

THE FINANCING OF CO-OPERATIVE FOOD MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE GREEN REVOLUTION PROGRAMME IN NIGERIA

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1. Introduction

This paper is intended to develop a system of financing co-operatives which are responsible mainly for the marketing and distribution of food-stuffs in Nigeria. Such co-operatives societies would be expected to handle a considerable proportion of the products of the Green Revolution Programme which one expects would lead to substantial increases in food supply within the next few years. It is assumed that these societies would need a much stronger financial base than the existing consumer co-operatives. Section 2 examines the need for providing for the marketing of agricultural products in agricultural and national planning. This is an area that is usually neglected, either because it is assumed that once there is increased output, a good distribution system would naturally evolve, or that distribution is of little importance. In section 3 attention is focused on the role co-operatives can play in the marketing of food crops, drawing from the experience of the existing Agricultural Marketing Co-operatives. This is followed in section 4 by an analysis of co-operatives financing in Kwara State while the final section concludes with development of a strategy of co-operative food marketing financing, and the forms and sources of finance that can be employed.

2. The need for and the neglect of food marketing

Agricultural planning and development have begun to receive some attention in many developing countries. The importance placed on agriculture had to do with the experiences of these countries about food which is in constant short supply. This has led to using much of the scarce foreign exchange for importing the necessary food. The Nigerian experience where a large amount is expended on importing food is not different from this picture. The case of rice is perhaps the most noticeable. Of course food importation is at best a short term solution, therefore the Federal government has engaged in many agricultural programmes aimed at substantially increasing food production. This effort range from provision of funds to specialised agencies to government direct participation in food production. The Agricultural Credit Guaranteed Scheme, the National Accelerated Food Production Programme, the defunct Operation Feed the Nation, the present administration's Green Revolution are some of these Federal government programmes in the food subsector of agriculture.

In many developing countries, the policy of expanding agricultural output often overlooks the problems that may develop in the marketing of the products. A likely assumption is that once agricultural outputs are expanded, the development of market naturally follows. However, the assumption is not likely to be corrected. Infact development of agriculture which leads to increased outputs but which is not accompanied by improvements in marketing and distribution may result in many complications. Under a free market system such development may lead to depressed prices and therefore lowers farmers' incomes considerably. Secondly, the increase in output coupled with distribution constraints may lead to wastes either at the farm gate or somewhere along the distribution line. Therefore the economy may not benefit much from the increases because they are not utilised to further the process of development. Thirdly, lack of adequate marketing and distribution may cause shortages and therefore high prices of food in particular areas while others experience near surpluses accompanied by low prices. Finally, the situation often leads to ad-hoc policies pursued by the authorities to solve the problems. These ad-hoc solutions are characterised by two phenomena. First, given their nature and timing, they are most likely to fail. Second, even if they succeeded, they rarely benefited the agricultural sector which is not necessarily affected by the policies.

Nigerian had attempted to solve the problems of rapidly rising food price using some ad-hoc measures. First, is by wage awards. The Morgan, Ani, Adebo, Udoji, Shagari and the recently NLC granted minimum wage are some of these awards. Secondly, the price and rent controls are attempts to control the prices of food and accommodation. The present administration seems to have realised the failure of price control and had therefore changed the function of Price Control Board to price monitoring. Thirdly, the Productivity Prices and Incomes Board is another device at solving or preventing problems of rising prices. As had been experienced, if these policies succeeded in controlling food prices, they could hardly benefit farmers. Therefore the interest of those for which the policies were designed would not have been served. Given the attention the present administration is paying to agriculture, one would assume that food supply may increase very substantially. However without marketing and distribution mechanisms, the problem of high food prices and food waste may not abate, as is currently assumed by policy makers.

It would be fair to assume that the Federal government had long realised the problems of food in the country. For example, the Second National Plan (1970-74) states: « The marketing of food crops neither gives a fair return to producer nor a fair price to consu-

mers. Considerable price variations occur within and between seasons. Therefore this does not make farming an attractive business ». The government therefore planned to establish an efficient marketing organisation for food crops by encouraging the formation of producer co-operative marketing societies to effect an organised, orderly and efficient marketing societies to effect an organised, orderly and efficient marketing of food crops at the wholesale level. The objective was, « to ensure food supplies in adequate quantity and quality to keep pace with increased population and urbanisation having regard to changing tastes and the need for fair and stable prices ». To that end, the Federal government earmarked N 17.00 million as grants for states to provide storage facilities ¹.

