

INTRODUCTION

This issue of the Bulletin comprises a digest of some of the research completed during the past two years by members of the Planning and Government Problem Area Group (PGPAG), at the Institute of Development Studies. It does not include descriptions of all the work which was done over this time. There was, for example, research into rural development policies in Ghana, regional developments funds in Tanzania and a comparison of local government systems in Tanzania and Cameroon. In addition, work was also done on the use and development of decision-making games and simulations.

During the period when this research was in progress PGPAG, which had become functional in 1969/70, consisted of a multi-disciplinary group of some 12 persons. The main preoccupations of PGPAG over this time were the processes, techniques and institutions of public policy making. The contents of this issue reflect these concerns. From them further work has been and is now being built on the problems of "access", the varying arrangements which explain how resources are allocated to members of the public and how members of the public react. This and other research refers to the present and future of the group. The research referred to in the following contributions reflects some of what has been done over recent years.

The first three contributions "Managing Rural Development", "Local Councils and Local Services", and "Government, Co-operatives and Peasant Agriculture in Kenya" respectively by Chambers, Colebatch and Lamb, relate to work carried out in Kenya. Schaffer's article on the Public Administration Training Research project concerns work done by a team of researchers in Kenya, Zambia, Pakistan, and India, and to a lesser extent in Nigeria, Tanzania, Philippines and Papua

New Guinea. One outcome of that work is the publication by Praeger, New York and Pall Mall Press of *Administrative Training and Development*, London, 1974. The last paper by Mars is a report on research done in Kerala State, India on small scale industries.

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