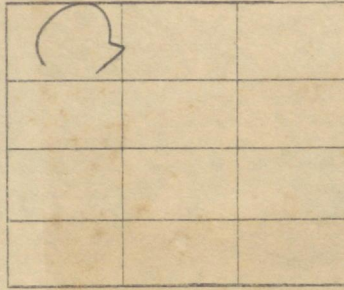


Do you intend
to review this
& send your
comments?



November 7, 1983

Dear Dr. Nair,

This is to acknowledge your letter of October 21st which arrived while Dr. Swaminathan is travelling. As he is due to return last week of November, I took the liberty of replying to your letter.

Thank you for sending him a copy of research proposal. As soon as Dr. Swaminathan has reviewed your paper, we shall send you his comments.

Your name has been included in the regular mailing list of our Communication and Publications Department. I am furnishing them a copy of your letter so that they can take note of your change of address in January, 1984.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Edith B. Yalong
Executive Secretary

Dr. Kusum Nair
Department of South Asian Studies
1242 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Drive
University of Wisconsin-Madison
College of Letters and Science
Madison, Wisconsin 53706
U. S. A.

cc: Dr. T. R. Hargrove

:eby

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

College of Letters and Science

Department of South Asian Studies
1242 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53706
Telephone: 608/262-3012

October 21, 1983



South Asian Area Center

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan
Director General
The International Rice Research Institute
P.O. Box 933
Manila, Philippines

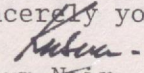
Dear Dr. Swaminathan,

I am enclosing a copy of my next research proposal for your information and comments. As stated in my previous letter I am hoping to visit Asia in spring of 1985 including the Philippines.

Incidentally, I have not received any 'mail' from IRRI. May be there was none in this period. You will remember my request to place me on the mailing list.*

With best wishes,

sincerely yours,


~~Kusum Nair~~

*That is since I received the publications sent by you.

Also, please note that after January 1, 1984, my address will be: Department of Economics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742.

Research Proposal

THREE DECADES OF DEVELOPMENT --

A Review of Rural and Agricultural Development Policies in
Africa and Asia

Kusum Nair

September 17, 1983

Project Title: Three Decades of Development: A Review of Rural and Agricultural Development Policies in Africa and Asia.

Research Investigator: Kusum Nair

The Problem:

Development people now are in a state of profound self-doubt. Ten years ago there were several schools of thought that had confident prescriptions for development.... Today not one of those schools advances its prescriptions with one-tenth the confidence it had ten years ago.¹

"Agriculture has been transformed in the past three decades," according to the World Bank. "Output has increased at nearly twice the rate of earlier periods Alongside this remarkable ... achievement stands the 'world food problem'. Hundreds of millions of people in the developing world are still without enough food."² Progress has been slowest in poor countries which have relatively high rates of population growth and the great majority of the poor, most of whom live in the rural areas and work on the land. In South Asia, output per capita grew at 0.1 percent a year in the 1960s and about zero percent in the decade of the '70s. In Africa it declined by 1.4 percent per year in the 1970s. "Low or negative growth in agricultural production per capita in South Asia and Africa

presents a major challenge to domestic policymakers and the international community alike."³

Back in 1952, the Government of India stated that the central objective of planning was "to raise the standard of living of the people ... so as to obtain from them a larger output of goods and services," and also reduce "inequalities of income, wealth and opportunity.... Our programme must, therefore, be two-fold, leading at once to increased productivity and reduction of inequalities."⁴ According to the Sixth Five Year Plan, however, in spite of "economic development during the last nearly three decades ... it has not been possible to make a major dent on poverty on account of the inadequate rate of growth of the economy, uneven distribution of income and consumption as well as high rate of growth of population." Of an estimated total of 350 million people below the poverty line (1977) around 300 million lived in the rural areas. They consisted largely of landless laborers, small and marginal farmers, rural artisans and other workers having "either no assets or assets with very low productivity, few relevant skills and no regular fulltime jobs or very low paid jobs."⁵ Yet, unlike many developing countries, including China, not only did India enjoy remarkable economic and political stability during the period but was a major beneficiary of the green revolution technology.

Research Objectives and Justification:

To write a history of rural and agricultural development in the context of overall economic growth in the low income countries of Africa and Asia since 1950. Its focus will be on the role of agriculture in economic development; technological and institutional change; increase in crop, especially, food production, productivity, and employment in the rural sector. By 1985 countries like China and India will have completed over three decades of planned effort to create new institutions; modernize technology; increase per capita incomes and output per crop,

hectare, year; and improve the level and quality of life and services like health and education. Many other countries have been making similar efforts for about a quarter of a century.

