, especially in the rural areas.

4. Problem of TITLED LAND BEING LOST TO LOAN SHARKS:

N.B. The problem of the title comes to the fore so much because any kind of improved agriculture requires credit. Without a title as a mortgage basis, the regular financing institutions will not entertain loan applications.

### What Can Be Done?

- a. There is a real need for a widespread educational campaign to alert the people to the problems and procedures connected with the acquisition of land and land titles.

This means the preparation, in the several major dialects, of simple, concise literature covering various ways of procuring land ownership. Further, it would mean the printing of all the forms necessary in the several types of procedure.

b. Establishment of a Land Title Procurement Office in Manila, with some field teams, spotted in the more critical regions.

1. Function of the Manila Office would be to:

- a. formulate the educational campaign
- b. prepare the necessary literature
- c. constant follow-up with the Manila Bureau of Lands to expedite the early release of titles
- d. supervise the field-teams

Manila Office would consist of a competent lawyer, secretary and clerk (this latter to double as typist).

c. Function of the Field Teams:

1. Promote educational campaign in land ownership procedures and requirements;
2. Assist in accurate preparation of legal documents and filling of same with local government agencies;
3. Channeling copies of applications to Manila Office for follow-up.

N.B. All the personnel contemplated in the Manila Office and Field Teams would be full-time salaried employees.

However, in the field, we expect to count on volunteer legal and surveyor assistance, chiefly through the several Catholic Colleges of Law and Engineering.

B. Internal Migration

There are two varieties of this problem -

a. That of the aboriginal peoples being pushed back more and more into the remoter, inaccessible, inhospitable rugged mountainous regions. This is due to the -

1. Lack of land titles;
2. Widespread ignorance of the value of land;
3. Unscrupulous invasion of new settlers.

That of the new settlers, who because they do not have the security of titles, move about quite a lot and lay waste the land through neglect and carelessness.

Soil Conservation

Ignorance of proper management practices in soil use depletes returns from the land, either through -

1. Scandalous soil erosion (estimated that 40% of topsoil is gone).
2. Soil bleeding, disregarding the nutrient requirements of the soil.

The answer to much of the problems associated with Internal Migration and all of those linked with Soil Conservation will be found in the areas of TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND EDUCATION with the essential CREDIT as detailed in the following pages.

## II. EDUCATION

Over the past sixteen years there has been a tremendous technical support program in the Philippines - substantially from foreign resources - coupled with hundreds of millions of ACCFA and other government agencies credit. But, they have not notably affected our level of rural living.

The base necessary for efficient use of these means - EDUCATION - was not there.

While we appreciate that we cannot raise the agri-economic returns without all three of these tools, actual conditions prevailing quite generally indicate that we are still woefully "ignorant".

CONCERN, then, felt that, in the face of possible limited available finances, the second area of importance into which efforts should be channeled ought to be EDUCATION.

The major areas of concern in a realistic educational campaign would be:

- a. FARMING
- b. HOUSING
- c. HYGINE AND HEALTH
- d. COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION
- e. NUTRITION

### What Can Be Done?

1. Setting up of Extension teams, composed of specialists in all the aspects mentioned above.
2. Conscious, continued effort at developing rural leaders. We can never hope to have enough "Extension" teams. Those operating must have a transmission belt... and the natural for such is the rural leader.

SEARSOLIN can be the spearhead in this program of rural leadership formation on both area and barrio level leaders.

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### III. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The suggested programmes were divided into -

A. Long Range Plans, which were left to Father Masterson and the College of Agriculture to formulate and initiate. In this category would come such items as:

- a. Breeding Programs - both in animals and plants
- b. Improved Seed and Seedlings Production
- c. Pest and Disease Control Studies, v.g. Biological Control
- d. Market Studies and Market Information Dissemination
- e. Preparation of news releases and taped radio programs
- f. Pasture grass studies and seed propagation

B. Short Term Plans, which could be immediately implemented on the local level. Such could embrace -

a. Swine

Breeding stations equipped with superior animals be more widely established in the local areas to:

1. Upgrade the quality of the animals through which alone can we hope to foster an economically thriving commercial animal industry.
2. Provide for the much needed increase in meat consumption in the individual diet.

b. Poultry

Dispersal of good breeding material to increase both the laying and meat production of our poultry. Scarcity in poultry products, coupled with feed costs, make the prices prohibitive for most ordinary people in the rural areas.

c. Cattle

Breeding stations for upgrading of local stock, both in meat and milk production. The milk production at least for the farmer's own family consumption.

N.B. The crucial aspect of the Swine and Poultry program is in the feeds costs. Presently, commercial feeds prices are so high as to leave a very narrow margin of profit especially for the smaller producer. The answer will rest in -

1. A wider, more organized corn production.
2. Cooperative processing of animal feeds. Studies at Xavier Aggie College indicate that cooperative processing can reduce the feeds cost by about 15 to 17% granted the initial investment in grinding and mixing machines.

