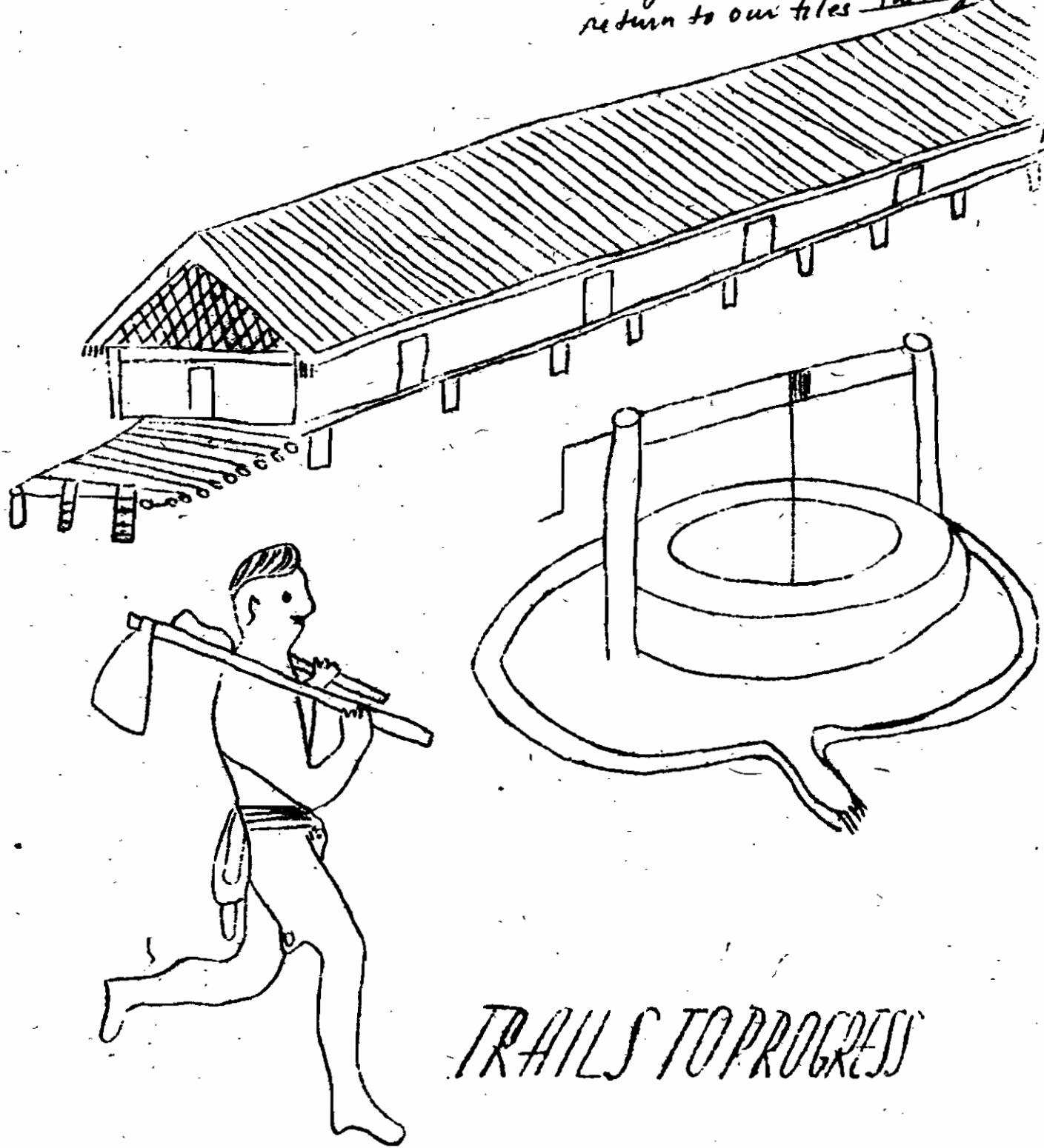


To → Earl Rhine
Room 101

If you have seen
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TRAILS TO PROGRESS

HELP TO THE MOUNTAINEER

INTRODUCTION

Today, more than ever before, the Mountaineers of South Vietnam must learn to adjust to a changing world. No longer can they depend on the forests to supply them with enough wild fruits, vegetables, and game to meet their needs; no longer can they shift their rice fields from location to location as fertility lowers. An increasing population in the Highlands and the relocation of thousands of Mountaineers to population centers are forcing a change in the hunting and slash-and-burn culture of the tribesmen of Vietnam.

