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**POSTWAR AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION
ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES**

Pham-Huy-Lan

May 1969

The Joint Development Group is an organization whose purpose is the study of economic and technical planning for the long-range future of Vietnam, with particular emphasis upon the postwar period. The group is comprised of Vietnamese experts, headed by Professor Vu-Quoc-Thuc, and American advisors supplied by Development and Resources Corporation, a private firm headed by David E. Lilienthal. In the course of its work, the Joint Group has produced a series of working papers, of which this paper is one.

NOTE

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The Joint Development Group is an independent organization. Both the author and the Group would be glad to receive comments and criticisms concerning the statements made in this paper. They will be regarded as valuable contributions to the Group's work.

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POST-WAR AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION
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CHAPTER I.- POSITION OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. Foreword: Relationship between science, research and agricultural extension.

a) Every effort to create a new atmosphere of vitality in a developing country and to provide economic and social progress to the people results from scientific research: modern techniques applied in farms and families, improved cattle breeds and agricultural products, and management methods to carry out the rural improvement program.

b) In other countries different programs have been tried to give a new face to the economy and to the social community. General programs have been carried out successively complementing each other. Many governmental agencies, as well as many popular or social organizations are operating along parallel lines. At times these programs support each other, and at times they encroach upon each other. However they are aiming to improve the people's standard of living under all aspects.

General research in agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery and industry have yielded outstanding results for example, a lot of farm-machinery and implements, cheap, useful as well as less labor and fuel-consuming, used in farms and families, have been invented.

However, if the results of these studies are not disseminated to the common people by any agency or organization - governmental or

private - all the results, all the inventions, though the best, will be of no use because they do not contribute in the development of the national economy in general, and in the betterment of the people's living in particular.

Example: The Research Center finds out a new rice variety, and if improved cultural methods are applied its yield will be 5-fold or 10-fold higher than that of local varieties. But if there is no agency to vulgarize this variety and these techniques to the farmers for cultivation, the development of this new rice variety will not in any way increase the farmers' income and develop the national economy.

c) In almost all leading countries as well as in developing countries, particularly in those where agriculture is fundamental, an agency named EXTENSION is created to assume the above mentioned important task.

EXTENSION is an agency which maintains close relations with rural populations to improve the farmers' standard of living and thus help to develop the national economy.

B. Duties of agricultural extension in rural improvement.

- In Vietnam at the present time most farmers are not technically advanced due to lack of knowledge of new techniques and lack of finances to improve their lot.

(1) Lack of knowledge

a) The farmers are not informed of the advanced techniques of cultivation, animal-husbandry and still apply traditional methods, outdated experiences.

- They are unaware of the improved varieties of high yield, high quality and high income.

- They are unaware of the new high income crops and continue to cultivate those crops traditionally planted in the region; example: they are used to planting rice, whereas they possibly could plant vegetables which are many times more profitable.

- They do not understand the use of farm-machinery or farming implements, nor the building of cheap irrigation systems which would result in production increases.

b) Farmers are deficient in knowledge of farm management in the organization of domestic production. They do not know how to set up programs and plans for agriculture and animal-husbandry for the whole year. They fail to plan ahead and often through not being able to get something when needed, they miss the cultural period and are thus behind the season. They do not understand the preparation of a budget and money from crops is often spent on frivolous things rather than being budgeted or allocated to the purchase of water pumps, farm machinery, fertilizers, insecticides, cattle needed for the coming production program.

c) Farmers wives are very deficient in knowledge of home economics. Homes are normally not comfortable.

d) Education for youth needs improving especially with respect to vocational training as imported by programs such as 4-H.

(2) Lack of finances.

a) Even if the farmers are aware of technological advances, they can do little about it due to lack of capital. They are unable to buy farm-machinery, farming implements, or cattle to increase the production for more income, and of course are unable to improve their homes.

b) Many farmers due to lack of funds let their children drop out of school and stay home working as labor hands in farm activities.

"Ignorance" and "poorness" are endemic to farmers in under-developed countries and constitute big barriers to the development of the people's mind and living.

The "Popular Education Association" in the Republic of China has also recognized that the Chinese farmers have 4 big faults namely: "Ignorance", "Poorness", "Weakness", "Selfishness". Therefore, it is advocating education in four ways:

- culture education enervating the intelligence, fighting ignorance

- life-earning education to increase production and thus fight poorness

- sanitary education to improve health and to fight weakness

- civic education to promote union and to fight selfishness (self-interest, self-mindedness).

These four educational parts aiming to reconstruct and develop the rural establishment have the same significance as agricultural extension.

- Significance - Aims - Duties of agricultural extension.

(1) To improve the standard of living of the individual farmer.

The agricultural extension workers guide or train farmers to get acquainted with, and apply, modern techniques in agriculture and animal-husbandry; to use improved varieties to enhance both yield and quality; and to learn about farm management. They also teach to the farmers the culture of high-income crops; the use of low cost farming implements which are labor saving; and how to erect small irrigation systems so as to increase production.

- The extension workers train the women of the families in home-economics in order to create an atmosphere of warmth and happiness within the families.

They guide the youth of the rural areas to use their spare-time in agriculture and animal-husbandry as well as in social activities so as to be helpful to the hamlets. These youths will be the farmers of the future. They need to be taught at an early age different points of view so they can become not only advanced farmers, but good unselfish citizens.

Once the farmers have improved their cultural and animal-husbandry methods, once they choose to produce high-income items, they will be self-sufficient and can afford a better material and spiritual life.

(2) To build up a prosperous and advanced rural area contributing to the development of the national economy.

The farmers having achieved a higher scale of living through the guidance and assistance of the agricultural extension agencies will undoubtedly have confidence in the government; and will carry out the agricultural programs set up by the Agricultural Extension agencies. The farmers under the guidance of the agricultural extension agencies, will by producing those essential commodities necessary to meet local needs will reduce the importation and save foreign currencies. In addition there will be those products which can be exported, earning more foreign currencies for the country.

CHAPTER II.- PRESENT ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION IN VIETNAM.

Agricultural extension was organized in 1955 and is now called "Agricultural Extension Service", belonging to the Directorate General of Agriculture and is supervised by a Service chief.