Food distribution is faced with a lot of serious problems, one of which is lack of efficient and adequate storage facilities. It is alleged that losses incurred as a result of this range between 20% and 30% of total food output in Nigeria ². Improvement on existing facilities and establishment of new ones are quite difficult. This is because individual's production is too small to make modern storage facilities on the farm economic. This would imply that groups or governments are in a better position to provide these facilities as the case in the former western state where a co-operative society established a successful rice storage facility would show ³. Another problem is lack of adequate and sufficient transportation system. For any good marketing or distribution to take place, there must exist a good transportation. The present networks are inadequate, and are generally in bad conditions, especially those linking the rural areas and farms with urban centres. The railway system is grossly inadequate since they do not link most areas of the country. The same is true of waterways despite much work is recently being carried out on some rivers. For efficient food marketing, transportation system must be adequate with regard to capacity, safety for both passengers and produce, timing of delivery to allow simultaneous adjustment of supply and demand, and these should be achieved at minimum costs. Unlike the past when most agricultural products were transported by hand and bicycle, the most important means nowa-

1 Second National Development Plan, 1970-74; Federal Department of Information, Lagos, 1970, pp. 108-109.

2 Q.B.O. Antonio, « Problems of Marketing Agricultural Produce with special reference to foodstuffs in Nigeria », in I.M. Ofori, *Factors of Agricultural Growth in West Africa*, Institute of Statistic, Social and Economic Research, Lagos, 1973, p. 252.

3 Q.B.O. Antonio, *Ibid.*, p. 254.

days are lorries or motor transports. Thus the development of roads and bridges is a pre-requisite for efficient food marketing.

A noticeable characteristic of motor transport in Nigeria is its very high costs, which may have resulted from certain factors. Given the generally bad conditions of roads, the attitudes of drivers which make the system unreliable and sometimes warrant the owners to accompany their goods, the alleged kickbacks demanded by law enforcement agents, etc. the risks involved in road transport are very high. These would imply that prices of goods transported will of necessity be high. Therefore before the objective of efficient food distribution is achieved, it would be necessary to provide infrastructural facilities like roads, bridges, rail and waterways which are at present lacking.

3. Role of co-operative in marketing

Co-operatives in Nigeria have been important in the marketing of agricultural commodities. For instance, Co-operative Marketing is one of the oldest societies and still remains the largest numerically in most states of the Federation. The societies were established to ease the problems of collection and marketing of farmer's produces. They had, to some extent, demonstrated their ability to meet the needs of marketing of agricultural produce, and especially those of the members. The exercise, of course, had been carried beyond members' produces.

The importance of co-operative agricultural marketing is illustrated from Kwara State in table 1. Although the share of this society tends to decline, partly because of diversification of co-operative activities, they still represent the single largest co-operative society. For example, up to 1979/80 they still accounted for over a third of the number although they constituted 82% in 1973/74. If marketing is viewed as it should, as comprising of a number of connected processes like bulking, grading, storing, processing, packaging, retailing, etc., it would be seen that the role of marketing co-operatives is much wider than shown in column 6 of the table.

Infact most agricultural co-operatives are engaged in the marketing of agricultural produces. As shown in the column 5 the share of agricultural co-operatives, though tends to decline, was still 66% in 1979/80. Similar proportions of co-operative marketing or agricultural co-operatives may be obtained in most other states of Nigeria. One would therefore assume that the societies have distinguished themselves in the marketing of agricultural products.

Table 1

MEMBERSHIP SHARE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKETING IN KWARA STATE CO-OPERATIVES (1973/74 - 1979/80)

Year	ALL Co-operatives	Agricultural Co-operatives	Produce Marketing	% Agric. Co-operatives	% Marketing
1973/74	351	316	288	90.0	82.1
1974/75	382	338	294	88.5	77.0
1975/76	234	197	159	84.2	68.0
1976/77	294	237	156	80.6	53.1
1977/78	474	338	178	71.5	37.6
1978/79	509	345	178	67.8	35.0
1979/80	529	351	176	66.2	33.3

Source: Kwara State Statistical Digest.

