

TSU
week

Agriculture



International Food and Agricultural Development

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International Presentation

"Family Structure, Value Systems, and Cash Crops Production on Small Farms in Swaziland, Southern Africa" was the title of a presentation by Dr. Vernaline Watson, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology at TSU at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientist and Southern Rural Sociological Association. The paper using Swaziland as an example, directs attention to the feasibility of more carefully planned approaches to social intervention in which the essential social values and basic institutional structures of a society are given a central and dominant focus in the development of strategies for intervention.

Dr. Watson lived in Swaziland for two years where she worked as Rural Sociologist on the "Swaziland Cropping Systems Research and Extension Training Project" which is collaboratively implemented by Tennessee State and the Pennsylvania State Universities.

International Projects Proposals

Tennessee State University and New Mexico State University collaboratively responded to a request for proposal by the United States Department of Agriculture/Office of International Cooperation and Development for Nutrition in Agriculture. The programmatic tasks of this RFP are to identify, test and evaluate alternative methods for the incorporation of food consumption and nutrition concerns into the design, implementation and evaluation of agricultural and rural development projects. TSU and NMSU are partner institutions for a Joint Memorandum of Understanding under USAID. Through the JMOU, the two institutions will pursue a variety of international food and agricultural activities.

Compact For African Development

The drought, famine, and debt emergencies in sub-Saharan Africa have demonstrated the depths of the continent's fundamental development crisis. Perhaps because of the crisis, African leaders and their donor friends in the Western world and the multilateral organizations have arrived at a new consensus about what needs to be done for Africa's development. According to the Co-Chairman of the Committee on African Development Strategies, "Humanitarian and political interests require that the United States take a leading role in creating a compact for African development."

The compact requires a mutual undertaking: A U.S. commitment to long-term support in exchange for an African commitment to implement reforms and improve economic performance. The program set forth in the committee's report addresses needs for a comprehensive approach for African's development which addresses remaining emergency needs, rehabilitation of economics and longer-term development problems. Specifically, the Committee on African Development Strategies recommend actions to:

- Meet the immediate food needs of hungry people while fostering development.
- Stop the deterioration in Africa's economies.
- Initiate strategies and actions for the longer term.

The study, Compact for African Development issued in Spring, 1986 is a joint project of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Overseas Development Council.

Congratulations

Ms. Zodwa Mamba of Swaziland, Southern Africa received her M.S. degree in Agricultural Sciences with emphasis on Plant Science from Tennessee State University on May 3, 1986.

Ms. Mamba came to TSU in August, 1985. Zodwa had worked with the Swaziland Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives as a research officer since 1977. She received her B.S. degree in Agriculture from the University of Swaziland in 1977.

While at TSU, Ms. Mamba studied under Dr. Kenneth J. Hillsman, Head of the Department of Plant Science, The title of her Thesis was "Effects of Nitrogen rates and Plant Densities on Maize Yield."

Ms. Mamba was a very good all around student. She finished her degree with a 3.79 (4.00 Scale) cumulative grade point average, and she was chosen as the outstanding graduate student in Plant Science by the Agronomy Club. She received a certificate for this achievement at the Agronomy Club's Annual Banquet in April, 1985.

Zodwa returned to Swaziland in June, 1986, where she will head up a research unit in Maize and edible legumes.

Some Population and Development Terms

Developed Country	Those countries which have higher levels of per capita income, industrialization and modernization. The "more developed" regions of the world, according to the United Nations, include North America (Canada and the United States), Japan, Australia, New Zealand and USSR.
Developing Country	Those countries which have lower levels of per capita income, industrialization and modernization. Also called less developed country or Third World country.
Third World	Another name for countries which have lower levels of per capita income, industrialization and modernization. In most Third World nations, the economy is based on agriculture.
Literacy	The ability to read and/or write.
Adult Literacy Rate	The percentage of people over age 15 who can read and write a simple letter.
Infant Mortality Rate	The number of deaths to infant under one year of age per 1,000 live births in a given year.
Child Mortality Rate	The annual number of deaths to children 1-4 years of age per 1,000 population of that age group.
Life Expectancy	The average number of years a person can be expected to live under current mortality conditions. Most commonly cited as expectancy at birth.

IFAD
International Food and Agricultural Development
School of Agriculture and Home Economics
Tennessee State University
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

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