#### D. Rice and Corn

Aside from the low levels of production per land unit, it was agreed that a very important factor in the production of these basic staple products lies in the vital area of storage and marketing.

Ordinary farmers, because of poor storage or lack of it, are seriously affected by:

1. Pests and rodent invasion.
2. Forced sales at depressed prices at time of harvest.

It was proposed that DRYING and STORAGE facilities be organized for the farmers, such facilities to be run on a cooperative basis. This storage center could well serve as a general farmers' center, housing credit union office, consumer cooperative, etc.

It is recognized that much training would be needed to make these Technical Support measures effective. Such will have been the function of the Extension teams, the SEASOLIN area and barrio level leaders, as outlined under: EDUCATION.

#### IV. CREDIT

Most obviously, not much will be accomplished by all the EDUCATION and TECHNICAL SUPPORT programmes, without the provision of cheap and easy credit to the rural peoples.

The credit union is the proven best instrument for that, precisely because it does not stop with merely making cash available, but is a powerful instrument for general human growth. It is meant to be an institution highly formative of its members in the proper sense of economic values, the spirit of self-reliance and self-confidence which it inculcates.

The proper organization of Credit Unions can be effected only following an extensive and intensive program of indoctrination of the prospective members. Apart from such there will be little guarantees on enduring stability and growth.

What the rural areas need now is the type of assistance geared at organizing them cooperatively. At the base of this would be the Credit Union. Such would be undertaken by a group of men, specially well-versed in the principles and practices of cooperatives. Their function would be both formational and advisory in the established stage. These men could operate from Cooperative Educational Centers established for the major geographical areas of the country.

L A N D C O S T

A. For the FIRST year  
(N.B. These costs estimates are based on the supposition that existing organizations can provide office space and light.)

1. Personnel

Manila Office.

Lawyer - Director . . . . .	9,600	
Secretary . . . . .	2,400	
Clerk-Typist . . . . .	1,900	13,920

Field Teams - Four of them

Investigator - Supervisor . . . . .	4,200	
Surveyor . . . . .	3,000	
Secretary . . . . .	1,920	
X Four		36,480

2. Equipment

Files (10) . . . . .	1,800	
Typewriters (10) . . . . .	6,500	
Desks (15) . . . . .	1,800	
Chairs (30) . . . . .	1,200	11,300

3. Operation

Stationery . . . . .	750	
Printed Legal Forms . . . . .	750	
Printed Explanatory Literature in several dialects . . . . .	1,800	
Postage . . . . .	2,000	
Travel . . . . .	12,500	17,800

TOTAL for FIRST year, including a contingency fund of 7% comes to: 85,065,  
or at the rate of 3.86 to \$1.00, comes to \$19,082.

If we are going to set up this Land Titles Procurement Office, we ought to consider a minimum operation of three years duration. A three year operation would cost: \$60,201.

There is the possibility that we might curtail expenses somewhat by making a service charge of 10% based on the actual purchase price the buyer must pay the government.

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## E D U C A T I O N C O S T

COST for the FIRST year for ONE Extension Team, consisting of a minimum of FOUR specialists, i.e.

1. Agriculture
2. Cooperative Organizer
3. Health and Hygiene
4. Nutrition

### 1. Personnel

Team Supervisor . . . . .	4,250	
Associates, three at 3,600 each . . . . .	10,800	15,050

### 2. Equipment - Office and Operational

Files (2) . . . . .	360	
Typewriters (2) . . . . .	1,300	
Desks (4) . . . . .	400	
Chairs (8) . . . . .	320	
Permanent Educational Materials .. e.g. charts, film strips, etc. Panel truck, equipped for film showing, public address system, etc. . . . .	18,000	
Motorcycle . . . . .	1,600	22,630

3. a) Education (training) barrio level leaders quarterly (2-day week-end) sessions, for at least 3 different areas in diocese averaging 60-65 in each group. They will have to take care of their own board and lodging. We provide the teaching materials i.e. mimeographed sheets, averaging 100 sheets per year for each trainee at 30 a sheet . . . . . 600

b) Setting up "demonstrations plots" aiming at least one for each town, mostly thru volunteer help and sample supplies, costing about 40 pesos each, say in 25 towns in a diocese . . . . . 1,000

c) Travel (Use of Panel and motorcycle . . . . . 1,200 2,800

TOTAL for FIRST Year plus contingency fund of 7% comes to: 43,315 (\$11,222)

TOTAL for SUCCEEDING Years, minus equipment cost, plus 6% contingency fund, comes to: 19,980 or \$ 5,176.

If the team were assigned to a diocese, we would suggest that in the 2nd the diocese be asked to cover 15% or 3,000; maybe in the third year, up to 20% or 4,000 pesos.