Government funding of co-operatives in Kwara State reflects the importance of agriculture in the organisation. Most of the loans to co-operatives have been devoted to agriculture. Within agriculture itself the focus had been on the marketing of produces. The financing of produce marketing is in the form of both grants and loans. Grants are made to provide infrastructural facilities like stores, weighing scales, etc. while the short term loans like the produce purchasing advances are granted to unions to finance marketing of produces. As will be seen later the produce purchasing advances constitute the largest source of funds of the system. This priority attention to marketing co-operatives is derived from the advantages that such societies are capable of providing members in particular, and the society in general. This had been aptly put by Okereke ⁴. They include communal facilities like storage and processing which members could not afford individually. Second, through the replacement of middlemen, they allow fair prices to both producers and consumers by allowing profits which would otherwise go to middlemen to accrue directly to producers, apart from providing channels for disseminating ideas on marketing. In addition to the above they serve as a means by which credit may be extended to farmers. In Nigeria, marketing co-operatives had been used to supplement the efforts of the marketing/commodity boards. In 1975 the Review Panel on Co-operative law and Regulation recommended,

4 O. Okereke, « The Place of Marketing Co-operatives in the Economy of Uganda », in C.G. Widstrand (ed.), *Co-operative and Rural Development in East Africa*, 1970, p. 153.

Table 2

PAID UP CAPITAL AND SAVINGS OF CO-OPERATIVES (1967/70 - 1978/79)

Year	Share Capital (N)	Savings (N)	Shares per head (N)	Savings per head (N)
1969/70	45,684.0	55,832.0	3.35	4.09
1970/71	51,476.0	65,416.0	3.54	4.50
1971/72	23,846.0	20,648.0	1.69	1.42
1972/73	57,108.0	27,189.0	3.07	1.46
1973/74	90,356.0	40,235.0	4.47	1.99
1974/75	96,068.0	42,426.0	4.46	1.96
1975/76	70,903.0	77,375.0	3.24	3.53
1976/77	79,275.4	145,521.3	7.85	4.34
1977/78	80,036.1	141,577.7	6.83	3.86
1978/79	159,796.1	162,676.9	7.25	7.12
Average	75,454.9	77,887.7	4.58	3.43

Source: Kwara State Statistical Digest.

Table 3

STATE GOVERNMENT GRANTS TO CO-OPERATIVES (1975/76 - 1977/78)

Year	Grants (N)	Purposes
1975/76	1,000,000.00	Repairs of stores, KCF, grants
1976/77	200,000.00	Purchase of KCF vehicles; building
1977/78	500,000.00	of 30 co-shops; building of
		6 agro-allied industries; co-
		operative unions salary in
		subvention.

Source: Ministry of Trade, Industry & Co-operatives, Kwara State.

level, funds that can accrue from profit making ventures are at the best small. Infact the societies do not seem to have avail themselves of the opportunities of raising fund from that source. It is therefore clear that the funds which co-operatives are able of raising internally is small and can hardly be relied upon for the financing of the system.

The State Co-operative have relied heavily on external sources of finance. The main sources are the state and federal government with the state playing a much greater

role. In general, external sources of funds can be classified into three areas. The government is perhaps the most important especially in developing countries. Second, the banking system do finance co-operatives. The Co-operative Bank, which is the financing apex of the system is usually preferred by societies to commercial banks since it may not require collateral securities other than societies confidential reports, when granting loans. For practical purpose this source may be regarded as unimportant in the state. Although the banking system had funded some co-operative activities like the purchase and marketing of agricultural produces, this had been done through government intervention since the societies can hardly come by the required collaterals. Therefore all loans from commercial banks had to be guaranteed by the State Government.

The main source of finance for the State Co-operatives has remained the state government. The assistance which is provided in the forms of grants and loans includes payment of staff salaries, purchase of vehicles, building of stores, etc. Table shows that a total of N 1.70 million was provided for the societies as grants between 1975/76 and 1977/78 for purpose which include the building of 30 co-operatives shops, purchase of union vehicles, building of 6 agro-allied industries, etc.

In addition, various loans are offered to the societies, the most important being the produce purchasing advances which are made to the unions for financing the purchase and marketing of agricultural products. Other loans include distributive and foodstuff trade advances, which are much smaller and are granted for financing general trading activities.