In a program of Mountaineer development it is important that the Mountaineer carry out the program himself. It should be done so that old patterns of life are not greatly disturbed. As an example, the Rhade have very good houses built two to three meters off the ground. He should be encouraged to continue living in this type housing. A great deal of emphasis must be put into the training of Montagnard leaders. The advancements will be simple things which will allow the leaders and their people to advance at a steady rate, but not drastically change their style of living.

Changes and improvements should take into consideration certain advantages which the tribesmen have. Some of these are:

- a) Fairly large animal populations (buffalo, cattle, swine, and chickens).
- b) Vast knowledge of the forests.
- c) Large land holdings when compared with the Vietnamese.

At the same time, he has certain disadvantages such as:

- a) A small amount of money to start a business. Perhaps more important he has had little experience in using money and is often taken advantage of at the market place.
- b) Little formal education.
- c) Not familiar with a permanent type of agriculture.

The Mountaineer generally live in family groups in long houses in villages of 25 to two or three thousand people. Each three or four years a new forest area is roughly cleared and burnt over. Burning the forest area before planting is not only the most simple way of clearing an area but is probably very beneficial in destroying insects that might do great damage to the crops. However, the land is laid open to the violent monsoon rains. Leaching and erosion rapidly lower the productivity of

the land. Upland rice, the most important crop, is planted and corn, hot peppers, tobacco, squash, and egg-plant interplanted with the rice. A few fruits, especially bananas, are planted in the villages.

This pamphlet is being written to describe some of the projects the Ministry of Agriculture, USCM and International Voluntary Services have jointly undertaken to help the Mountaineer develop a better agriculture for himself and his families. In all cases emphasis is placed on simple improvements with the Mountaineer himself administering the change. Most of the programs are "village" projects which involve the whole community. Some of them such as the Rhade Extension Team or the Pilot Village Project at Phuoc Luong attempt to make changes in many phases of village life; others such as the well digging project or the rice demonstration project concentrate on one part of the life of the villager.

RHADE PLANT NURSERY

The Rhade Plant Nursery was established in July, 1961, to give practical training to the Rhade in the use of simple tools and in the planting and care of tree crops, vegetables, and other crops which might be of value for village use and as a source of income. Asia Foundation gave the financial assistance necessary to open and maintain the nursery during the first year of operation. Since then it has been financed by Land Development.

The nursery consists of approximately 3.5 acres. Title to this land has been purchased for five years. The contract will be void in June 1966. One building was purchased with the land title and a dormitory was constructed to house the workers and trainees. A small stream provides easy access to water at all times. This is especially important during the dry season. A gasoline pump is used for irrigation.

Running trials with vegetables and the propagation of seed is carried out by six or seven laborers, supervised by one manager. When the agricultural classes were started, an assistant manager, who is an animal husbandry graduate of the agricultural college, was hired to help in instructing the trainees. The students do much of the work in caring for the plants as part of their training. Several students were hired for a short period after they completed their regular classes to give them additional training in agricultural methods. Plans are to have tribesmen manage and operate the nursery as soon as sufficiently capable men can be hired and trained.

Fifteen thousand fruit trees were purchased in November 1961. These have been distributed among the Rhade villages in the Baumethuot area. They were distributed to the villagers at the beginning of the rainy season in June 1962. Experimental plots of local and imported varieties of vegetables are planted to find which are the best suited for the highland area. The nursery makes use of the experimental findings of the Ea Kmat experiment station. The proven varieties are then propagated in the nursery for distribution to the villages.

