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FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ON RICE PRODUCTION IN THE BU COMMUNITY (1965-2022)

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To the Anangmbi Family

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ABSTRACT

This work examines the evolution and impact of foreign assistance on rice production in the Bu Community. For an innate apprehension, the study begins by presenting the social, economic and political set-up of the area of study, before foreign assistance. It further demonstrates that foreign assistance came into Bu through German Technical Assistance (GTA), emanating from the economic and technical cooperation agreement, signed between Cameroon and West Germany in 1962. It examines how this Cooperation evolved and impacted rice production in Bu, through the Wum Area Development Authority (WADA). It also lays emphasis on the contribution of the Chinese in Tingoh, the advent of the *Appui aux Strategies Paysannes de la Professionalisation de L'Agriculture (ASPPA)* and *Programme d'Appui au Developpement des Filieres Agricoles (PADFA)*, their impacts, difficulties and way forward. For a successful realisation of the forgoing, data was collated from a wide range of primary and secondary sources, that were confronted and analysed through the qualitative research method. Emphasis was laid on oral sources, obtained through a set of selected informants, among which were both current and ex-workers of the Bu rice cooperative, rice farmers and representatives of PADFA in the North West Region of Cameroon, indigenes of Wum Central and rice farmers at mile 37. After this analysis, we were able to attain the following results: That rice production was timid in Bu before the advent of foreign assistance, because the rice farmers lacked the necessary tools and scientific knowhow needed for its cultivation, making production unproductive, despite the areas' favourable geographical and human setting. That foreign assistance enhanced rice production in Bu, leading to an economic and social improvement of the peoples in the area. The study argues that despite enormous challenges, foreign assistance contributed greatly to rice production in Bu. It ends with some recommendations as a way forward.

RÉSUMÉ

Ce travail examine l'évolution et l'impact de l'aide étrangère sur la production de riz dans la communauté Bu. Pour une meilleure compréhension, l'étude commence par présenter la situation sociale, économique et politique de la zone d'étude, avant l'assistance étrangère. Elle démontre ensuite que l'assistance étrangère est arrivée à Bu par le biais de l'assistance technique allemande (GTA), émanant de l'accord de coopération économique et technique signé entre le Cameroun et l'Allemagne de l'Ouest en 1962. Il examine comment cette coopération a évolué et a eu un impact sur la production de riz à Bu, par l'intermédiaire de l'Autorité de développement de la zone de Wum (WADA). Il met également l'accent sur la contribution des Chinois à Tingoh, l'avènement de l'Appui aux Stratégies Paysannes de la Professionnalisation de l'Agriculture (ASPPA) et du Programme d'Appui au Développement des Filières Agricoles (PADFA), leurs impacts, leurs difficultés et leurs perspectives d'avenir. Pour mener à bien ce projet, des données ont été recueillies auprès d'un large éventail de sources primaires et secondaires, qui ont été confrontées et analysées par le biais d'une méthode de recherche qualitative. L'accent a été mis sur les sources orales, obtenues par le biais d'un ensemble d'informateurs sélectionnés, parmi lesquels des travailleurs actuels et anciens de la coopérative rizicole de Bu, des riziculteurs et des représentants de la PADFA dans la région du Nord-Ouest du Cameroun, des autochtones de Wum Central et des riziculteurs du point kilométrique 37. Après cette analyse, nous avons pu obtenir les résultats suivants : La production de riz était timide à Bu avant l'arrivée de l'aide étrangère, car les riziculteurs ne disposaient pas des outils et des connaissances scientifiques nécessaires à sa culture, ce qui rendait la production improductive, malgré le contexte géographique et humain favorable de la région. L'aide étrangère a permis d'améliorer la production de riz à Bu, ce qui a conduit à une amélioration économique et sociale des populations de la région. L'étude affirme qu'en dépit d'énormes défis, l'aide étrangère a grandement contribué à la production de riz à Bu. Elle se termine par quelques recommandations sur la voie à suivre.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ATC	Agricultural Training Center
ASPPA	<i>Appui Aux Strategies Paysannes et la Professionalisation de l'Agriculture</i>
BMRCSLTDS	Bu-Mbengkas Rice Cooperative Society
CENEEMA	<i>Centre d Etude et d Experimentation du Machinisme Agricole</i>
CENADEC	<i>Centre National de Developpement des Entreprises Cooperatives</i>
FRC	Federal Republic of Cameroon
FRG	Federal Republic of Germaany
FOGAPE	<i>Fond de Garaantie Aux Petites et Moyonnes Entreprises</i>
FONADER	<i>Fund National Pour Le Developement Rural</i>
GTA	German Technical Assistance
GFP	Farming Group Programme
IRZ	<i>Institute de Recerche Zologique</i>
IRAD	<i>Institute de Recherche Agricole pour le Developpement</i>
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
MINADER	<i>Ministère d'Agriculture et de Developpemnt Rurale</i>
NAEAS	National Agricultural Extension and Advisory System
NPMD	National Produce Marketing Board
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization.
OHADA	<i>Organisation Pour l'Harmonisation en Afrique du Droit des Affaires</i>
PADFA	<i>Programme de Appui au Developpement de Filières Agricole</i>
SNI	<i>Societe National d'Investissement</i>
WADA	Wum Area Development Authority
WAMCOPS	Wum Area Multi- Purpose Cooperative Society
UPC	<i>Union des Populations du Cameroun</i>

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Rice farming has been an age long activity practiced in most parts of the world. This practice has been very lucrative and self-sustaining to those involved in it. Its roots could be traced to pioneer human societies, it has evolved over time and circumstances, affecting human well-being in diverse ways. The word rice was first used around the thirteenth century, rice has its origin in the *Oryza Sativa*, commonly known as Asian rice or Indica Rice. The plant species most commonly referred to in English as rice, it is the type of farmed rice, whose cultivars are most common globally and was first domesticated in the Yangtze River basin in China.¹ Rice is an agricultural food crop used for household consumption and marketing. Throughout history, human livelihood has in parts rested on rice cultivation, it has the potentials to provide a flow of essential food products throughout the year besides a major source of government revenue and export earnings that sustain the employment and income of millions of people in rural areas. This has also contributed to the growth of society and poverty reduction.

In Africa where Agriculture is the main stay of the economy, its population growth is hardly maintained. The performance of rice cultivation as part of agriculture is particularly disturbing while some modest productivity improvements have taken place, in cropping, rice cultivation increase in the past have been largely due to numeric expansion of development. Major rice cultivation areas in Africa like Western Africa and parts of Central Africa provide an extremely fragile environment in which the constant threat of drought affects not only the cultivation process, but that of the human population as well.² Cattle rearing by herdsmen is a great impediment to rice cultivation in most parts of Africa, which makes the cultivation process difficult. Overall, rice production and availability of rice, provides rice for household consumption and for marketing, irrespective of low level of consumption of the African rice. Production does not keep pace with demand and the region as a whole move towards the position of the net importer of rice despite its apparent potential.³

At independence many African states earmarked parastatals as agencies of development. In this backdrop, the state had a central role to play in promoting economic and

¹ *Lost crops of Africa: volume 1: Grains*, 1996, p.1, Retrived from <https://nap.nationalacademies.org>, 16 june 2024.

² National Archives Buea (NAB), File No.966/f “Wet Rice Cultivation”, p.4.

³ P. Guofo, “Rice Cultivation in Cameroon: A Review, College of Agriculture”, *Journal of Agriculture and Biological Sciences*, South China University, Volume 4, 2008, p. 747.

social development due to the absence and limited appropriate institutions capable of taking on the task of promoting national development. After independence and reunification, president Ahidjo saw the need for a development plan to work towards integrating the economies of the territory, which later became known as Five Years Development Plans, covering the periods 1960-1965 and 1966-1971 and had as aim to double the per capital income of the country by 1980⁴. It was during the period of the first Five Years Development Plan that feasibility studies on the creation of the Agricultural Training Center (ATC) were done. The second five-year development plan was called the “Peasant Plan” because it was during this plan that agriculture was given much more importance and the ATC was created⁵. The ATC was to train school leavers on Modern Techniques of Agriculture.

At independence, the Republic of Cameroon opened official diplomatic relations with several countries in the world besides France, particularly West Germany as a means of meeting its development requirements. West Germany was among the first countries to recognise Cameroon as a sovereign state and expressed the wish to open diplomatic relations with her as soon as she gained independence in 1960. It was in this light that both countries signed several agreements including: The Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation on the 29th of June 1962. These agreements were based on the principle of reciprocity. The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), agreed to assist the Federal Republic of Cameroon (FRC) with experts, finances for developmental projects and the FRC was to make sure that the assistance was to be fully realised by making sure that these projects were put in place and their aims achieved.

The 29th June 1962 agreement was ratified by Cameroon through presidential decree No. 62/DF/323 of 6th September 1962. According to this agreement, the Federal Republic of Germany engaged at furnishing economic aid aimed at realising projects in the general interest of promoting development in Cameroon. The government of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) was to help the Federal Republic of Cameroon (FRC) in establishing training centres; providing training materials, visual aids for the economic and technical institutions. All these were in order to serve in the full development and exploitation of the economic resources of Cameroon. In order for this German Technical Assistance to be fully

⁴ W.A Ndongo, *Planning for economic Development in a Federal State: The Case of Cameroon 1960-1971*, Weltforum Verlag publishers, California, 1975, p.131.

⁵ G.F. Kum, “The Agricultural Training Center (ATC) Wum 1965-1973: An Experience in Cameroon-German Technical Cooperation”, *African Humanities Review, A, Multidisciplinary Journal*, Volume 4, No 1, January 2018, p.85.

implemented, there was the need for a training center where young cameroonians could be trained on the modern use of agriculture. That is why there was the creation of an agricultural training school in menchum. The ATC enumerated in accordance with the arrangements underlined in article (2) paragraph (3) of the economic and technical cooperation agreement⁶. The protocol agreement creating the ATC wum, West Cameroon was reached on the 20th of October 1965. This agreement was confirmed by the FRC by presidential decree No 65./DF/522 of 24th November 1965. This agreement had as aim to train Cameroonians on the use of modern agricultural techniques. The Wum Area was chosen for the project because of the geographical and human advantages it did procure, particularly the ample land, viable population and development problems that plagued the area⁷.

The ATC was later transformed to Wum Area Development Authority (WADA) in 1973, because of the various challenges it faced, such as the lack of sufficient funding. The Advent of WADA was deeply rooted in the conception of the Third Five Years Development Plan.⁸ WADA had as aim, assisting and accelerating the socio-economic development of Menchum Division there by improving the standards of living of the population. The ATC did not fully materialise because; the it was very costly to run and also because it limited its activities on a central location of the project area. It was due to the fall of the ATC that WADA was created and it was through WADA that Bu rice farmers benefited enormously from this international Technical Assistance from Germany. The Chinese in Tingoh did also greatly enhance rice production in the Bu community.

Foreign Assistance in Bu was not only witnessed through the German Technical Assistance and the Chinese, but also through other foreign Organisations like the: *Appui aux Strategies Paysannes et a la Proffesionalization de l'Argricature (ASPPA)*. After independence, Cameroon signed economic cooperations with France for the development of the country and it was in this light that ASPPA was introduced in the country in 1992. This organisation focused on the organisations of commodity chains, by supporting the development and structuring of producers' organisations at various levels (village, inter-village, national) with a view of these organisations, taking charge of economic activities,

⁶ Kum, "The Agricultural Training Centre (ATC) Wum 1965-1973", p.85.

⁷ R. H. Green & K.G Krishna, *Economic Coopeartion in Africa: Restropects and Prospects*, University College of Nairobi, Congress for Freedom ,1967, p.4.

⁸ Kum, "Wum Area Development Authority (WADA) 1965-1994: Implantation, Economic and Social Conversions in Menchum Division", PhD in History, University of Yaoundé 1, 2014, p.86.

marketing and input supply with aim of creating inter branch organisations⁹. ASPPA had as aim to contribute to food security, promote relationship between stakeholders within interpersonal structures, while guaranteeing farmers a better return on their work. ASPPA projects covered the seven provinces in the south of Cameroon, that is the East, Centre, South West, North West, Littoral. It intervened in commodity chain involving Cocoa, Coffe, Maize, Rice, Fresh Food, Processed Cassava. ASPPA arrived in Bu at the request of the rice farmers in 1996 for assistance, they came to Bu and assisted the farmers with material, financial and moral support¹⁰.

Asides ASPPA, foreign assistance also came to Bu through the Programme d'Appui au Developpement de Filieres Agricoles (PADFA). It is a project founded within financing agreements No 805-CM between the Cameroonian government and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) with a duration of 07 years 2010 -2017 and has been renewed to run for six years¹¹. In 2020, Cameroon with the support fund from FIDA (*Fund Internationale de Development Agricole*) signed an agreement with PADFA to carry out a second phase to strategise the production of rice and onion, so as to improve the Cameroon economy through increase in rice and onion production. PADFA II projects will contribute to poverty alleviation and increase in food security and nutritional values of the population. Its objectives are to reduce rural development and competitiveness of rice (both lowland and upland)¹². PADFA came to Bu through the Ministry of Agriculture, so far, there is no research initiative focusing on Foreign Asssance to rice production in Bu from 1965 till date. This study is therefore a novel academic effort aimed at filling the scholarly gap. It unravels the assistance that state and non state actors have given to the rice farmers.

Defination of Terms and Concepts

It is important that we explore the various meanings of the key concepts, so as to also shape the trajectory of our research, which imposes socio-economic aspects and to place them within a wholeness of perspective. These concepts are social development, economic

⁹ V.Achancho. « Le Renforcement des Capacités D'action et de Négociation des Organisation Paysannes : Le Cas des Organisation Paysannes Engage dans la Filière Cacao au Cameroun », Master Européen Natura Option Vulgarisation et Organisation Professionnelles Agricole (VOPA),1988, p.107.

¹⁰ Bu/Mbengkas Rice Cooperativeve Society (BMRCSLTDS), File No 015, Description Project of IDF/ASPPA, December 2000, consulted on 28 July 2018, p.4.

¹¹BMRCSLTDS, File No .015, Description project of FIDA/PADFA, December. 2, p.6.

¹² K.R. Kenah, "The Contribution of Small Holder Rice Farmers Towards Local Community Development in the Bu Chieftdom: Wum Menchum Division, North West Region", M.A, Mass Education, National Institute of Youth and Sports Yaounde, 2014, p.18.

development, foreign assistance, cooperation. This is intended to establish the liaisons between rice productions, in Bu community. These definitions will enable us to better understand our subject and what we intend to examine in our work. This is in spite of the fact that different authors give varied definitions to the same terms to suit their contexts. We can not understand the concepts of economic and social development without first of all saying what development means. Ikejiaku, regards it as an increase in the economic growth properly harnessed by leaders towards the economic and political advancement of citizens¹³. In the context of our work, it shall be the changes that occurred in the Bu community, due the activities of foreign contributors to rice production in the area.

It is from the foregoing that Meier posits that economic development is only one aspect or dimension of the general development process, because although the nation state is generally regarded as a unit of development, national development is a term which includes at least social and political changes as well as economic change¹⁴. Cold and Geiger add the aspect of growth, not just change, for them, the term development is not used synonymously with growth. They opine that in the underdeveloped countries, development requires social and cultural change as well as economic growth, that is qualitative transformation must occur concurrently with quantitative increase. There is indeed a reciprocal process between the two and neither process is likely to continue for long or go very far without the other¹⁵. Hence development means change plus growth. In our context of study, economic development is to show how foreign assistance contributed to change in Bu through rice production and how Bu developed economically thanks to contribution of foreign assistance in rice production.

Krause opines that economic development to an average person refers to achievement by poor countries of higher level of high per capital income and of improved conditions of living for themselves. That is, achievement of an environment more like that already prevailing in developed countries. This also has a technical meaning which differs in important respects from the foregoing popular impression of the matter. In the technical sense, economic development refers to the process of economic growth within an economy, the central objective of the process being higher and rising real per capital income for that

¹³ B. Ikejiaku, "The Concept of Development Revisited Towards Understanding: In the Context of Sub – Saharan Arica", *Journal of Politics and Law*, Vol 2, No 1, march 2009, p.31.

¹⁴ G.M Meier, *Leading Issues in Development Economics*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1971, p.5.

¹⁵ G. Cold and T. Geiger, *Country Programming as a Guide to Development*, The Brooking Institution, Development of Emerging Countries: Agenda for Research, the Brooking Institutions, Washington DC, 1963, p.47.

economy¹⁶. In the context of our study, economic development shall be perceived as the economic changes brought about by foreign organisations and countries as a result of rice production in Bu.