As may be expected, loans take the larger proportion of government assistance to the societies. For example, the produce purchasing advances alone was N 7.33 million in 1974/75. The amount ranges between N 0.42 million and N 7.33 million between 1969/70 and 1979/80 with an average of N 3.21 million per years. While grants tend to be made for purposes which may not necessarily yield quick returns, loans are advanced for ventures which have almost immediate returns. On particular of co-operative financing in the state is the very high dependence of the system on the government. The internally generated funds are a small proportion of the total available funds. As may be seen in table 4, this represents on the average only 19.8% of a single loan, the produce purchasing advance. The State Co-operative is therefore far from being an ideal or a self-reliant one. It therefore follows that one would expect that the government exerts a lot of control on the system.

In addition to the heavy dependance on the government, the state co-operatives have

been highly indebted to the latter. That is, most of the loans granted to the societies have remained unpaid. Although the different advances are short term loans which are expected to be repaid within a year, after the marketing season, there was no year when they were fully retired between 1969/70 and 1979/80. For instance, the ratio of outstanding loans to loans granted through the produce purchasing advances ranges between 19% in 1971/72 and 100% in 1979/80 while the average debt ration is about 66% (table 4). Since these funds were provided by commercial banks, the government had to retire them even though it is unable to recover the same from the societies. The absence of a financing apex for co-operatives may account for some of the indebtedness. Since the government may not need to guarantee loans provided by co-operative banks, the societies would be made responsible directly to the bank. However, in order for the societies to obtain loans from such banks they will be required to submit bankable proposals. Also only societies that are considered strong enough to use the loans productively would be granted, unlike the present practice where all unions are granted loans without necessarily considering their strength.

Table 4

PRODUCE PURCHASING ADVANCES & INTERNALLY GENERATED FUNDS OF KWARA CO-OPERATIVES (1969/70 - 1979/80)

Year	PPA Granted (N)	PPA Repaid (N)	PPA Outstanding (%)	Internal Fund/PPA (%)
1969/70	6.45	0.14	69.5	44.6
1970/71	0.48	0.18	61.5	44.8
1971/72	2.00	1.69	15.3	7.6
1972/73	2.99	1.14	61.0	6.2
1973/74	4.60	2.16	53.0	5.0
1974/75	7.33	4.01	54.3	3.2
1975/76	3.10	0.57	81.6	6.5
1976/77	1.34	0.23	81.5	—
1977/78	0.42	0.21	50.0	54.8
1978/79	3.71	0.21	94.3	10.0
1979/80	2.07	—	100.0	16.0
Average	2.58	1.05	65.64	19.9

Source: Kwara State Statistical Digest.

5. Strategies for financing co-operative food marketing and distribution

Any strategy that may be evolved for the financing of co-operative food marketing must be based on the promise that co-operatives have been instrumental and can continue to be so in the marketing activities in the economy. It is on this basis that one can rest the hope that financing of food marketing through co-operatives would yield dividends.

It is therefore assumed that the knowledge and experience acquired by co-operatives from marketing agricultural products can be easily transferred to the marketing food-stuffs.

Broadly, food marketing and distribution could be financed in the two major ways that had been employed. These are through grants, which may come mainly from the governments, and loans which may be granted by banks and other financial institutions. The two forms are essential because they tend to satisfy different needs. Grants can be used to create basic infrastructural facilities required for a successful food marketing. These facilities include the provision of stores and warehouses among others. There is some urgent need to reduce, if not eliminate the amount of waste in foodstuffs due primarily to lack of adequate facilities. In addition, co-operative shops can be provided in all local governments, for the use of primary societies. These can be supplied with goods from the apex or union stores and warehouses. Grants are also essential for the purchase of vehicles especially at the initial stage for the unions. Bad conditions of roads account for major part of the problems of distribution and marketings. Direct government effort will be required in the building and maintenance of roads that link farms and villages, collection depots, and the urban areas. Loans on the other hand are more appropriate for financing purchases and movement of goods. Whether finances come as grants or loans it is important that they are not diverted to other uses. This would not only ensure that the objectives of these finances are achieved but also the repayment of such loans may be guaranteed.

