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*Southern Reseires Agricultural
Development Project (SRADP)*

*Community Development Expert (CDE)
(Mohamed Osman El Sammani- Ph.D)*

Report

Feb - March 1998

Southern Reseires Agricultural Development Project (SRADP)

Community Development Expert (CDE) Report Feb. – March 1998

The CDE report is guided by the Terms of Reference (TOR) which were formulated by the (TA) team leader.

TOR item (1)

"Provide assistance to the new M & E section in preparing his programmes for monitoring project impact and review the format for annual and biannual monitoring of field activities so that greater emphasis is placed on participatory rural appraisal techniques. This will include methodology to mobilize the resources of the AGCU and VCSs so that they can prepare simple indicators in wealth accumulation and project impact".

1. M & E Capacities:

1.1. Staff:

M & E is staffed by one person (Acuil Malual, B.Sc Economics) who joined SRADP in 1996. Two persons (Kock Bol B.Sc Agriculture Economics, and Malaual Deng, B.A., Sociology), worked earlier for M & E and left for personal reasons. Malaual Deng actually went on M & E short course in U.K. on the project training programmes, however, did not make it back.

M & E is currently charged with the reporting of project activities, being satisfactorily handled; also with the day to day fuel issuing. Both tasks are more of a management nature, leaving little room for M & E to conduct participatory evaluation of project impacts on beneficiaries. Unassigned vehicle for M & E was also mentioned as a problem.

This tight staff situation presented itself, as of start of involvement of CDE with SRADP. With unforeseen personnel appointment to M & E, the CDE opted for using the staff of other project departments to assist him in conducting surveys.

1.2. Annual and Biannual Monitoring of Field Activities:

Formats were designed by the T.A team leader, to monitor the progress of project activities, against set targets by the annual Work Plans. The formats are filled by each section or unit, and returned to M & E. M & E reviews achievements against the Plans' targets and expresses that in percentages. The outcome is produced in monthly, quarterly, biannual and annual reports, in Arabic and English. Based on these, Progress Reports are prepared for UNOPS Missions.

The system is adequately satisfying the monitoring requirements of the project on the technical side. By now, the handling of the reporting by M & E is perfectly carried out, and there is no reason that it will not continue on the same level of implementation for the lifetime of project.

However, the system, as it stands, is more of a "mechanical" monitoring of inputs – outputs, according to the annual Work Plans. Outside the explanatory notes, that are given by the concerned department /unit on the progress of activities, the one man M & E has actually limited means, to investigate situations arising from implementation, or to assess the impact of activities on beneficiaries. This shall continue in future, unless corrected by improving on M & E staff situation; and availing permanently a vehicle for the section, to conduct follow up assessments of the different project activities. Actually, complications arising from this eminent shortcoming were discussed, with the last mission, July 1997, without progress being made.

1.3. Application Of Simple Indicators:

"The 1998 Project Impact Assessment" study, appended to this report, aimed at training in the use of simple indicators, for measuring the effect of the Project on beneficiaries, for the last 3 Years – 1998/97, 1997/96 and 1996/95. The indicators chosen were;

1.3.1. Activities Practised By Head of H/H:

- Agricultural activities
- Non – agricultural activities
- Degree of dependency on agriculture

1.3.2. H/H Dura (sorghum) supply:

- Level of H/H dura sufficiency from own farming.
- Sources from which deficiencies in dura are met.
- Reasons for deficiencies in H/H production.
- Whether project improved on H/H dura supply or not.

1.3.3. Livestock Ownership, Delivery of Veterinary Services, and livestock Sales:

- Increase /decrease in livestock numbers.
- Project impact on ownership.
- Access to veterinary services.
- Project impact on sales.

1.3.4. Consumption of Foods:

- Levels of consumption, time and quantity.
- Whether Project increased /decreased consumption.
- Reasons for increased / decreased consumption.

1.3.5. Housing Situation:

- H/H size and sex composition.
- Number of rooms (huts) in house.
- Increase in number of huts.
- Reasons for increase.
- Presence of fence / toilet.

1.3.6. House Furniture and Cooking Utensils:

- Change in furniture.
- Change in cooking utensils.
- Reasons for change and project impact.

1.3.7. Ownership of Transport Means:

- Purchase of donkeys / bicycles.
- Project impact on purchases.

1.3.8. Agriculture / Off – Farm activities:

- Incomes levels from both.
- Status of agriculture in H/H economy.

1.3.9. Overall Assessment of Project Impact:

- Whether project improved living conditions of beneficiaries or not.

1.4. Building Abilities of M & E To conduct Evaluation Studies:

The appended report reveals the results of applying the above listed indicators. The team trained (names given in the report) under the leadership of M & E Officer, through the different stages of the evaluation, is by now capable of repeating this kind of assessment on the same sample of farmers, over the coming two seasons.

TOR Item (2)

" Assist CCA In Re-evaluating Key Indicators, For Monitoring Impact Of Credit".

The assessment of credit impact was incorporated in the Impact Assessment Study referred to above (conducted under the guidance of the CDE). Specific indicators set by the CCA, for the start of project (1992) and last season (1997) on increase in H/H cultivated acreage, yield and income behaviour and impact of other credit lines were included in the investigation. The data yielded by the sample proved to be cumbersome, for the impact of credit can not be delinked from other factors. Yet, in the overall assessment, the availing of credit by the Project was attributed a high value, in the change effects on farmers, despite the many shortcomings, being mentioned.

TOR Item (3)

"Review the methods used by AGCU in providing information on AGCU activities, including the dissemination of board minutes, reports and technical information, and formulate improvements including the appropriate utilization of the audio-visual facilities now available to the project".

3.1. Methods Used By AGCU:

3.1.1. Board Minutes:

AGCU Board and General Assembly meetings are normally documented by AGCU co-ordinator, of the capacity of a clerk. On review of documentation, it was found to be limited to recording of meetings decisions, with no minutes taking. The decisions are corresponded to the M & E Officer for record keeping. Generally, it appears that documentation and record keeping by the AGCU are weak and need more systematization.