A. Organization (see chart)

1. At the central level (Saigon) there are 3 Sections:

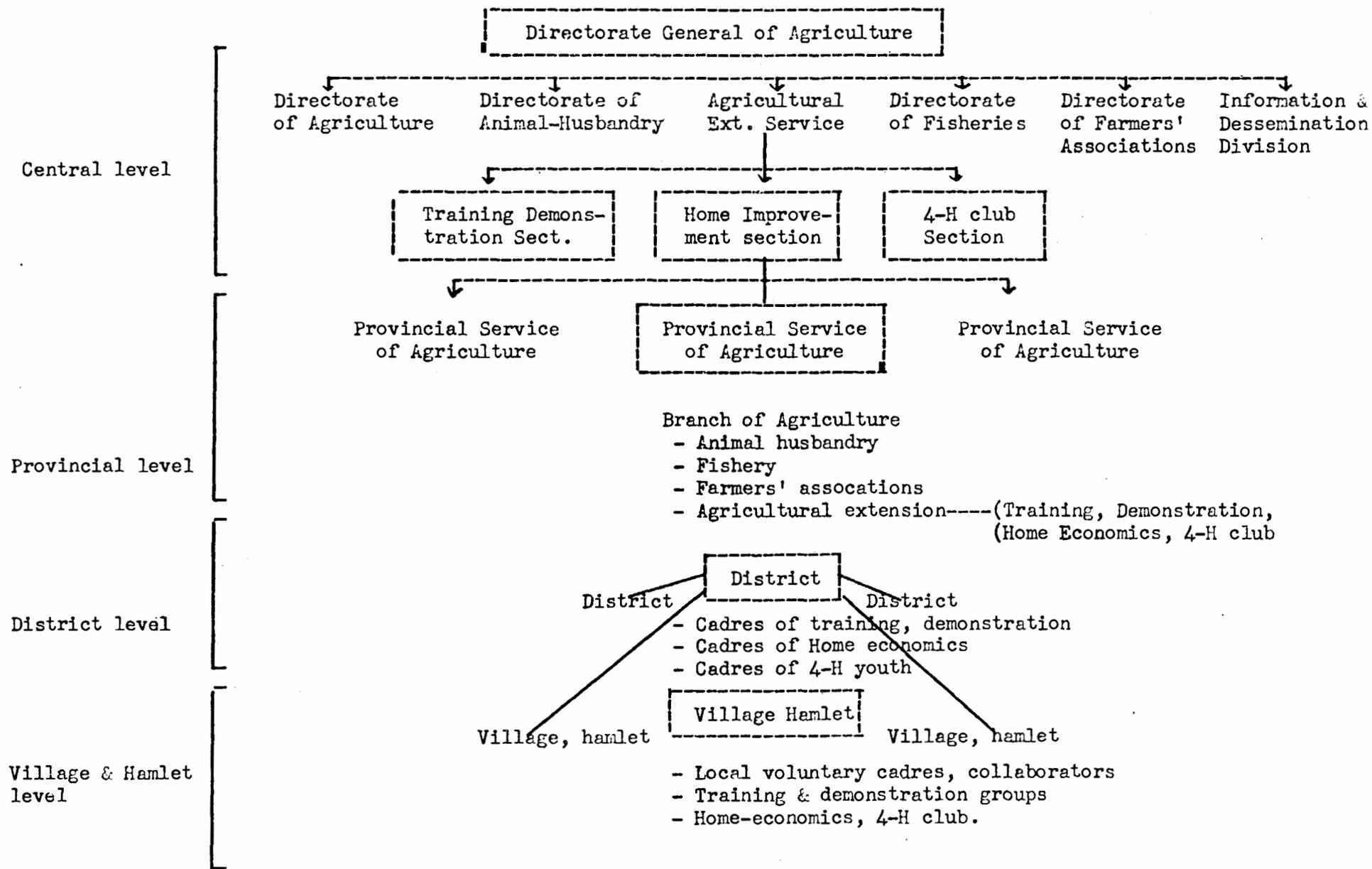
a) The training and demonstration sections.

This section drafts training programs for the whole country, organizes training courses and supplies documents to the provincial agricultural services for the training of farmers. It is also concerned with planning the organization of demonstration plots in the provinces for demonstration of improved varieties, and of improved agricultural techniques. Further, this section organizes agricultural extension teams to facilitate the training and guidance.

b) The home-economics improvement section's efforts are devoted to the rural women. This section drafts training programs and helps the provincial Agricultural Services in organizing training courses in cooking, sewing, children's care, home hygiene, and home rearrangement.

They make demonstrations on types of ovens that are economic and in types of wells which would be convenient and clean. They organize rural women into "home improvement groups" so as to make training and guidance effective. The home-economics section is also responsible for organizing the 4-H girl teams composed of young girls from 10 to 20 years old, and teaching them cooking, sanitation as well as how to raise domestic livestock and poultry.

ORGANIZATION CHART OF PRESENT AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AGENCY



c) The rural youth section works with both young men and women. This section assists the provincial agricultural services in organizing training courses for teams' members and cadres on different topics of interest, such as: methods of organizing a group, how to become a group leader and how to work with people. They also guide in the setting up of agriculture and animal husbandry demonstration plots to demonstrate new techniques.

2. At the provincial level, agricultural extension is headed by a branch chief under the supervision of the Provincial Service Chief of Agriculture. The personnel of the agricultural extension at the provincial level, as well as at the central level, is composed of graduates from different schools of agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry. In principle, in each province, besides the branch chief at least 3 technicians are needed to take charge of the 3 different kinds of service including training and demonstration, home economics and rural youth. But in fact, due to shortage of technicians, in many provinces the agricultural extension branch has only one or two technicians who cumulate all extension activities.

3. At district level, a number of cadres are selectively recruited from local farmers experienced in rural affairs and of good reputation in the region. They are paid as cadres. In principle, each district is supposed to have 3 extension cadres to assume responsibilities of training and demonstration, home economics and youth, however as at the provincial level those districts which are small or remote and insecure may have no cadres or maybe only one or two.

At the district level the cadres are in charge of:

- a) finding out the needs and aspirations of farmers in order to advise the provincial agricultural service for solution of the problems.
- b) organizing extension teams composed of adult farmers, home-economics teams and 4-H youth teams;
- c) training the local cadres, team leaders and farmers;
- d) setting up and making observations on demonstration plots;
- e) disseminating extension program with a view to accelerate crop and livestock production, encouraging and assisting farmers to carry out the improvement programs.