An agricultural training class was held during the first year of operation. The primary purpose of this program was to teach the tribesmen the basic methods of crop cultivation and the use of draft animals and simple implements for soil tillage. After the training session was completed the tribesmen returned to their villages to pass on their knowledge to the rest of the people. The training sessions covered a six day period and each class consisted of about fifteen trainees. The trainees for each class were selected from five villages, three from each village. All food, lodging, and training materials were provided during the training session.

The topics covered at each session included seedbed preparation, planting and transplanting methods, use of manure and compost, seed selection and storage, livestock selection and care, and the use of wooden plows and draft animals. Each student was assigned a plot to plant and cultivate during the week. The students worked several hours with a plow and draft animal. There were not adequate facilities to demonstrate the training of draft animals as had been initially planned.

Forty seven villages were invited to send trainees to the classes. Forty four villages sent a total of 102 men. In addition, a special, one-week class was held to train twenty-two mountaineer village teachers in basic methods of agriculture.

Fifteen thousand fruit trees are waiting in the nursery to be distributed during the next rainy season. Plans are being made for more training schools. The next sessions will be two weeks so as to include instruction in the training of draft animals.

The nursery has been received with great enthusiasm by the tribesmen as evidenced by their great interest in past training sessions and by the many requests for more. The people are now suggesting specific topics in which they would like to have instruction. One of its most important functions is to provide planting materials to the Traveling Extension Team. It also serves as a center to train the members of the Extension Team and to try new ideas which will later be demonstrated by the Team in the villages.

MOUNTAINEER EXTENSION TEAM

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The remote and scattered nature of Rhade villages in Banmethuot does not lend itself to easy development. Viet Cong agents have taken advantage of this situation in several ways; the most important of which is their effective propaganda toward convincing the tribesmen that the National Government is against them and only gives them token assistance.

In 1961, Asia Foundation, in cooperation with the Vietnamese Extension Service and IVS started a pilot training project with the Rhade tribesmen in the Banmethuot area. The basic idea was to draw on the resources of talent in the provincial agencies such as the Extension Service, Animal Husbandry, Agricultural Services, and the Office of the Province Chief. Efforts from these agencies were key factors in selecting 69 Rhade from 60 villages to attend a ten day training school in Banmethuot. Courses covered such things as animal disease control, tree crops, soils, forestry, fertilizer use, and improvement of crops in Rhade villages. Practical demonstrations were given in use of animal power for tilling fields and carrying loads. Demonstrations in building were also given. It was hoped that the tribesmen would take their new knowledge back to their villages.

The training program proved to be very effective but a follow-up was needed. Also, there were more lessons to be taught and more people to be reached. For this reason a Mountaineer Extension Team was proposed to carry out an extension - information program. The team was designed to get a maximum amount of information to maximum number of people in a manner that would make a favorable impression on the population and provide a means of perpetuating the flow of information.

Such a Mountaineer Extension Team was established in the Banmethuot area with funds provided by the Extension Service. The primary purpose of the team is to introduce improvements in agriculture, the home, and health through continued personal contact with the villages. It complements already existing programs through the introduction of new ideas as well as being able to follow-up help given by other projects. By showing movies at night and encouraging games, good will and cooperation with the government is encouraged.

The first team began work in March, 1962. It was made up of six members, all of whom were Rhade. They included two agricultural extension agents, three home improvement agents, and one medical technician. The team is headquartered in and supplied from Banmethuot. One day is spent in each of 40 villages. Each village is revisited periodically. The schedule remains flexible to allow for more time in a village or for visiting villages not on the regular schedule when the need arises.

Each member of the extension team has a demonstration to be shown in each village. Before the team makes its tour of the villages each team member receives a week's training in the particular demonstration he or she is to give. The training is done by specialists. This allows the use of individuals who have not had a great deal of formal training. The agents, however, must be people with the ability to explain things well. After a complete circuit of the 40 villages is made, the agents return to Banmethuot for a week's training in a new demonstration.