The deliberations of the AGCU and the recording being in Arabic, their results are not integrated into the project information –base. For one reason, or the other, the AGCU records, remained out of the interest of the different missions. Correcting the situation, entails employing a more capable person, as a coordinator; with literal and organizational abilities.

3.1.2. Dessemination Of Board Minutes:

Presumably, the Board Minutes should be well prepared, and regularly desseminated; in practice this is not done. The reason goes back to the weakness of the co-ordinator, as well as, to the low concern attributed by the AGCU Board to the matter.

3.1.3. Dessemination of Reports and Technical Information:

AGCU tends to rely completely on the project departments for dessemination of these kinds of information. The Co-ordination Committee at each ADC (headed by the ADC supervisor, and comprised of representatives of VCSs, extensionist, veterinary assistant, Co-operatives Officer and WID Worker) is held at present as providing the information channel, between the VCSs on one end, and SRADP and the AGCU, on other.

3.1.4. Outside Communication:

On matters entailing outside contacts – Blue Nile State or Federal Level, the AGCU depends on writings and meetings with the concerned bodies. Documentation here again needs to be improved upon.

3.1.5. Suggested Improvements:

The following recommendations were reached with the AGCU Secretary.

3.1.5.2. Internally:

- Strengthening the performance of the ADCs Co-ordination Committees, as an important link between the VCSs and the AGCU Board.
- Work towards convening regular meetings between VCSs and AGCU Board members; that were intensively practised during 1994/95, but slacked since then.

3.1.5.3. Externally:

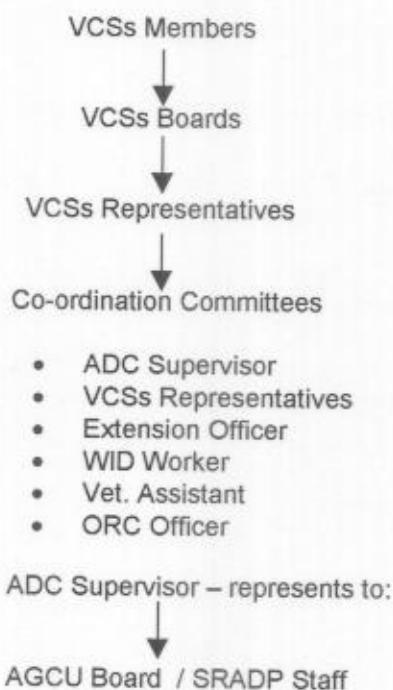
- Enhance the relationship already existing between AGCU and the State and Federal Ministries of Agriculture, as facilitators of AGCU affairs.
- Disseminate information about AGCU activities through State media channels.
- Encourage participation of the State and Federal institutions in activities of technical and scientific nature, through workshops, training programmes, evaluations, etc.

TOR Item (4)

"Evaluate the current SRADP / AGCU / VCSs beneficiary interaction and formulate criteria to ensure better community –based participation; to sustain project activities and financial management functions at all levels at project completion."

4.1. SRADP / AGCU / VCSs Beneficiary Interaction:

One way, for achieving more effective participatory rural appraisal, is through assigning leadership roles to the VCS representatives in the ADC Co-ordination Committee:



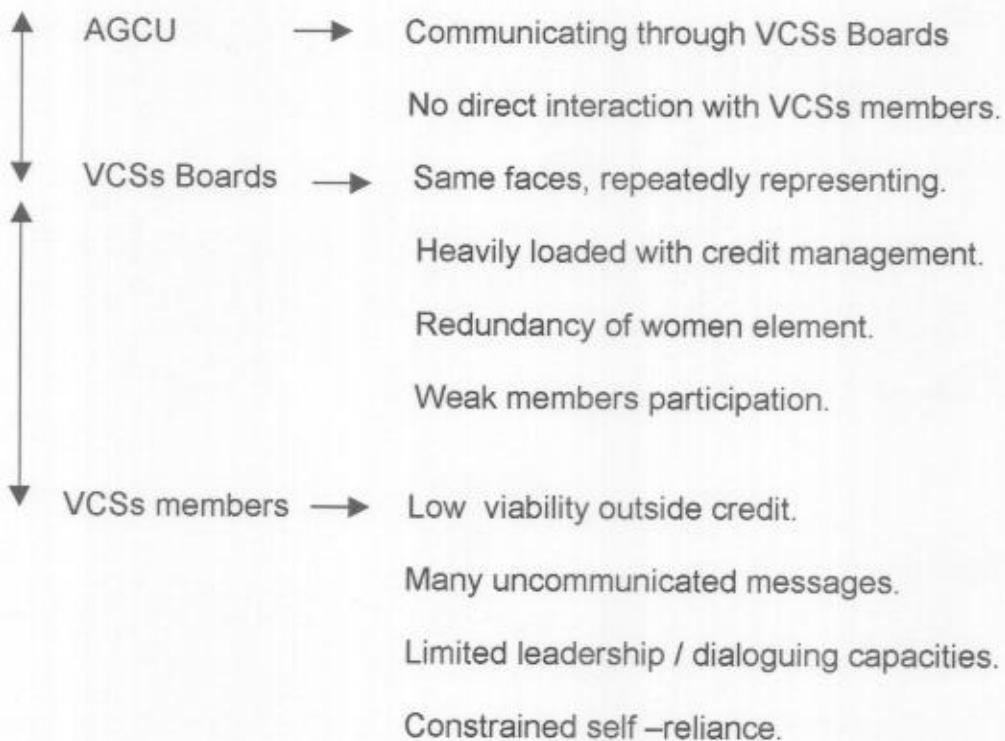
The main thrust of the Co-ordination Committee is an all programme formulation body for the VCSs, under the ADC. Currently, its reporting to SRADP and AGCU is done by the ADCs Supervisor.

A gradual replacement of the ADCs Supervisors by the VCSs representatives, in shouldering this responsibility, would facilitate strengthening VCSs self-management.

The remaining period of lifetime of project is adequate to train the VCSs representatives in this role.

4.2. Training:

Training is a key factor in the mobilization of human resources at all levels, especially in aligning the interests of the VCSs and those of the AGCU. Generally, these look to be disconnected, in most levels of flow of information and decision –making:



These evident gaps could be addressed through:

- i. Intensive extension work at VCSs level on AGCU, its essence, scope of work, etc., for building interactive relations with VCSs.

