

COMPREHENSIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN TAE-AN TOWNSHIP AND IN KOREA

Tae-an Township is an outstanding example of US/ROK cooperation and represents, in miniature, the agricultural efforts and achievements of Korea today.

There are 13 thousand people in Tae-an Township. Six out of seven families earn their livelihoods directly from farming. Each farm family has an average of 3.0 acres of farmland, of which 64 per cent is rice paddy land and 36 per cent "upland" (i. e., used primarily for cultivation of crops other than rice).

Irrigation

Tae-an's water is available to farmers from reservoirs, wells, pumps and low dams. To provide additional water to paddy land, two new dams have recently been constructed and two new pumps recently installed in Tae-an. As a result of such efforts, 70 per cent of Tae-an's paddy land is presently fully irrigated (and therefore considerably less endangered by the vagaries of weather) and only 30 per cent partially irrigated--as opposed to a national average of 56 per cent and 44 per cent, respectively. It is expected that investments during the Second Five-Year Plan period will result in the national percentage approaching Tae-an's.

Paddy Land Rearrangement

In order to increase the efficiency of water utilization and water drainage, thereby increasing crop yields and permitting more extensive double-cropping, several methods are used. These include land leveling, straightening of field borders, enlarging irrigation canals and roadways and consolidating arable land. In Tae-an Township nearly 550 acres of paddy land have been rearranged by these methods. Nationally, this program has covered 148,200 acres, and 500,000 additional acres will be done during the Second Five-Year Plan period.

Bench Terracing

Arable land is scarce in Korea. One highly successful means of adding to this scarce resource has been bench terracing of otherwise low productivity upland. One hundred and fifty-eight acres of land have been terraced in Tae-an Township. Nationwide, over 335,000 acres have been reclaimed. Over 500,000 additional acres of upland to be

reclaimed during 1966-71 will add 9 per cent to Korea's land base. Food for Peace commodities provided by the U.S., used as partial payment for labor, are playing a major role in this program. Eventually, 25 per cent will be added to Korea's land base through upland reclamation.

Reforestation and Erosion Control

Some 268 acres of land in Tae-an Township will receive nearly 300,000 seedlings of acacia, pine and chestnut. Nationally 3.2 billion seedlings have been planted since 1961 on over 3,000,000 acres to reestablish forests and prevent erosion.

U.S. Assistance

To support all these and related activities--paddy rearrangement, bench terracing, upland reclamation, irrigation, reforestation, and erosion control, the U.S. has provided substantial quantities of grain to Tae-an Township under the PL 480 Title II Food for Peace Program. It has also contributed to this project as well as to other such projects throughout the nation through technical assistance in agricultural engineering, soils, crops, entomology, forestry and farm management and through fertilizer imports under the Supporting Assistance Program. U.S. direct contributions to the Tae-an project represent an input of only \$61,000, or only 21 per cent of the estimated total cost of all programmed activities in the area. The balance, or 79 per cent of the total costs, came from ROK national programs, from provincial sources, and from the farmers themselves. The magnitude of self-help is evident.

The U.S. has spent \$31 million for technical assistance to Korean agriculture and has provided \$480 million worth of fertilizer and over \$6 million for pesticides. This assistance, married to vigorous Korean efforts, has brought outstanding agricultural development. Some of the dramatic statistics are:

1. Total agricultural output has increased an average of 6.8 per cent per year since 1960 (9.0 per cent since 1962).
2. Food grain production has increased at a rate of 6.9 per cent per year since 1960, and has averaged 11 per cent per year since 1962.

Throughout Korea thousands of projects and activities, similar in design and accomplishment to that in Tae-an Township, are moving forward. The Tae-an project indicates the extremely high returns, both economic and humanitarian, which can result from the combined and coordinated use of U.S. farm commodities and technical assistance, and Korean material and budgetary contributions.

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The Tae-an Myun School -- an Example of Self-Help

The 10-year-old Tae-an School represents a unique example of rural self-help. It serves both as a middle school (junior high school level) and a center for adult education. The villagers' desire for this school was so great that four villages in the area pooled their meagre resources and solicited private funds to build the school -- no provincial or Central government funds were used.

It was established at first for adult classes only, in a rented room in the village. Four years later it was broadened to a middle school to provide educational opportunities for elementary school graduates who could not afford more expensive middle schools.

At that time -- in 1960 -- Cha Hak Kon obtained a license from the Ministry of Education to set up the middle school. The four villages in the area joined together to erect a 2,160 square foot mud-brick building. The villagers donated rice and labor, while Mr. Cha solicited funds for materials from various sources. In 1962, thanks to additional gifts, the building was enlarged by 1,152 square feet to its present size.