The Agricultural Agents, during the first circuit, placed emphasis in getting home gardens started and on improvement of rice culture. They gave specific demonstrations on building and filling a compost pit, preparing vegetable plots, and developing trial plots in the rice fields to show the value of turning under stubble. They also distributed plants and seed. On their second circuit demonstrations on transplanting citrus trees and distribution of seed and citrus trees were the important items.

The Home Agents demonstrated how to make a fresh vegetable salad, how to make tomato soup, and cooking fish in nutritious sugar sauce. During the second circuit they demonstrated five new food dishes and the techniques for bathing a baby.

The Medical Technician demonstrated the technique of building a pit privy, and gave out simple medicines to sick people.

The most important thing was that in each demonstration something was actually done for and by the villagers. They helped to plant fruit trees in their own village and are now watching them grow. They helped to prepare the food and then ate it. In each case they could feel that the team had made a contribution to their village as well as being involved in the learning process.

Movies in the evenings added a great deal to the popularity of the team. Both educational and entertaining movies are shown. They have included such topics as: San Antonio (a feature western), Buffaloes for plowing (in Rhade), Pig Raising, How to Double Rice Production, and How to Build a Pit Privy. The showings are attended by two or three hundred villagers. The use of polaroid film has also been an effective method of building up good working relations in the villages.

One of the biggest problems with the team has been the transportation. Because of the mobile nature of the team it is necessary for each team to have a vehicle. A program which would involve several hundred or several thousand villages would require many vehicles. Maintenance of the vehicles is also a problem as the roads in the rural districts where the teams work are usually bad and there is considerable wear and tear on the vehicles. The use of Lambrettas would cut the vehicle and fuel cost considerably.

Another problem is that during rice planting and harvest the villagers are very busy in the fields and the attendance at meetings is quite low. These times can be used effectively in training team members in new demonstrations and working on specific projects such as well repair and maintenance of equipment.

The value of the extension team in reaching a large number of people through a package extension information program and as a means of providing direct aid in the form of seed, trees, etc. has been recognized by provincial authorities. Extension leaders in Darlac and Lam Dong Provinces have requested additional teams. The cost of a team, not including the cost of the vehicle is about 400,000\$VN per year. This includes additions to the budget for self-help projects which are expected to increase the effectiveness of the team.

~~\$ 5,000 U.S.~~

MOUNTAINEER GARDEN PROJECT

A "self help" agricultural project for Mountaineer in Lan-Dong Province was initiated for the purpose of helping to establish family gardens. A garden plot near the house which would include such relatively easy to grow crops as manioc, sweet potatos, beans, and corn would supplement the diet and add variety and additional vitamins.

As the gardens develop, additional vegetable and fruit crops will be planted and the surpluses sold to provide needed cash. This way the Mountaineer would gradually be introduced to a more permanent system of Agriculture which would make them more self-sufficient.

The program, which was started in the Fall of 1961 with funds provided by the Directorate of Rural Affairs, was intended to supplement the already existing 4-T program in the province. The program was developed and carried out by Agricultural Affairs Service personnel and technicians of USOM and International Voluntary Services as a cooperative effort.

VILLAGE WORK - Where security conditions permit the work in the villages is supervised directly by 4-T advisors and IVS technicians. Regular visits are made to villages near Bao-Loc, Di-Linh and Da-Hoa, first to introduce the program and then to follow this up with instructions on planting of crops, use of manure, and care of the gardens. Seed, cuttings, hand tools and insecticides are distributed to anyone who showed initiative by clearing a site and building a fence for a garden.

The villagers who were contacted for the first time during the Fall of 1961 were most receptive to the idea of starting gardens. This was an opportune time for beginning the work because many of the people were becoming short of food since they had not yet harvested their new rice crop. Also they were not busy working in their rice fields at that time.