- ii. Increasing the intake of VCSs members in training, in co-operation, management, and financial skills, to build up the number of potential leaders. Securing incentive money is essential in this regard.
- iii. Directing more efforts towards training of women groups, in organizational aspects and in income generation activities.
- iv. Owing to the tight staff situation, full use of the spare time of project personnel is to be targeted. Organizing training groups, from among the project staff, is quite feasible, especially on the general issues of AGCU and SRADP, for conducting training sessions in the months after harvest.
- v. ABS relationship with the VCSs should not be instructive – giving and collecting loans – but is to include an extension dimension by the Bank Staff, through visiting the VCSs and dialoguing with members on credit related issues.

4.3. Agriculture Extension:

The department of agriculture extension is adequately staffed; 4 graduates, 5 technical assistants of agricultural education and experience in communication. Their field distribution is satisfactory, for all ADCs are covered.

The currently implemented programmes, seem to be limited in scope and coverage of project activities, as could be judged from Table(1).

VCSs	A C T I V I T I E S												
	Demonstration Farms		Handouts	Group Meetings on 'Kadeib'		Video Shows		Campaigns Kadeib/ Harvest /Loans Repayment		General Meetings		Visits	
	No.	Participants		No.	No.	Participants	No.	Participants	No.	Participants	No.	Participants	
Abu Gumai	2	23	14 Girouf & Beldat	1	230	4	600	3	525	4	340	18	90
Iseil		2	Beldat			2	200	1	150	3	270	14	70
Abala	1		14 Girouf & Beldat	1	300	3	600	2	450	4	240	8	40
Sheira	2		2 Beldat			3	450			4	280	12	180
Khor Ed Dom	1		2 Beldat	1	200	7	800	3	450	4	280	12	60
Khor Addar			2 Beldat	1	350	4	1200	3	900	4	400	16	128
Total	5			4	1080		3850		2475		1810		548

Source: SRADP Extension Department Files, 1998.

Examining the WID activities, as served by both the WID and extension departments, shows the same weaknesses, Table (2).

Table 2 WID Meetings 1997/98.

ADCs And VCSs	Date Of Establish- ment	Size Of Member- ship	WID ACTIVITIE	No. Of Meetings	Total Women Present	Subjects Discussed / Comment
1. <u>Abu Gumai</u> 1.1. Abu Gumai	1993	176	Jubraka / beldat, WID Centre activities, Small ruminants, handicrafts, naifer	5	129	Repayment of loans for small ruminants, Seeds, dura, and discussion of WID Centre Programmes.
1.2. Abu Usher	1996	88	Jubraka/beldat, collective farm, naifer, small Ruminants, illiteracy classes.	3		Revolving fund, small ruminants, Collective farm.
1.3. DanDan	1993	135	Jubraka/beldat, WID Centre activities, small ruminants, handicrafts, naifer.	2	60	Crops sandug.
1.4. Wad Bedeiga (pastorlists)	1997	70	Small rumminants.	2	103	Discussion of small ruminants loan.
1.5. Iseil	1993	105	Jubraka / beldat.	2	84	Video show of WID department programmes
1.6. Banat	1993	148	Jubraka / beldat, small Ruminants, WID Centre activities.	2	84	Selection of supplier of small ruminants.
2. <u>Khor Ed Dom</u> 21. Khor Ed Dom	1993	77	Jubraka / beldat, small ruminants, WID Centre activities.	2	128	Repayment of small ruminants loans, crops sandug.
2.2. Masfa	1993	78	Jubraka / beldat, small Ruminants, handicrafts.	1	32	Discussion of WID Centre programmes.
2.3. Khor Adar	1996	36	Jubraka / beldat, small ruminants, Handicrafts.	3	21	Crop sandug, small ruminants, WID Centre programmes.

Table (2) Cont.

ADCs And VCSs	Date Of Establish- ment	Size Of Member- ship	WID	ACTIVITIES	No. Of Meetings	Total Women Present	Subjects Discussed / Comment
2.4. Talankush	1996	36	Jubraka/beldat.	None	None	None	Facing problems of insecurity.
2.5. Kharen Kharen	1996	None	None	None	None	None	Programme not started, plus facing problems of insecurity.
2.6. Balboum	1993	133	Jubraka / beldat, handicrafts.	None	None	None	Facing problems of insecurity.
2.7. Abeigo	1994	67	Jubraka/beldat, collective farm, nafter.	None	None	None	Facing problems of insecurity.
2.8. Dokan	1996		Small ruminants, illiteracy Classes.	None	None	None	Programme not started plus facing problems of insecurity.
3. Abu Shaneina	1993	100	Jubraka/beldat, small ruminants, WID Centre programmes.	2	79		Repayment of loans: small ruminants, seeds, crop sandug, selection of small ruminants supplier.
3.1. Abu Shaneina							
3.2. Wadi Arab.	1996	46	Jubraka / beldat, handicrafts.	1	156		Preparation for training of extensionists, Talk on environmental health.
3.3. Sheira	1994	70	Jubraka / beldat, handicrafts.	1	10		Training of extensionists.
3.4. Abala	1993	171	Jubraka / beldat, handicrafts.	1	55		Crops sandug.
3.5. Raba Wadi	1994	48	Jubraka / beldat, handicrafts.	1	45		Traininf of extensionists, crops sandug.
3.6. Amar Dallo	1994	115	Jubraka, small ruminants, crops sandug, WID Centre programmes.	3	137		Discussion of WID Centre programmes Crops sandug, repayment of small Ruminants loan; presently facing Problems of insecurity.
3.7. Bakori	1993	32	Jubraka / beldat, WID Centre programmes.	2	85		Discussion of WID centre programmes, video show on repayment, presently facing problems of insecurity.
3.8. ElYas	1993	50	Jubraka/beldat, handicrafts				Presently facing problems of insecurity.

Source: SRADP WID Department Files 1998.

More use could be made of the audio-visual facilities, now available to the project, in building a broad information base among beneficiaries and in dissemination of required messages. With some imagination, extension material could be created.