The school has a daytime enrollment of 150 young people, while 30 adults attend night classes.

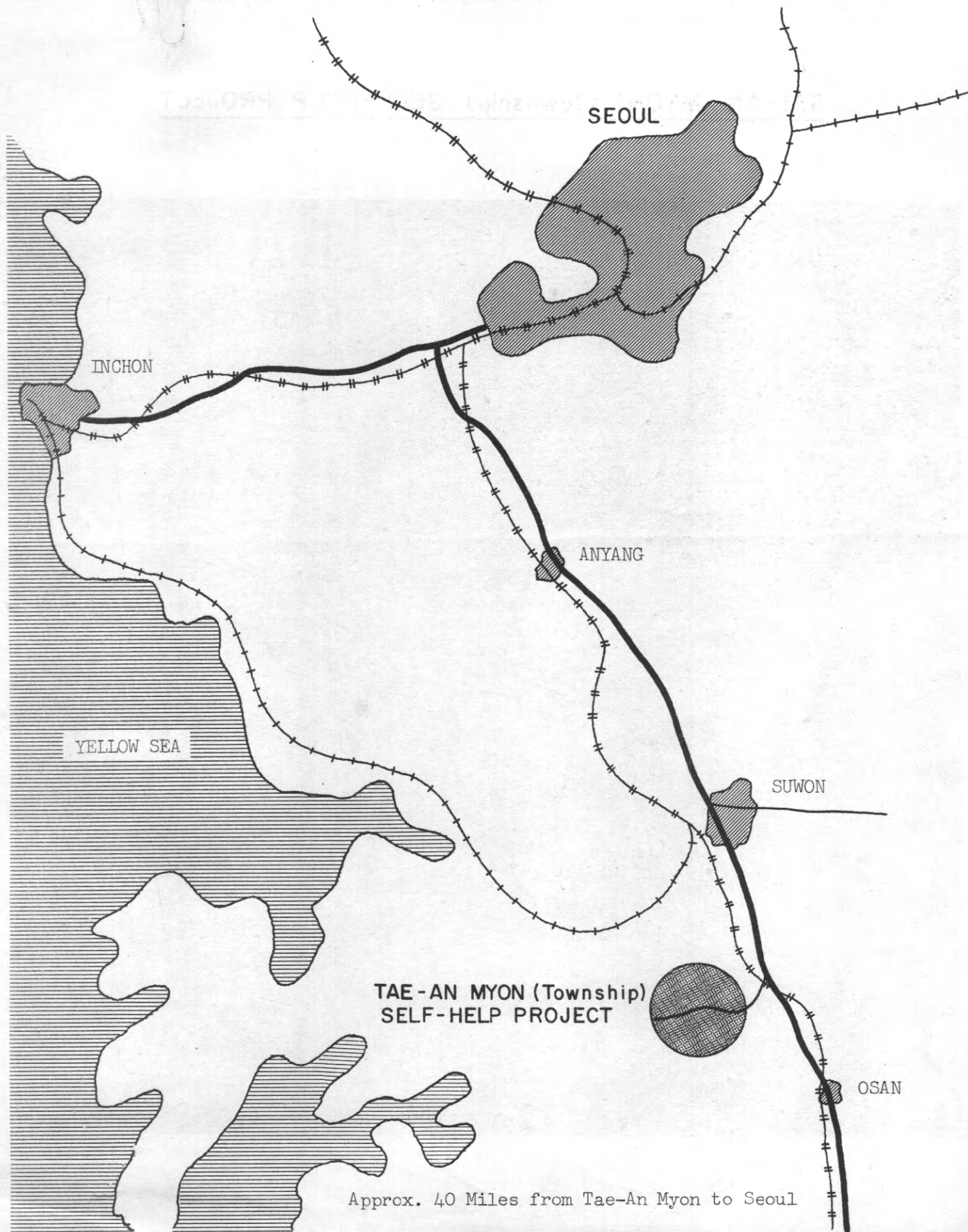
Seven teachers, six of them college graduates, teach both categories of students. The young people study eight subjects -- mathematics, general agriculture, general science, English, moral principles, physical education, music and art.

The school's only income is the 160 Won (59 cents) which each middle school pupil pays in tuition each month. Each teacher receives 3,000 Won (about \$11) a month, and the teachers supplement this by farming.

The teachers, most of them from one of the four villages responsible for the original building, are dedicated to helping the villagers obtain a better education.

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TAE-AN MYON (Township) SELF-HELP PROJECT



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