In most economies the results of government intervention and development policies have been mixed. But almost everywhere they have been largely below expectations. Hence the loss of 'confidence' and sense of direction in what used to be virtually a religion of certainty. Internationally also, as observed by A.W. Clausen, President of the World Bank and International Finance Corporation, in April 1983, "public opinion in much of the industrialized world is suffering from 'aid fatigue'." According to him, the "single ingredient" most vital to a strategy "to restore the momentum of economic development in the Third World... a spirit of enthusiasm and adventure" of the Fifties and Sixties, is "faith in the development process itself." (Emphasis added.)⁶

Two or even three decades are a very brief period in the perspective of human civilization. But given the time frame in which the developing nations set their goals and targets of economic growth, it would be appropriate to review and try to comprehend what happened, or did not happen, as planned and predicted. It is necessary to analyze the key concepts, premises, and assumptions underlying the various strategies of agricultural development that were adopted during the period.

Also, in a longer time perspective of a century or so, it would be pertinent to investigate and ask the question if it is feasible (or desirable) for the poor agrarian economies of today to reassemble the particular constellation of political and socio-economic factors and forces that generated the technological revolution that transformed western Europe -- to create dynamic self-sustaining replicas of the modern industrial societies. Like most 'revolutions' in history, whether in the arts, philosophy, science or technology, the Industrial Revolution too may have been a unique phenomenon. If it was, mere 'faith' in 'more of the same' factors

and processes of development cannot be expected to alter significantly future prospects or even the current trends and problems of low growth, escalating debts, and pauperization of the poor in the Third World countries. Social scientists and policymakers would have to explore entirely new approaches, criteria, and patterns of development, national and international.

This study cannot be expected to provide 'instant' solutions for the many complex problems of resource mobilization and creation of conditions deemed necessary for a modern economy. There is no consensus yet on a theory or even definition of development. There may never be one. But the record and analysis of past policies and 'cures' for underdevelopment should facilitate the designing of more effective strategies of economic growth and societal change. It could also help policymakers to avoid past mistakes. As observed by Johnston and Clark:

One of the most discouraging features of the contemporary development debate is its failure to make cumulative progress in the content of its arguments.... A further indication of the development field's immaturity is its insistence on fighting the same battles over and over again, changing only (and not always) the place and time of the fight.⁷

Methodology and Organization of Research:

a) Interdisciplinary analysis of the mainstream theories and strategies of rural and agricultural development that were adopted in Africa and Asia over the past three decades in a comparative and historical framework -- strategies, such as, rural uplift through community development (diffusion model) in the 1950s; the 'high-pay-off input' model that was used to promote the green revolution;

integrated rural development, decentralization, small farmers schemes, and basic needs programs for the rural poor in the '70s; and a medley, so to say, of a little of everything, that appears to be the current vogue in the early 1980s.

Empirical data and past evaluations of specific projects in one or more countries through which a development theory or model was translated into an action program will be utilized to assess and test the validity of its postulates. Given the resources, socio-economic structure, institutions and the natural environment in the countries at the time, were the hypotheses, assumptions and expectations of the policymakers justified? Or were the shortfalls in achievements in terms of the stated goals and targets due mainly to faulty planning and implementation of the program? Selection of case examples of countries and projects will be determined by the availability and access to data.

Policies and experience in areas such as taxation, land tenure, technology, and utilization of land and labor in agriculture in the earlier periods of history of some of the industrial countries, such as Japan, Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States of America, will be used to illustrate similar policy issues and options in the developing nations of today.

b) Interviews (unstructured) with key individuals, social and technical scientists, and administrators in the United States who have been involved in research, formulation of theory and policies, or in the designing and implementation of rural and agricultural development programs. They would include faculty members of various Universities as well as subject and area specialists in international agencies, like the World Bank, IMF, Agency for International Development, and private Foundations that have been engaged in research and technical assistance in Africa and Asia. If I am able to travel abroad I would

seek interviews with program administrators of United Nations agencies, like the FAO, of International Research Centers, like IRRI, and senior policymakers and faculty of leading national institutions of research and higher education in some of the countries of Africa and Asia, such as, Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, India, Philippines, Japan, and the People's Republic of China.

The number of countries visited and interviews conducted within the United States will depend upon availability of funds for travel and expenses.