The sources of funds for food marketing in general is very crucial. Partly because of bias of financial institutions against agriculture and also because of the neglect of food marketing in particular, the financing of this trade has been quite poor. The main sources of fund have been the meagre savings of individual participants. One can suggest exploring various sources of finance for the venture. It cannot be doubted that efforts of the societies to provide funds from traditional co-operative sources like share capital, savings and more importantly, proceeds of the venture would go a long way to make it a success, as members' dedication and willingness to contribute in various

forms may be enhanced. However, from the experience of many co-operative organisations in Nigeria and as illustrated in Kwara State, it is unlikely that the internally generated fund will be adequate for the societies. The Government will therefore be called upon to provide the major share of the required finances. Both Federal and state governments are not new in the financing of co-operative activities. However, as was noted earlier, government funds would seem to have been wasted by many co-operative societies. The government cannot afford to continue to finance societies which are unable to generate enough funds to repay loans. Therefore a new stop must be taken in regard to funding of co-operatives and especially those for food marketing. Unlike the existing practice in Kwara State where loans are disbursed to the unions partly for on-lending to some primary societies, one would suggest that primary societies obtain loans directly either from the government or the apex organisations. This will go some way to solve two problems. First the alleged over-concentration of these loans in the unions will be reduced. Second, since primary societies would be made directly responsible to the lenders, it is more likely that loans would be repaid. One therefore advocates for free flow of information among all the tiers of co-operative structure. Similarly unlike the present practice where the government guarantees all loans and therefore is responsible for their repayments, attempt should be made to make societies responsible directly to commercial banks for some of their loans. This can only be achieved if co-operative food marketing societies are viable themselves and have bankable projects to present to commercial banks. Besides, there is a need to require commercial banks to make some sacrifices in encouraging food marketing. For instance, it should not be necessary for banks to demand 100% guarantee on these loans before they are granted. The banks must be made to take some risks in the financing of this venture as they do in other business.

Beside the finances from the governments and guaranteed commercial banks, some specialised agencies for agricultural finances can be used in funding food marketing. The Nigerian Agricultural and Co-operative Bank is one of the most appropriate in this regard. One would suggest that a separate division be created within the bank to handle food marketing activities. Similarly the Agricultural Credit Guaranteed Scheme should be extended specifically to food marketing. It is possible to direct commercial banks to devote a particular proportion of their funds under the scheme for this purpose. Since Co-operative Banks have advantages over commercial banks in financing co-operative ventures, one would suggest that States which have not had these banks should do so right away in order to contribute to the food marketing scheme.

LE FINANCEMENT DES COOPÉRATIVES DE COMMERCIALISATION ET DE DISTRIBUTION DES PRODUITS ALIMENTAIRES DANS LE PROGRAMME « RÉVOLUTION VERTE » EN NIGERIA.

RÉSUMÉ

Cet article étudie le développement d'un système de financement aux coopératives dont dépendent principalement la commercialisation et la distribution des denrées alimentaires de base en Nigeria. Ces coopératives devraient commercialiser et distribuer une grande partie de la production du Programme « révolution verte », programme conduisant à une augmentation considérable de l'offre de produits alimentaires dans les années futures. On doit avancer l'hypothèse que ces entreprises nécessitent une structure financière beaucoup plus solide que celle des coopératives de consommation déjà existantes.

Cet article est divisé en cinq sections. La première analyse la nécessité de développer un système efficace de commercialisation et de distribution de produits agricoles dans le contexte de la planification nationale et de la planification du secteur agricole. Il s'agit d'un problème normalement négligé soit parce que la distribution est minimisée soit parce que l'attention est concentrée sur l'augmentation de la production.

On pense en effet que si la production augmente le système de distribution s'adaptera par voie de conséquence. Dans la deuxième section l'attention est concentrée sur le rôle joué par les coopératives dans la commercialisation de la production alimentaire sur la base de l'expérience des « coopératives de commercialisation agricole » déjà existantes. Après on analyse l'expérience du financement des coopératives dans l'état de Kwara tandis que la partie finale est dédiée à la mise en place d'une stratégie de financement des coopératives de commercialisation de produits alimentaires et à l'individuation des modalités et des sources financières utilisables.



Book reviews

Revue bibliographique

RODGER YEAGER - **Tanzania, An African Experience**, Westview Press, Boulder, Colorado and Gower, Hampshire, 1982, pp. xii-136.