Social development to Gore is defined as the total development of the society across all aspects, including economic, social, cultural and political. It's a holistic process for social advancement, to him, for a society to be fully developed, the various sectors of the economy that is social, political, economic and cultural domains needs to develop. They various sectors are inter-related aspects of the same process of human betterment. He focuses on aspects like reducing poverty, increasing access to education and health care and ensuring social justice. He emphasises the role of social work and social services in achieving these goals¹⁷. Social development shall be perceived in our context as changes or the various mutations that were brought about in Bu through foreign assistance. These changes had an impact in the social life of the people and on their economy.

To Midgley, social development can be defined as a process of planned social change designed to promote the welfare of the population as a whole in conjunction with a dynamic process of economic development. He emphasises the importance of improving social conditions alongside economic growth for sustainable development. That is for social development to be fully harnessed, economic development must go side by side social development. The two concepts are interwoven that is the advancement of the economic domain will bring about changes in the social domains¹⁸. Just like Midgley, our work shall examine the social changes brought about by foreign assistance in the production of rice in Bu community and we shall also examine how both economic and social changes have brought about development.

The word foreign is generally defined as a location outside a place or country and especially outside one's own country. Assistance is the act of supporting someone, a group or an organisation in achieving a goal. To Sogge, Foreign assistance is the voluntary transfer of resources like money, goods, technical services and trainings from a developed to a developing country in the form of support for their development. He argues that foreign

¹⁶ W. Krause, *Economic Development, The Underdeveloped World and the American Interest*, University of Michigan, Wadsworth Publishers, 1961, p. 3.

¹⁷ M.S. Gore, *The Social Aspect of Development*, University of Michigan, Rawat Publications, 1985, p.44.

¹⁸ J. Midgley, *Social Development: The Development Perspective in Social Welfare*, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale 1996, volume 23, p.185.

assistance can be driven by various factors including Altruism that is the will to help others in need, Self interest, the hope of achieving benefits for the donor country such as gaining access to resources or promoting political stability in the recipient country and Leverage that is using aid to influence the recipient countrys policies or behavior¹⁹. In the context of our study, foreign assistance will be Altruism which we will be analysing the contributions of foreign bodies in assisting rice farmers in Bu.

The CRS report 2021 defines foreign assistance as the transfer of resources such as financial aid, technical expertise from developed countries to developing countries. These resources aim to achieve various development goals such as poverty reduction, through economic growth and job creation, improved health education, strengthened democracy and governance and environmental sustainability²⁰. In the context of our study, we will buy this definition because the assistance given to the rice farmers are geared towards a certain domain which is the economic and social domain meant for development. All the resources that these organisations assisted the rice farmers with were meant to bring about changes in the rice production sector which inturn spur growth and economic changes.

Cooperation can be defined as the act of working or acting together with others for a common purpose or benefit. It involves a mutual understanding and exchange of resources, knowledge, or skills to achieve a shared goal. To Axelrod, he talks of reciprocal Altruism that is individuals cooperate with the expectation of future cooperation in return, creating a cycle of mutual benefit²¹. In our work we will buy Axelrod's definition of cooperation as we can see how this definition plays in our study, when the Cameroonian government signed diplomatic cooperation agreement with several countries like France, Germany and these cooperations are based on the principle of reciprcration. It is through these cooperations that we see the coming to light, the birth of the German Technical Assiatnce and afterwards the creation of the ATC and later on WADA which through WADA foreign assistance started in Bu. Other foreign organisations such as ASPPA and PADFA came to Bu through these cooperations that were signed between the Cameroon government and the governments of these organisations.

¹⁹D.Sogge, *Give and Take, what is the Matter with Foreign Aid?* Frenwood Publishing LTD, New York 2002, p.28.

²⁰CRS Report: Foreign Assistance: An introduction to U.S Policy and Programs 2022, Retrived from <https://crsreports.congress.gov>, consulted on May 16 2024, p. 3.

²¹ R. Axelord, *The Evolution of Cooperation*. Basic Book Publications: New York, 1984, p. 15.

To Putnam, he defines cooperation as a situation where countries collaborate to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. He emphasises that successful cooperation often requires domestic actors within each country to support the collaborative effort. He argues that cooperation in a country need not just the state, but also domestic actors to take part actively for this cooperation to fully be achieved²². In the context of our study, cooperation shall be perceived as the coming together of state and non state actors in the attainment of an objective. This is evident as we see different countries which are the Germans, Chinese and non state contributors such as ASPPA and PADFA cooperating with the government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to bring about social and economic change in Bu through the rice producing sector.

Statement of the Problem

The people of the Bamenda grassfields region formally carried out rice production on a limited scale for home consumption, especially in Bu community. With the advent of foreign assistance in the community, this activity later expanded to large scale, because, its production and commercialisation improved and was extended to other villages in Menchum valley like Befang and Mbengkas. Before the coming of foreign assistance, the production of rice was on a small scale, for local consumption and livelihood. With the fast-growing rate of rice cultivation, President Ahmadou Ahidjo decided to organise and develop the sector. Motivated by the policy of the operation Green Revolution introduced in 1972, the creation of a Farmer's Bank: *Fond National pour le Development Rural (FONADER)*, the agricultural sector was boosted. With this, he was encouraged to set up the Wum Area Development Authority (WADA) in Menchum Division, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Through German Technical Assistance, foreign assistance was made possible in Bu community and after WADA left, ASPPA also gave their assistance to Bu rice farmers. PADFA took over from ASPPA and as at the 2022, PADFA was still assisting Bu rice farmers.

Foreign assistance in Bu community came as a result of WADA which was a Cameroon project. Eventhough rice production already existed, the Germans still came in to give their assistance to the rice farmers. Due to this assistance the level of production greatly increased because they had the equipments needed for large scale production, this large-scale

²² R. D. Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, New York & Schuster, 2000, p.21.

assistance greatly helped in the development of the community. Foreign assistance had profound impact on the process of rice production, some of which were negative and positive. They also encountered some challenges in the attainment of their objectives, making their status as a local development instruments questionable.

In the light of the above analysis, this work seeks to address the fundamental question of our study which is: what were the contributions of foreign assistance to rice production in the Bu community? This central question shall be guided by four subsidiary questions: How was rice production in Bu before 1965? Which were the various foreign bodies that assisted the rice farmers in rice production in Bu? What was the impact foreign assistance to the Socio-economic development of the Bu community? What were the difficulties foreign contributors faced and way forward for rice cultivation in Bu? The foregoing research questions enabled us to formulate the following objectives for the study

Objectives

The central objective of this study is to examine the contributions of foreign assistance to rice production in the Bu community. This shall be guided by the following follow up objectives: Analyse how rice production was in Bu before the coming of foreign bodies; demonstrate the impact of foreign assistance to the socio-economic development of Bu and finally, examine the difficulties faced by the various foreign bodies and way forward for rice production in the area of study. To make the study issue centred, proficient of generating and debate, it is argued that although with quite a lot many constraints, foreign assistance to rice production did convey immense socio-economic change in Bu.

Analytical Framework

The analytical framework of the study builds on a number of development theories. This choice was made for the fact that influencing the establishment of state-owned corporations in Africa and Cameroon in particular where innate in the history of economic development assistance to developing economies. These factors were diverse and controversial as seen in the argument characterised in the dependency, interdependency and state theory of functionalism. The fact that we are dealing with rice production and the assistance given by foreign organisations and countries, we should understand that many changes took place during the rice production process, influenced by various development models over time.

The Dependency theory is the notion that resources flow from a periphery of a poor and underdeveloped states to a core of wealthy states, enriching the latter at the expense of the former. A central contention of this theory is that poor states are impoverished and the rich ones enriched, by the way poor states are integrated into the world system. This theory was developed in the late 1960's after the World War II in the wake of development in Latin America²³. The theory arose as a result of the modernism theory an earlier theory of development, which held that all societies progress through similar stages of development, that today's underdeveloped areas are thus in a similar situation to that of today's developed areas.

Therefore, the task of helping the underdeveloped areas out of poverty is to accelerate them along this supposed common path of development by various means such as investment, technology, closer integration into the world's market. Dependency theory rejected the view that underdeveloped countries are not merely primitive versions of developed states but unique features and structures of their own and are in structure of being the weaker members in a world market economy. It is because the Bu rice farmers needed resources to boost rice production that foreign assistance was possible, so it ties with this notion that resources have to flow from periphery to a poor and underdeveloped state. Rice production was not very productive before 1965 so there was the need for assistance and the rice farmers benefited from WADA's developmental activities which came about as a result of the German Technical Assistance.

The Interdependency theory is a social exchange theory that states interpersonal relationships are defined through interpersonal interdependence, which is the process by which interacting people influences one another's experiences. This theory is based on four main principles, transformation, interaction, adaptation and structure, states who are interdependent on each other for their development, have to carry out these principles²⁴. This dependency is evident in our world as we see states relying on each other for their growth, this is the case with developing and developed countries, these states get what each one of them lack from each other. In today's interdependent world states interconnect with each other for their development. In Cameroon, we see the interdependency in various sectors of

²³ Latin American Dependency Theory, Retrieved from <https://global.southstudies.as.virginia.edu> consulted June 11 2023, p.20.

²⁴ Van Lange and D. Balliet, *Interdependency Theory*. American Psychological Association, Retrieved from <https://psycnet.apa.org> 2015, consulted on May 5, 2024, p.66.

the economy. This theory can be seen in our work as both countries relied on each other for their growth. The agreement on Economic and Technical cooperation signed on the 26th of June 1962, ASPPA and PADFA agreements were based on the principle of reciprocity. These cooperations benefited both parties, the rice farmers gained farm inputs to boost rice production through these cooperations and these foreign bodies in turn also benefited as they used Cameroon as their market for their goods.

The theory of functionalism is a theory that considers the society as an assembly of different elements that interrelates with each other. It considers the society to be in a state of a dynamic equilibrium in which, a change in one of the elements will cause the whole society to undergo a change in order to establish a new balance. This theory seeks to describe the different parts of the society and their relationships through the organic analogy. Its analysis and examines the significance of phenomena that is, functionalism theory serves in particular to society. To Emile Durkheim, functionalism holds that individuals have physiological needs (reproduction, food, shelter) and those social institutions exist to meet up with these needs. In a simplified manner, functionalism affirms that a phenomenon X can only exist because of the existence of Y or due to the systematic variations in several such phenomena in relation with X²⁵. This is to say that social phenomenon had to be constructed within the social level. Individuals are replaceable, transient occupants of the social rules. This theory is linked to our work as both state and non state actors have their role to play in assisting rice farmers in rice production. The state played a great function in assisting the rice farmers, so did the non state actors and it was due to this assistance from this state and non state actors that rice production in Bu greatly transformed.

The theories mentioned above shall enable us to better enhance the centrality of our study based on foreign assistance in the production of rice in Bu community, from our analytical outline, we realise that although the traditional society of Bu saw some major changes in rice production, the rice farmers still face several challenges in cultivation. This section introduces us to the reasons for choice of the topic.

Reasons for Choosing this Study

This study is based on foreign assistance in the production of rice in the Bu community. It is important to note that the central theme sustained in this study is the contributions of foreign

²⁵ E. Durkheim, *Functionalism*, Cambridge University Press, 2022, p. 156.

assistance to rice production in Bu. This community was not that productive in rice cultivation, before the coming of foreign organisations and countries, it was backwards economically, socially and physically, before 1965 the rice produced was not of good quality because of the lack of inputs but with the coming of these foreign organisations and countries, many aspects drastically changed. Immediately after the creation of WADA.

Rice production was enhanced through the help of the Cameroon –German's cooperation in 1962. Before this, rice cultivation existed on a small scale as Bu lacked basic tools for production, like machines and even good roads for transportation. The socio and economic development of the community was backwards, the essence of this study is therefore to show the impact of foreign assistance on rice production in Bu and on its socio - economic development. Also, it is intended to examine rice production in the community, this study will show how the presence of foreign bodies and its activities have been instrumental in improving the status and living standards of the people.

Interest of the Study

The necessity to undertake on this subject was dictated by three outstanding issues. First the area under study is a predominant rice producing zone that has made foreign bodies to pay attention to it. It is the question that ponders the researchers mind was why these foreign bodies picked an interest in Menchum valley precisely Bu community and how are the Bu people are involved in it. Second, we were interested in finding out how foreign assistance has contributed to the rice production process and how rice cultivation has had an impact on the rice production, its degree of influence on the socio and economic life of the people in Bu, motivated the researcher to carryout research in this area of study and lastly what challenges these foreign organisations and countries face in assistng the rice farmers.

Litterature Review

For so many centuries, the history of rice cultivation has often been accorded a distinguished position by social scientists. Since the colonial and pre-colonial era, this field of study has often occupied a privileged place in research in Africa. The domain has caught not only the interest of historians, but a multitude of specialists such as sociologist, theologians, developmentalists and anthropologists. These scholars focused their works on the bond that exist between rice production and the impact on societies. All of these enables the rice

production to occupy a central position within scientific circles generally in Africa, particularly in Cameroon. A critical exploration of this mass valuable and appreciable literature is very indispensable for our study. This will permit us to identify with strength the varying approaches and perspectives and specific path to be followed by this study.

According to Fanson the economic and industrial development of the country were in two terms, first 1960-1965 and the second in 1965-1970 to him the first plan was not successful because it did not foresee the future of Cameroon left alone reunification, its objectives were not attained. He gave the total investment for the second plan to be 165 million francs CFA, asserting that the money was to be provided by the federal budget, grants and loans and from the other external sources and private funds. He also mentioned the fact that the second plan was called peasant plan. Fanson also asserts that there was increased commercialisation of agricultural products, agricultural reforms were also introduced and above all there was a plan to help rural farmers increase production²⁶. His work has been very helpful in the realisation of this project, his ideas has been used to support facts.

Ngoh examines the economic and social developments of Cameroon from 1966 to 1982 under two concepts that is the planned liberalism and self-reliance. He gives the meaning of these concepts and looked at the various enterprises created to help carryout development. He named some of such as Société National d'investissement (SNI) fond de garantie aux petites moyennes entreprises [FOGAPE] and national fund for rural development (FONADAR) according to him projects were carried out in the field of agriculture, industry, education and rural infrastructure. He also pointed out some of the setbacks to the concepts of planned liberalism and self-reliance²⁷. Ngoh's work has been very helpful to this study because he made an elaborate analysis on the concept of planned liberalism and self-reliance that guided the implementation of the five years' schemes. The researcher has therefore used his ideas to support facts especially in the development agenda

Kamto examines the judicial framework of the Cameroon-Germans Economic and technical cooperation. He presents the different agreements that both states signed between 1960 and 1985, with emphasis on the 29th of June 1962 agreement, concerning economic and technical cooperation, considered as the backbone agreement of Cameroon –German

²⁶ V.G. Fanson, *Cameroon History for Secondary Schools and Colleges, Vol, 1: Pre-colonial times to the Nineteen Century*, London, Macmillan Press Limited, 1989, p.28.

²⁷ V.J. Ngoh, *Cameroon 1884-1984: A Hundred Years of History*, Yaoundé, Navi Group Publication, 1987, p.42.

cooperation .He equally mentions the Wum project in the study ,as a follow up of the agreement when he says’ ’la RFA a participe a la mise en place du Centre de vulgarisation et de formation de WADA/Wum’ ’For Kamto the principles of reciprocation and non-discrimination in exchanges, denounced in the agreements, never did obtain in this type of north- south relations. However, he concludes that the FRG had a strong desire to help, assist Cameroon in her pursuit for development, although there was no proper follow up of relations on the part of Cameroonian authorities²⁸. FRG had a strong desire to help, assist Cameroon in her pursuit for development, although there was no proper follow up of relations on the part of Cameroonian authorities.

Ahidjo establishes the basic principles of Cameroon’s economic development policy in the early 1960’s. Urged by post independent economic problems and inspired by African socialism, Cameroon’s development policy was directed towards continuous and speeding up of the rise of cooperative. Thus, he intimates should be done with narrowing the sphere of private initiative whose field of action public authorities had to amplify with a judicious orientation²⁹. This study emphasises planning basically oriented towards agricultural modernisation, for the fact that Cameroon’s economy relied essentially on stock rearing, industrialisation, handicraft and credit.

Kum examines the impact of the contributions of WADA on the socio-economic development of Menchum Division. He shows how the WADA impacted the area and analysis the difficulties faced by WADA in the attainment of its objectives. WADA was created by the Germans in association with the Cameroon government as a strategy for development.³⁰ This development plan was also extended to Bu community in the rice cultivating sector. They assisted the Bu rice farmers with financial, material and vocational trainings. This was seen as the first ever hulling machine was given to the rice farmers by the Germans. This greatly improved the productive capacity of rice farming. His work was of great help in the realisation of our work, it showed the impact of WADA on the rice cultivation during the colonial times.