4. At the village and hamlet level, a number of local voluntary cadres were selected by district cadres among the most capable team-leaders to cooperate with extension workers and cadres in all agricultural activities of the village or hamlet. The criteria for selection are as follows:

- a) to be a farmer and a local inhabitant
- b) to have a good reputation
- c) to be experienced in rural affairs, literate, laborious and eager to work for the public interest.

Being local voluntary cadres, they do not receive any salary. However, as an encouragement the provincial service assists them by providing them with some means for cultivation or livestock raising, etc...

Also supporting the extension activities in village and hamlets, there are extension, home-economics and 4-H youth team-leaders elected by the members to lead the team; and collaborators consisting of farmers

cooperating with the agricultural extension agency in carrying out the demonstration and the agricultural programs.

The total number of existing Extension workers and cadres are distributed as follows:

At the Central Level: 20 technicians, graduates of different schools of agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry.

At the Provincial level: 110 - ditto -

At the District level : 360 district cadres

At the Village, hamlet level: 2,300 local voluntary cadres and collaborators.

Comments on the number of personnel, cadres.

1. It is estimated that in Vietnam there are about 10,000,000 farmers and rural youth belonging to 1,200,000 - 1,500,000 families.

Based on the present number of agricultural extension personnel and cadres, it appears that:

500 agricultural extension personnel and cadres (central, provincial, and district levels) are advisors to 10,000,000 farmers, i.e. each personnel or cadre advises 20,000 farmers or 3,000 families; and 1 local voluntary cadre is responsible for extension services to more than 4,000 farmers.

If compared with some leading countries where 1 agricultural extension personnel for every 100 farmers' families only, and 1 local voluntary cadre to 30 families only, we must have 15,000 agricultural extension workers to advise 1,500,000 families and up to 50,000 voluntary cadres to serve a total of 1,500,000 families.

2. Ability of agricultural extension personnel: the agricultural extension personnel at the central and provincial levels are all technicians in agriculture, animal-husbandry or forestry, so relatively they are able in agriculture and animal-husbandry techniques to guide the farmers. However, to work efficiently in agricultural extension, personnel need special ability and training. They must be dedicated to serve the people, and capable of outlining every subject simply and interestingly.

B. Means of activities.

1. Means of transportation.

In each province, generally there is only 1 car for all the agricultural extension personnel (training and demonstration, home-economics, 4-H) to use in common to supervise the agricultural extension works in the districts, townships and hamlets. Most of the cars are old and some are out of order.

The district cadres are not provided with motorcycles. They must use their own means of transportation to go to work in the villages and hamlets.

2. Means of assistance to farmers.

Through the assistance of USAID and the Republic of China, the Agricultural Extension Service has been able to make available to farmers and 4-H clubs the following items:

a) a quantity of vegetables seeds, together with fertilizers and insecticides for growing in demonstration plots or on their own land.

b) cement to be used by the teams of extension, home-economics, 4-H to build animal fences, cesspools, under the self-help program.

c) small farming-tools (hoe, shovel, rake, etc.) and recreational accessories such as footballs, volley-balls, net, etc. for the 4-H team members.

d) sewing machines, needles and threads, fabrics to be used by the home-economics teams in practical training courses.

In the future, more assistance to farmers will be needed to encourage and promote their interest in development programs. Instructional facilities, such as cameras, slides, projectors that are essential to training courses are almost non-existent at present.

Comments on the existing means.

1. The lack of transportation means hinders seriously the activities of the provincial agricultural extension personnel and of the district cadres. Since money of them have to spend their own many on bus fare and take a long time to reach villages and hamlets, they become reluctant to work as hard as they should.

Besides, no matter how many days they have to travel per month, each personnel or cadre is paid only from 4 to 10 days of travel per diem per month.

2. The means to assist different teams such as seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, farming-implements.... though partly supplied through foreign-aid are not yet sufficient to meet the need. The amount of assistance is now dependent on the amount of foreign aid. This program should be financed by the National budget.

C. Present activities of the agricultural extension.

(Based on the 1968 annual report of the Agricultural Extension Service)

1. Training.

a) General meeting and seminars of the agricultural extension personnel of all levels were often organized to give workers to a chance discuss their problems, exchange views and learn more about extension techniques.

b) Training courses were conducted to train the agricultural extension personnel and the district cadres on improved methods of crop and animal husbandry, especially with emphasis on newly introduced varieties of rice and other crop plants.

c) Short-term practical training courses were conducted for team-leaders, team-members and farmers on techniques of crops and animal-husbandry, and for women on home-economics.

2. Demonstration. Has collaborated with farmers and their families, has supplied them with some means and encouraged them to:

a) set up rice-fields and gardens for demonstration of improved plant varieties and application of improved cultural techniques;

b) construct by themselves fences for domestic animals according to improved methods, cesspools and applied fertilizers according to the right formula;

c) demonstrate the arrangement of houses, kitchen with types of economical ovens, water filter, sanitary wells, etc.

3. Observation tours.

a) Has organized several observation tours from one locality to another enabling the personnel, cadres and farmers to enlarge their knowledge, to see and learn on the spot experience and outcome of the application of techniques in animal husbandry, culture of improved varieties, and to see methods of making their homes more liveable and sanitary.

b) Selected a number of outstanding personnel and cadres to go abroad for from 1 to 3 months to learn more about the organization of the agricultural extension in foreign countries and which could be applied in our country.

4. Organize competition. Agricultural fairs and interprovincial general meetings of youth teams to promote their friendship and stimulate their competitive spirit.

5. Many agricultural extension teams (composed of adult farmers), home-economics teams, and 4-H youth teams have been formed in different provinces. Most of the teams have their own activity programs and each member has his own working plan for crop and animal husbandry or home-economics in accordance with the recommendations and guidance of the agricultural extension personnel and cadres.

The following is a summary of the achievements of the central and provincial agricultural extension agencies during 1968:

1. Adult training.

a) Training courses. In 1968, the following courses were organized:

(1) 471 training courses were conducted for cadres at the district level.

(2) 447 courses for the training of all local voluntary cadres;

(3) 2,246 training courses for 92,019 agricultural extension team-members and farmers; at the same time, have distributed 229,872 documents of all kinds.

b) Have encouraged the farmers in setting up 3,148 demonstration plots for the culture of crops, rice, vegetables and gathered 11,348 farmers for demonstration of experience and results.

c) Have organized 365 observation tours for 14,081 cadres and team-members.

d) Have set up and consolidated 394 agricultural extension teams with a membership of 8,688 adult farmers.