A decade ago, Tanzania's Socialist experience was looked upon with great interest in the West, by both the Left, which was it as a possible first step towards the spread of Socialism to African countries (which fell within the framework of a post-68 « Third-Worldism ») and the opposite ideological poles which, on the contrary, stressed its poor ideological content and its strong connections with local traditions.

Then the interest for this country slowly faded out and very few attempts were made to make a balance: this is why Yeager's work is so interesting and valuable.

The Author, who is a lecturer at West Virginia University, has a deep knowledge of Tanzania thanks to his studies and his work there as a consultant. In this book, he adopts a brisk and descriptive style avoiding any political theorization. The major merit of his volume is his remarkably balanced and unbiased view, which is objectively not easy due to the difficulty in judging such a complex and contradictory experience. The volume goes through the main historical stages of Tanzania's evolution, before and after independence, and deals in depth with President Julius Nyerere's Socialism from a cultural, institutional, political and economic point of view. The Author also stresses the main contradictions and ambiguities characterizing Tanzania's experiment since the very beginning.

In particular, he describes the failures of the earlier stage when the country's development strategy was based on private incentives and opening to the West and those of the later stage characterized by most often enforced villagization. Then he comes to the third stage, linked to the present situation, where the main problem is to give again President Nyerere's thought the central position it deserves, and a correct interpretation.

To the Author, the heart of the matter is the issue of political leadership which must be able to adhere to the literal meaning of its slogan *ujamaa na kujitegemea* — i.e. it must work toward the more efficient mobilization and equal sharing of locally available resources. The country's future will largely depend on whether its top political leadership is able to gain elite and mass support and reject authoritarianism, corruption and the adoption of an unrigorous living model. The Author thinks it is essential that the elites do not chose to promote their social and economic advancement by a policy encouraging indiscriminate foreign investment and private accumulation. Therefore, in the Author's opinion, Tanzania's main problem lies in ensuring a certain « style » to its political leadership and in promoting mass support which seems to have faded due to past failures and coercion. Any alternative would lead to anarchic power struggles and even to the party being replaced by the military. The 1980s will be decisive for the future of the Tanzanian experiment, also because President Nyerere will soon leave active political life.

On the whole, the Author thinks that the Tanzanian experience had remarkable positive effects, if compared to what happened in other african countries: social inequalities were significantly reduced, notable progress was made in the field of schooling and social facilities, and the country experienced a substantial political stability and a good level of democracy. We can agree on this evaluation, although it holds good for the cities and for some regions, rather than for the whole country.

We also agree on the Author's identification of Tanzania's major problems, but we hardly see how the desired regeneration of political leadership and a stronger mass support could be achieved. In our opinion, a stricter adhesion to *ujamaa* (which does not seem to be respected by enforced villagization), greater opening towards abroad (although strictly controlled), and greater pluralism in the country are equally important, although they

do not win the Author's consent. In our opinion, they would favour a faster development and give the masses better opportunities to improve their living conditions without, for that matter, betraying President Nyerere's thought or the specificity of the Tanzanian way to development.

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SELDON GELLAR - **Senegal, an African nation between Islam and the West** Westview Press, Boulder, Colorado and Gower, Hampshire, pp. xiii-145.

The text gives a profile of a nation of today's Africa. It is the first volume of a series of 12 entitled: Profiles — Nations of contemporary Africa, edited by Larry W. Bowman. Indeed, a useful series dealing with interesting problems relating to newly formed African countries.

It gives a broad picture (although it does not comprise all independent countries) and a good introduction to the contradictory reality of that Africa which it would still be hard to define as de-colonized.

Suffice it to mention but some of the countries dealt with in the series: Senegal, Tanzania, Comore Islands, Mozambique, French-speaking countries (Niger) and English-speaking ones (Kenya), an analysis of Ugandan problems and of Swaziland, a country still under heavy « white » domination. We have read the first of these profiles only and our judgement is on the whole positive although some observations need to be added.

Indeed, it is not easy to deal with the multifaceted changes which have occurred in the social, economic and cultural reality of Senegal since its independence (1960) in a few pages. These changes were made faster by the free foreign policy choices of President Senghor and gained in depth and impact after the Muslim Abdou Diouf came to power in 1981.