Chi evolves on the colonial economic history of Wum Division which at the time comprised of present day Menchum and Boyo divisions of the North West Region of

²⁸ M. Kamto, « Les aspects juridiques des relations Camerounais-RFA » in revue *Camerounaise des Relations Internationales*, Volume 2, No1, Berlin, 1985, p 27.

²⁹ A. Ahidjo, *Contribution to National Construction*, Presence Africain, Paris, 1964.

³⁰ Kum, “Wum Area Development Authority (WADA) 1965-1994”, p.122.

Cameroon. His study is based on local craft and trade. He establishes that most of the development that took place in the division at the time was due largely to indigenous initiatives rather than British³¹. Peter analysis the chiefdom of Bu and matrilineal succession in Aghem and Bu chiefdoms, the peopling of Wum central sub division. He gave the geographical location of Wum and Bu chiefdoms, since colonial period their history of migration and their geographical location today. He gave their history with respect to matrilineal genealogy with account to women, he further gives a history of Bu rice³².

Nongoh in a dissertation traces the origin of Fulani cattle rearers in Menchum division, according to his findings, the Fulani came from Nigeria around the 1920's and migrated from Adamawa region passing through Fouban to Sabga³³. However, he elaborated the significance of Fulani pastoral activities in Menchum at the economic, political and socio-cultural domains and he also analyses the impact of Fulani cattle on rice production. This work is relevant to this study because it has helped the researcher to understand the negative impacts cattle rearing has on rice cultivation.

Munyah focuses his attention on the role of foreign assistance in Bu community. Programme d'Appui au Developpement de Filières Agricoles (PADFA). The role it plays in the production of rice and the impact it has on the rice farmers. He starts off with an overview of PADFA's projects in Cameroon, its contribution towards poverty alleviation, challenges faced by this foreign body in the attainment of its objectives and measures put in place to reduce poverty³⁴. Bu rice business plan to PADFA, this was also relevant for our work, the plan analysis the Bu rice cooperative, their market study annual scale capacity of the cooperative, the competition they face, their distribution process and financial analysis this business plan has helped us to attain our objective which was to analyses the Bu rice cooperative and has been useful to support facts.

Chindong in his work sets out to analyse and identify the existing constraints on the current extension approaches used in the circulation of information in the northwest region.

³¹ K.D. Chi, "The Economic Development of Wum Division 1916-1961," Maitrise Dissertation in History University of Yaoundé, 1988, p. 34.

³² P. T. Angwafor, "Contesting Land and Identity the case of Women Cultivators and Fulani Cattle Herders in Wum Northwest Region of Cameroon", M.A Dissertation University of Leiden, The Netherlands, 2014, p.21.

³³ T.C. Nongoh "The Northwest livestock development fund (NWLDF) and livestock breeding in the Northwest region of Cameroon", M.A Dissertation in History, University of Yaoundé 1, 2018, p.18.

³⁴ M. S. Ake. "The role of farmers Support Program towards Poverty alleviation in Wum sub-division (Case Study PADFA Project)", BSc, Dissertation in University of Dschang, 2022, p.22.

It sought to contribute to the information circulation in the northwest and problems that hinders the flow of information between workers and farmers. His work revealed the dominant agricultural extension approaches used in the rice sector in Cameroon which is the TOT and T and V which are both individual and group methods³⁵. He identified the problems faced by the information circulation in rice production which includes low salary, lack of technical aid and no reliable transport and he proposed possible solutions to these problems.

Kah presents rice economy in Bu community and how it has influenced growth and development in the community. He focuses on male chauvinism and female reaction in the rice economy. He goes further to show how the question of female participation in the production process. This has been a center of questioning. Before the early rice production in Bu, rice cultivation was done by men but as time evolved, the question of women participation in this process arouses and today we find women and men having to do the same thing³⁶. Women have their own farms and employ the service of men to work on their rice fields. This was not the case before in the early rice economy in Bu, men where the dominant rice cultivator's women were not allowed to farm rice.

Generally, it is evident from the existing literature that the different scholars who have worked on this subject were guided by a well-defined focus, objectives, context and specialty. This exploration of these general and specific works provoked on foreign assistance in the production of rice in Bu community. As well as superficial articles, no major work has accorded attention to foreign assistance in the production of rice in Bu community. Our approach to some available scholarly literature is quite different as this can be seen all through this present study. The present history has profoundly analysed the entire history of foreign assistance in rice production in Bu community.

Significance of the Study

It is hoped that this work will be useful to the Northwest community, Bu rice farmers, and Cameroonians as well as future researchers. This study will contribute to the already existing literature on Bu rice production in the North West Region and Cameroon at large and will

³⁵ P.E. Chidong, "Information Circulation in Rice Production the (Case of UNVDA) and Ndop Rice Farmers, Cameroon", M. A Dissertation in Agriculture, University of Applied Sciences, 2000, p.21.

³⁶ H. K. Kah, "Masculinity and Female Resistance in the Rice Economy in Meteh/Menchum Valley Bu Northwest Cameroon 1953-2005", *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa* (volume 15. No. 7. 2013) Clarion University of Pennsylvania, p.115.

also add to knowledge on modern rice techniques .This study will help policy makers in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and foreign organisations to know if it's worthwhile for Cameroon government to invest more in this sector .The work will also determine if the activities of foreign countries and organisations are serving as an instrument of poverty reduction and development. As a matter of fact, this study will serve as a means to easily identify the various problems encountered by foreign organisations, countries and Bu rice farmers and depict some possible measures which could be put in place to ameliorate the situation at stake. The coming of foreign organisations and countries has to an extent solved the problem of low productivity and poverty alleviation in Bu community. The assistance provided has been of great help to the Bu people and Wum sub division as a whole. It has improved upon the living conditions of the Bu people in the socio-economic domain.

Scope and Delimitation of the Study

This study is limited to the North West Region of Cameroon, Bu community. It treats the period between 1965-2022. The date 1965 was the year that a technical cooperation agreement was signed between the government of Cameroon and the west Germanay for the creation of an Agricultural Training Center (ATC) a center that later transformed to WADA in 1973. It was through WADA that foreign assistance came to Bu. It is because of this cooperation between the Cameroon government and West Germany that WADA was created and the spillover effect was felt in Bu through WADA developmental activities.

The year 2022 is paramount as it is the year that PADFA launched its second Phase on agriculture in Cameroon. The first phase ended in 2015 and second phase launched in 2022, it was this same year that foreign assistance was reinstated in Bu, PADFA activities were relaunched in Bu and till date they are still assisting the rice farmers. After their first phase ended, they stopped assisting the rice farmers and these rice farmers faced difficulties in cultivation. It was only when PADFA relaunched its activities in 2022 that assistance was made possible again. What has been tried out successfully or not within the time period is of concern and what is likely to be possible. The initial objective of PADFA is to improve post-harvest activities (packaging storage, process and marketing) of the three strategic value chain rice, vegetables and mangoes.

Sources and Methodology

The realisation of this study is the outcome of profound research started december 2022. The research involves the collection of the data through the exploitation of both primary and secondary sources. A lot of time was devoted in the collection of both published and unpublished sources on rice production in general and foreign assistance in particular within the study period. Secondary sources were obtained from both public and private libraries, research and academic centers in Yaounde, Buea and Bamenda. The documentation centers include, main libraries of the University of Yaounde 1, the library of the department of history of University of Yaounde 1, the central library of the University of Bamenda, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Dvelopment, geography and archeological centers of University of Yaounde I. Published materials came from books, articles, journals, newspapers, encyclopedias and magazines reports.

Unpublished sources included thesis, dissertations. The consultation of these sources enables us to be acquainted with what already existed and approaches of scholars specialized on rice production. In addition to secondary sources was primary data which is a valuable source of information. Primary sources consulted included archival material (letters, reports, speeches and confidential documents) as well as interviews. It should be stressed that the foundation of this work is based on primary sources. The required data for the writing of this book was obtained thanks to the consultation of archival depositories found in the national archives in the divisional delegation of Wum and National Archives Buea.

The exploitation of the archival depositories permitted us to have an appraisal of what already existed. It also enables us to be aware of the areas and issues to focus our interview questions for field work. The loop holes identified in secondary sources also detected the framing of questions for successive fieldwork. However, the initial stage was the discovery of the research local in the late 2022.

It was on the basis of this first research mission that we returned to Yaoundé and elaborated our working methods and means of research. This enabled us to design a mechanism for a future selection for our informants and variables to use. Some of these were sex, age, and socio professional qualities. With these in mind, we sought, identified and

interviewed quality informants, especially those at the forefront of rice cooperatives. Generally, our informants ranged from former workers and workers of the Bu rice cooperative, educational authorities, administrators, top officials and persons who in one way or the other were affected by Bu rice. In a nutshell, our informants were leaders and beneficiaries within and without the Bu rice cooperative. The correspondent out of the cooperative were linked in one way or the other or had benefited from emerging networks resulting from the foreign assistance. In order to collect qualitative and quantitative data, we established a questionnaire focused on the 'leading question method' wherein the informants mind is explored, provoking other questions as the interview unfolds. Each domain of study had its questionnaire destined to a particular group informants scattered in the community. Both individual and collective interviews were conducted and data was recorded either in form of note taking or with the use of a recorder. Linguistic ability of informants dictated our use of some sort of creole English (pidgin English)

As concerns the interpretation and analysis of data collected, preference was accorded to objectivity and impartiality. To render this work practical, we employed the use of maps, diagrams and iconographic sources. We also greatly employed the use of statistics in the form of table. In order to find perfect harmony between thematic developments and evolution of the subject in time and space, we adopted the chronological thematic approaches as a writing method

Problems Encountered

The realisation of this work was not without difficulties as we encountered physical, social, and financial and problems in data collection. The first physical constraints came from the insecurity in the northwest and southwest regions of Cameroon, given the insecurity, we found it difficult to access the areas of study every day to carryout research given that Mondays are considered ghost town days. To overcome this problem, we did not go for research everyday, we had to study the arera and we went for field work only when places were calm.

Data collection from archival sources were difficult given the fact that not all government offices were functional in Menchum Division due to the crisis in the North West and South West. In the collection of data from informant, some informants cooperated with us while others shun us for fear of being reported to the separatist fighters. These separatist

fighters usually attack those having connections to schools, like teachers and students. So, they were afraid of attacks from these separatist fighters if news reaches them that they were cooperating with students. To overcome this problem, we had to explain to them patiently the purpose of our fieldwork proper and they complied. During our field work, we did not directly interact with these rice farmers, we had to meet up with former workers of the cooperative, and they were the ones that directed us throughout our field work. The interviews carried out were scheduled on a precise date for each community that we went to.

Another physical constraint encountered was visiting the rice cultivation site and meeting the farmers in Bu community the poor road network rendered our repeated trip to Bu community difficult. The road to Wum was not also the best travelling to the North West and specifically to the zone of cultivation was tiring and tedious; from the west in Baffousam to Bamenda, there are many potholes on the highway which made the journey uncomfortable from Bamenda to Wum; too much meandering and the uncompleted tarred roads which is bad in the rainy season. From Wum to Bu, traveling is on bikes and to the zone of rice cultivation is through trekking. Since we could not go right down to the area of rice cultivation, we had to gather the rice farmers and interview them on a specific day.

On human constraints, we found out that very little has been written on rice cultivation in Bu chiefdom. In most of the documents consulted, the cultivation of rice was mentioned in one page or two pages such as that of KAH Elvis (2001), elaboration on the role of local community in the conservation and the depletion of forest. At the archives in Buea, most of the documents were in the German language which made it difficult for us to access and at the regional archives in Bamenda, there were no documents on the Germans or foreign assistance which made information gathering difficult. In order to remedy these problems, we had to resort to the exploitation of dissertations and online articles for the completion of our work. We got more documents from dissertations and online articles.

At the Divisional archive in Wum, they had no catalogues thus very tedious to sort out unpublished work concerning the topic. Added to the non-classification of document and the absence of Index in the divisional archives in Wum added as a setback in the course of carrying out this research. We invested historical professionalism and determination and some strategies thanks to which the problems were solved. The strategies were spanned from doing proper research checking, analysis on PADFA, ASPPA, and German at the archives

there. For material assistance through being persistent and regular to validity checking interpretations, analysis as well as rigorous and objective synthesis of data.

Another problem encountered was that of conducting oral interview. Considering the fact that the crisis in the North West and South West Regions, caused old rice farmers to flee their homes. These old rice farmers had potential data that could be of use to us. Getting information was not easy, this was because those directly related to Bu rice farming were no longer in the village. Those who were interviewed had limited data on the rice because they were not participants of the early Bu rice and early foreign assistance. This made data collection very difficult and it was a setback to our field work. To remedy this problem, we had to get in contact with the former workers of the cooperatives and through them, we easily got in contact with the other rice farmers who were not in the village.

Organisation of Work

The work is made up of four chapters, it begins with a general introduction and ends with a general conclusion. The general introduction examines the conceptual and theoretical basis of the study, highlights its interest, significance, scope and limitations. It carries a significant review of literature, which has not only provoked the research but has guaranteed the scientific originality of the work by exposing the research problem. Chapter one provides a background to the study, it examines the history, topography, vegetation, relief, the historical background of Bu community. The chapter reveals the socio-economic, political background of the study and background of rice production before 1965.

Chapter two dwells on the contributors to rice production their project and programmes in Bu. Chapter Three analyses the impact of the programmes and projects of these foreign organisations on their social and economic life. Chapter Four analysis the challenges faced by these foreign organisations, countries and way forward in solving these problems the challenges. The study ends with a general conclusion that summarises the work and serves as a synthesis of central theme or idea sustained. In the entire discussion, it also establishes the theoretical link and makes profound recommendations as a projection into the future; through which the fund can be made to serve collective concerns.

CHAPTER ONE

GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING AND HUMAN BACKGROUND

Introduction

This chapter presents the geographical setting and human background of Bu before 1965 in Wum Central Sub-Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. This is because we cannot understand any question of foreign assistance, without paying attention to the factors that is man in relationship with his environment. It begins by examining the relief, topography, vegetation, economic, socio-political life of the area before 1965. The chapter explains in greater details how the rice cultivation began in Bu .The prime objective here is to situate the study in place and in time and to appreciate the interrelationship between geography ,history ,political and socio-economic interests of the people with regards to their participation in rice cultivation.The geographical setting constitutes the first part while the socio-political and economic setup of the people is focused on the second aspects like housing, land occupancy have been examined ,not leaving out agriculture which was the major activity of the Bu people before Foreign assistance. The background study will enable us to make a good assessment of the various foreign bodies and their impact on Bu community and Wum Central Sub-Division in general.