Involvement of heads of departments, including Agriculture, ORC, WID, Vet. Services, and Extension would prove to be valuable in this line. Experiences of successful interventions at village level need to be covered; also AGCU meetings.

All of the above information sources, could be tapped through video documentation, and displayed before beneficiaries, in the different VCSs.

Discussions could be initiated at VCSs level on the issues raised by the documentaries, and guided by organized groups from among the project staff, and the AGCU Board members.

To carry out the above suggestions; the services of a short-term local consultant in extension is to be considered, to set and model problem oriented programmes, and train the departments staff.

TOR Item (5)

" Assess the current and foreseeable situation of displaced people from the southern part of the project area, and the assistance given to them in the 1997 season, so that they remain within the project beneficiary groups".

5.1. Size of Displacement :

9 VCSs are currently affected by the insecurity situation: Bakori, Elyas, Kharen-Kharen, Abeigo, Kakodok, Balboum, Abagona, Tulunkush, and Dokan. In April, 1997, the size of the displaced population; mostly coming from these VCSs, reached 4600 persons; accommodated at Khor Ed Dom in a big camp. At that time; they received relief assistance in the form of dura, and medicine, from the government, plus 3 local Islamic NGOs. The project assisted in transporting some of the local material needed for their housing.

Between January 1997 and March 1998 (the time this report was prepared), there remained 1800 persons in the camp. The difference either rehabilitated themselves at Khor Ed Dom, or moved back to their original villages.

Of the 9 VCSs, the project activities have been seriously interrupted in 6 of them: Bakori, Elyas, Abeigo, Abagona Tutunkush, and Dokan. The remaining, 3 Kharen Kharen, Kakodok and Balboum managed to cultivate 750 feddan under the semi-mechanized in 1997 season, being undertaken by 142 farmers from the 3 VCSs. Two factors combined to facilitate the access of these farmers to the semi-mechanized:

- The concern of AGCU and SRADP in availing land for the displaced within the security zone; as by now, 7 blocks (7000 fd.) have been allocated for 7 of the displaced VCSs.
- The success of the 3 mentioned VCSs, with the help of the AGCU, to settle their outstanding debts with ABS.

While these 3 VCSs are in a position to undertake semi-mechanized farming in 1998, for they repaid their credit loans, Abeigo, Abagona, Tulunkush and Dokan suffer from inability of repaying their outstanding debts. The AGCU, SRADP and the ABS promised re-examining their case, to facilitate for them undertaking semi-mechanized farming, the coming season (see the Workshop recommendations).

The guidelines that are recommended, to ensure that the displaced remain within the project beneficiary groups are:

- i. Reschedule their bank arrears, for some of them lost their liabilities e.g. Abeigo's co-operative flour mill, taken by the rebels; added to that their loss of 1997 crop harvest.
- ii. Support to their semi-mechanized farming, for being without access to 'beldat' and 'girouf', the semi-mechanized has emerged as their only farming activity. Their concentration on it, may avail valuable results for comparison with VCSs not affected by the civil strife.
- iii. Ensure continuation of other project activities for them, making use of the facilities and staff available at Khor Ed Dom.

TOR Item (6)

"Provide the necessary technical assistance for ORC so, that they can induce all VCSs to implement realistic annual work plans and budgets for 1998. Adjunct to this evaluate the current ORC cooperative programme and discuss additional beneficiary training needs and appropriate venues with AGCU / SRADP Deputy. General Manager, ORC 1st Inspector and TA Team Leader".

6.1. Preparation of annual Work Plan / budget:

Work plan and budget preparation were the concern of the VCSs, assisted by ORC. As of July 1997, this task has been shifted to the Co-ordination Committees of the ADCs, in which ORC is represented by its resident officers at the ADCs. The Officer reports to ORC, guided in his responsibilities by the ORC annual work plan.

As a consequence of the above, the 1998 Work Plan and Budget preparation shall be conducted by the Co-ordination Committee, which proved its viability, based on last year results, as:

- Touching more on VCSs priorities.
- Incorporating, VCSs assemblies and boards' directives.
- Integrative of project philosophies and approaches.

Once prepared, the annual work plans and budgets are taken to the VCSs for discussion and approval by the members. As the task is no longer the sole responsibility of ORC, upgrading the Committees capabilities becomes very essential, for inducing the VCSs to implement realistic annual work plans and budgets. This requires enhancing interactive relationship between the specializations in the Committee on one side, and the Committee / the VCSs boards on the other. Strengthening the VCSs role in self-management, through training in annual plans and budgets preparation is to be accorded a high priority. ADCs managers are already exerting efforts towards that.

6.2. Additional Training Needs:

ORC officers are charged with the following responsibilities:

- i. Financial auditing of VCSs, and
- ii. Participation in the programmed meetings of the Co-ordination Committee.

The on-job training, they conduct, concentrates on book-keeping; mostly confined to the VCSs 3 officers, added to that promotion of awareness on co-operation laws and by-laws, which sometimes includes VCSs members.

Since 1993, many rounds of training were organized, involving the Co-operatives Centres for Training, Khartoum and Wad Medani. Exchange of experience visits by AGCU and VCSs Board members were made too, to En Nahud (ENCCP), and El Gezira scheme; also abroad, e.g. Australia and Syria.

Table (3) Beneficiary Participation In Training Programmes.

Year	AGCU Board Members	VCSs Board Members	VCSs Managers	Women Group Members	Local Trainers	Fishing Group Members	Total
1993		43					43
1994	5	22	13	8	4		52
1995		17	17	16			50
1996	10			10			20
1997		54	16			8	78
Total	15	136	46	34	4	8	243

Sources: SRADP, ORC Dept., 1998.

The observed weaknesses of training could be pointed out in the following:

- i. Being limited to instruction in co-operatives issues, hence short of offering education in broader development problems.
- ii. Narrowed to participation of the 3 VCSs officers, plus co-operative managers with no inclusion of VCSs' members.
- iii. Same faces (officers plus managers) in different rounds.
- iv. Weak intake; 243 trainees in 5 years (Table 3).