A man of French culture and « westernized », Senghor is a Catholic, but he belongs to the « past », although to a recent past of old French-European order, while Diouf is a Muslim and as such a fervent defender of his creed, so that Senegal's internal balance between its socio-religious components seems to be somewhat offset. Despite Senegal democratic and socialist context the Islamic impact inevitably leads the Senegalese government to fall in line with the ideological and political positions indicated by the *umma*; getting farther and farther from Israel, while the times of Arab slave-trade seems to recede more and more into the past. Sheldon Gellar, on the other hand, gave its book on Senegal this subtitle: « An African nation between Islam and the West » where by Islam and West he means two doctrines or macrocosms rather than merely two geographical areas, opposite each other, and where Islam, because of its inexorable religious creed, whereby no reciprocity, but only and at the most a controlled and moderate tolerance are possible, seems to prevail.

Islam progress is now favoured by the events in the Middle East and by the increasingly sharp critics raised against Israel even by that part of public opinion which once looked upon it with favour.

A Muslim head of State, therefore, is inevitably likely to lead to sweepingly new international political and economic choices and meanwhile, as the Senegalese of lowly social classes struggles with poverty, the rich Senegalese becomes increasingly internationally-oriented.

He is no longer satisfied with « merely French » culture and while going for training to Germany and the USA, he becomes more traditional at heart.

He prefers his traditional dress, the showy boubou, to Western clothes and demands to have a national language (most likely Wolof) to replace French as the official working language.

All this — and more than this since the book also gives (ch. 3) a detailed analysis of Senegal's present economic structures — is well distributed in Gellar's book 6 chapters which reminded us of another beautiful book by the same author « Structural changes and colonial Dependency: Senegal 1885-1945 » of 1976.

Reading is made easy by the author fluent style and his knowledgeable supply of information and data drawn from a quite recent bibliography (both in French and English) on Senegal which one is tempted to define as complete considering how wide it is.

No doubt, the reader having a direct knowledge of Senegal will soon be aware that something is missing (maybe due to the size of the book): it would have been useful to go deeper into the consequence of the Senegalese troopers' contribution to France in the 1st World War (which is also mentioned in F.S. Nitti's works on Europe). And it would also have been worth stressing the negative effects of the sudden departure of French technicians after independence which caused a sharp economic unbalance, and the general crises following the dismantling of the fictitious structures of a would-be industrialization of peripteral areas (i.e. the Casamance) established in colonial times. And why not mentioning that Senegal's cities are twinned with European ones?

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The first Specialization Course on International Trade for officials of the People's Republic of China's Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade and other Foreign Trade institutes was officially closed on October 29th.

In October, prof. A. Mauri attended a conference on World Economy Perspectives at the Indiana University, U.S.A., and acted co-chairman of the section on North-South relations.

The 18th Specialization Course in Banking started on November 14th with an official welcome by Finafrica representatives. The course which will last till June 1985 was enriched with two more subjects of great topical importance in banking, viz. Personnel Management and Organization and E.D.P. in Banking.

The course is being attended by 30 participants from Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Seychelle, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Tanzania, Swaziland and Zambia.

The 9th 6-week residential Seminar on Agricultural Credit began on November 19th; with participants from Egypt, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Kenya, Ghana, Liberia, Mauritius, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda and, for the first time, Zimbabwe. Among lecturers were prof. L. Bauer of the University of Alberta (Canada) and Dr. O. Oludimu of the University of Ife (Nigeria). The Seminar closed just around Christmas.

In November, prof. A. Mauri attended the seminar on « Domestic Resource Mobilization through Financial Development » where he delivered a report on the topic under discussion. The meeting was held in Manila by the Asian Development Bank.

A conference on « Adjusting to shocks: a North-South perspective » was held in Finafrica from November 21st to 24th. Among speakers were a number of World Bank experts who suggested new reflexions on the nature and aftermaths of a series of structural shocks which deeply altered

Le premier Cours de Spécialisation sur le Commerce International pour fonctionnaires du Ministère du Commerce Extérieur et d'autres Instituts pour le Commerce Extérieur de la République Populaire de Chine a été officiellement clôturé le 29 octobre.

Au mois d'octobre, le prof. A. Mauri a participé à une conférence sur les perspectives de l'économie mondiale, à l'Université de l'Indiana aux Etats Unis et a été le co-président de la section sur les rapports nord-sud.