I. Geographical Setting

Bu is located in Wum Central Sub –Division in Menchum Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. It constitutes part of the liambwe polities, Bu was the first to be settled following the migration of the liambwe people from hill top settlement of Ndewum, near Befang. It is bordered to the north and north east by Mentang, and Mughum, which are all in kom, to the south, by Wum Central, to the south west by Obang (mile 30), Ndung (mile 3), Aguili (Kekuli) and Befang, to the east by Kuk, Befang, Mbongkesso. Bu is separated from

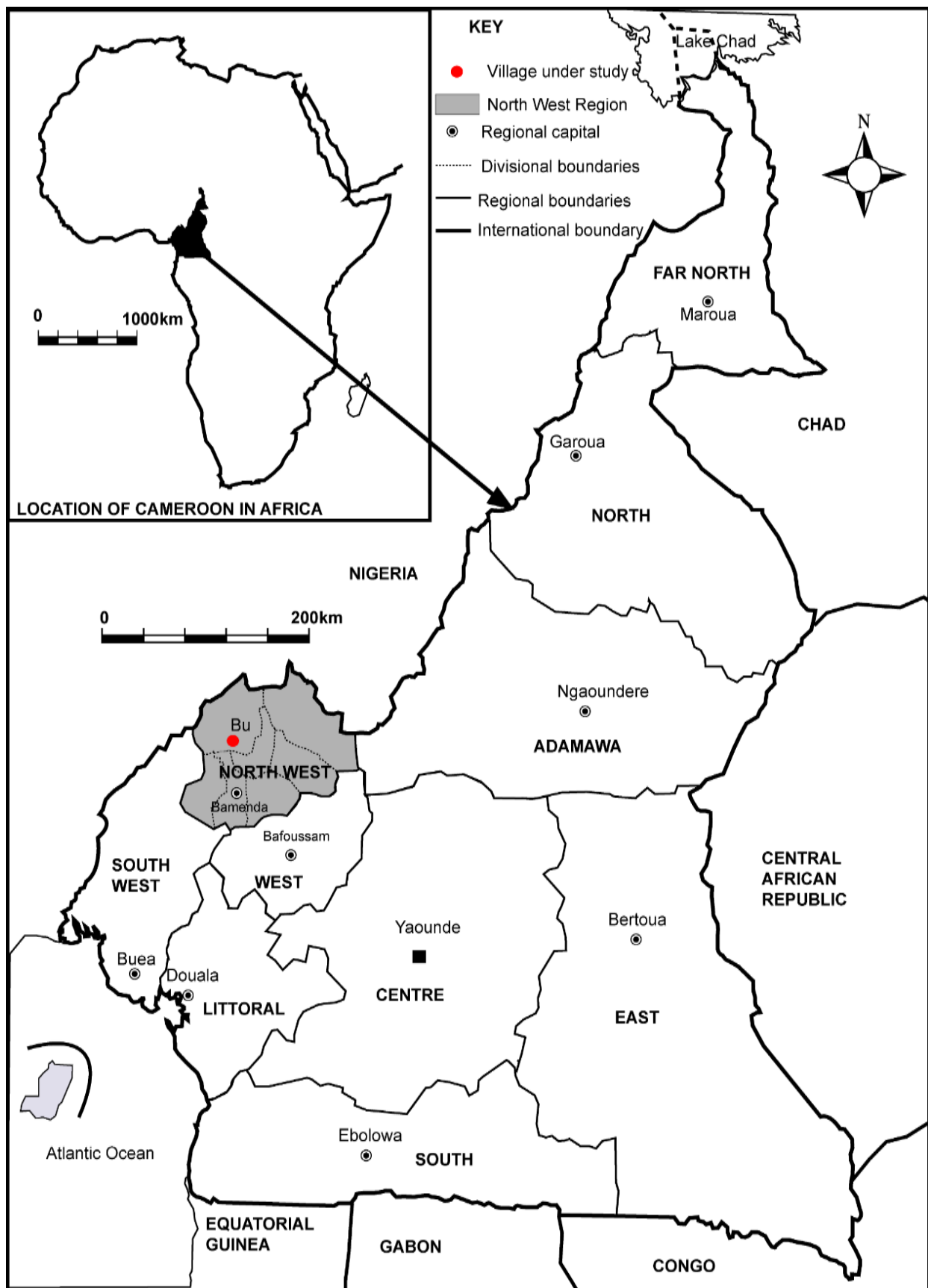
the other two liambwe polities by River meteh.³⁷ It falls within latitude 60 degrees 50 minutes north of the equator and longitude 10 degrees 10 minutes east of the prime meridian³⁸. Bu comprises of 14 quarters which are the Weiso, Wawaa, Kassa, Ngohte-beu, Tolle, Fungom, U-seum, Mbulom, Ngheucheu, Bafreng, Kumfutu, Nyaatsu o, Etei, Ngoh, and Mujang. The chiefdom of Bu is located some 8.2Km to the east of Wum town and was formally under the protection of the Aghem until it gained recognition as an independent chiefdom following a petition addressed to the British colonial government in 1949³⁹. In their petition, the Bu highlighted the fact that they are a distinct people with different ancestral origin and different history of migration from that of the Aghem⁴⁰. Secondly, the Bu argued in their petition that they were different because Aghem never conquered them in warfare and they have never paid tribute to Aghem in any animal skin as other sub villages did to acknowledge the supremacy of Aghem over them. It should however be noted that under British rule, Bu was part of the Wum Native Authority where the Chief of Aghem was President and had enormous influence and powers. It is likely as a result of this that Aghem continued to dominate its local politics. See maps 1 and 2.

³⁷ Kah, "Music, Gender and History Among the Liambwe Urchin Group of Bu, Cameroon", .2016, p.177, Retrieved from <https://Kirj.ee.issue> 2, consulted on May 23, 2024,

³⁸ V.B. Amaaze, "The Traditional History of Bu, Wum Division", Traditional and Church History", Social Structure and Other Aspects of Life in Various Tribes in Western and East Cameroon, 1964, p.54.

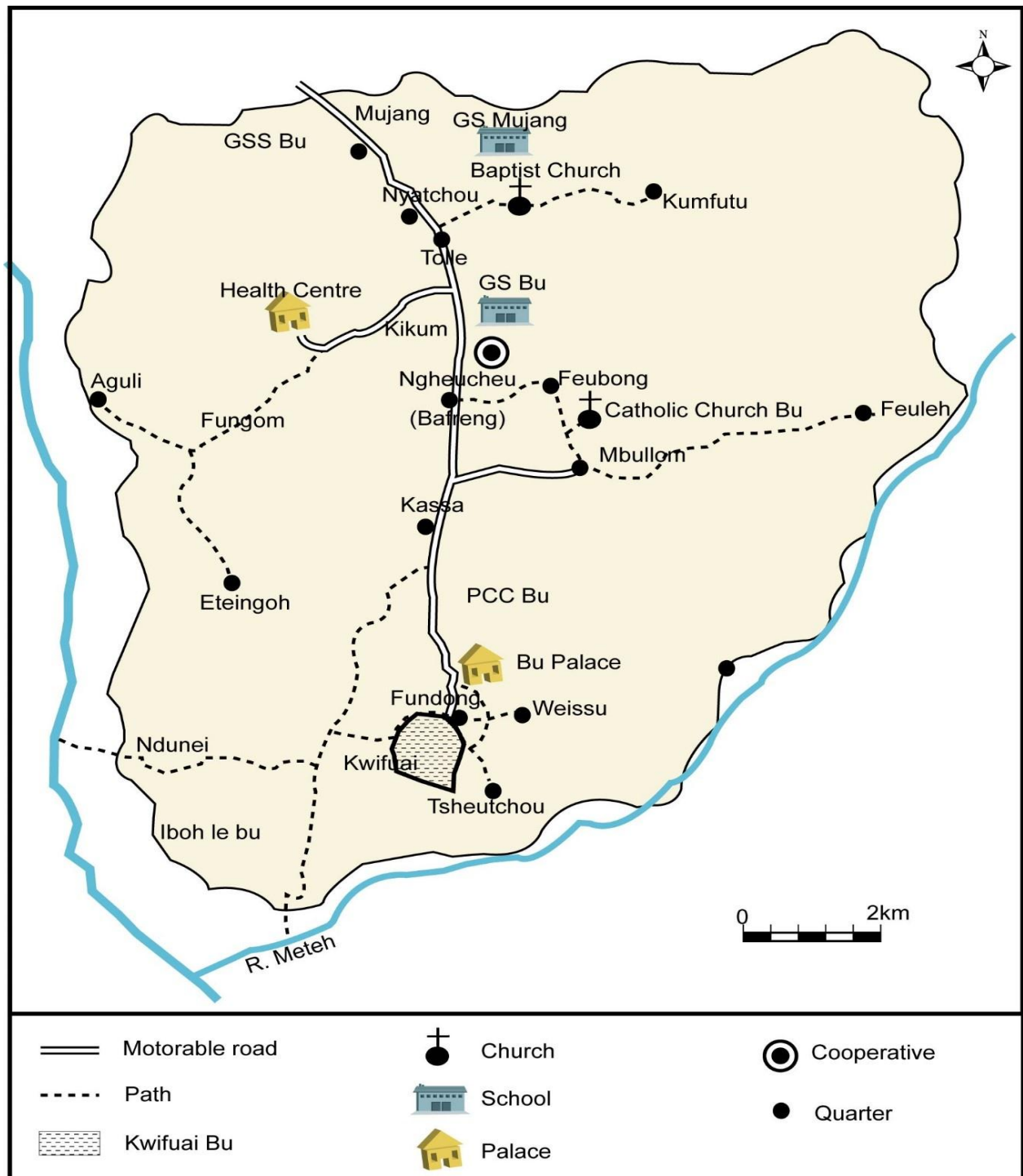
³⁹ A.S. Neba, *Modern Geography of the Republic of Cameroon*, Second Edition, Philadelphia, Neba Publishers, 1987, p.33.

⁴⁰ Ibid, p.34



Source: Adapted from the Cameroon Administrative Map 1992, INC

Map 2: Layout of Bu Chieftdom



Source: Adapted from Kah Elvis F. Maitrise Dissertation in Geography, 2001.

The maps above show the location of Bu, map 1 shows the location of Bu in Cameroon which is found in the North West Region, Menchum Valley and Wum Sub Division. Map 2 shows the layout of Bu, the various quarter found in Bu, the geographical presentation of an area is often instrumental in determining the kind of project to be established in the area. The

choice of creating the ATC in Wum and later transformed to WADA was not a mistake since the area was endowed with some natural features like abundant land, valleys, rivers of which when combined with existing human resources dictated the need for foreign assistance. The geography of the area also streamlined the activities of foreign assistance in Bu in one way or the other. For clarity this section focuses on the geographical location of the study area including its relief, climate, hydrology and vegetation which have been the paramount factors which necessitated foreign assistance in Bu.

A. Climate

Climate can be defined as a long-term prevailing weather conditions in a specific region. It is characterised by patterns of humidity, wind, precipitation and temperature.⁴¹ Climate through its component of rainfall and temperature plays an instrumental role in rice cultivation in Bu.⁴² The climate of Bu village is typically that of the tropical region, that is the equatorial type. Here we are talking about the rainfall variability and temperature changes and seasonal variations, night and day temperatures vary between 21 and 24 and this explains why in terms of temperature, Bu is very conducive for agriculture during the dry season still. The annual average temperature favours the soil type which is good for cultivation. Due to this favourable climate condition, rice cultivation been the main agricultural activity, the rice farmers lacked farm inputs that could help them to cultivate rice that is why foreign assistance was necessary for rice cultivation to blossom.

Precipitation can be defined as water released from clouds in the form of rain, freezing rain, sleet, snow or hail, it is the main way by which water returns to the earth surface.⁴³ The total average rainfall registered throughout the year is more than 2500mm. During the months of March to September, we usually register more than 1500mm of rainfall which is distributed within the months of rainy season. Bu has hills and valleys and these hills and valleys favour rice cultivation both upland and swamp rice. The amount of rainfall is spread throughout the flat land of the valley, making the valleys ready for swamp rice cultivation. Since it is a flat land, the water does not easily runoff into the rivers, it accumulates here and thus favors the cultivation of swamp rice. During the dry season there is little or no rains (less

⁴¹ E. L. Moluna, "Climatic Trends in Cameroon: Implications for Agricultural Management", *Journal of Climatic Research*, Volume 30, 2006, p.255.

⁴² H. Bulkeley, "Climate's Human Geographies, Exploring the Whereabouts of Climate Politics", *Dialogues in Human Geography*, Volume 9, 2019, p.4.

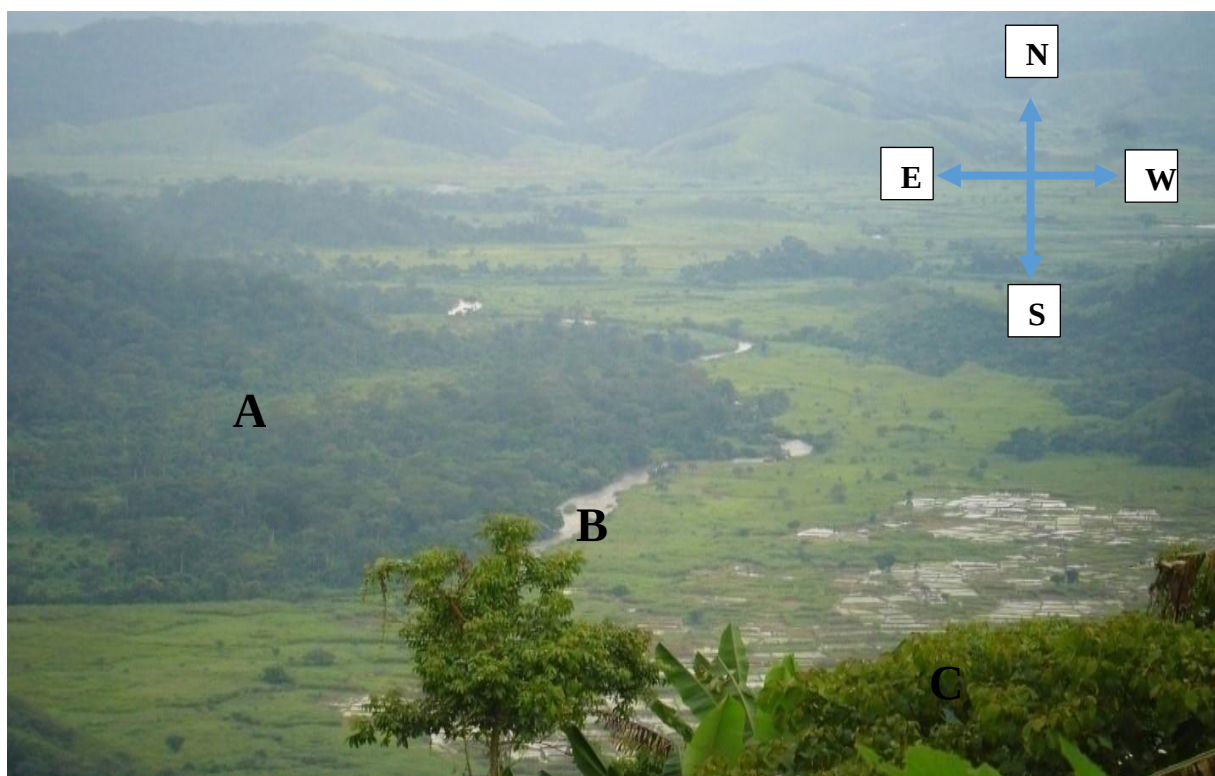
⁴³ L.M. Druyan, "Studies of 21st Century Precipitation Trends Over West Africa", *International Journal of Climatology*, volume 31, 2011, p.1415.

than 250mm per year), distributed within the months of dry season. This dry season is an ideal time for the harvesting of rice. Eventhough rice was produced in Bu, the farmers did not produce enough rice that could be used for sale and home consumption because they lacked basic farm inputs and trainings on modern techniques of agriculture, this necessitated foreign assistance for the improvement of rice cultivation.

B. Relief and Hydrology

Relief can be defined as the varations in elevation and the resulting landforms that shape the earths surface. This emcompasses a vast array features, from towering mountains, ranges and sprawling plateaus to fertile plains and sunken depressions. Relief also serves as a fundamental factor that inflences human activities.⁴⁴

Plate 1: Rice cultivation site in Bu



Source: Professor Kah Elvis' Library.2001

A= Small holders of rice farms

B= The River Meteh

⁴⁴ E.M. Kang, "The Respose of Stream Competence to Topographic and Seasonal Variations in the Bamenda – Menchum Drainage, Basin, North West Region, Cameroon", *Journal of Geography and Geology*, Volume 11, 2019, p.34.

C= The Wum – Kom Forest Reserve on both sides of the valley

From the picture above, a shows the area of rice cultivation, the area where rice farmers have their rice farms. Rice farmers come down to cultivate rice in the swampy area at the banks of river meteh. As seen on the picture, the area of rice cultivation is yet to be fully used by these farmers. The rice farmers can't expand to cultivate because they lack the necessary tools for cultivation and also an irrigation system. Due to these drawbacks, foreign assistance was necessary in order for these rice farmers to fully make use of the land. B shows the main river that is found in-between the farming area and the wum kom forest reserve. This river enriches the soil for rice cultivation, the presence of the river Meteh helps in enriching the soil, for cultivation but when this river over flows its banks, it destroys the plants so it is due to this that foreign assistance was necessary. C indicates the wum kom forest reserve. This galaxy forest serves as a hunting ground for the indigenes.

Like other landscapes in the North West Region, Bu village is characterized by rugged relief. Here, we find very deep valleys, juxtaposed by hills and steep slopes, the zone of rice cultivation in question lies along the banks of rivers Akooh, Meteh and Menchum. Due to this rugged relief, Bu rice farmers live in hills and descend in to the valleys for cultivation. One of the present valley of cultivation is located between the Wum – Kom forest reserve, Debris is therefore washed down from the hills covered with forest and deposited in the extensive valley⁴⁵. This valley is quite an extensive area, covering a surface of about 50,000m and stretches right down to Menchum valley and is the lowest in the whole of Menchum division. The population is about 1500m above sea level, while the site is 100-300m above sea level.⁴⁶

The first rice cultivated in Bu was upland rice which was produced in hilly areas, farming was very stressful because they lacked basic tools that could help them to till the soil.⁴⁷ Only few people cultivated rice and this was because those who cultivated rice had the labor force. It was mostly those who had two or more wives that cultivated rice and during the harvesting period, they used their children to transport the rice to the village, since there was no farm to market roads. The rice was carried on heads to their homes, this greatly

⁴⁵ E.F. Kah, "The Role of Local Communities in Conserving and Deplating Forest: The Case of the Kom-Wum Forest Reserve of Liambwe Clan the North West Province", Maitrise Dissertation of the Department of Geography University of Yaounde 1, 2001, p.53.