Reasons behind the above weaknesses could be referred to:

- i. Founded on co-operatives' training, which needs to be reconsidered, especially with the roles assigned to the Co-ordination Committees.
- ii. VCSs poverty in changing leadership faces; for same persons are being selected, every round of election. This would only be attacked by broadening the base of training to include VCSs members.
- iii. Part of solving (ii) above is by increasing the budget for training, for the incentives availed for the training period have become closed to the 3 officers, through nomination time after the other.

Evidently, broadening the base of enlightened VCSs members is a key factor in building the viability of the co-operatives. In addition to increasing the training budget, SRADP through its different technical departments should exert efforts towards defining the training needs of the VCSs, and participate with the invited centres for the job, in the training process. This is quite feasible, if some orientation meetings are organized in preparation for the training courses.

TOR Item (7)

"in conjunction with AGCU, M&E and ORC, prepare and conduct of a 2-day workshop to include AGCU / SRADP staff, VCSs officers and beneficiary representatives to appraise project progress, problems and changes required to improve project impact."

7.1. Organization:

A two day workshop was held on 11th and 12th March 1998. It was organized by the CDE assisted by the CAA and SRADP, DG. The workshop targeted appraising project progress, and setting the grounds for the 1998 season. Participants in the workshop included SRADP staff, AGCU, VCSs board members, and members of Project Executive Board, accompanied by some heads of departments from Damazine. 7 sessions were convened, in which the following subjects were presented and discussed:

- i. Impact of project on beneficiaries; by CDE.
- ii. Credit Issues; by CAA.
- iii. Field and semi-mechanized operations, 1997 season; by Director Agriculture Dept.; Senior Engineer – Engineering Dept.; and Machineries Engineer Consultant.
- iv. Evaluation of current performance of VCSs; by CDE.
- v. Production relations and credit; by CAA.
- vi. Workshop directives; by workshop secretariat.

SRADP key staff, AGCU Board members, chairman of the Executive Board, Managers of ABS branches Damazine and Abu Gumai, Director Damazine Agriculture Research station and Director Animal Resources Damazine, participated in chairing sessions and as discussants.

7.2. Workshop Directives:

The directives reached by the workshop were as follows:

7.2.1. M&E

- Strengthening M&E by training and improving of manpower situation through assistance of personnel from other departments.
- Repeat, coming seasons, Project Impact on Beneficiaries Study, 1998" on same lines of investigation; for sampled VCSs.

7.2.2. Upgrading Of Performance of VCSs:

- Upgrading performance of VCSs, through expanding training to cover VCSs members.
- Enhance relationship between AGCU and VCSs through developing communication channels between the two.
- Building the capacities of the Co-ordination Committees; which entails increasing and diversifying programmes, and intensification of training.
- Availing funds for training and allocation of incentive money to induce VCSs members to participate in the training.
- Addressing the situation of the displaced VCSs, through joint action by AGCU, SRADP and ABS, so as to be viable for entering 1998 season.
- Increase viability of women associations through organization; training, and variation of programmes.

7.2.3. Co-ordination:

- Work plans of the different units have to be strongly co-ordinated, through teams work spirit. Setting of strict dates for commencement of different activities is to be observed.

7.2.4. Credit:

- AGCU, SRADP and ABS, would immediately work on preparing 1998 season plan and present it to Project Executive Board, soonest possible.
- Formulation of credit policy for the season, early in time.
- Realization of specific time frames in lending and repayment of loans.
- ABS is to expand credit financing, outside rain-fed farming.
- Experimentation with group lending with VCSs, to cut on laggard farmers.
- AGCU, VCSs and ABS are to agree on a policy that guarantees repayment of ABS loans.

- Rescheduling of the tree clearance loan for the semi-mechanized, to be repaid in 4 years.
- Revision of taxes and zakat rates and services fees.
- Fixing of Salam contract prices so as be; 31st March for Sesame, and 31st May for dura.
- ABS is to disclose information to farmers on crops sales prices, export prices, and costs of bank operations, so as to enable farmers to net some of the profit between delivery prices and end of season prices.
- ABS is to avail fertilizers and pesticides.
- AGCU is to play a competitive role to ABS in provision of inputs, through establishing a store to run direct sales to farmers.

7.2.5. Field and Semi-mechanized Operations:

- Strict application of the following technical package: timely preparation; use of good seeds, sowing on set dates, optimum plants distribution; and efficient harvesting to lessen losses.
- Implementation of the recommended crop rotation.
- Effective field presence of the concerned departments.
- Application of post harvest ploughing.
- Availing credit for 'Diwerta' –grass clearance during rainy season of selected "beldat" plots, in preparation for their cultivation next season.
- Selection and training of good conduct tractor drivers.
- Priority in tractor services is to be given to VCSs.
- All VCSs are to complete the weeding operations as timely required.
- VCSs members are to be present at their fields at times tractors are working.

- Farmers would clean their fields from crop remains, to facilitate maneuvering of machinery.
- Farmers and pastoralists would abstain from burning the crops stoves and other vegetation; for conserving the soil.

7.2.6. Environmental Issues:

- Establishment of tree belts for protection purposes, in the semi-mechanized blocks.
- Conservation of tree cover of the project area, through control of tree felling, especially by the pastoralists as fodder for their livestock.

7.2.7. Continuation of Workshops:

- Holding a workshop annually, on same organizational lines, to review project progress.

SRADP: Community Development Expert Report

February - March 1998.

Annex 1: PROJECT IMPACT ON BENEFICIARIES.

1. INTRODUCTION:

This report is prepared to answer, in part, TOR item (1): "*prepare and test simple indicators of wealth accumulation and project impact.*"

The surveys leading to this report were conducted based on the scheme of indicators identified previously (main report, section 1.3) and on the mechanism of drawing on the assistance of project staff, * organized under the M&E unit.

The exercise aimed to serve 3 purposes:

- i. conclude and test simple indicators,
- ii. train in conducting impact studies; and
- iii. produce an evaluation report on project impacts.

It is targeted that the team mentioned below would re-evaluate the same sample of farmers in the remaining life-time of the project.