In the beginning of the rainy season it is more difficult because at that time the people are busy planting rice. Also many strategic hamlets were being constructed and villages relocated. These activities consume a major portion of the available labor.

The biggest handicap in the extension work in the villages is the lack of personnel and transportation. The time that can be spent in each village is not adequate enough to give instructions to all of the people. A team working full-time on the project, with their own means of transportation is needed, so that each village could be visited at least once every two or three weeks, and up to a day spent in each place.

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN AND NURSERY - In order to aid villages which could not be reached directly because of security, two demonstration gardens were established. These are located near Mountaineer guest houses in Bao-Loc and Di-Linh. These guest houses are used by people from distant villages when they come into town for shopping or other matters.

A worker was hired to start the gardens and to care for them. The gardens are planted to a variety of crops, including sweet potatoes, manioc, corn, beans, peanuts, lettuce, radishes, carrots, onions, chou-chou, squash, bobo, and pineapple. The gardens do not necessarily represent the ideal size for an individual family, nor is it intended that everyone try to plant all of the crops that are included. Rather it was to show what kinds of crops can be grown to demonstrate the various planting methods, to show the effect of using manure, and to show how some crops could be harvested throughout the year.

The demonstration gardens are also used for training classes and people from nearby villages are brought in at times to see them, and given instructions on planting.

A nursery was established in connection with both gardens for the production of sweet potato and manioc cuttings. These are for distribution at classes and to anyone who visits the demonstration garden and requests them. Some fruit trees have also been started in the nursery in Bao-Loc.

Near each garden a shelter was constructed for making and storing compost. Since no animal manure is available, plant material is being composted for use as fertilizer. Manure is nearly always available in the mountaineer villages.

PRIMARY SCHOOL - At the beginning of the Fall school term a practice garden was established at the Mountain or primary school in Bao-Loc. The garden was fenced and divided into equal plots, one for each class. The garden was planted to manioc, sweet potatoes, beans, onions, and peanuts, by the students. Assistance is given at the regular class and work periods and the teachers from the school were instructed in the demonstration garden.

Tools were also provided to the school, as well as seed and insecticides. In order to get the garden started in time, manure was obtained from the Bao-Loc Experiment Station to fertilize the crops. A shelter for making compost from pig manure will be constructed soon.

A second garden has been prepared in a lowland nearer a water supply. This garden is to be used during the dry seasons and planted to such crops as tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce, Chinese cabbage, and other vegetables.

TRAINING CLASSES - A total of four training classes on garden planting and care, consisting of from one to three hours of instruction were held during the year. These were conducted by 4-T advisors at the demonstration gardens. After the classes, seed and tools were distributed to all who attended.

TRAINING AIDS - A series of photos showing the steps in preparation and maintaining a garden was made. Three bulletin boards were constructed for displaying the photos. Two of these are permanently displayed at the demonstration garden in Bao-Loc and at the primary school. The third one is moved from village to village and left in one place for a week or two at a time.

The same series of pictures is being put into a bulletin with simple captions and when printed, it will be distributed in villages and at training classes.

A set of black and white 35mm slides was also made from the photo series.

SEED AND TOOL DISTRIBUTION - A total of 75 hoes and 10 knives was received from the Directorate of Rural Affairs and distributed to different villages. Additional tools including rakes, forks, weeding hoes and watering cans were purchased locally out of the project funds.

Seed was also purchased on the local market, from farmers in Dalat, or obtained from the Bao-Loc Experiment Station. Packets were prepared for easy distribution of the seed. There was enough seed in each packet for a single garden, and instructions for planting were printed on the outside.

MEDICAL AID - A medical kit, stocked with medicines furnished by USOM was prepared to take on trips to villages. Simple medicines are distributed at each visit, which has proved to be an excellent way to win friends among the people.