⁴⁶ H.K. Kah "Gender, livestock Farming in Liambwe Land Cameroon 1980-2011", *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, volume 15, No 1, 2013, p.60.

⁴⁷ . Kang, "The Response of Stream Compertence to Topographic", p.38.

discouraged many people from farming rice and the number of farmers were not encouraging, this in turn led to a low living standards necessitating foreign assistance.

Hydrology

Hydrology goes beyond just studying water itself, it analyses the movements, transportation and storage of water across different parts of the earth's system. Rivers play a very great role in rice cultivation in Bu, especially during canalisation of water into the farms, the rivers flow along the valley where rice is cultivated. The flatness of the valley facilitates the spread of water after any heavy downpour thus acting as a factor of swamp rice. River Akooh which cuts across the hills of the forest reserve flows westward and empties its water into river Meteh thus augmenting the volume of the river⁴⁸.

The upper course of the river flows through the interlocking spurs of convex cones and hills covered by the forest. This river takes its rise from the Ngwaa area, flows westward before it turns south. On its southward movements, it is joined by the tributaries of river Mezele and Akooh. It cuts through the western patch of the forest reserve before emptying its water into river Menchum.⁴⁹ The rich hydrological network does favours rice farming, many bridges and culverts needed to be constructed to facilitate rice cultivation and the transportation of rice. They lack bridges that could be used to cross these rivers to other farms. They used canoes to cross to other areas for movement of the farmers especially during the rainy season when rivers are fast running.

Heavy rainfall made the rivers to overflow its banks and destroy rice farms and it led to erosion. The above-mentioned obstacle required an improvement in agricultural techniques, building of bridges and canals to meet these, assistance was very necessary from foreign organisations. Reasons why in 1965, the Agricultural Training Center was created in Wum and later transformed to WADA and its activities were extended to Bu, which benefited the rice farmers.

⁴⁸ Kum, "The Contribution of Small Holder Chiefdom", p. 28.

⁴⁹ Ibid p.30.

C. Soil Types and Vegetation

Soils can be defined as biologically active and porous medium that has developed in the upper layer of the earth's crust. This definition, emphasises the interplay between living organisms, pore space (which allows for air and water movements) and the underlying geological materials that influences soil formation.⁵⁰ The soils in Bu are typically of tropical clay, which are highly impermeable especially along the valley where rice cultivation is performed. This characteristic of this soil type has played an important role in the accumulation of water on the surface of the soil that favours the cultivation of swamp rice, acid and ferruginous soil which are rich in organic matter, we have a different soil type on the slopes covered by forest, the soil here includes the red ferallitic soil, which occupies the forest slopes especially the slopes descending to the river valley⁵¹.

This soil also resulted from the old volcanic activities which appear in pyroclastic products or fluid flow in some sections of the forest for example on the west bank of river Meteh, just before it is joined by river Akooh, the soil has darkening color, the soil sometimes becomes yellow on gentle slopes human activities have greatly exposed this soil on the western patch of the forest reserved, around Aguli fertile alluvia soil⁵². In order to fertilise this soil, they cultivated corn and groundnut in order to fertilise the soils before the planting season. This was because they lacked fertilisers to fertilise the soils, this necessitated the need for foreign assistance.

Vegetation can be defined as a tapestry of plants species blanketing the landscape, this definition encompasses the various life forms, from towering trees and on sprawling scrubs to delicate wildflowers and even non vascular plants.⁵³ The Bu locality is presented as an extension of vast herbaceous savannah vegetation in the plains and along the belt of the valleys⁵⁴. In the plains and valleys, the spear and elephant grasses are the most dominant species of herbs. The elephant grass is tall and can grow above 3m, this is a seasonal plant and when cut down, it undergoes rapid decomposition and when it gets dry, it is highly

⁵⁰ L. Raldan, "Erosion –Crop Productivity Relationships for Soils of Africa", *Journal of Science Society of America*, Volume 59, 1995, p.667.

⁵¹ J. A. Ngwa, *Geography of Cameroon*, Logman Publishers, 1978, pp. 133-134.

⁵² Menchum Environment in a Flash, Handbook of the Menchum Divisional Delegation for Environment and Nature protection, Wum, 2007, p 2.

⁵³ H. Bran & T. Webb III, "Vegetation History", Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2012, p.50.

⁵⁴ E. F Kah "The Role of Local Communities in conserving protected Areas in Former Menchum Division of the North West Region of Cameroon ", Doctor of Philosophy (P.H.D) in Geography, Department of Geography, University of Yaoundé I, June 2010, p 139.

inflammable. This explains the reason why bush fires are used by peasants in the area as a means of clearing the farms.

The rapid decaying nature of these grasses has naturally increased the fertility of soil. Before 1965, Bu lacked electricity and this elephant grass was used as light, the people of Bu used the stock of elephant grass, as light at night⁵⁵. The crops usually do well in herbaceous or savannah region. This explains why the rice which is cereal is exceedingly doing well in the area, apart from rice, we also have cereals such as maize, beans, groundnut and others. There is also the forest vegetation known as the gallery forest and mountainous forest due to the climatic conditions⁵⁶.

When we go back to plate 1 under the physical layout of the valley, where cultivation was taking place, we could observe that the forest is located on both sides of the valley. This forest has been contributing in enriching the soil, as dead leaves and animal decay are washed down from the hills to the valleys. This forest also serves as grounds for collecting fuel, timber for construction and local craft. For better understanding of our work, we had to analyse the geographical background and this section introduces and helps us to understand in details the dynamics of human activities in the area of study before the coming of foreign assistance. Hence, the next section will examine the human background of the Bu people.

II. Human Background

Here, we shall be analysing the human background which shall be the early history of the Bu people, their political background, which shall include the traditional setup. The social organisation, which shall contain the religious background, educational background, housing. Lastly, we shall discuss the economic activities which shall include the early rice economy, introduction and cultivation of swamp rice, trade and land use.

A. Early History

Available sources attest to the fact that the Bu people formed part of the Tikaris ethnic group. Three chiefdoms make up this clan and do speak the same language referred to as “liambwe” which literally means “say”. The three groups which make up the liambwe, traced their origin

⁵⁵ Interview with Ndong Joseph, 67 years, Farmer, Wum, 16 April 2023.

⁵⁶ Kah, “Kesiashzeh, Nyengui, History and Livelihood Challenges in a Cameroon’s Montane Forest Reserve”, *Journal Ekonomska Ekohistorija*, Volume 30, No1, p. 9.

from Northern Nigeria into their present settlement. As the dispersion of peoples continued due to either push or pull factors, part of the group settled in Ndiewum⁵⁷. It is not clear as to how long the Tikar people lived there, but it is estimated that the early Liambwe migrants left the place to found the settlement in the early part of the 18th century.

Part of these people left the Mbaatcheu around Bongkisu, where they lived in a place referred to as Nduoituo. It was here that the Bafut left the Liambwe who continued into a place that later came to be known as Baiso (Buisso). The eldest son of these migrant Cheboho and Tanghawa succeeded to gain the position of leadership for their Ezhem Matrilineage. However, this migration continued and other settlements of Bu were founded. Ngumsei founded Mbengkas, the name Mbengkas came from the Laimbwe word “Benghka meaning our branch. Tired of migrating, Ngumsei and his followers decided to stop at this place where they established their permanent settlements⁵⁸. As such Benghka gradually became pronounced as Mbehka or Mbengkas, the Bu chiefdom was founded by Ngo-otsei, the last of the three children. Ngo-otse, like his other brother was a hunter, he explored and exploited the forest right up to River Meteh, it was during one of this hunting trips that he discovered a new site. He led some of his people to the new settlement at KuinahEuile (hill of the old settlement).⁵⁹

Another source on the origin states that; Ngo-otsei founded the actual Bu settlement. It holds that after a long stay in Bafmeng, the need for more farmland led to the split into groups. According to this source, part of this split resulted to the land known today as Bu, under the leadership of Ngo-otsei. Ndangbi leader of the Bu people who crossed from Baiso to KuinahEuille was attracted by smoke from Ngo-otsei hut. His curiosity to know who was in the hut led to the discovery of Bu land. He thus led his people from KuinahEuille to the tableland, the place was named Bu because the people felt that they were tired of wandering about and it was time for them to settle down and establish permanently⁶⁰. Despite this permanent settlement, the people of Bu still faced threats and invasion from the Kom and

⁵⁷ Kum, “Contending Trends and Impacts of the lake Nyos Cataclysm on the Wum Area Development Authority (WADA) 1986-1996”, *EAS Journal of Humanities and Cultural Studies*, 2018, p.58.

⁵⁷ Kah, “Masculinity and Female Resistance in the Rice”, p.189.

⁵⁸ S. Ewi, “Chieftency Dispute in Bu/Liambwe Clan, North West Province 1942-2001”, A Historical Investigation, History Department, University of Yoaunde I, 2008, p.13.

⁵⁹ T. Kefeih & H.K. Kah, “The Contribution of Bu/Mbengkas Cooperative Society Limited to the Economy of Liambwe Ethnic Group in Cameroon ,1970-2014”, *Journal Revista Brasileira de Estudos Africanos*, Volume 8, p.197.

⁶⁰ Ibid, p.198.

Bafut. It was only through the combined forces of the Kesu of Aghem Clan that these threats and invasion were checked.

After they settled in Bu, they needed to start up economic activities which they could sustain themselves with. Eventhough the men were already into hunting, it was not enough to provide for the family, that is why most people resulted to the cultivation of rice while some carried out coffee cultivation and clay pot making. The other crops cultivated such as beans, corn, were not as lucrative as rice. The few people who were into rice cultivation discovered that, rice cultivation was a lucrative business but these farmers faced problems in cultivating rice because they were cultivating upland rice and needed farm inputs such as fertilisers and farm tools to boost rice production. Due to the lack of these farm inputs, foreign assistance was needed for rice cultivation to exceed.

B. Political Organization

Here, we shall be examining the traditional setup of Bu that is how the political system is structured. From the head of the village which is the chief to the smallest organ, we shall begin with the chief, family lineage, quarter heads, Kuifai then which doctors, just to name a few. All these structures have their roles to play in the community, in ensuring peace and stability.,

Traditional Setup

From the time of settlement, the Bu Chiefdom like any other chiefdom in the grass field was hierarchically set up. The settlement unit of the chiefdom was the family unit which consisted of a man, his wives and his unmarried children⁶¹. The man was the head of the family who made sure that peace and security reigned within, he was the representative of the family. He attended village meetings and transmitted information to his family. In the past, a man with many wives was respected especially if the family was dominated by male children.

Next on the ladder was the family lineage head who was usually the eldest and a respected villager. He solved problems within the lineage held meetings with family heads and represented the lineage at all levels⁶². He led ritual ceremonies and was the only one who was in the possession of the lineage ancestral cup (powers). Some of the family lineage in Bu

⁶¹ Interview with Ndang Ebenezer ,66years, Former Manager Bu Cooperative, Bu,28 December 2022.

⁶² Amaaze, "The Traditional History of Bu, Wum Division", 1964, p.55.

and Laimbwe clan included: Eseilemei, Ndoukang, Uzang, Eului, Eukaze, Kulukang, Eku, Italah, Ekai, Kembeule, Kechaa, Ndwo-bung, etc. Each of these lineages was distinct from the other; they had their different shrines, ancestors and to a lesser extent; distinct characteristics. Some of these lineages had inheritance rite, right in Aghem. For example, we are from the Aghem clan from the lineage of Ndoukang in Aghem. This Ndoukang is one of the most renowned and populated in Bu chiefdom, it should be noted that, it is not only their lineage, but many of those mentioned above are also found in Aghem. Despite the differences, they came together and worked for a common interest for their chiefdom.

The society was highly stratified; there were the men, women, children who occupied varying positions of the society⁶³. The men ran the daily political activities while the women carried out economic and domestic activities and the children only tried to emulate the example of the elders. They belong to traditional social institution to better coordinate their activities, these institutions include: Kuifuai, Keffa, the Ikum (the ritual group), Kebom (music and dance group), Feumbwei, Keusem, Njang, and Njangi groups (these are money saving houses). Moon light activities were equally organised to occupy the evenings of a hard-working day from the farms. Activities such as hide and seek, “naketah” (touch and follow), storytelling where children gathered around the fire to listen to these stories narrated by elderly men and women of the chiefdom. These stories and wise sayings at times centred on the history and origin of the people⁶⁴.

Marriages were common that brought people from different lineages together which was done following the laws and customs of the people⁶⁵. In the early days, parents used to choose husbands and wives for their young ones; this could be to strengthen relationship amongst the lineage groupings. There was the payment of dowry which signified the seriousness of the interested groups. Dowry was affordable and was mostly in kind; it could be a goat or a pig and some few tins of palm oil depending on the efforts of the concerned (a tin was equivalent to 20litres). Polygamy was common which equally enabled the successor to inherit the wives of his predecessor.

Politically, the village was well structured, it was divided into quarters headed by quarter heads. There were the Weiso, Wawaa, Kassa, Ngohte-beu, Tolle, Fungum, U-seum,

⁶³ Interview with Ndang Joseph

⁶⁴ Kah, “Gender and Livestock Farming in Laimbweland”, pp 56-58.

⁶⁵ C.Ndifor, “History of Bu”, Historical Notes Bamenda Grassfield, 1960, p.20.

Mbullom, Ngheucheu, Bafreng, Kumfutu, Nyaatsu o, Etei, Ngoh, Muijang. The quarter heads were usually the first settler in the quarters. The position of the quarter heads was hereditary, matrilineal succession⁶⁶. The quarter head resolved disputes that came up within his area of jurisdiction before taking it to the village head. They paid tribute to the village head and attended important village meetings and cleansing ceremonies. The chiefdom had traditional Priest and a village Over-seer (Veungang); witch doctor that had the duty of fighting off evil spirits that threatened to plague the chiefdom and provide the chiefdom with traditional medicinal herbs for diverse purposes. He provided answers to mystical problem by consulting the gods of the village, he led the village in ritual sacrifices, cleansing and blessing of the crops of the village land⁶⁷.

Besides the highest organ of the tradition of the land as in the case of the other chiefdoms of the Grass field is the Kuifai. This is the regulating organ of the village where members are drawn from the different lineages of the village or chiefdom which serve as a retainer of custom and laws of the land. It is a strictly male society, its members are recruited through initiation and are well trained for the execution of the affairs of the chiefdom without bias, characterised by strict discipline, obedience, docility, honesty and punctuality, this body has the authority to punish crimes such as; witchcraft, theft, prostitution, covetousness, perjury, adultery etc. punishment varied according to crime committed and thus ranged from fines, death by hanging and banishment. Generally, in the Grass field, the nature of the Kuifai in the chiefdom cannot openly be described, for it will mean disrespect of tradition. Its activities are strictly restricted to the public.

Like the Bafut and the Aghem, the Bu people believed in the Kuifai, the Kuifai collects tribute and regulates commercial activities of the chiefdom⁶⁸. It also has the duty of maintaining peace, law and order in the society, organising community work and ensures that it is properly executed. The rehabilitation and the renovation of the Fon palace, building of small bridges, taking care of the health centre, community water points etc. Like in other chiefdom, it is the chief priest who possesses magical religious power and at time could bring

⁶⁶ E.N. Fung, "The History of Bu\Mbengkas Rice Cooperative Society, 1972 -1998" p.6.

⁶⁷ E.M Chilvers & P.M. Kaberry, "Notes on Traditional Bamenda, The Pre-Colonial History and Ethnography of the Bamenda Grassfield (Prefectures of Bamenda, Wum, Nkambe)" Government printers, 1966, p.5.

⁶⁸ Interview with Ndang Ebenezer

in misfortune on anybody who defy the orders in the village, fight against evil spirit and wishes of the land⁶⁹.

Kuifai does not work alone, it works with other institutions like the Chief Makers institution, the village council of notables, the Keffah, (this is the women`s wing of the Kuifai); they worked in close collaboration with these and kept the secret that surround the chieftaincy. The kingmaker institution is made up of 7 members who are responsible for the choice of the new candidate for the throne. These are the ones who present the new candidate to the Kuifuai for the village official installation. The chieftaincy as a whole is seen as an ancestral and thus need a strong protection to ensure continuous link between the people and their ancestor. This is why the Kuifuai works in close collaboration with the Fuai (CHIEF)⁷⁰.