2. Rural youth.

a) Have established 750 4-H rural youth teams numbering 19,739 boys and girls ranging from 12 to 20 years old.

b) Have organized 3,724 meetings of the 4-H teams to learn more about techniques of agriculture. These are in addition to the general meetings in the provinces or interprovinces to stimulate the competitive spirit.

c) Have encouraged the team-members to participate in competitive works. Among other things, the following projects were carried out by 4-H members.

(1) Culture of 340 ha. of rice, secondary crops, lettuce, fruit-trees;

(2) Raising of 36,895 pigs, chickens, ducks; not reckoning rabbits, fishes, oxen and cows.

3. Home-economics improvement.

a) Have set up and consolidated 490 home-economics teams comprising 10,040 female members; 584 4-H home-economics teams comprising of 7,366 4-H(girls from 10 to 20 years old).

b) Have organized 16,433 meetings of these teams and 15,052 training sessions to train the members on home-economics.

c) Have paid visits to 25,543 houses of members and farmers to explain and advise on the arrangement of the house, on the development of gardening and agriculture to increase the families' income.

d) Have distributed 114,602 books, newspapers, and technical papers on home-economics, house-work, agriculture and animal-husbandry.

e) The result of the home-economics improvement is to guide, assist, encourage:

- (1) 12,908 families to do become concious of sanitary conditions such as to drink boiled water, to kill rats, to use covered garbage-barrels, to build latrines, etc...
- (2) 9,646 families to build fences and raise pigs, chickens according to advanced methods;
- (3) 3,612 families to arrange their house and kitchen to become clean and orderly.

Comments on the agricultural extension activities.

The Agricultural Extension Division has a clear and realistic policy of activities. As such it has gained the support and collaboration of many farmers' families and it has obtained encouraging results though the personnel and cadres, even though the budget and needed equipment are seriously lacking.

However, to become more efficient and more useful to the majority of farmers, the Agricultural Extension Division must:

a) Have a larger budget so it can recruit more staff at the provincial level and more cadres at the district level.

b) Lay stress upon the periodic training of staff cadres, not only when newly recruited and also while serving! Training on organization and methods to guide the people and on the techniques of culture of improved varieties, raising of domestic animals or planting important crops accordingly to each locality are mandatory.

c) Organize short-term training courses and seminars for team-members of Agricultural Extension, Home-Economics, 4-H Youth.

d) Organize many farmers training courses in townships and hamlets as well as to organize observation tours to enable the farmers to gather knowledge from other localities.

D. General comments on present organization and activities of Agricultural extension in Vietnam.

1. Favorable points.

a) The Agricultural Extension has succeeded in setting up an essential basic organization network from the central level up to the townships and hamlets with staff and cadres at each level to supervise and guide in carrying out different programs of agricultural development.

b) Different teams of agricultural extension (composed of adult farmers), of home-economics improvement, of 4-H youth, have been set up and are operating everywhere in the country. These teams consisting of almost 50,000 members work with the agricultural extension agency and staff, wholeheartedly collaborating in the crop and animal husbandry programs under the guidance of the Agricultural Extension agency. These 50,000 members could be considered as constituting the infrastructure of the present and future agricultural development.

c) Thanks to the guidance and assistance of the Extension Service for the past ten years thousands of farmers families are now acquainted with improved high yielding varieties. They know how to plant those agricultural products which give greater profit than those previously planted, and are confident in applying modern techniques in crop and animal husbandry. This is the essential basic factor for any program or for any plan of agricultural development.

2. Points that need improvement.

a) Organization and Authority.

The Agricultural Extension Agency is now only a division within the Directorate General of Agriculture, and in the province it is only a branch of activities of the Service of Agriculture. Therefore, it has not much authority, it must rely on many superiors. As a result it works restrictively and very slowly.

b) Staffing.

- (1) Insufficient numbers of staff exist at all levels from the central level to provincial and district levels. Averagely, 1 staff or 1 cadre of agricultural extension must advise up to 20,000 farmers or 3,000 families.
- (2) The agricultural extension staff have to endure hardship because throughout the year they must go to the townships or hamlets, which are often insecure. In spite of all this they do not receive more salary, or have any more rights than do the members of other branches.
- (3) The agricultural extension staffs at central level and provincial level are technicians graduated from different schools of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Forestry; they have relative basic background of agriculture and animal husbandry, but most of them have had no training in extension techniques and consequently have low ability in working with people.

c) Activities.

(1) In staff selection no attention is paid to hiring those men who have natural ability to communicate. Moreover, while serving staff are not allowed to participate regularly in different training or improvement courses so as to know the aims and the programs of agricultural extension. Thus they do not have opportunities to learn more techniques in agriculture and animal husbandry, nor to learn the advanced methods and particularly to learn and exchange the experiences of organization, leadership and working among the people. This is the big deficiency of the present branch of agricultural extension.

(2) Means of activities:

- Means of transportation (motor-car, motor-cycle) for staffs and cadres almost insignificant; the staffs and cadres must go to the townships and hamlets by their own means or by auto-stop, and this seriously limits working time.

The quantity of farming implements for assistance to the teams of Agricultural Extension, Home-Economics, 4-H youth is lacking also seriously.

The lack of finances does not permit organizing more training courses or more observation tours for farmers. These courses and tours would enable the farmers to learn on the spot, to gather more experience in the culture and raising of new varieties, to get acquainted with new techniques.

The budget allotted to pay travel per diem to the staffs and district cadres is insufficient. As a result their mission duration must be limited, from 4 to 10 days, which is a very illogical hindrance and very detrimental to the agricultural extension activities. To function correctly the staff and cadres have to be present regularly in the townships and hamlets to contact and guide the farmers.

d) Relation between the Agricultural Extension Agency and other agencies.

The Agricultural Extension has to work too alone.

(1) There do not exist yet close relations between the College of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Forestry, the Institute of Researches and the Agricultural Extension Division.

(2) There are no coordination of works between the Branch of Rural Youth and the Ministry of Youth, between the Agricultural Extension Agency and the farmers' organization (Federation of Farmers, Association of Farmers).

(3) The Agricultural Extension Division does not receive any substantial aid from different patronage committees or private organization.

In general, the Agricultural Extension Agency though having already an organization network from central to a number of townships and hamlets, though having scored many results useful to the farmers, is still a basic structure at its beginning because it is not developed largely in the rural area, its activities do not reach the whole mass.

Up to now, the Agricultural Extension Division is still considered as a small agency of the authority within the government, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Directorate General of Agriculture. The Agricultural Extension Division works alone, there is no coordination of works with other agencies, no assistance from the committees of patronage.