TRAINEE - Besides the worker who was hired to establish and maintain the demonstration gardens, a second agricultural trainee was hired. He is a tribes boy who has completed primary school. He is receiving practical training by working in the demonstration gardens, assisting at the agricultural classes at the primary school and going on trips to villages.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS - The interest and enthusiasm shown by people when they were first introduced to the self help project was consistent in every village contacted. For example in the Fall of 1961, six villages in Da Hoa were visited for the first time and promised

seed and cuttings if they would prepare land. By the time of the second visit about a week later, garden plots had been started in all except one village, and these people began work later. These were all villages of the Haa, a rather backward tribe, which had either no gardens at all or just small plots of tobacco. The idea of cultivating crops other than rice and protecting them against animals was largely new to them, but despite these difficulties some families were able to harvest good crops of sweet potatos and beans from their gardens.

At the beginning of the next planting season five of these six villages were being relocated or the people were building fences for strategic hamlets so they did not have time to work on gardens. As for Dang Hoang which had become a strategic hamlet the previous year, several families started gardens again and obtained even better results than during the previous year.

Even a complete failure the first time did not mean the end of all interest in garden work. In Kon-teh village, near Bao-Loc, almost every family had a plot in the community garden area the first year. However, because it was a community affair, no individual family seemed to want to accept the responsibility for maintaining the fence or seeing that gates were kept closed. As a result, the village livestock completely destroyed the garden before anything could be harvested.

The following year the village chief began another garden by his own initiative, with a fence separating it from the others. He even placed a crude sign in front of the garden with the Koho words meaning model garden, in imitation of the sign on the demonstration garden in Blao.

The demonstration garden proved to be an important factor also in stimulating the interest of the chief of Tan Lu, a resettlement village with a population of over a thousand. When the idea of starting family gardens was first proposed to him he was interested and said himself that a program of this type was very important to help his people become more civilized. But he said little could be done until the next rainy season because the people were busy building a fence and moat around the village. He was invited anyway to visit the demonstration garden in Bao-Loc and as soon as he saw it he began taking measurements of the beds and planting distances. A week later when another visit was made to Tan Lu to see if the chief might be interested in starting at least one garden as a demonstration he had already prepared the land and was almost finished with the fence. He was given seed, cuttings and tools and helped to plant the garden. Since it was already late in the season most of the garden was planted to sweet potatos and manioc.

The effect of the demonstration gardens and training classes on people from more distant villages is more difficult to determine because it is impossible to go to these villages. However word has been received from three villages where the people were given seed and tools at a training class, and excellent results were reported. In at least one village the people were able to grow two crops, saving seed to replant, and reported sweet potatos "as big as your leg". This is probably an exaggeration but shows the satisfaction the people received from a successful garden.

The most important factor in making this program a success is to be able to follow up on the work once it is started. A proposal has been submitted for the formation of a full time extension team for the Koho in Lam Dong Province, similar to the one that is in operation with the Rhade. They would make regular visits to the villages throughout the year. Besides helping with fruit and vegetable gardens, they would provide information and assistance on rice improvement, livestock care, home improvement, medical care and sanitation. Qualified tribesmen are available to form this team, and from what has been learned in the past, the people are eager to receive the help.

HAND DUG WELLS IN LAM-DONG PROVINCE

The using of unsanitary water for drinking and food preparation is a major health problem for most mountaineer villages. It is necessary to aid the villagers to find an adequate source of relatively pure water which is fairly accessible. The distances which some of the mountaineer must go to obtain water varies from a few hundred meters to as much as one or two kilometers.

With these problems in mind a program was envisioned by GVN, USOM, and IVS to help to encourage the villagers to dig village wells. It was decided to keep the wells as simple as possible and to involve the villagers in the actual construction. In this way it would be their project. Money was obtained from the Vietnamese Extension Service to build ten wells which would give a good start to the program. From this initial phase it would be possible to foresee future needs. The money is used to purchase the materials to build a well cap and drainage apron, to pay the wages of a mason, and to buy a rope and bucket. Rural Affairs supplied 100 bags of cement to be used in the program. The average cost of a completed well is 700\$VN including the value of the cement.