Upon enthronement, the Kuifuai becomes close to the chief, the kuifuai instructs and directs him on the way the people of the land are to be governed. He is considered as the light of the village that need constant fuel to keep it burning. One of his functions is to represent the village whenever the need arises. The chief lives in the To`ohfuai (the palace), from where he ruled his people. See plate 2 and 3 of Bu palace:

⁶⁹ Kah, "Sites, and Objects, Indigenous Library and the History of Liambwe, Cameroon", *Afrika Focus* Volume 30, No 1 ,2017, p 60.

⁷⁰ T. Kefeih, " Inter Ethnic Relations in the North West Region in Cameroon: The Case of Aghem and Bu Ethnic Groups, 1900-2000", M.A, Dissertation in History, University of Yaounde 1, 2018, p.20.

Plate 2: Entrance into the Bu Palace



Source: By Author, 2023

Plate 3: Inside the Bu Traditional palace

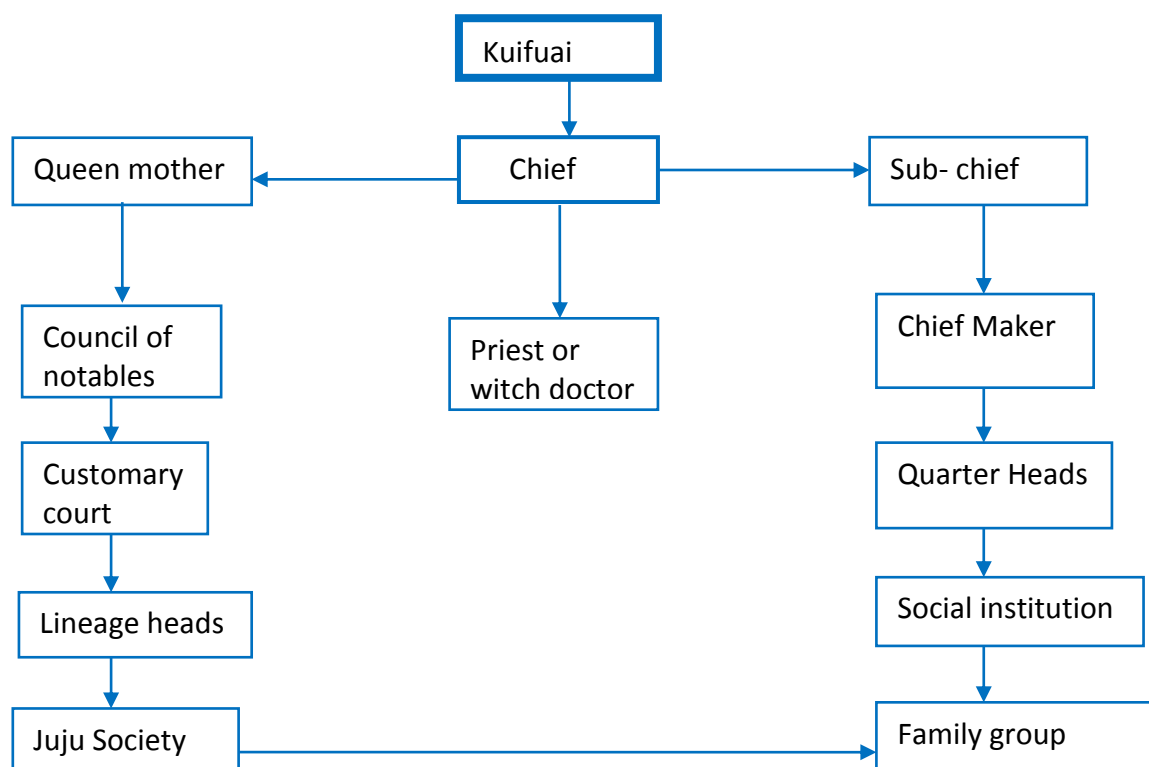


Source: By Author, 2023

As seen from the plate 2 and 3, we noticed that the chief equally shared his power with the Fuai Fuiazieg (the sub-chief) the other small stools beside the main seat, are for the four important elders and sub chiefs who sit with the chief whenever the need arises. The chief ensures the fertility of the land thus by directing the rituals for soil fertility at the beginning of every farming season. Beside the chief, is the Queen mother (Zheufuai), she is the close spice of the chief, close adviser to the chief. She is not the wife of the chief but also comes from the same lineage as the chief. She is the oldest and the eldest of all women in that lineage, she is the representative of the women folk and has the authority to settle disputes amongst women before it can be taken to the village council. She heads the women secret ritual society (keffa).

The traditional counsellors are made up of village counsellors representing the respective quarters. The village council only deliberates on matters but there is the customary court made up of educated dignitaries. They discuss and settle problems affecting the land such as witchcraft, land ownership crisis and broken marriages. See the traditional set up of the Bu chieftaincy, these political organisations favoured rice cultivation in Bu as they were incharge of land sharing, since the chief was the custodian of the land, he made sure that the farmers had land for cultivation and the lands were given for free.

Figure 1: The Traditional set up of the Bu Chieftdom.



Source: Lang, A Study of the Bassel Mission

From the table above, we can observe that the kuifuai is the highest holder of authority in the village. This is the regulating organ of the village where members are drawn from the different lineages of the village or chiefdom, which serve as a retainer of custom and laws of the land. It is a strictly male society; it also has the duty of maintaining peace, law and order in the society, organizing community work and ensures that it is properly executed. After the kuifuai we have the chief, he is the ruler of the people, he protects the interest of his people and makes sure that peace reigns. We have sub chiefs who are those who control smaller villages within the village, they are all answerable to the chief and together they work for the growth of the village. We also have the chief makers, they are the ones who install the chief and make him king.

On the chief's left hand, we have the Queen mother who is not the chief's wife; she is the close spouse of the chief, close adviser. After the queen mother, we have the council of notables, they are the wise men of the village who have as aim to assist the chief in making wise decisions that will favour the village. From the customary court who are the custodians of law, we have the lineage heads, to the juju societies who are there to represent the various juju that the village has. Bu being a typical African society, naturally has a witch doctor who is in charge of speaking with the ancestors and giving feedback to the chief when there is a problem. He helps the chief to find solutions to problems that are spiritual. Note should be taken that some of the rice farmers reside in the chief's palace.

C. Social Organisation

In this sub section, we shall be analysing the religious background, the educational background and housing conditions before 1965. We shall show how these domains were before foreign assistance and their relation with rice cultivation and how foreign assistance was needed for these domains to be transformed.

Religious Activities

The Bu people believed in the existence of a superior supernatural being and in life after death. This made them to strengthen the link that existed between them and their ancestors. This was seen from the fact that, in every gathering or cleansing ceremony, libations were

made with water and palm wine. Polytheism is also the order of the day in Bu village, there used to be the god of rain, god of the river, Sun, planting and harvesting, and each lineage group is believed to have its own god⁷¹. They usually gave sacrifices to these gods in different occasions and in places such as the caves, hills, rivers, big trees etc, which are believed to be the residing places (Tseimke) of the gods. For example, we have Tseimke Ndoukang, TseimkeEselemei, TsemkeEhzeum, TseimkeEukwaze; these are the four main lineages that have stools at the palace. Due to a long-standing chieftaincy dispute, the Ndoukang and the Eukwaze stools have been for long without someone sitting on them. For now, the Eselemei is the royal lineage while the Ehzeum remains the sub chief lineage. The sacrifices and practices the people carried out is believed to protect and cleanse their land from both physical and spiritual attacks⁷².

However, with the coming of the Christianity, they were taught about the existence of one God (monotheism). The new convert into this religion did not hesitate to condemn the traditional practices. Like in many grass field regions, Christianity was not welcomed by all; clashes broke out between the arch traditionalists and the staunch converts. There was massive boycott of the secret and juju societies by the newly converted natives. Among the newly implanted churches in the chieftdom, we have; the Presbyterians, the Baptist and the Catholic. The presence of the born-again churches is insignificant in the Bu village⁷³. The Presbyterian church was the first to come to Bu, most people were reluctant to attend these churches because they had their gods in which believed in. Before 1965, the Presbyterian church were already in Bu, the Catholics, and the Baptist followed later on. With the coming of the presbyterian church, many people were converted⁷⁴. Most people attended the Presbyterian church because they were forced to by the Germans who used harsh methods to force them to attend service. The presbyterian church was controlled from Weh by Rev Rim, till date, the Presbyterian church is still the dominant denomination in Bu. eventhough under the presbyterian church, the Germans were assisting the rice farmers this assistance was on a minimal level. Foreign assistance was needed for the improvement of agriculture.

Education

⁷¹ Kah., "Music, Gender and History", p. 177.

⁷² NAB, File No sd/b/953, Fifty years of Basel Mission. p 4.

⁷³ DAW, File E28/655/Vol1, 3rd Press and information, 1984, p 63.

⁷⁴ Kum, "The Agricultural Training Center (ATC) Wum", p 42.

Education is the foundation for any developing economy, concerning education; we are referring to both the oral the classical education. According to the history and origin of these people, oral education was the order of the day. It is from this type of education that we learn about the origin and migration of this small village. Concerning the origin and the migration of the people, many versions of oral sources of education characterised the history of the Bu people. This shows the importance of oral education to the community, before 1965, there were no schools most people were illiterates they never had any educational facilities and they did not know how to read or write the people who could afford to send their children to school were few and these children had to trek to Wum to study because there were no schools in Bu.

Even after the coming of the Presbyterian school, most of the population were still illiterates because, most of the people did not see the need to go to school and even after the Presbyterian mission opened up the first school, most people complained that the fees were very expensive. This was because most people did not have lucrative jobs that could provide them income. As concerns classical education, emphasis was first of all laid on the notion of writing, reading and calculating. Looking at the educational system of the grass field, we noticed that, the coming of the missions in Cameroon did play a role in education; most of the schools at this time were controlled by the various missions in Cameroon (Catholics, Presbyterian and the Baptist).most people were not able to send their children to school because the money they got from their rice businesses, was not sufficient to send their children to school and feed the family, they prioritised fending for their families instead of sending their children to school. With this, foreign assistance was needed so as to improve upon rice cultivation, so that people could have enough funds to send their children to school and provide for their families.

Housing

Before 1965, house building in Bu was not the best, the houses were not modern like the houses we have today. Houses were built with bamboos, mudded from outside and covered with grass roofs. The men did the building and cut the grass for roofing, while the women did the mudding and equally helped in transportation of grass⁷⁵. These houses had no windows and inside were usually lined bamboo beds and chairs. In the forest region, sticks were used

⁷⁵ Interview with George Akuh ,68 Years, Former Manager Bu/Mbengkas Cooperative Society, Bu,28, December 2022

in building and the walls were mudded both in and out by the women. The roofs were thatched with palm fronds by the men, Stout ceiling was made of ‘raphia’ on which everyone slept⁷⁶. Access to the ceiling were obtained by a ladder through a small hole to its floor. The practise of sleeping in the ceiling by the forest zone was due to fear of animal attacks.

Houses were single roomed in which a family lived, cooked and stored its provisions. The number of such houses easily portrayed the number of wives a man had or the number of families duelling therein⁷⁷. These were sparsely distributed from one quarter to another even today in Bu their houses are still sparsely distributed. such houses proved dangerous in the face of storms and bush fires. These housing conditions were like this because the citizens did not have the funds to build good houses, the level of rice cultivation was very low and they did not have a source of income that they could use to build these houses. In Wum, some families perished under falling houses while asleep in 1964 even though few people had brick houses in Bu.

Plate 4: Example of Housing before 1965



Source: professor Kah Elvis’ library, 2001

⁷⁶ Kum, “Wum Area Development Authority (WADA)”, p. 49.

⁷⁷ Interview with Chu Henry Ngam, 61 Years, Former Treasurer of the Cooperative, Bu, 28 December 2022.

From the picture above, it shows the type of house that were constructed before 1965. These poor housing conditions were as a result of the lack of funds to purchase building materials for the building of bricks houses. Before 1965, house materials for building were very expensive and the people could not afford it because the money gotten from rice was not sufficient enough to build better houses. The farm output gotten did not yield much funds, the money gotten was used to take care of the family. So in order to improve upon rice cultivation which was their main economic activity, foreign assistance was needed.

D. Economic Activities

When we talk of development, more emphasis is laid on the economic sector. In order to clearly bring out the economic life of the Bu village, it will be very necessary to look into economic activities which are usually divided into; primary, secondary and tertiary. When we look at the economy of the Bu people on the primary sector, we notice and observe that, this sector is based on gathering and collecting of forest products, agriculture, hunting, and fishing. These are the economic activities of the Bu people. These activities are mostly carried out by the youths and adults, both men and women are involved while only men did hunting. Agriculture is the main economic activity of the Bu people

Agriculture

We shall be discussing the various agricultural activities that was being carried out in Bu before foreign assistance. We shall begin by analysing the early rice economy that is how rice cultivation came about in Bu, that is the cultivation of Upland rice before swamp rice cultivation and we shall also discuss the various economic activities such as hunting, clay making, fishing, Animal rearing.

The Early Rice Economy in Bu

Rice, a cash and staple crop in Bu was first introduced in 1953 from Abakaliki in Nigeria. During this epoch, British Southern Cameroons was administered from the British colony of Nigeria. The initial specie, was upland rice, the villagers cultivated the crop for themselves and also for their Fon, Chu Mbonghekang. The period of cultivation was August immediately after the maize harvest. A piece of land was cleared, hoed and the rice seeds sprinkled on the prepared farm. Men were responsible for clearing the land and women tilled the soil, the

following year upland rice cultivation was taken up by other village notables who employed the family labor to cultivate it. It is interesting to note that as women took on the actual process of cultivating this new crop, men assisted them in the preparation of food. The food was usually plantains and palm oil which was also the people's staple prior to rice cultivation. The cultivation of upland rice in 1954 rose tremendously for several reasons. The agricultural department of the colonial government obtained one hundred weight of improved rice seed from Abakaliki which was distributed to rice growers in Bu⁷⁸.

The intention of this move was to promote the cultivation of rice for sustainable livelihood through its consumption and sale to purchase other basic needs of the people. The farmers received this improved specie with much enthusiasm and planted it for improved yield⁷⁹. They were also comforted by the promised power-driven rice hulling machine by the government to facilitate the hulling of the harvested crop. The land in Bu was also earmarked for particular attention in the development of rice growing not only on technical grounds but also because of its greater facilities for evacuation to the market when compared with Babaji in Menchum valley. The village was also blessed with a fertile valley ideal for rice growing as was a confluence for Rivers Meteh and Menchum. These foregoing factors were a catalyst to the improvement of rice production in Bu, a few years after its introduction. Besides, the crop also generated income not only for the villagers but also for the colonial administration in the form of tax payments. In spite of the importance and the enthusiasm with which upland rice cultivation was embraced by the people, its cultivation eventually dwindled. The phasing out of upland rice cultivation was partly due to the introduction of coffee cultivation. This crop became more profitable than rice, as early as 1954, a few coffee plants had been cultivated. At this early stage, its cultivation was not a threat to rice production but by 1959, its cultivation was attracting more income than rice.

After independence and following the introduction of the Second Five Year Plan (1965-70) by the federal government of Cameroon, coffee cultivation was intensified⁸⁰. The objective of the plan was to foster the commercialisation of the agricultural sector, reform and reorganise it. There was equally emphasis on the diversification of cash crop production, the introduction of the Five-Year Plan encouraged farmers in Aghem Town, Bu, Zhoa and

⁷⁸ Kah. "Masculinity and Female Resistance in the", p.120.

⁷⁹ D.A.W, file No E28/751/S.1 Development Perspectives 1980 – 2000. Vol 1.

⁸⁰ A. Ahidjo. Loi No 71-LF-7 "Portant approbation du 3^e plan quinquennal de développement économique, social et culturel" du 6 Septembre 1971, pp. 110-111.

Fungom to embark on coffee cultivation, a crop hitherto cultivated in Kom on a commercial scale. Such intensification of cultivation impacted negatively on rice cultivation in Bu with women not actually involved in coffee cultivation from the very beginning. By the late 1960s rice cultivation had dwindled to the point of extinction. Its cultivation and sale in the heydays had however provided men with the additional means of income to uplift the standards of living of members of their families.