Qualifications:

I have devoted my entire adult career - over 25 years - to research, writing and teaching (see curriculum vitae) about the history, theory, and problems of rural and agricultural development and underdevelopment. I have published five books on the subject, each an original work based on my own research, and contributed an original article on "Agriculture in Ancient Asia" to the Encyclopaedia Britannica.⁸

I pioneered a macro interdisciplinary approach and methodology in research with focus on the human factor in rural development. In the 1950s, most development economists and policymakers had little or no concrete knowledge or interest in knowing about the actual conditions, values and beliefs of the farm populations in the developing countries. Planning in India also was "concerned primarily with the engineering aspect of increasing the stock of real capital and improvement of technology," the assumption being that it could be relied upon "to evolve a chain of new human relationships and patterns of economic behavior...."⁹ Blossoms in the Dust: The Human Factor in Indian Development was and is still remembered as a unique contribution.

Furthermore, unlike most scholars who specialize in one country or region which is either 'modern' or 'traditional', I have done extensive field work and

research in the history and recent developments in agriculture in both industrial and the less developed agrarian economies. It has helped me to acquire an understanding and insights into the nature and processes of technological innovation and institutional change in an unusually broad spatial and time frame.

Finally, I have never been associated in any capacity with any government or international agency in an advisory or administrative capacity. I am not therefore partial or beholden to any country, institution, school of thought or ideology. At the same time, however, due to my research interests and the peculiar pattern of my career as an international 'hobo' and writer, not only have I literally 'lived through' this entire historic period since World War II in close contact with practically every event, current, and phase of development thinking, but I have had the opportunity to meet and discuss various aspects and problems of development and growth with most of the world's leading academicians and practitioners in the field in governments, universities, research institutes, and international agencies.

I feel confident therefore that I am reasonably well qualified now to undertake this project and write a history of rural and agricultural development over the past three decades. It would be a logical culmination of my research pursuits -- probably my last major work and contribution.

Tentative Time-Table:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Phase I:
(12 months) | Preliminary library research in the calendar year of 1984, and conduct as many interviews within the United States as possible. |
| Phase II:
(6 months) | Travel outside the United States from January to July 1985. |
| Phase III:
(18-24)
(months) | Research, writing and preparation of book-length manuscript - August 1985 to December 1986; possibly June 1987. |

References

1. P.B. Stone, "Development at a Crossroads," in World Press Review, March 1983, p.33.
 2. World Development Report 1982 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982), p.40.
 3. Ibid., p.43.
 4. The First Five Year Plan: A Summary, (Government of India, 1952), p.1.
 5. The Sixth Five Year Plan, 1980-85, (Government of India), pp.21,51,170.
 6. A.W. Clausen, "Accelerating Growth and Reducing Poverty: A Multilateral Strategy for Development," in presentation to the Atlantik-Brücke and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, Bonn, April 18, 1983, mimeo, pp.1,2.
 7. Bruce F. Johnston and William C. Clark, Redesigning Rural Development: A Strategic Perspective, (Baltimore: John Hopkins Press, 1982), p.19.
 8. "Agriculture in Ancient Asia," Agriculture, History of, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Fifteenth Ed., pp.327-330.
 9. Nair, Kusum, Blossoms in the Dust: The Human Factor in Indian Development, (London: Duckworth; New York: Praeger, 1961; Chicago: The University of Chicago Press Midway Reprint, 1979), p.195.
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Research Proposal

THREE DECADES OF DEVELOPMENT --

A Review of Rural and Agricultural Development Policies in
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1. P.B. Stone, "Development at a Crossroads," in World Press Review, March 1983, p.33.
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 4. The First Five Year Plan: A Summary, (Government of India, 1952), p.1.
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Curriculum Vitae

Name: Kusum Nair

Research Interests:

- * Theories, policies and history of rural and agricultural development in the developing countries since World War II with focus on the human factor, behavior and change.
- * History of agriculture.
- * The role of agriculture in economic development.
- * Transfer of modern technology and institutions to Third World countries.
- * Interdisciplinary methodology in research and teaching.

Professional Appointments (since 1962):

- August 1980 -- Visiting Professor, South Asian Studies and the Land Tenure Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- June-Aug., '83 - Visiting Professor, Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University, Ithaca (summer session).
- 1978-'80 -- Research Associate and Professor, Rural Sociology and Regional and Community Affairs, University of Missouri-Columbia, Missouri.
- Fall '77 semester -- Visiting Professor, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada.
- 1976-'77 (6 months) - Fellow, Adlai E. Stevenson Center, University of Chicago.
- 1972-'76 -- Senior Fellow and Visiting Researcher, The Food Institute, East-West Center, Honolulu.
- 1968-'72 -- Lecturer, Social Science and Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University, East Lansing.
- 1967 -- Fellow, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Cambridge, (Mass.).
- 1964-66 -- Fellow, Center for Economic Development and Cultural Change, University of Chicago.
- 1962-63 -- Fellow, Radcliffe Institute of Independent Study, Cambridge, (Mass.).