In reality, out of the competent personalities in the government, and more directly among the superiors of the Agricultural Extension Agency, different popular associations and organizations, few have realized the importance of the agricultural extension branch in the raising up of the people's intellectual level, the improvement of the people's living and in the development of the national economy. Few have realized the utmost essential role of the rural youths in the building of an economy and of an advanced Vietnam in the future.

CHAPTER III.- HOW TO REORGANIZE THE POST-WAR AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AGENCY.

A. Important position and conditions of activities of the agricultural extension branch after the war:

1. Objectives of the agricultural extension activities.

As outlined in Chapter I, all the agricultural development programs set up by the Directorates of Agriculture, Animal-Husbandry, Fishery.... aiming to develop the national economy, will succeed or fail, will yield more or less results, depending entirely upon the agricultural extension activities.

All the knowledge of the graduates of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Animal Husbandry, all the discoveries and inventions related to improved varieties, all the new techniques found out by the Research Agency will be of no significance, of no use to the country, nor to the people if they are not disseminated in the rural areas and not applied by a great majority of farmers. In other words, the technical ability, the advanced scientific inventions alone cannot make a country powerful and prosperous, the people wealthy and happy; the essential is to enable the majority to take advantage of these progresses, apply them to raise their standard of living and contribute in the development of the national economy. That is the duty of the Agricultural Extension, the agency which leads the farmers: educates the farmers, and enables them to solve their own problems by themselves as well as to solve the problems of their families, of their townships and hamlets. The final end of the Agricultural Extension is to form smart and advanced farmers who are at the same time model citizens serving efficiently the country.

2. Scope and conditions of activities in the post-war period.

Under the present situation of war, the agricultural extension activities are hindered and limited because of the lack of security in some localities, of credits, of staff. But when the war ends, in the national reconstruction and particularly in the reconstruction of ravaged rural areas, the agricultural extension will play an important role according to its position and must be supplied with all necessary means and conditions to speed up its works in all fields.

At that moment, the activities scope of the agricultural extension will double and cover all hamlets in the country, not only the secure townships and hamlets near the National Highway, the provincial roads or the cities as of now.

And at that moment, the Agricultural Extension Agency will have favorable conditions to work:

a) Staffing.

- the technicians now drafted in the army will come back to resume their work;

- all graduates from different schools of agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry not drafted will be recruited.

b) The budget will have enough credits to:

- recruit more agricultural extension staffs and district cadres;

- organize more training courses for staffs, cadres and farmers;

- assist and reward the teams of agricultural extension, home-economics, 4-H youth and the team members who are outstanding but lacking in finances;

- organize observation tours, fairs and shows, general meetings, etc...

c) Farmers, i.e. productive hands: after the war, the number of farmers will increase by millions for the following reasons:

- a number will be released from the army;
- many farmers who during the war, because of the insecurity situation in the provinces have left their townships and hamlets to take refuge in the cities, can return now to the fields;
- work for agricultural production will yield more income and will be more attractive than stay in the capital and the cities where the industry is still underdeveloped (besides, most of the industries rely upon the agriculture) and there will be no more "parasite life" around foreign agencies and armies.

3. Role of the Agricultural Extension in the programs of agriculture.

As soon as the war ends, the government will set up and carry out several agricultural programs to develop urgently the national economy, aiming to 2 objectives:

- (1) Speed up the production of agricultural products, by-products and domestic animals which can be exported;
- (2) Stop the importation of the agricultural products, by-products and domestic animals which can be cultivated or raised in the country.

The Agricultural Extension Agency will assume the important charge of carrying out the above-mentioned agricultural programs because it is in fact the agency which is closest to the farmers and regularly guides, trains and leads the farmers in all fields.

B. How might the Post-war agricultural extension be organized.

Right after the war, the Agricultural Extension Agency might be elevated to the most important position in the economic development.

Therefore, the essential questions will be:

- How to reorganize the agricultural extension?
- Which agricultural extension activities might be increased?
- How to increase the utmost the efficiency of this agency?
- How to meet the urgent needs of the farmers and of the country?

The following problems will be discussed successively:

- Organization network of the agricultural extension
- Means of activities needed
- Plan of activities.

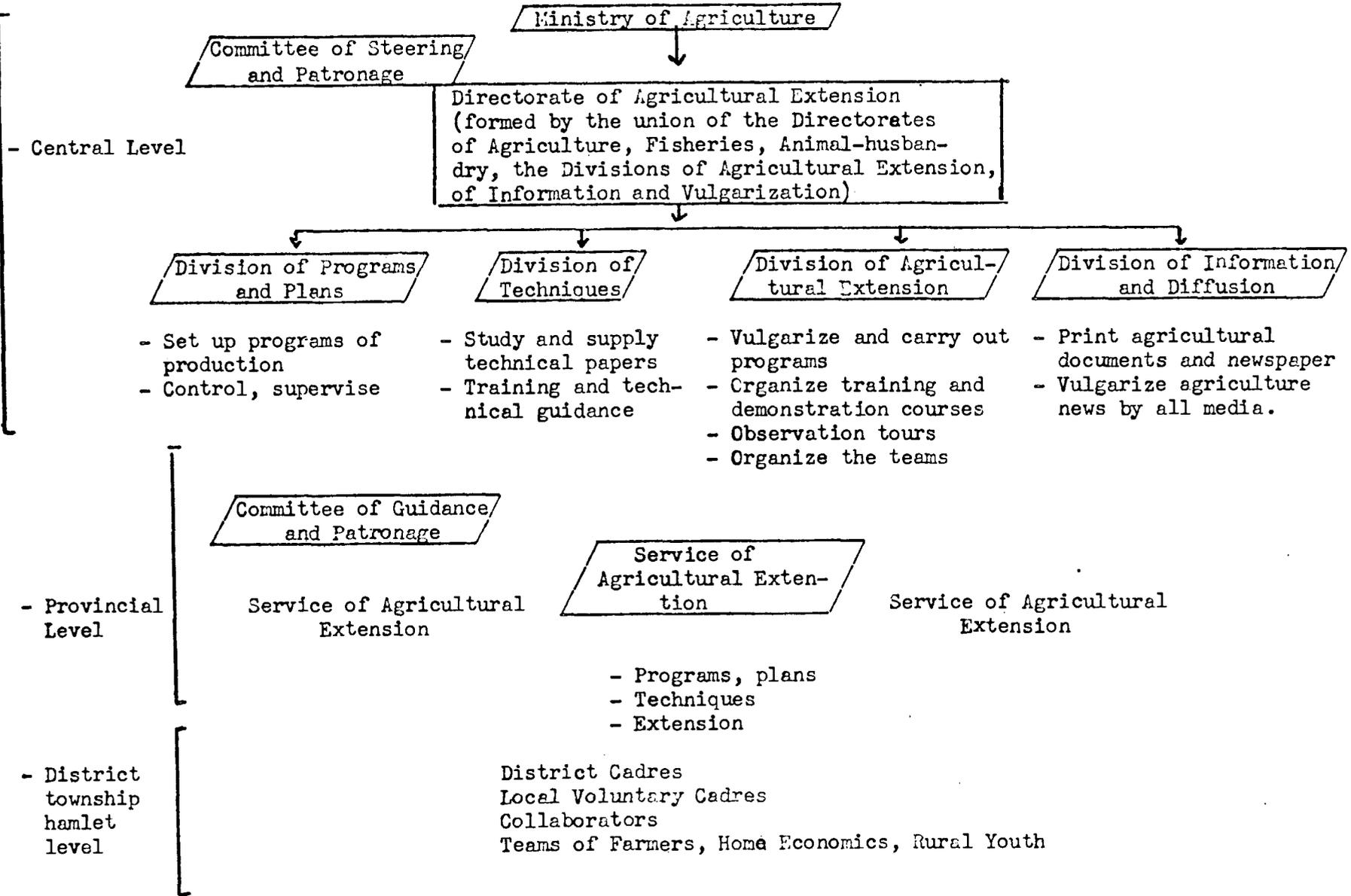
Organization network of the post-war agricultural extension.