The upland rice that was harvested, was pounded by women and children in mortars carved from wood using pestles. Thereafter, the crop was sold in the Wum market, a twelve-kilometer trek from Bu by these women and their children⁸¹. After the sale of rice, the people had money to buy kerosene for their lamps, cooking oil, fish and other necessities for home. The colonial administration's promise to better the situation by making available the hand operated rice hulling machine did not materialise. The rationale was due to the uncompleted road but before the end of the colonial epoch, the road from Wum to Bu had been completed⁸². In spite of this, there were still many culverts to be completed, meanwhile any expenditure from the sale of rice was not done without common agreement between husbands and wives. In some homes, proceeds from the sale of rice were used to educate their children, this notwithstanding, when the cultivation of 120 upland rice phased out, swamp rice cultivation was eventually introduced in the community in 1974. Its very early years was dominated and controlled by men as women were more or less taken for family labor.

Introduction and Cultivation of Swamp Rice

Swamp rice cultivation on its part was introduced into Bu in 1974, prior to this, the other Liambwe village of Mbengkas had taken to rice cultivation a year earlier. This early cultivation was the handiwork of Sam Mbwai Achang who had spent some time in Tingoh (Mile 24) on the Wum – Bamenda road cultivating rice. The Tingoh rural settlement had been introduced to rice cultivation by some Chinese⁸³. Seeds were given out free to men who cultivated and owned the crops, from Tingoh, rice cultivation extended to the Menchum Valley area of Mile 37. As rice cultivation spread along the Menchum valley other Liambwe men from Bu such as Mathias Bah and Jacob Isoh descended from Bu to cultivate it.

⁸¹Ibid. p. 112.

⁸² Etudes des structures des exploitations Agricoles dans les zones d'ara biculture des provinces de L'Ouest et du Nord-Ouest, 1976.

⁸³ Interview with Chu Henry Ngam.

The crop was introduced in Bu in 1974 by Sam Mbwai Achang, the men of Bu enthusiastically welcomed it and among the first rice cultivators were Isaiah Tschemaaghi, Tom Bong Ache, Daniel Buh Women only joined men as cultivators of their own rice farms later. From the very beginning, they were at best only part of the family labor, the success of the pioneer rice cultivators in 1974 encouraged many other men to join in rice cultivation the following year⁸⁴. Meanwhile in the previous year, some did not join contending and rightly too that rice cultivation would lead to the swelling of people's legs because it entailed standing in water the whole some pioneers like Isaiah Tschemaaghi were able to dowry their wives and buy radios from the sale of five bags of rice at 20,000 francs CFA.

Rice cultivation thus became a way of people raising income to marry wives and for them to become used to things that were "modern" such as the buying of a radio and listening to news. The many doubting thomases some came out of their indifference to embrace the rice business militantly. Some men formed groups or njangis to help one another clear their individual rice farms in the swampy and fertile areas of the Meteh/Menchum valley. According to the unwritten constitution of these njangis, each individual prepared food, corn bear and made a little financial contribution to a collective fund.

Besides, every member was to be physically strong and personally present during the clearing of farms of members. Some of the areas which were cleared for rice cultivation were Nchuumbang, Zhehfang, Eboofeguighe and Nduufetschie⁸⁵. At this early stage of rice cultivation men did the nursing of the rice grains, clearing of a piece of land and dividing it into plots, tilling the soil as well as transplanting the rice with the entire family. Men also joined women in weeding the rice plots and in the harvesting of rice from the beginning to the end. Besides, it was the sole responsibility of the men or male children to keep the pathways separating the plots clean on a regular basis. This was to ease surveillance of the entire farm from the destruction of animals and birds respectively.

Young boys also tended the farms from birds when the rice were harvest. Their mothers provided them with corn fufu and other foodstuff and they took their hooks to the streams and rivers for mudfish and tilapia as an accompaniment. These notwithstanding, women later on felt nelegated to the background and fought back tigerishly using different

⁸⁴ S.C Femshiang, "The Production of Ndop Rice in the Ndop Plain and the Impact on its Economy 1970-2000", M. A Degree in History, University of Bamenda, 2007, p.77.

⁸⁵ Femshiang, "The Production of Ndop Rice in the Ndop Plain", 2000, p. 78.

alternatives⁸⁶. Before the coming of foreign assistance, the Bu people cultivated the Chinese rice which pa Samuel brought from mile 24⁸⁷. When he introduced this rice, many people in Bu were not that interested in cultivating it. It was only after when a farmer cultivated rice, harvested and sold rice and he bought a radio. When he bought the radio, he will carry it on his shoulder and walk around the community while listening to music. This ignited the Bu people's interest in buying their own radio, so this greatly motivated the people to cultivate rice and buying their own radio.

Plate 5: Aerial view of a rice Plots in Bu



Source: Professor Elvis Kah's library, 2001.

Plate 5 above shows the area of rice cultivation in Bu, the valley is where rice farmers farm their rice and the river beside is river meteh that divides Bu from Mbengkas. It is due to this

⁸⁶ Kah, "Masculinity and Female Resistance in the Rice Economy in Meteh/Menchum Valley, Bu, North West Cameroon, 1953-2005", *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, Volume 15, No 7, 2013, p.119.

⁸⁷ Department of Agriculture Quarterly Report: Extension Work –Wum Division 1st January -31st march 1968.

river that rice cultivation is made possible in this valley, the river serves as a fertiliser to rice, and it keeps the soil moisturised for cultivation.

Foreign assistance was made possible in Bu through WADA which was a continuation of the ATC. The Germans under the Presbyterian church usually passed through Bu to go preach the word of God in mile 24. The main road from Wum to Bamenda was through Bu, so in passing through Bu to mile 24, they saw how the Bu people lived in poor conditions without cloths, beds, the blind needed medical attention, and homeless. The Germans started helping the Bu people by giving out food, cloths, beds for people to sleep on, bush lamps for light. The Bu people were very primitive; they did not have electricity they usually used elephant grass as light⁸⁸. With the coming of the Germans, things gradually changed, the Germans through WADA decided to assist the rice farmers in rice cultivation by giving them assistance in different domains. After the liquidation of WADA, several other foreign organisations came to Bu to assist them in rice production. These organisations were ; Appui Aux Stratégies Paysannes et à la Professionnalisation de l'Agriculture (ASPPA) and Programme de Appui au Developement des Filieres Agricole (PADFA)

Hunting is an old activity and it is the activity that supplements the proteins diet of the Bu people. Hunting activities are carried out around the Kom - Wum Forest reserve and is being considered as a nocturnal activity⁸⁹. During the guarding period of rice, the hunting of Cain rats is intensified due to the fact that this wild species of animal love eating the rice stems. When caught is usually smoked and carried to nearby markets. Fishing on its part is done in the rivers such as Moghom, Meteh, Mzeleh and River Menchum⁹⁰. Harvesting of wood in the gallery forest around the Bu village is used for home consumption and economic activities. In the whole of Menchum Division; the Bu village is highly solicited for charcoal production and wood selling.

Animal rearing is practised; which is the keeping of animal for domestic consumption and commercialisation such as pigs, cows, fowls and goats. These activities are principally for the provision of proteins in diets; some are being sold in the market for the purchase of other local commodities. At times just rearing and keeping them is a source of wealth and

⁸⁸ Interview with Mvo Hycinth Ettia, 63 years, Technical Supervisor of PADFA in Wum, 20 April, 2023.

⁸⁹ Kah, "Livelihood Challenges in a Cameroon's Montane Forest Reserve, Economy and Eco history", *Journal of ekonomska Ekohistorija*, Volume XI, No 11, p.75.

⁹⁰ W. A. Ndongko, "The financing of economic Development in Cameroon", *In Africa Development*, No 2, Volume 3, 1977. p .63.

honour, pride and traditional respect. This is a subsistent type of farming and it is mostly carried out by women such as keeping or rearing of goats, fowls, pigs, which are usually, allowed to stray during dry season or after harvesting season to fend for themselves. The rearing of cattle is carried out by the ‘Bororos, Aku, Fulani’s in a system known as pastoral nomadism and transhumance. The cattles are moved from place to place in search of pastures or from hill top during infested period in the valleys and back to the valleys during dry season. Product from this rearing is meat and local milk production, an activity done by women carried to the Wum market in large calabash.⁹¹ Concerning the secondary aspect, we will be laying emphasis on clay. Clay is transformed into clay pots and dishes (pottery and embroidery). This activity suffers great challenges from cheaper goods commonly found in the market, for instance, modern aluminium and silver plates and pots which generally slow down the turnover of pottery goods

Farming is one of the main economic activities of this village, the soils are very fertile clay soils especially around the Menchum valley. The system of agriculture is purely subsistence and bush fallowing with no clear distinction on sex ratio. farming is both for food and cash crop, food crops such as sweet potatoes, white yams, cocoyam, cassava, groundnut, maize and others are grown⁹². A few of these crops are taken to the market, such as maize sold in Wum market. Oil palm production is too small due to the fact that the people still depends on the natural wild palms associated to the gallery forest, they produced palm oil but could not sell because there were no markets in which they could sell their goods so the palm oil was just for consumption⁹³.

The cultivation of vegetables is common such as Akro (*Hibiscus esculentus*), cowpeas, bitter leaves (*Veromia amygdalina*), huckleberry (*zolanumnigrum*) locally called “Jamajama” and sauce complement like egusi are also cultivated. As concerns cash crops; coffee used to be one of the main cash crop around the 80s, but due to fall in demand, some of the farms were abandoned in the bushes, some farms cleared down for maize cultivation. Production of banana is in the increase due to a high demand from Wum, some are even taken to nearby

⁹¹ T.C. Nongoh “The North West Livestock Development Fund (NWLDF) and Livestock Breeding in the North West Region of Cameroon, 1974-2014: A Historical Evaluation”, M.A, History Department, University of Younde I, 2018, p.2.

⁹² R. S. Wallang, “Swamp rice cultivation in Bafut Sub-Division: Socio-economic and Environmental Impact”, DiPES 2 Dissertation in Geography, ENS Yaoudé, 2003, pp 130-132.

⁹³ M. L. Kpuche, “International Ecumenical Community Development Aid in Bad Hands: The Case of the Bu Health Centre Project of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon”, *Lagos Historical Review*, 2013, 121.

Nigerian towns⁹⁴. Rice is the most important cash crop that is cultivated along the Rivers of Meteh, Akooh and Menchum. Before 1965, the rice produced was of low quality and the outputs they got from harvesting was of low, they lacked farm products such as fertilisers, the fertilisers they had were ashes of grass and weeds which could not boost rice production, so this necessitated the need for foreign assistance.

Rice harvested was being hulled in the mill at the Bu-Bengkas rice cooperative premises. Some farmers process their harvested rice into “parboil”; a local method in which rice is boiled, dried, before hulling to produce a quality known as “Bu Rice” Concerning the secondary aspect, we will be laying emphasis on the transformation of products from the primary sector. Products collected from the forest such as wood is transformed into charcoal, timber for the building, furniture and brown rice. The economic activities forgone, were the activities that the people carried out to sustain themselves. Starting from hunting, to cattle rearing, clay making and farming, they sustained themselves with these activities. Farming was and is still the main stay of livelihood for the people especially rice cultivation but this activity faced several challenges which was a drawback to it exceeding .so it was because of these constraints to rice cultivation that foreign assistance was needed in order to improve rice cultivation.

Trade

The underlying factor in trade be it internal or external, is production surpluses. The absence of such surpluses in production plays down on the volume of trade as well as the interest of the population to engage in trade. Production be it in agriculture or craft was considerably low in Bu before 1965. The barter system was very much active, women bartered small quantities of food stuffs, pots or baskets in their own and nearby villages as the need rose. The Bu people produced palm oil in order to have farming tools, they traded this palm oil with farming tools in Wum. Males in Wum acted as a middleman for the palm oil trade with Bu. They also traded coffee in the Wum market and in turn they got farming tools, corn and other food stuffs. Before 1965, the Bu people never had markets where they could sell their goods⁹⁵.

⁹⁴ Femshiang, “The Production of Ndop rice”. P.27

⁹⁵ N.K. Takor, “The Bamenda Grass field in Long Distance Trade, 1850-1961: Evolutionary Dynamics, Socio-Economic and Political Transmutations”, Doctorate of Philosophy Degree (P.H.D) in History, University of Yaoundé I, 2011, P.83.

They had to travel to Wum, Bafmeng, Ishimbi markets to sell their goods and there were no buyers. The few buyers they found bought the goods for very cheap prices and at the end of the day, they discovered that they were working on losses. That is why better than selling, most people preferred to do trade by barter in exchange for the good they wanted rather than selling. The rice farmers after harvesting had to carry the goods all the way to Wum to sell the rice because they did not have good markets where they could sell their rice. After they sold the rice, they had no gain because they had spent extra cost in transporting the rice. All these problems that the rice farmers faced necessitated foreign assistance and with the coming of this assistance, a cooperative was created which was used as a market for the sale of rice this reduced the cost of transportation which the farmers faced before

Land Use

Land can be defined as the areas of residential, industrial or commercial purposes, for farming or forestry, for recreational or conservation purposes.⁹⁶ In the pre-colonial era, access to land in Aghem and Bu was acquired through customary tenure. By customary land tenure system, we mean processes and rules of land appropriation and expropriation that are based on customs and traditions of the indigenous community considered to have been handed down from one generation to another because of their ancestral links to the land. This is however different from statutory (state) land law which refers to the legal provisions that Cameroon inherited from the colonialists at the dawn of independence and which are being enforced till today. Land has different meanings to the different communities and we tried to find out from the Aghem and Bu people what land actually means to them. According to chief of Aghem⁹⁷.

The land is actually for the community and we acquired it in those days when we fought for the land from the Beba after migrating from Nigeria-from the Munchi tribe because of leadership crisis. Till today people still fight over leadership, we by-passed the Beba people and came to where we are now. Land was (and still is) a communal property and that is why we have settled in one place and then go out to cultivate crops on communal land far away from the settlements. We have common customs and traditions. We do everything in common. Land is actually

⁹⁶F.C. Ntangti & R.M. Fokang, "Land Cover Changes, Protected Areas and Agro-Pastoral Conflicts in Menchum, North West Cameroon", *American Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research*, 2019, p.41.

⁹⁷ P. Angwafo, "Contesting Land and Identity case," 2014, p.74.

divided according to the lineages, Waindo have their land, Kesu has its own land and we also have our own land in Zongekwo where I am the leader⁹⁸.

Following the above narrative by Fon Mbambi, customary land as being defined by particular communities who generally link rights with residence and perceptions of origin. This means that land and water rights are ascribed with reference to ancestral origin and that only persons associated with a particular origin-based identity may, in principle, live and use the land and water resources within a defined area. Customary claims have usually been based on first settlement and clearance of bush land, converting it into farmland and establishing some kind of covenant with the spirits of the area through regular offerings and sacrifices. As the chief of the village narrates.

It is also land that the people acquired, the term indigenous should be taken to simply mean indigenes and not the definition adopted by the UN in 2007 on the Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous People. Considered as tribal people in independent countries with social, cultural and economic conditions whose statuses are belated wholly or partially by their own customs or by special laws or regulations or who are seen as different and then marginalised. According to the Aghem and Bu traditions, land was owned by the community but held in trust by the chiefs. In Bu, the responsibility to undertake the task to distribute the land rests with the chief (Fuai) but in consultation with his quarter heads, while in Aghem it is the Batum of each section as earlier indicated⁹⁹. Communal land control and management during the pre-colonial era. in the Grass fields, chiefs were the custodians of land in their respective chiefdoms and enjoyed the privilege of exercising proprietary rights to land. In principle, all land was controlled by the chief. He was the only one who could give out land, and it was usually attributed to family heads. Though women did not own the land, they had rights over the land they cultivated. The right to a plot was acquired through cultivation. Such a plot could be handed over to one's successors. In sum, the land belonged to the community, but the proceeds accruing from the field was owned by the cultivators.

Among the Bu, the land is still seen as the source of origin and of one's birth, where their parents originated. There is therefore a strong link between land and traditions of origin in the Area. According to Bu people; the land they occupy belongs to the sons and daughters

⁹⁸Interview with Cyprian Anangmbi Chuo, 63 Years, Teacher, Wum, 27 December, 2022.

⁹⁹ A.M. Olayiwolu & A.O. Eludoyin, "Land Use Change, the Mezam Division of the North-West Province, Cameroon" 1988-2001, from Landsat Imageries, *Ethopian Journal of Environmental studiea and Management*, Volume 4, 2011, p.52.

of the chiefdom¹⁰⁰. ‘It is the source of life and even the Bible says that we came from the soil and we shall all end there. Land is therefore not just the final home but the place where one will be buried. ‘You know home is home and each one of us has land that is the final home. Since we work out of our homes we need to build at least a house back in our homeland. As one writer puts it,’ we endeavor to live with the land but others live off it.