Publications (since 1960):

- * 1. Transforming Traditionally: Land and Labor in Agriculture in Asia and Africa, (Riverdale, MD: The Riverdale Co., 1983).
2. Land and Labor Use in Agriculture in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa: Impact on Employment, Production, Productivity, (Madison: The Land Tenure Center, The University of Wisconsin, January 1983).
- * 3. In Defense of the Irrational Peasant: Indian Agriculture after the Green Revolution, (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1979).
- * 4. Three Bowls of Rice: India and Japan -- Century of Effort, (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1973).
- * 5. The Lonely Furrow: Farming in the United States, Japan, and India, (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1969).
- * 6. Blossoms in the Dust: The Human Factor in Indian Development; foreword by Gunnar Myrdal, (London: Duckworth; New York: Praeger, 1961; Chicago: The University of Chicago Press Midway Reprint, 1979). Also published in several other languages and countries, including Sweden, Poland, India.
7. Assumptions Underlying the Regional Planning and Area Development Project: A Critical Appraisal; Occasional Paper No.2, 1981, (Madison: Regional Planning and Area Development Project, University of Wisconsin).
8. "Agriculture in Ancient Asia," Agriculture, History of, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Fifteenth Ed., 1974.
9. "The Rural Realities of India," L'Enfance en Inde, Les Carnets de l'enfance, (Geneva: UNICEF, Quarterly Review, No.29, Jan.-March 1975).

Unpublished Reports:

1. Evaluation of the Peace Corps work in Agricultural Programs in India, 1967.
2. Evaluation of the Applied Nutrition Program of UNICEF in India, 1967.

* Represent five books on rural and agricultural development. Titles 3,5,6, were based on extensive empirical research at the farm level in India, Japan, and the United States of America, covering every region and type of farming, and less extensive field work in the Philippines, Australia, and Thailand.

Grants and Institutional Support for Research:

1. Research for Land and Labor Use in Agriculture in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa was supported by the Rural Development Division of the United States Agency for International Development, Washington D.C., and the Land Tenure Center of The University of Wisconsin-Madison.
2. Research for In Defense of the Irrational Peasant: Indian Agriculture after the Green Revolution, was funded by the Food Institute, East-West Center, and the Adlai E. Stevenson Center, University of Chicago.
3. Research for Three Bowls of Rice: India and Japan, was supported by Michigan State University.
4. Research for The Lonely Furrow: Farming in the United States, Japan, and India, was supported by Fulbright travel grant; Agricultural Development Council, New York; Radcliffe Institute of Independent Study, (Cambridge, Mass.); and the Center for International Affairs, Harvard University.
5. Research for Blossoms in the Dust was sponsored by the Planning Commission of the Government of India.
6. Publishers of the Encyclopaedia Britannica paid for the research for "Agriculture in Ancient Asia."
7. UNICEF funded the research for Evaluation of the Applied Nutrition Program in India.
8. The Peace Corps in India funded the research for Evaluation of the Peace Corps work in Indian Agriculture.

Curriculum Development and Teaching Experience:

1. University of Wisconsin: a) Political Economy of Development and Change in Asia and Africa (graduate seminar); b) Land and Labor Use in Agriculture (graduate seminar); c) Developmental Perspectives and Third World Realities (graduate seminar); Development and Change in Asia (graduate level seminar); Global 2000: Population, Resources, and Peace (undergraduate level).
2. Cornell: Political Economy of Development and Change in Africa and Asia.
3. University of Missouri: Developmental Perspectives and Third World Realities (graduate level); b) Sociology of Rural Development and Change (graduate level).
4. Michigan State University: India and Japan - A Comparative Study in Development, (graduate level).