A. Strengthening of the organization of the Directorate and divisions.

According to the present organization of the Ministry of Agriculture, there are 3 separate directorates: Directorate of Agriculture, Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Directorate of Fisheries and 2 divisions: Division of Agricultural Extension, and Division of Information and Diffusion. The above directorates have 3 main duties:

- (1) Set up production programs and plans.
- (2) Disseminate information to farmers.
- (3) Technical guidance to farmers.

ORGANIZATION NETWORK OF THE POST-WAR AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION



The main duty of the provincial service of agriculture (which comprises the branches of agriculture, animal-husbandry, fishery, agricultural extension) is also to guide technically and disseminate the programs, assist the farmers in production. In actuality that means to do the agricultural extension work.

To make the agricultural extension activities in the post-war period more efficient, the essential is to unite the 3 directorates of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fishery, and the 2 divisions of Agricultural Extension and of Information and Vulganization in one Directorate General or in a sole Directorate called " Directorate General of Agricultural Extension" or "Directorate of Agricultural Extension".

The Directorate of Agricultural Extension will have 3 main duties:

- (1) Programs and plans
- (2) Techniques
- (3) Extension.

The total technical staff of the existing directorates and divisions will be assigned to take charge of the 3 above-mentioned activities which consitute the duties of 3 divisions (see organization chart Page 26a)

1. The Division of Programs and Plans has the duty:

a) Set up the programs and plans of agricultural production for the whole country, each zone, each province according to the aims and policy of agricultural economy of the Ministry of Agriculture and of the government.

b) Control, follow up and supervise the carrying out of the programs in the provinces.

2. The Division of Techniques, assumed by subject matter specialists, has the duty:

a) Keep regular contact with the Research Agency to take account of the new varieties, the new techniques which can be tested or applied in the provinces. On the other hand, gather the observations and experiences of the provinces in the application of the disseminated new varieties and techniques, convey them to the Research Agency for information or retest if necessary.

b) Guide technically in agriculture and animal husbandry for the production programs in the provinces.

c) Assist the Agricultural Extension Division in the technical training, at the same time provide technical papers to the central and provincial staffs.

3. The Division of Agricultural Extension composed of specialists graduated from different schools of Agriculture, Fishery, Animal Husbandry, of Home Economics, of Mechanics (to take charge of farm-machinery) or even those who are not graduates from technical schools but are experienced and particularly have the good-will and the ability to work with the people.

The Agricultural Extension Division has the duty:

a) To introduce the production programs to the provinces; encourage, assist, guide the farmers in carrying out these programs.

b) Organize successively training courses for staff, cadres on technical techniques (agriculture, animal husbandry, home economics, mechanics) as well as on the techniques of organization and leading the people. Seminars, observation tours, demonstration plots are other forms of the training plan.

c) Set up several teams of farmers, women and rural youth to enhance the collective spirit, the spirit of mutual affection, making way to the training and guidance in carrying out the programs of production increasing.

Besides, there is the Division of Information and Diffusion, which prints and supplies documents used in the education of farmers such as publications, reviews, leaflets, films, etc... aiming to disseminate the production programs and techniques, to broadcast agricultural news and the outcome of agricultural works among the people.

B. Steering and patronage committee.

Because of the utmost importance of the Agricultural Extension in the Rural Reconstruction and the development of the national economy it is necessary to create at the central level one steering and advisory committee on agricultural extension and in each province, one assistance and advisory committee on agricultural extension.

The central steering and advisory committee is composed of about 15 members:

- Minister of Agriculture Chairman
- Minister of Rural Reconstruction
or his representative Member
- Minister of National Economy
or his representative "
- Minister of Education and Youth
or his representative "
- Minister of Information
or his representative "
- Minister of Finances
or his representative "
- Representative of the Parliament "
- Some chairmen of social farmers'
association "
- Director of Agricultural Extension Secretary/Reporter

The provincial guidance and patronage committee consist of

about 15 members:

- Province Chief Chairman
- Provincial Service Chiefs of
the Related ministries Member
- Chairman of the Provincial Assembly "
- Chairman of the social and farmers'
associations in the province "
- Some personalities "
- Agricultural Extension provincial
service chief Secretary/Reporter

The committees of steering, guidance and advise have the duties:

(1) Establish the policy, follow up and control the programs of agricultural extension.

(2) Study and assist the agricultural extension agency with necessary means. The committee convenes 2 times a year. But in case of need extraordinary meetings can be called up on the proposal of the agricultural extension agency with the approval of the chairman.

C. Strengthening the organization of agricultural extension in the provinces.

In each province, there is an Agricultural Extension Provincial Service (in place of the present Provincial Service of Agriculture) assuming the 3 branches of activities as at the central level:

- Programs, plans
- Techniques
- Extension.