2. Survey Organization:

7 VCSs were selected to be surveyed, on criteria of performance, board and assembly meetings, and on credit repayment. The VCSs were categorized in this order:

<u>Highly (performing)</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Low</u>
1. Dan Dan	Abu Shaneina	Abu Gumai
2. Iseil	Aballa	Khor Ed Dom
	Khor Addar	

* Survey Team:
Acuil Malual, M&E.
Summiya (miss) Mahmoud, WID Dept.
Hagir (miss) El Khalifa, WID Dept.
Badir El Din Mirgani, ORC
Mohd Ahmed Jubara, Extension Dept.
Babiker Mohd Nur, Veterinary Dept.

A questionnaire, in Arabic, to generate data on the listed indicators was designed and tested.

In each VCS, a sample of 10 farmers was randomly selected to answer the questionnaire. Adhoc meetings with farmers were also convened, to explore the different issues arising from answering the questionnaire. The following results were concluded.

3. Some Demographic Features:

- 3.1.** All farmers chosen were males, for men are responsible of the affairs of their wives, even in cases of the latter being VCSs members; also for difficulty of access to female farmers during the short survey time.
- 3.2.** Average age of Respondent: was found to be 44 years; with a range of 51 to 35 years. Very few aging farmers 60+ appeared in the sample.
- 3.3.** The majority of respondents were heads of one family (96.00%). Average H/H size was 8.5 persons, with a range of 11.7 and 7.2. Sex composition indicated an equal division of 50.00% for males and females.

4. Occupational Status:

Nearly all respondents practised more than one occupation.

4.1. Main Occupations:

	% of Respondents Practising out of sample (69)
- Traditional Farming	100
- Semi-mechanized	84
- Girouf cultivation	28
- Livestock raising	88
- Fisheries	3
- Honey collection	1
- Agricultural wage labour	51
- Selling of fuel wood / charcoal	10
- Wood sawing	14
- Gold mining	8
- Petty trade	80
- Small enterprises	4
- Salaried persons	11

Ranked according to importance, farming: traditional, semi-mechanized and Girouf, assumed the highest value, followed by livestock raising and petty trade. The latter, has expanded in recent times due to the increase in the number of local markets; with the majority trading in consumables, or operating as middlemen.

4.2. Income Complementarity :

Complementing the income raised from farming by other activities seemed to be the established economic pattern in the project area:

Number of Occupations Practised	% Practising in sample
2	2.9
3	15.9
4	33.3
5	37.6
6	7.2
7	<u>2.9</u>
	<u>99.8</u>

The above situation precipitates positive, as well as, negative impacts on farmers economic performance; i.e., availability of alternatives, most year engagement, etc., against demanding on farmers' labour. One evident impact of the project is access to credit, testified by a high wage labour involvement; 51.0% value among the occupations practised.

5. Return From Agriculture:

Agriculture assumed a leading role in H/H livelihood and annual income earnings, as against 12.0% for all other activities.

6. H/H Dura Sufficiency:

6.1. Levels of consumption; i.e., sufficiency from farmers' own harvest, were explored for the 3 seasons 1995/96, 96/97 and 97/98. Ranges of sufficiency were detected, yielding the following percentage of respondents per time unit.

	% Respondents
< 6 month	36.0
6 "	43.0
12 "	<u>21.0</u>
	100.00

6.2. Reasons for Deficiencies:

Interpreted as arising from agricultural and non-agricultural constraints; 60.3, and 39.7%, respectively.

The agricultural constraints included:

<u>Constraint</u>	<u>% Answers</u>
- Striga	19.8
- Old land	15.7
- Natural hazards	12.3
- Delay in farming	7.4
- Smallness of acreage	<u>3.3</u>
	63.4

The non – agricultural ones:

<u>Constraint</u>	<u>% Answers</u>
- Delay of credit	17.3
- High bank profit	13.2
- Rising cost of production	4.1
- Lack of Services	<u>1.6</u>
	36.2

Deficiencies are made for by purchases from the market, and maize production from Girouf; especially in the cases of those VCSs located on the river side, plus consumption of other foods.

6.3. Project Impact on Dura Sufficiency:

Despite deficiency in production, 49.0% of respondents reported that the project improved on H/H dura supply during the last 4 years, as against 51.0%. The data (Table 1, appended) reveals crop performance, of the surveyed sample.

7. Livestock Ownership:

7.1. Ownership:

Most farmers traditionally owned livestock prior to coming of the project. The present status of ownership in the sample showed:

<u>Type</u>	<u>% Owning</u>	<u>Average number owned</u>
Goats	78.3	8.0
Donkeys	31.8	1.2
Sheep	11.5	8.8

Cattle	31.8	4.5
Camels	1.4	1.0
Chickens	73.9	13.6

7.2. Veterinary Care:

The veterinary services, provided by the project, benefited owners in the form of treatment 57.9%, and vaccination 56.5% of respondents, respectively; with most farmers benefiting from both.

7.3. Livestock Sales:

56.5% of respondents reported increase in ownership and selling of livestock during the last 3 years. While, increases in sales were stated by 57.9%.

8. Protein and Vitamin Food Consumption:

8.1. Meat and Fish:

Consumption of meat was reported by 100.0% of sample, while that of fish by 46.0% and 54.0% for fresh and dry fish, respectively. Closeness to the river influences consumption of the latter. Months of highest meat consumption are October to January, and fresh fish consumption, February to July.

Whether, the project has increased H/H meat and fish consumption, the answers received, denied occurrence of increases in those items, 65.0% of respondents. Reasons given were abundance of meat in the past in villages, and its cheap price, as compared to present times.

8.2. Vegetables and Other Foods:

Main items covered:

<u>Type</u>	<u>% Respondents Reporting consuming</u>
Lubia	25.0
Lentils (purchased)	17.4
Cassava	14.5
Maize	9.3
Sweet potato	7.5
Rice (purchased)	5.2
Pumpkins	1.1
Others (mostly vegetables)	<u>19.4</u>
	<u>99.7</u>

The project impacted on increasing the consumption of some of the above items e.g. lentils and rice due to availability of cash in hands of people, also in improving Girouf cultivation.

