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Education for rural development in Côte d'Ivoire: School-based cooperatives as a vehicle for a successful transition of primary school leavers/dropouts from school to real life (in French).

Order Number AAT 3056229

Gnagne, Jacqueline A., Ed.D. University Of Massachusetts Amherst, 2002. 249 pp. Adviser: Love, Barbara J.

Students dropping out of school at an early stage represent a problem in developed and poor countries. It becomes even more critical when the disappointment and frustration cause parents and their children to question the goal of education, which for them is to find meaningful employment. Unemployment among young people in Côte d'Ivoire is reaching staggering proportions, and poverty among rural dwellers is at its worst. Meanwhile, rural areas are drained of any young substance. Clearly, the battle for development is being lost. This study explores the attitudes of students, parents, teachers and school officials toward rural development and explores school-based cooperatives as a way to help primary school dropouts make a successful transition from school to real life. A qualitative method was used in combination with quantitative method to give a voice to ordinary Ivorians through 300 surveys, 12 in-depth interviews, one focus group with teachers, school officials, students and parents. Subjects took a close look at the education available, reevaluated their attitudes and speculated on how they can take advantage of the education that is available to them prepare for a meaningful life in the rural areas. The findings and implications are: (1) The attitude toward rural development is negative. (2) The occupational aspirations of youth are predominantly prestigious white-collar jobs. (3) To be successful, teachers need better training and better salaries. (4) The introduction of national languages will facilitate parents' interaction with schools. (5) Rural areas are not attractive enough for young people to want to make a living. (6) Education by itself cannot solve all the problems of underdevelopment. (7) A school to work transition program is necessary. (8) Private organizations need to finance new programs in education. (9) Development of the rural areas needs to occur alongside the development of urban areas. (10) Land reform is needed to facilitate land ownership. (11) A change in mentality and attitude needs to occur.

Essays on farmer behaviour: Co-operative performance and farm risk exposure (Sweden).

Order number not available from UMI

Hedberg, Anna, Agrdr. Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet, 2002. 35 pp.

Articles I-III in the present thesis provide analyses about the behaviour of farmer cooperatives in the Swedish dairy market. Three topics are investigated: the exercise of price

discrimination by co-operatives, co-operative objectives and pricing in the market for the raw product, and the cost structure and economies of size in dairy processing. Open membership co-operatives are ill suited to the exercise of market power, as they cannot control members' deliveries of the raw product. The co-operative may, however, control the flow of products across markets and engage in price discrimination. The results from article I suggest that the Swedish dairy industry has exercised some price discrimination, but of limited significance. Governmental intervention, through the internal milk regulation system, seems to be responsible for the main part of the price discrimination outcome. Alternative co-operative objectives are analysed in article II. The micro-economic analysis defines the derived demand for input milk based on marginal revenues and costs as a first-best choice. The results of the empirical study support, however, an assumption of dairy co-operatives practising average pricing (NARP pricing) towards members. That is, the co-operative pays the maximum producer price possible, subject to the break-even requirement. Economies of size are crucial for the analysis of price and output equilibria for a marketing co-operative. In article III, I investigate whether the cost structure can be used as an efficiency argument for a co-operative dairy industry in Sweden. The results indicate economies of size in milk processing and accordingly, marketing co-operatives appear as the preferable business form. In article IV, I analyse production decisions by crop farmers, facing risk exposure through alternative policy scenarios. Expected utility, risk premiums, and optimal production plans are compared for three scenarios: the former Swedish agricultural policy, an internally deregulated domestic market, and the Common Agricultural Policy applied in the European Union in the middle of the 1990s. A comparison between the expected value-variance (EV) model and an alternative non-parametric approach suggests that the EV model yields a reasonable approximation of expected utility.

Community-based cooperatives and networks: Participatory social movement assessment of four organizations.

Order Number AAT 3060099

Green, John Jason, Ph.D., University of Missouri – Columbia, 2002. 347 pp. Adviser: Rikoon, J. Sanford.

Community-based cooperatives (CBCs) represent a synthesis of community organizations and cooperative businesses. They combine advocacy, marketing and other services with democratic structures and participatory processes. Originating from the poor people's cooperatives of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and struggles for civil and economic rights, CBCs developed local, regional, national and international networks in a movement for livelihood security among small, limited resource and minority agricultural producers. This study focuses attention on four organizations, analyzing them from the micro to macro level: Beat Four Farm Cooperative, Mississippi Association of Cooperatives, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund and Rural Coalition. Utilizing a participatory social movement assessment framework, specific research methods included participant observation, individual and group key-informant interviews, focus groups and document review. Findings illustrate the historical development of CBCs and their network organizations, emphasizing their foundation in broader social movements. Focusing attention on a collaborative advocacy campaign, results suggest micro level concern with issues of production, marketing, financ-

ing, community structure and the applicability of government programs. Network organizations advocate for more targeted services for small, limited resource and minority producers and greater attention to power relations. These organizations also engage in marketing efforts including farmers markets, community food security and fair trade programs. To conclude, it is argued that in response to the challenges posed by dominant structures and processes, CBCs and their networks have developed counter-hegemonic institutions that illustrate the potential for an alternative organization of the agri-food system.