Extension is the particularly important duty of the Provincial Service of Agricultural Extension, it needs to have sufficient staff with experience and ability to work with the people, in order to get expected results in the adoption of programs, organization of training courses, of demonstration sessions and of observation tours, setting up farmers' teams, guidance and assistance to farmers.

If necessary, the specialists of the 2 sections of Programs, Plans and of Techniques must assist the Section of Agricultural Extension.

Support needed to supply the post-war agricultural extension agency.

a) Staff, cadres.

1. Increase the number of staffs, through an increase in budget allotment, by recruiting more staffs of central and provincial levels, and district cadres, from 5,000 to 15,000 more to attain the ratio:

1 staff and 1 cadre of agricultural extension for every 100-300 farmers' families.

2. Salary and allowance increase.

The agricultural extension staff and personnel who have high responsibility and must make regular trips from one township or hamlet to another, tiresome and expensive, deserve a salary higher than that of the personnel working in the office. Besides, there is no reason to limit their travel per diem because they must travel 20 days, 25 days or more each month. Limit the number of mission days means limit the agricultural extension activities.

b) Means of transportation.

Each province must have at least 1 jeep or Land Rover and 1 Pick-up to transport the agricultural extension staffs or the material and implements. Each agricultural extension staff and each district cadre must have one motorcycle or one tri-lambretta scooter to go regularly to the townships and hamlets. Those staffs or cadres who use their own vehicles will be granted a monthly allowance for fuel and maintenance.

c) Forms of assistance to farmers.

1. The Government has to spare each year sufficient credits for the purchase of varieties, fertilizers, insecticides, farming implements, cement, etc... It must assist the poor but most active teams of farmers, home-economics and rural youth, and also the outstanding team-members as reward and in order to encourage their spirit. The government especially must provide improved varieties to those team-members, collaborators or farmers who volunteer to plant them first in the locality. Even after harvesting, the Government ought to study and take all

measures to sell these varieties which are unusual in the locality but to contribute/the general economy.

2. The central and provincial committees of steering, guidance and advice, composed of personalities, businessmen, industrialists will supply the government with more finance or aid-in-kind for the patronage of deserving teams or farmers.

Agricultural extension activities in the post-war period.

As mentioned in Chapter II, the present Agricultural Extension Division, applying the policy of other agricultural extension agencies in the world, is already well organized and structured so as to be useful to farmers. However, when the war ends, the population in the rural area will increase a great deal. The scope and the field of activities will be much larger. There will be needs to produce urgently crop, livestock and fishery products for exportation in order to develop the national economy. All this will require that the agricultural extension agency must have a larger organization, more efficient programs, plans and activities.

The following problems are successively discussed:

1. Methods of drafting production programs and plans.
2. Selection of staffs and cadres
3. Training of staffs, cadres and farmers
4. Coordination of works between the agricultural extension and other agencies.
5. Important position of the rural youth in the rural reconstruction of Vietnam.

1. Methods of drafting production programs and plans.

The agricultural extension has the duty to guide, to assist the farmers to use fully all resources and possibilities to solve all problems in the rural area, raise the farmers' standard of living, and at the same time to develop the national economy.

Up to now, the reasons of the failure of many programs are summarized in the following points:

- Aim not corresponding with the people's needs
- Plan not adequate to the circumstances
- Cadres inefficient, lacking of spirit, unable to encourage the people for collaboration, unable to maintain the people's enthusiasm.

For the success of any programs, the following 5 stages should be paid attention:

- a) Investigation and study.
 - Present situation of the rural area: deficiencies, possibilities;
 - Physical and financial means to give assistance.
- b) The program must have realistic aims, must be useful and must meet the people's needs.
- c) The plan must be determined carefully from the beginning to the end.
- d) Guide, supervise the carrying out; adjust in time the inadequate questions.
- e) Check the results, disseminate the advantages and the deficiencies.

With regard to the method of planning, it is needed to apply the "from down to up" system, that means the agricultural extension staffs and cadres can guide, suggest but must let the farmers lay down the problem by themselves and propose a complete plan to be discussed in a general meeting of farmers. Apart from the technical matter (assumed by specialists), all other matters (for instance the social and economic subjects) must be proposed by the farmers. This method is very democratic and ensures that the plan will have particular "local" character. Once the people think that the plan is set up by themselves, they will feel enthusiastic and solve all problems.

The principle for setting up a program is always to base the plan on the realities of the actual situation and means on hand or available and the Agricultural Extension staffs must follow up closely, guide, and ask themselves the following questions:

- a) Is the program, this plan, useful to the people?
- b) How to carry it out?
- c) Who will be in charge of which works? When? Where?

2. Selection of staffs, cadres.

Many people have a false conception vis-a-vis an agricultural extension staff. They think that the agricultural extension activities are relatively easy; only the experimentation and study works are complex and difficult. But they forget that the object of the agricultural extension activities is the "man" who is much more complex than the object of the experimentation and study works which are related to "thing" only.

"Man" is the Vietnamese farmer who, like most farmers of other underdeveloped countries, has many characteristics hindering the progresses and the activities of the agricultural extension staffs, for instance the conservative spirit, the inferiority complex, the lack of knowledge, etc....

A good agricultural extension staff must have the following characteristics:

- a) Right and honest to win the farmers' confidence.
- b) Capable of judgment to solve the difficulties of the farmers.
- c) Able to organize, to express his ideas, to brief on every subject with simplicity, conforming to the thought, the language and the intellectual level of the people in order that all discussed subjects can be comprehensible and attractive.
- d) He must not have an inferiority complex but be very patient while carrying out the program or contacting the people, learn more experiences from the farmers, find out their needs, their aspirations and their problems to examine, explain and solve them satisfactorily.
- e) Technically able to guide the farmers in techniques.
- f) Happy, modest, behaving himself skillfully with the farmers to win their sympathy.
- g) The last important factor is that the agricultural extension staff must realize the noble significance of the agricultural extension, that his duty is to "work for the people", he must consider the people's gaiety his own and feel happy when seeing the people earning some profit, particularly when this is the outcome of his guidance.

It is not that anyone, though he is an outstanding specialist, can fulfill all the above conditions to become a good agricultural extension staff. Therefore, the selection and recruitment of an agricultural extension staff must be careful to win the farmers' confidence; the confidence and the sincere collaboration of the people will ensure the success of every program .