~~\$1.75 U.S.~~

With the money and cement available the field work began the first of December, 1962. Villages around Bao-Loc and Di-Linh were chosen for the first series of wells.

The procedure for approaching the village chief and his people on the possibility of digging a well are basically the same in each village. First the benefits of having a centrally located well near the village to provide fresh water for drinking and cooking are discussed. Then an agreement is made with the village whereby they will provide the labor for digging the well, and the materials and mason to build the cap and drainage apron will be provided for them. In all cases the villages which have been contacted have been anxious to provide men to dig these fresh water wells.

After agreement on the points, the possible locations for the new wells are inspected. After discussing the advantages and disadvantages of each proposed site, one is chosen and the digging begins.

Each well is one meter in diameter and at present they vary from four to ten meters in depth. In order to speed up the digging a crowbar and pick-axe are provided in addition to the mountaineer's own tools. With an average of three men digging, a well is completed in three or four days in the Bao-Loc area. In each case enough dirt is excavated that one meter or more of water is standing in the well.

As soon as the digging of the well is completed, stone, sand, and cement are transported to the site. The mason constructs the well cap and drainage apron. This part of the job usually takes three days. At the same time some of the villagers cut poles to make a windlass. This has proven to be the simplest and most economical method of lifting the water from the wells. The cost is negligible and since the windlass is made of wood and has no mechanical parts, there is no chance for mechanical failure. There will be no operating cost to the village. In two weeks when the dirt mixed with the water during the digging silts to the bottom, gravel and lime are put into the well to make it cleaner.

At present five wells have been completed. These are in the villages of Tan Lu, Djour L'mour, Bobla, Klong Trao, and But Sut. Another well in Dong Dor was recapped.

It should be pointed out that this particular project will not necessarily adapt itself to all areas. The relatively high water table in Lam-Dong Province made the hand digging of the wells easier.

The initial enthusiasm of each village was very encouraging. In each case all the people wanted to have a well which would provide them with cleaner water. From these first ten wells it is hoped that other neighboring villages will take the initiative and dig their own wells with no outside help. The advantage of a simple procedure with a very low cost per well will help to make this a self-perpetuating program.

MAA TRIBES RICE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Because of the large scale tribes resettlement program being carried out, there is a great need for increasing the food supply. In past years the tribes people depended on their ability to move around the Highlands, planting their rice in the same spot for one or two years. After two plantings the soil fertility would be badly depleted and it was then necessary to shift the rice field to another site. This nomadic type of life is no longer possible. One of the best ways to raise their standard of living is to increase the yield of upland rice.

Mr. Vu Phuong Tho, Chief of the Agricultural Services of Lam-Dong Province, requested that demonstration fields be set up in the resettlement villages of Tan Lu near Bao-Loc and Dong Dor near Di-Linh. These will include an area for an upland rice demonstration in each village. The use of compost, commercial fertilizers, and insecticides will be demonstrated. The villages in the Bao-Loc and Di-Linh areas will each send a representative to the demonstration areas for the period of preparing and fertilizing the land, and planting the rice.

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Asia Foundation made available 85,000\$VN to be used to set up the demonstration areas. This grant will cover the development and operating costs of the two fields for one year. It will also provide for the purchase of cement, spraying equipment, insecticides, and fertilizer. The villagers will provide the required labor.

Work will soon begin on building three combination cattle-compost sheds for each village. Each village has approximately 1200 people. When they came to the resettlement area, they brought about 50 head of buffalo with them. It is estimated that three buildings, 10m x 5m for each village will be adequate housing for these animals for the next three years. The village people will provide all labor for the construction of the buildings. Wood, bamboo, and thatch will be taken from the nearby jungles. Approximately 100 bags of cement will be used for the floors and compost pit in each village. There will also be the cost for rock and gravel, to hire a mason, and to purchase the sprayers, insecticides, and fertilizers.

The compost collected in the buffalo pens will be used in fertilizer demonstrations with the rice planting. If this demonstration indicates that this program is economical it will be expanded. At that time a one-month training course could be set up for training village representatives to handle each individual village problem.