Le 18e Cours de Spécialisation Bancaires, cette année réservé aux pays ACP anglophones, a commencé le 14 Novembre. Le cours qui continuera jusqu'au mois de juin 1985, comprend deux nouveaux sujets aujourd'hui d'importance fondamentale pour la banque, à savoir l'organisation et la gestion du personnel et l'informatique bancaire. Le cours sera suivi par 30 participants venant des pays suivants: Egypte, Ethiopie, Gambie, Ghana, Jamaïque, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Tanzania, Swaziland and Zambia.

Le 9e Séminaire résidentiel sur la gestion du crédit agricole pour les ressortissants des pays ACP anglophones a commencé le 19 novembre avec 20 participants de l'Egypte, de l'Ethiopie, du Cameroun, du Ghana, du Libéria, de Maurice, de la Somalie, de la Tanzanie de l'Ouganda et, pour la première fois, du Zimbabwe. Parmi les coordinateurs, on a eu le prof. L. Bauer de l'Université d'Alberta (Canada) et le Dr. O. Oludimu de l'Université de Ife (Nigeria). Le séminaire a été clôturé la semaine avant la Noël.

Au mois de novembre, le prof. A. Mauri a participé à un séminaire sur « Le développement financier pour la promotion de la mobilisation des ressources internes » auquel il a contribué avec un exposé. Le séminaire a été organisé par la Banque Asiatique de Développement à Manila.

Du 21 au 24 novembre, Finafrica a été le siège d'une conférence internationale sur « L'ajuste-

North-South relations and brought about sweeping changes in the economies of both industrialized and developing countries. The Conference was attended by and saw the contribution of representatives of the Italian academic world and of American, British, French and German economists.

From November 3rd. to 8th, G. Villa, Finafrica Secretary General, and Dr. F.L. Tambussi, Director of Administration, attended AFRACA general assembly which was held in Maseru (Lesotho).

In December, Dr. G. Villa, Dr. G. Vimercati and prof. A. Mauri attended the 3rd. International Symposium on Personal Savings Mobilization in LDCs organized by the United Nations in Yaoundé in co-operation with ISBI. Prof. Mauri presented an introductory paper on « Improving Financial Systems for a More Effective Mobilization of Savings in the Context of Institutional Reforms ».

From 1st to 8th December, Dr. F.L. Tambussi, of CARIPLO-Finafrica, carried out an identification mission in Ghana for the preparation of a follow-up workshop to be held in Accra in February. From Accra, he proceeded to Lomé (Togo) for further discussions aimed at implementing the project of the creation of a pan-African Training Centre in that country. In Ghana, he met the Italian Ambassador, and the authorities of Bank of Ghana and Ghana Commercial Bank, and in Togo Mr. K. Alipui, the Togolese Minister of Finance.

ment aux chocs: la perspective nord-sud ». Parmi les orateurs, les experts de la Banque Mondiale ont suggéré de nouvelles réflexions sur la nature et les conséquences des chocs structurels qui ont si profondément changé les rapports nord-sud et ont imposé des modifications structurelles aux économies des pays industrialisés et des pays en voie de développement. À la conférence ont participé et contribué des académiciens italiens et des économistes américains, anglais, français et allemands.

Du 3 au 8 novembre le Dr. G. Villa, Secrétaire Général, et le Dr. F.L. Tambussi, Directeur Administratif de Finafrica, ont participé à l'assemblée générale de AFRACA à Maseru (Lesotho).

Au mois de décembre, le Dr. G. Villa, le Dr. G. Vimercati et le prof. A. Mauri ont participé au 3e Symposium International sur la Mobilisation de l'Épargne Personnelle dans les PVD, organisé par le Nations Unies à Yaoundé en collaboration avec l'IICE. Le prof. Mauri a présenté un rapport introductif sur « Une plus efficace mobilisation de l'épargne à travers l'amélioration du système financier dans le contexte des réformes institutionnelles ».

Du 1er au 8 décembre, le Dr. F.L. Tambussi de Finafrica-Cariplo, a effectué une mission d'identification au Ghana pour la préparation d'un séminaire de followup prévu pour le mois de février 1985. À Accra il a rencontré les responsables de la Bank of Ghana et de la Ghana Commercial Bank. Du Ghana, il s'est en suite rendu à Lomé, où il a rencontré le Ministre des Finances, M. K. Alipui, dans le cadre des négociations pour la création d'une centre panafricain de formation dans la capitale du Togo.

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