9. Housing Situation:

The project seems to have no impact on the housing situation; for nearly all surveyed H/Hs occupied the same number of huts, during the last 3 years, with only slight increases:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Huts for Sample</u>
1998	249
1997	270
1996	243

The decrease in number of 1997 as compared to 1998 is due to the prevailing insecurity situation.

In those cases, where addition of new huts occurred, it was attributed to:

<u>Reason</u>	<u>%Answers</u>
- Natural growth	45.4
- Polygamy	22.7
- Improved living conditions	11.3
- To receive guests	9.0
- Marriages of sons	6.8
- Storage	4.5
	99.7

Nearly all houses had fences, and 90.0% of houses had toilets.

The limited impact of the project on the housing situation could be attributed, to the fact that, people from prior project time, used to build adequately to meet their living needs; being facilitated by the availability of local building material, close to settlements, and the assistance received from others through the *nafier* system.

10. House Possessions:

10.1. Furniture and Utensils:

Acquisition of advanced items of furniture and utensils, measured against traditionally used items, was chosen as one of the impact effects of the project. Possession of such items, during the last 4 years was tested, not forgetting the interplay of other factors, leading to wealth accumulation.

Results of the analysis yielded the following percentages:

<u>Possession of</u>	<u>% of Respondents Reporting</u>
- Iron beds	31.8
- Wooden beds (Anagreib)	95.6
- Mattresses	65.2
- Pillows	69.5
- Bed Sheets	84.0
- Chairs	28.9
- Tables	71.0
- Cupboards	18.0
- Cooking utensils	88.4
- Other utensils	95.6

The figures clearly reveal a reasonable ownership status, in societies, which up to very recent times, could be considered as closed, and leading conservative economies. In effect, social change is gaining momentum in the project area.

10.2. Reasons For Acquisition:

The seeds of change could be judged from the reasons given for acquisition of the above items.

<u>Reason</u>	<u>% Of Respondents Reporting</u>
- Important for living	40.9
- Availability of cash	39.7
- Social occasions	8.4
- Modernization of home	8.4
- Receiving guests	2.4
	<u>99.8</u>

As to project impact on acquisition, 58.0% of respondents stated that they acquired these items from incomes generated from the project.

11. Purchase of Clothes:

Increase in purchase of clothes, with the coming of the project, was indicated by 59.4% of respondents. Purchase of new types of clothes, not known before to the populace, was reported by 53.6%.

12. Transport Means:

Those owning donkeys came to 31.8, and those owning bicycles to 28.9%. Those who reported that the project had impacted on purchases of both items were 28.9%.

13. Overall Assessment of Project Impact:

A concluding assessment of project impacting positively on beneficiaries was indicated by 66.6% of respondents, pointing out the following achievements:

<u>Achievement</u>	<u>% Respondents Reporting</u>
- Increase in production	59.1
- Increase in farmed area	12.2
- Provision of credit	12.2
- Provision of seeds	8.1
- Multi-factors	8.1
	99.7

Table 1: Crop and Profit / Loss Performance Of Sampled Farmers Of Surveyed VCSs

VCSs	Case No.	DURA			PRODUCTION			SESAME			PRODUCTION			Profit/Loss DURA/SESAME	
		Total Acreage (fd)	T:Traditional	S: Semi-mechanized	Acreage	Sacks	Cost Ls.	Gross Income Ls.	Profit / Loss Ls.	Acreage	Sacks	Cost Ls.	Income Ls.	Profit / Loss Ls.	
KHOR ADAR	1	T: 11	5	44	549300	792000	242700	6	13	155500	572000	416500	659200	416500	
	2	T: 15	10	22	273000	396000	123000	5 zero	117000	zero	-117000	6000	-117000	6000	
	3	T: 12	6	10	103000	180000	77,000	6	5	99000	220000	121000	198000	121000	198000
		SM: 12	6	60	573000	1060000	507000	6,5	383500	286000	-87500	409500	-87500	409500	
	4	T: 5	5	10	225000	180000	-45000								
		SM: 12	6	36	503423	648000	144577	6	10	303000	440000	137000	281577	137000	281577
	5	SM: 12	6	31	422535	558000	135465	6	12	361419	528000	166581	302046	166581	302046
	6	T: 25	12,0	45	559000	810000	251000	12	20	394000	880000	486000	737000	486000	737000
		SM: 12	6	20	454000	360000	94000	6	7	406000	308000	-4000	40000	-4000	40000
	7	T: 6	6	16	175000	288000	113000								
		SM: 19						19	28	981400	1232000	250600	363000	250600	363000
	8	T: 35	15	25	263000	450000	187000	20	18	190000	792000	792000	602000	792000	602000
	9	T: 12	12	21	432000	378000	-54000								
		6M: 12	6	42	471500	756000	284500	6	5	241500	241500	220000	-21500	220000	-21500
	10	T: 22	10	24	218500	432000	213500	12	30	469400	469400	132000	-33400	132000	-33400
		8M: 22	12	25	459400	450000	-9400	10	12	150000	150000	528000	378000	528000	378000
KHOR EL DOM	1	T: 7	7	24	250000	432000	182,000								
		SM: 12						12	6	249000	264000	15000	197000	15000	197000
	2	T: 20	5	4	56000	72000	16000	15	4	149000	176000	27000	43000	27000	43000
	3	T: 15						15	4	198000	176000	-22000	-22000	-22000	-22000
	4	T: 5	5	10	186500	18000	-6500								
	5	T: 12	12	12	298400	216000	-82400								
		SM: 10	5	20	286000	360000	74000	5	3	168400	132000	-36400	-44800	-36400	-44800
	6	T: 5	2,5	3	55000	54000	-1000	2,5	3	58500	88000	29500	29500	29500	29500
	7	T: 20	10	7	296000	126000	-170000	10	15	828000	660000	-168000	-338000	-168000	-338000
	8	SM: 12	6	15	429800	270000	-159800	6	3	271800	132000	-139800	-299600	-139800	-299600
	9	T: 25,5	5,5	36	298300	648000	37700	20	31	789500	574500	612200	612200	574500	612200
	10	T: 6	6	10	292000	180000	-172000								
		SM: 6						6	1	267000	444000	-223000	-325000	-223000	-325000

Table Cont.