Published Papers (selective) presented at Conferences/Seminars:

1. "The Twin Issues of Production and Distribution," in Political Aspects of the World Food Problems, (Kansas State University, Monograph 1, July 1968).
2. "Inducing Change and Mass Participation in Development," in Development and Change in Traditional Agriculture: Focus on South Asia, (Michigan State University, Asian Studies Center, Occasional Paper, November 1968).
3. "Asian Drama - A Critique," in Economic Development and Cultural Change, Vol.17, Number 4, July 1969.
4. "The Green Revolution in South Asia," in Change and Persistence of Tradition in India -- Five Lectures, (Michigan Papers on South and Southeast Asia, No.2, 1971; The University of Michigan Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies).
5. "Primary Resource Regions," in Environment and/or Development in Asia: Hope and Frustration, (Record of the Conference on Asian Environment, June 1971; The University of Michigan, 1972, for the Asian Environment Society).
6. "The Human Factor in Pest Management," in Proceedings: Workshop on Pest Management -- Curriculum Development and Training Needs, (Food Institute, East-West Center and the College of Agriculture, University of Hawaii, December 1972).
7. "Revisionism in Development Strategy," in Political and Social Realities of Development Recognition and Response: Selections from Addresses, Papers, and Roundtables at the 13th World Conference of the Society for International Development, San Jose, Costa Rica, February 1973.

Have lectured widely at universities, such as, Cornell, Chicago, Harvard, Minnesota, Maryland, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Wisconsin-Madison, Stanford, Illinois (Urbana), Berkeley, Duke, Pennsylvania, Penn State, SCU (Los Angeles), Tennessee, Missouri-Columbia, Hawaii, Kansas State (Manhattan), Oakland, Florida, Michigan State, University of Michigan, Carlton, Guelph, Toronto, as well as international agencies like, the World Bank, Institute of Economic Development, Agency for International Development, and Society of International Development.

Professional Societies

1. American Agricultural Economics Association.
2. International Association of Agricultural Economics.
3. The Indian Society of Agricultural Economics.
4. Association of Indian Economic Studies (United States).
5. Smithsonian Institute.

Some of the Conferences attended and Lectures given by Invitation:
(Not counting regular annual meetings of Professional Associations)

- 1965 -- International Conference on World Food Problems, San Francisco.
- 1972 -- Association of Asian Studies, New York.
- 1973 -- World Conference of the Society for International Development, San Jose, Costa Rica.
- 1975 -- Conference of the Institutes of Economic Research and Development of South and Southeast Asia, Australian National University, Canberra.
- 1977 -- Conference on "Political Aspects of World Food Problems," Kansas State University, Manhattan.
- 1977 -- Series of lectures under the President's Club Lecture Program on the theme of "Human Values and the Natural Environment," Oakland University, Michigan.
- 1977 -- Series of lectures on "International Agriculture," at Michigan State University, International Programs.
- 1977 -- Administrators' Development Seminar for AID Executives, Washington, D.C.
- 1977 -- Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Asian Studies, University of Brunswick, Fredrickton.
- 1978 -- International Seminar on "Community Development in Developing Countries," University of Missouri-Columbia.
- 1978 -- Lecture tour in Canada, sponsored by Shastri Institute of Indo-Canadian Cooperation.
- 1978 -- Farming Systems Research Seminar, International Agricultural Programs, Kansas State University, Manhattan.
- 1979 -- International Conference of Agricultural Economists, Banff, Alberta.
- 1981 -- Conference on "Agriculture and Human Values," University of Florida.
- 1981 -- Series of lectures at Institute of Development Studies, University of Maryland (Summer Program on Economic Development).
- 1982 -- AID sponsored Conference on "Third World Trade and Development Issues," St. Louis, Missouri.
- 1983 -- Fifth Conference of Association of Indian Economic Studies, Madison.

Nationality: Indian (Permanent Resident, United States).

Date of Birth: August 17, 1919.

Formal Education: Bachelor of Arts, Nagpur University, India.

Why no Ph.D.?

A Brief Explanation:

It was unusual for women in India to pursue graduate studies in the 1930s - I was the only female student in the College. I dropped out at the age of 18, however, in spite of a brilliant scholastic record and much to the disappointment of my parents, because: a) I fell in love (got married); b) I found the curriculum dull and wholly irrelevant; c) I did not know at the time that I would have a career in academia, especially in the United States. Nevertheless, by the age of 20 I began to reeducate myself systematically. In 1941, I got into political journalism (also unusual for women at that time) and got involved in the freedom movement. It brought me in touch with real life as well as with the entire spectrum of India's intellectual and political leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. Immediately after independence I became a correspondent for several West European newspapers and switched entirely to writing about rural development policies and programs (again unusual even for male journalists). Ten years of first hand coverage of every type of development project, in different parts of the country gave me the idea of doing an all India survey of the farmers' attitudes and responses to the government's plans and efforts to improve their lives and farming practices -- as reported in Blossoms in the Dust. That ended my career as a journalist. Within a year of the publication of Blossoms I started the research for The Lonely Furrow. Since then I have not had the time to go back to college; nor have I felt the need to do so; i.e. get a Ph.D.

Kusum Nair