PHUOC LUONG - A PILOT PROJECT

Phuoc Luong is a mountaineer resettlement village located near Nha-Trang. Approximately 1200 refugees settled there November 31, 1960. They had been driven from their homes by the Viet Cong who tried to move the villagers into a dense jungle area which was completely under the control of the Communists. The villagers were forced to abandon all except what they could carry. They left behind food, clothing, household goods, tools, seed, and livestock. All that they were able to take with them was a small quantity of rice. The refugees were in dire need of help to meet their basic needs of livelihood.

The Mennonite Central Committee and the Catholic Relief Agency supplied the refugees with 2000 bags of rice. This was their only source of food for a nine month period. The rice was used for consumption and the village had no seed for planting crops for the coming year. The group had cleared some land, but was reluctant to continue such work without a source of seed.

During July and August, 1961, meetings were held with Phuoc Luong village officials and Vietnamese government officials to learn possible ways that the villagers might be helped to make themselves self-sufficient. The 200 families had only 100 hectares of cleared land. They lacked the tools to adequately clear the land and had no seed to plant. They had to rent farming tools and in some cases were forced to hire operators with the tools.

Meetings were held with the village leaders and the District Chief to determine what help the villagers wanted most and how this help could be coordinated with Agricultural Services. Possibilities of starting small industries which might provide income were also discussed. These included blacksmith work, a bamboo factory, the making of mats, baskets, and jewelry, dressmaking, and charcoal manufacture. It appeared that the blacksmith project was the most worthy of immediate promise. The village people placed it on a high priority. Ten of the men were experienced blacksmiths. All that was lacking was the tools to work with. These tools represented a relatively small investment.

#315 U.S.

Money was obtained through the Asia Foundation to buy seed and simple blacksmith equipment. Twenty-six thousand piasters were supplied to purchase seed and 5,000\$VN for blacksmith tools. Since the villagers did not have a great deal of experience in agriculture, it was decided to limit the crops to those which are easy to grow-upland rice, corn, and beans. Two blacksmith shops were set up to make simple tillage and wood-cutting tools. The tillage implements greatly expedited planting crops.

#62 U.S.

The woodcutting tools were used in land clearing, in constructing a stock site for the village, and in cutting wood for market. The latter was their only source of cash income.

To improve health, casings were built for wells and a travel fund was established to enable sick people to go to the missionary hospital twenty miles away. A small school was started which is attended by 75 village children.

The crops planted from the seed provided the main source of food during the first half of 1962. The villagers saved seed from the best plants for the May-June rainy season. The conditions in the village improved considerable during the first year at Phuoc Luong. Probably most important in their successful resettlement was their own ambition and cooperative spirit.

The help came from many sources. The Agricultural Services office in Nha-Trang provided technical assistance. The Directorate of Agriculture provided a truck to carry the seed from the Banmetiut to the village. Asia Foundation furnished the money to buy the seed and tools. American Girl Scouts in Saigon collected clothing. USCI provided carts to be used to carry the wood to market. The Mennonite Central Committee and Catholic Relief Agency provided food. IVS team members worked closely with the people of Phuoc Luong as they planted their seed or made hand-tools in their new blacksmith shops.

Certain lessons were learned in the work at Phuoc Luong which will be of use in future projects with other mountaineer resettlement villages.

1. Selection of the site is very important.
2. Greater enthusiasm is developed if the villagers meet together to decide what kind of help they need and want and to plan a work program.
3. Help given should be fairly simple and not involve having to learn new difficult skills. It should also be of a nature which is fairly certain to succeed. Seed should be local and obtained in the area if possible. Germination should be checked. The villages cannot afford to gamble with untested foreign varieties.
4. Very often special skills, such as the blacksmiths in Phuoc Luong, are available and can make a valuable contribution with encouragement and a little help.
5. Most resettlement villages will have to go through a long difficult period of adjustment. They will require help over a fairly long period on a step-by-step basis.

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