VCSS	Case No.	Total Acreage (Id) S: Semi-mechanized	DURA PRODUCTION						SESAME PRODUCTION			Profit/Loss DURA/SESAME
			Acreage	Sacbs	Cost Ls.	Gross Income Ls.	Profit / Loss Ls	Acreage	Sacks	Cost Ls.	Income Ls.	
ISIEL	1 T:10	5	23	228500	414000	186500	5	9	195000	396000	201000	387500
	2 T:12	6	12	262000	216000	-46000	6 zero	14000	zero		-14000	60000
	SM:10	10	43	522000	774000	252,000						238000
	3 T: 10	5	30	237500	540000	302500	5	2	100000	880000	-12000	290500
	SM: 10	10	19	456000	342000	-114000						
	4 T: 10	5	10	163000	180000	17000	5	3	107500	132000	24000	41000
	SM: 12	10	34	417000	612000	195000						
	5 T:15	10	27	102000	486000	3843000	5	8	85000	352000	267000	651000
	SM:12	8	32	431700	576000	144300	4	6	184500	264000	79500	223800
	6 T:9.5	7.5	21	140000	378000	238000	2	2	90000	880000	-2000	236000
	SM:10	10	21	789500	378000	211000						
	7 T:13	10	19	417500	342000	-75500	3	3	38000	132000	94000	18500
	8 T:13	5	16	210000	288000	78000	8	6	164300	264000	99700	177700
	9 T:5						5 9.5		121000	388000	267000	267000
	SM: 15	15	30	444500	540000	95500						
	10 T:2.5					2.5		5	86000	86000	220000	134000
	SM: 15	15	45	591500	810000	218500						352500
ABU GUMAI	1 T:40	10	60	512000	1080000	325,000	30	30	995000	132000	568000	893000
	SM: 50	40	40	1388000	720000	-660000	10	7	161000	308000	147000	521000
	2 T:30	15	13	388000	234000	-154000	15	15	480000	660000	180000	260000
	3 T:6.5						6.5	3	166916	132000	-34916	
	SM:16	16	16	474880	288000	-159880						
	4 SM:13	13	38	434000	648000	250000						
	5 T:21	17	26	620500	468000	-52500	4	5	113750	220000	106250	53750
	SM:13	13	19	376250	342000	-34250						
	7 T: 17.5	7.5	28	636600	504000	-132600	10	13	706000	572000	-134000	-266600
	SM: 24	20	42	871400	756000	-115400	4	1	163500	44000	-119500	-234900
	8 T: 25	20	35	584000	630000	46000	5	9	179000	396000	217000	263000
	SM: 24	20	30	885000	540000	-345500	4	3	159000	132000	-27000	-399500
	9 T:6.5	6.6	3	66000	54000	-12000						-12000
	SM:17	17	15	598000	270000	328000						-328000
	10 T: 5	2.5	8	61500	144000	82500	2.5		4000		-4000	78500
	SM: 24	20	5	110000	90000	-20000	4	5	176000	220000	44000	24000

Table Cont.

VCSS	Case No.	Total Acreage (Id)	DURA PRODUCTION						SESAME PRODUCTION			Profit/Loss DURA/SESAME		
			T: Traditional	S: Semi-mechanized	Acreage	Sacks	Cost Ls.	Gross Income Ls.	Profit / Loss Ls.	Acreage	Sacks	Cost Ls.	Income Ls.	
DANDAN	1	T: 5	2.5	4	91000	72000	-18900	2.5	2	46000	86000	42000	23100	
		SM: 12	8	20	432000	36000	-72000	4	3.6	290500	154000	-29346	-101346	
	2	T: 25	15	50	567000	90000	333,000	10	16	404000	74000	300000	633000	
		SM: 12	8	5	282000	90000	-202000	4	8	166000	352000	186000	-160000	
	3	T: 22	9	18	313000	324000	11000	13	6	208000	132000	-85000	-74000	
	4	T: 40							4	7	102500	154000	51500	51500
		SM: 18	18	50	600500	2200000	1599500					1598500		
	5	T: 6.5	5	6	77000	108000	31000	1.5	6	46000	264000	218000	249000	
		SM: 12.5	10	30	596000	540000	-56000	2.5	1	38500	44000	5500	-50500	
	6	T: 24	24	75	104000	1350000	1246000					1246000		
	7	T: 5	2.5	5	144500	90000	-54000	2.5	15	138,500	660000	521500	467500	
		SM: 12	8	8	330500	144000	-186500	4	10	155500	440000	284500	752	
	8	T: 2							2	4	103000	176000	73000	73000
		SM: 10	10	40	472000	720000	248000					321000		
	9	T: 40	2.5	7	77500	126000	48500	1.5	1	17500	44000	26500	75000	
	10	T: 40							4	6	91000	264000	173000	173000
		SM: 13	13	20	534000	360000	-174000					-10000		
ABALA	1	T: 30	20	125	1294000	2250000	956,000	10	20	271000	880000	609000	1565000	
		SM:							15	3	550500	132000	-418000	1150000
	2	T: 15	10	23	180000	414000	234000	5	10	148000	440000	292000	526000	
	3	T: 9.5	5	14	119000	252000	123000	4.5	4	87500	186000	88000	211000	
	4	T: 15	10	7	196500	126000	-43500	5	7	155000	308000	153000	109500	
	5	T: 20	10	12	395000	216000	-179000	10	10	372000	440000	68000	-111000	
	6	T: 7.5	5	5	77000	90000	13000	2.5	4	83000	176000	93000	106000	
		SM: 10	10	9	419500	162000	-267500					-161500		
	7	T: 40							4	5	117000	220000	103000	103000
		SM: 24	14	20	237000	360000	123000	10	10	352000	440000	88000	314000	
	8	T: 5	5	30	180000	540000	360000	12.5	12	353000	528000	175000	535000	
	9	T: 5	5	3	160500	54000	-106500					-106500		
	10	T: 20							20	13	1093000	572000	-521750	-521750
		SM: 22	22	28	722500	504000	-217500					-739250		