3. Training of staffs, cadres and farmers.

a) The agricultural extension staffs and cadres ought to:

- Understand the significance of the agricultural extension policy in order to be firmly confident and to carry out the program wholeheartedly;

- Go through all the agricultural extension programs of the country, the province and the district where they are based;

- Know the techniques of crop or animal husbandry concerning the improved varieties to be popularized in their locality;

- Well accustomed with the methods of organizing the teams, organizing the farmers, leading the farmers and training them efficiently.

Hence, the agricultural extension staffs and cadres need to be trained in the above subjects through 2 stages:

a. When newly recruited, before working for the agricultural extension;

b. During their service: must participate in several short-term training courses for improvement.

b) The training of the members of Farmers' teams, Home-Economics teams, 4-H Rural Youth teams, as well as of the collaborators and farmers is a task of utmost importance, assumed by provincial staffs and district cadres.

The training of farmers must base on 2 fundamental principles:

- Simply, realistic, practical
- Train only on necessary matters, related to the farmers'

living, and that the farmers have the conditions and the possibilities to apply immediately.

The training courses to be located right in the township or hamlet (shrine, pagoda, farmer's house, or in rice field) in order to save time, and avoid a long and tiresome trip. Each course lasts only some hours or in a period convenient to the farmers (at noon or in the evening) and teach only one useful subject which can be applied immediately. For example: if the farmers want to plant potatoes, its practical culture will be taught throughout the course.

Because a large number of the farmers are illiterate but usually have some professional experience on the subject matter, the teacher must know well the subject, brief it clearly, make the course like a seminar. That means to incite the farmers to ask questions, find themselves the answers, in order to create an enthusiasm in the training course.

The extension agent must gather pictures, films,..... to render the training more lively and comprehensible; each farmer should be supplied with a summarized document, having pictures and containing practical details for easy application.

The extension worker must make up a list of students in order that the staff or cadre can regularly look after them, assist or guide them even after they finish the course and goback home.

Several plots for demonstration of agriculture or animal husbandry techniques, of house and kitchen arrangement should be set up by the farmers and their families under the guidance of agricultural extension staffs and cadres. Several observation tours, bringing the farmers from one locality to another to let them learn, exchange experiences on the spot, are forms of practical training for farmers and will be organized regularly and continuously.

4. Coordination of agricultural extension works with other agencies.

The agricultural extension cannot work alone and must coordinate its works closely with:

a) The research agency, to have the results of experimentation of varieties and techniques, for trial application in the provinces, dissemination and demonstration in different areas. Gather experiences and results from the provinces, communicate to the research agency for assessment.

b) Different technical schools of agriculture, fishery and animal-husbandry to insert agriculture extension as a subject in the program of teaching. After graduating the students will have a background on the organization and the techniques of agricultural extension.

c) The Ministry of Culture and Education to request the teaching of the techniques of elementary agriculture and animal husbandry in the primary schools and in the collective schools. At the same time, organize the team of 4-H youth in the rural schools, with the conception

that these schoolboys coming from the rural area, living in the farmers' families, and taught from now about techniques will be the elements eager to learn to advance in agriculture and will be as many hands to serve in the rural reconstruction.

d) The Ministry of Youth, to coordinate the organization of "rural days", bringing the youth teams to rural areas working collectively with the local youth teams in agricultural activities, or sanitary, social activities thus promoting and strengthening the idea of rural reconstruction, the love of rice fields; and this idea will become a movement of "back to the village" spreading out everywhere.

e) The Ministry of Health, to collaborate with the rural sanitary teams in the organization of training courses and vulgarization of the program of hygiene in rural areas.

f) Different farmers' organizations (federation of farmers, cooperatives...)

Besides, the Agricultural Extension Agency needs the assistance of different associations, private or social organizations in the country, or international institutions such as Lions Club, Rotary Club, Asia Foundation, etc... to have more means for assistance to different teams of farmers, home-economists, 4-H youths.

5. Important position of the rural youth in the rural reconstruction in Vietnam.

Vietnam is an agricultural country. Most people live in the rural areas, of which the youth constitutes a great majority and will be the important and active elements for the national reconstruction. Under the present conditions, most of these young men, because of poorness,

generally can only finish the primary school or more rarely the high-school. They then go back home to help their parents in agriculture. Living and growing behind the bamboo-trees, continuing to apply traditional experiences and techniques up to their adult age, they will become farmers and so the agriculture will remain unchanged.

For this reason, for the past 50 to 70 years, several leading countries in the world have paid special attention on the rural youth, on their abilities and possibilities. These countries have organized 4-H teams (4-T in Vietnam) to train the rural youth to make use of their mind, heart, hand and body in improving the agricultural techniques, rising the general living in the rural areas, working collectively to serve the hamlets with a firm union spirit.

The rural youth branch of the Directorate of Agricultural Extension must be strengthened with outstanding cadres with a large enough budget to:

- a) Recruit a large number of 4-H club members;
- b) Train continuously the members on techniques of agriculture improvement and the duties of a citizen.

The aim of 4-H is to promote among the rural youth association and social spirit as well as leadership ability. In addition 4-H aims to enable them becoming advanced farmers, able hands for the national reconstruction. Besides, the government should spare credits for granting fellowships to outstanding team members of poor families to continue their studies or attend technical schools in the country or in foreign countries.

CHAPTER IV.- CONCLUSION

Agricultural extension is the most important branch of agriculture activities of every country, particularly of those countries where agriculture is still underdeveloped.

The agricultural extension agency in Vietnam though set up 15 years ago, though having built a number of basic organisms and though having obtained encouraging results, still needs to be developed much more. It needs to be supplied with more necessary finances and equipment to be raised up to become a big agency having full authority in order to fulfill satisfactorily its duties in the post-war period.

The main duties of the agricultural extension are as follows:

1. Encourage and unite all classes of farmers in the rural area: adult farmers, women and youth into teams of farmers, of home economics, of 4-H, or more largely into Federations of Farmers Cooperatives in order to promote union spirit, democracy and to develop leadership ability of each class.
2. Enlarge the knowledge of each farmer on agricultural techniques, on his citizen's duties and on his responsibility to serve the hamlets.
3. Guide different associations of agriculture, different organizations and all the farmers in carrying out the agricultural production programs in order to raise the people's living standard and at the same time contribute efficiently in the reconstruction of the national economy.

Briefly, in the post-war period, the agricultural extension must be improved as national measures to build up an advanced rural area in all aspects within a prosperous country.