Not being able to have a house in the homeland is generally considered a disgrace. In Bu land is neither sold nor bought and nobody in Bu has obtained a land certificate. According to Bu tradition, land cannot be sold, but a family can lend someone the right to use their plots. Such arrangements do not involve fees, payments or voluntary gift. Many rice farmers cultivate land which was allocated to them by the village head. Some people still rent land in order to cultivate rice, Bu has a surface area of 500 hectares of land but only 120 hectares of land is being cultivated due to the limitations of farm to market road, lack of farm tools and the lack of an irrigation system these drawbacks made the rice farmers to ask for assistance from the various foreign bodies.

Conclusion

This chapter examined the background of rice cultivation before the coming of foreign assistance in Bu. From the discussions above, it is evident that rice cultivation in Bu was influenced by geographical variables as well as a drive for economic needs. This is because environmental elements such as climate, soil type, among others provided favourable conditions suitable for rice cultivation. The community was noted for its slowness in rice production and many people were not engaged in rice production they turned to other economic activities for livelihood such as fishing, hunting, coffee production, the production of household utensils with the use of clay. Due to the fact that these economic activities were mainly to serve subsistence purpose, the indigenes needed an economic activity that could fetch some cash for them to sponsor their childrens education, as well as medical and other economic and social needs. As many farmers depended on rice cultivation for their livelihood, measures had to be taken so as to maximize profit and reduce poverty and hunger. As such through the GTA and the creation of the ATC, WADA was created because of the failure of the ATC and their activities extended to Bu, they assisted the rice farmers to boost rice production and this was done through the creation of the Bu/ Mbemgkas rice

¹⁰⁰ Angwafo. “Contesting Land and Identity case”, 2014 p.77.

cooperative. The cooperative was used as a medium for the improvement of rice cultivation and the sale of rice. We thus assert that the GTA laid the potential for foreign assistance in Bu and the coming of these foreign bodies, their activities and project is our focus in the next chapter.

CHAPTER TWO

CONTRIBUTORS TO RICE PRODUCTION IN BU.

Introduction

For a better understanding of foreign assistance in Bu, this chapter is devoted to examining the various foreign organisations and countries that gave assistance to the Bu rice farmers, from 1965 to 2022. Foreign Assistance in Bu started through the German Technical Assistance which led to the creation of the ATC and then transformed to WADA. After the Germans, the Chinese also assisted the rice farmers. Other such as ASPPA, PADFA are the various foreign organisations that also assisted the Bu rice farmers. This chapter explains in greater details how these foreign organisations came to Bu and their contribution to rice production through their projects and programmes. We shall begin by tracing the first foreign organisation that assisted the farmers that is the German Technical Assistance through the creation of the Agricultural training centre and its transformation to WADA, the Chinese, ASPPA and lastly PADFA. This chapter shall be in three parts, part one we shall examine state contributors which was the German Technical Assistance, ATC, WADA and the Chinese, part two we shall examine ASPPA and in part three we shall examine PADFA.

I. State contributors

In this section, we shall be examining the coming of state contributors such as the German government and Chinese. Swamp rice cultivation in Bu started as a result of the seeds that were gotten from Tingoh, so we shall examine how this swamp rice cultivation started. We shall discuss part one in three sub parts that is A, we shall analyse the GTA and the ATC, the various structures there were put in place to run the ATC and why it failed. In B, we shall examine how the ATC was transformed to WADA and its programmes and in C, we shall discuss WADA developmental activities in Bu that helped in boosting the agricultural sector and the Chinese.

A) German Technical Assistance to Cameroon

At independence, the republic of Cameroon opened official diplomatic relations with several countries in the world. Besides France, West Germany was among the first countries to recognize Cameroon as a sovereign state and to express the wish to open diplomatic relations with her as soon as she gained independence in 1960. The strength and diligence with which

Cameroon and Germany signed agreements of cooperation in 1962, demonstrated the desire which both countries had to re-establish official relations following the independence of Cameroon. Post independent relations between Cameroon and west Germany marked the second period, known as the modern phase of Cameroon –German relations¹⁰¹. It can be said that this phase marked the period of cooperation between both states, especially with the signing of a series of agreements on economic and technical cooperation, treaty relating to investments and a commercial agreement on June 1962. The economic and technical cooperation agreement which is our area of study was ratified by Cameroon by presidential degree No.62\DF\323 of 6 September 1962¹⁰². The ATC did emanate in accordance with agreements underlined in article (2), paragraph(3) of the economic and technical cooperation agreement reading as follows “the German government shall provide experts to prepare report on the economic and technical possibilities of implementing the project destined to serve in full development and exploitation of economic resources of the FRC¹⁰³. After some studies, the Wum Area was chosen because of geographical advantages it did procure for the project, particularly available land, viable population and development problems that plagued the area.

The creation of the Agricultural Training Center

The protocol agreement creating the ATC on the 20th October 1965 and the agreement creating the ATC was confirmed by presidential degree No 65/DF/522 of 24th November 1965¹⁰⁴. The Wum Area was chosen for the ATC project on account of its remote locations ,being some 400 kilometres from the harbours of Victoria and Douala .Found in this remote location in the North West part of the grasslands ,the region did not yet find development which could be compared to that of the coastal regions ¹⁰⁵. This made the coastal regions a great attraction to the people of the grass field ,thereby resulting in the emigration of its best development of the population down south . The ATC was to train farmers in techniques and organisations methods of modern production, the centre was equally to give practical

¹⁰¹ G.F. Kum,” The German –Cameroon Technical Cooperation for Menchum Division, 1965-1994”, DEA, Department of History, University of Yaounde I, 2007, p.24.

¹⁰² Kum, “The Agricultural Training Center (ATC) Wum”, p.88.

¹⁰³ NAB, File No P.1442(Qb/a (1966),” long Distance Development Programme: German Technical Assistance (Agric School Wum)” p.871.

¹⁰⁴ J.A. Ndze, “The Problems of Rural Development Agencies: The Case of the WADA”, Maitrise Dissertation, Department of Sociology, University of Yaounde I, 1990, p.122.

¹⁰⁵ NAB, File No p.2/a/si Wum Agricultural School.

agricultural training to trainees, after which they were to be settled on farms with improved means of production, giving them higher productivity and higher standards¹⁰⁶.

The farmers were to be taken care of after settlement in order to achieve a sense of responsibility and the desire to make use of these possibilities. In order for them to benefit from their increased individual productivity and commercialisation of produce, they were to be grouped in cooperatives which was going to exercise certain economic functions, better than a single farmer could do. Such functions were the joint purchase of fertilizers, insecticides, construction materials, collection, transportation and sale of produce.¹⁰⁷ The following objectives were earmarked for the project; agricultural development of the area and consequently increase of the total production of Cameroon, improvement of the living standards and conditions of the population, there by reducing rural migration, leading the population progressively from the economy of subsistence to an economy of production for sale and thus to a modern form of society.

For a befitting execution of the ATC projects, four structures were set aside; construction of the training centre with school house (classrooms, dining hall, dormitory, kitchen), workshops for iron and timber, office, housing for the staff, water and electricity supply, and creation of an experimental farm (stables, sheds, nurseries, trails, and demonstration fields, oxen training centre). The oxen training centre had a double role; practical training of the farmers receiving theoretical training at the centre, and also on economic and technical knowledge about the kind of production to be undertaken and methods to be applied.¹⁰⁸ The ATC failed because of financial constraint that it faced and also due to the withdrawal of the German government. It was in this light that the first plan was changed in 1973 to a public establishment of an industrial and commercial character, WADA. The advent of WADA was deeply rooted in the Third Five Year Development Plan as will be discussed below.

B) The Creation of the Wum Area Development Authority (WADA)

The Wum area development authority (WADA) was created by presidential degree No.73\2 of 3 January 1973 and incorporated into the five years plan to assist and accelerate the development of Menchum Division in the North West region of Cameroon. Permanent

¹⁰⁶ D.A.W. File No E28\751\s.1 "Development Perspectives 1980-2000"

¹⁰⁷ Interview with George Akuh

¹⁰⁸ Kum, "The Socio-Economic Impact of the Liquidation", p.117.

activities were organised under the services that operated within the central service of WADA, while developmental activities were in the domains of agricultural extension and the development of infrastructures and operated outside the central services.¹⁰⁹ Nevertheless, greater emphasis was placed on development activities, agriculture was top on the list in order to uphold government policy at the time, to ensure food sufficiency.¹¹⁰

WADA was created in 1973, it had its origin from the protocol agreement concluded by the government of the federal republic of Cameroon and Germany on technical cooperation, on the 20 of October 1965. This agreement was in the framework of the economic and technical cooperation agreement of 29 June 1962. However, the agreement did not achieve its aim because of some drawbacks which were; the project limited all its activities on a particular location (the central farm) more still, during the initial year of the project, it was not easy to develop a cultivation programme with crops suitable for the natural and physical conditions of the region.¹¹¹ In effect, the former aim of training and settling young farmers was very expensive and difficult to finance. The heavy power equipments such as tractors, caterpillars, Lorries introduced into the region when the farm was opened, was to no effect, because the projects and technical level was far above the capacity of the people to imitate. It was due to these drawbacks that the ATC failed, that is why in order to better develop the area, they decided to transform the former ATC to WADA.

Aims and Objectives of WADA

WADA aimed at assisting and accelerating the socio-economic development of Menchum Division thereby improving upon the standards of living of the rural population. Higher standards of living included higher production margins equivalent to higher incomes while improved socio-economic conditions were equivalent to social intergration and participation of the rural population in the mobilisation of rural resources. As such, WADA was charged with the following responsibilities:

¹⁰⁹ DAW, "The Wum Area Development Authority (WADA), (operational plan), 1st November 1974-31st October 1977," p.3.

¹¹⁰ Kum. "Catalyst of Road Developments 1973-1994, A Study of the Wum Area Development Authority" *African Humanities Review, A multidisciplinary Journal*, Volume 2, No 1, January 2016, p134.

¹¹¹ DAW, Management "WADA Operational Plan", p.12.

- 1) Carrying out and promoting adaptive research through trails and demonstration for the identification and execution of agricultural recommended planting materials to farmers in the division;
- 2) Ensuring the training and participation of farmers in identified developmental programmes;
- 3) Bringing modern production techniques to the disposal of farmers to improve crop yields;
- 4) Ensuring the processing and commercialisation of produce of the various extension programmes;
- 5) Assisting the organisation and promotion of cooperative activities among farmers;
- 6) Transforming the socio-economic environment and improving on the living conditions in the rural areas through the construction of farm to market roads, as well as providing farm supplies to farmers and aiding in the construction of water points and other rural social structures.

The above-mentioned goals and objectives were what characterised the new catalogue of ambitions that followed the establishment of WADA in 1973. It was clear from the richness of the developmental goals of WADA that if well implemented, remarkable, rural transformation could take place in Menchum Division.

WADA Sectors and Projects

WADA had three sectors in the year 1983 and six sectors in the year 1985 which acted as linkage between WADA and the farmers. The various projects and programmes of WADA were; oxen training programmes, group farming programmes, youth farmer's settlement scheme, production trail and demonstration centres, cooperatives, farm service centres, crop protection centres, farm to market road construction, coffee regeneration, social infrastructures.¹¹² These programmes were implemented in the various sectors of WADA which were; yemngeh, Furu-Awah, Menchum valley, Bum and kom. WADA placed more attention to the developmental services, particularly in the field of agriculture. It was in this light that the developmental activities were extended to Bu and in rice production in particular.

The Arrival of WADA in Bu

¹¹² Interview with Ndang Ebenezer

Foreign assistance in Bu started through GTA, it is worth noting that foreign assistance in Bu through WADA started in the early 60's, the Wum- Bamenda main road was through Bu on foot. The Germans usually used this road to go to Bamenda. From wum to Bu, the road continued to mile 37 then to Bamenda. Through this, the Germans usually passed through this community, in passing by, they saw how the Bu people were in need of basic facilities like cloths, beds, food. The living conditions was very low and the economy of the Bu people was not developed, they also discovered that the people were into rice farming and them having as aim to improve upon development in Wum, they started giving basic amenities to these rice farmers and also extended their projects on rice to Bu.¹¹³

Also, the Germans came to Bu because they needed timber for their workshop in WADA. Due to the presence of the rich Wum –Kom forest in Bu, they usually passed through Bu to go harvest timber. In passing by, they usually saw how the Bu people were in great need of assistance in every domain that is the social, political, economic domain.¹¹⁴ Due to this the Germans started including the Bu people in its plan of activities, especially in the agricultural domain. It should be noted that the Bu rice farmers demanded assistance from the WADA and they started including them in their activities, as they had as aim to assist farmers out of the central farm. The coming of foreign assistance in Bu through WADA, brought about profound change in the economy of the Bu people, be it in the social and economic domain. The impact of the German assistance in Bu community has evolved over time, since their coming till present date.

WADA Developmental activities in Bu

In this section, we shall examine the various activities and projects that WADA implemented in Bu in 1965, so as to improve upon their economy and bring development to their community. WADA activities were organised under permanent and developmental service. Activities located under the permanent service were those found in the central sector of authority, while the developmental service were those operating beyond WADA's central service. Nonetheless, WADA had many other activities in Wum other than the ones we will examine below, our focus in our work is on Bu so we shall bring out just the activities and projects carried out in Bu.

¹¹³ NAB, File: No F.785 "Wum Farm Institute." P. 12.

¹¹⁴ NAB, File No QC/a (1973). The Green Revolution, WADA Extension Program Monthly News Letters, p.6.

Infrastructural Development Service

One of WADA's commitments was easing farm to market and village linkages within the project zone. The objectives of this service were only to be achieved through the construction of roads, infrastructures with the participation of local communities involved. The importance of these roads and infrastructural construction was a measure towards rural development and mode. It was in this light that farm to market roads programmes were initiated during 1982\83.¹¹⁵ The road from Wum to Bu was a footpath and the road was used to go to Bamenda, the Germans with the local community jointly dug the road from wum to Bu and also created a linking road from Bu to Mbengkas. They also created a road from Bu to the rice farms, this was done in order to ease the transportation of output supply. WADA allocated 10 percent of its annual budget for the 1998\83 road construction season, in order to ease communication within Wum. WADA bulldozed 162kilometers and graded 155 kilometres of roads and built 46 culverts and 37 bridges between 1982 and 1986.¹¹⁶ One of the roads constructed was the difficult hill from Bu village down to river Muteh and also the stretches of roads in the same region from river Muteh to Mbengkas village and from Mbengkas to Mughom, Bu to Aguilli and Agulli to mile 37. WADA made sure that the roads were all linked to Wum Sub Division.

Group Farming Programmes (GFP)

The group farming programmes was created to increase the level of productivity of existing farm on cooperative basis. This was done through the introduction of modern farming techniques and agricultural inputs. The programme was introduced in 1975 in order to help farmers in far off villages. To benefit from the programmes, several farmers in each village had to organise in groups with the single objective of increasing crop cultivation, and apply for assistance from WADA.WADA provided short term loans to finance the land cultivation and other inputs.¹¹⁷ It also helped farmers commercialised their produce. Farming groups were introduced in several villages such as, Bu, Modele, Menkaf, Agulli, and Befang.With the introduction of Swamp rice cultivation, many farmers needed farm inputs and they could not

¹¹⁵ P. C. Yuh, "Wum Area Development Authority (WADA): Catalyst for Rural Development", B.A Dissertation, International Higher School of Journalism, University of Yaounde, 197, P. 45.

¹¹⁶ J.A. Ndze, "The Problems of Rural Development Agencies", p.123.

¹¹⁷ Wum Agricultural School Recruitment and Training of Students" 1969, p.34.

afford the farm inputs sold in the markets. WADA provided farm inputs, administration commercialisation, personal trainings, rice hullers, buildings. As of 1977, there were 12 farming groups with a total membership of 850, with Bu having 306 participants in these farming groups.¹¹⁸ They gave rice seeds to the farmers, this seed was called Ita.

Cooperative Development Programmes (CODEP)

Cooperatives were seen to be key to agricultural development, the desire by the government of Cameroon under Ahmadou Ahidjo during the third five years plan of agricultural development which started from 1971-1975, encouraged the decentralisation of agricultural projects to provinces, divisions and ethnic groups of the then United Republic of Cameroon. The launching of the Green Revolution and the first agricultural show in Buea in 1973 with the main objective encouraging farmers to ensure the spirit of competition and step-up food production, laid the foundation of this Rice cooperative and other agricultural industries in Cameroon. The Bu/Mbengkas Rice Cooperative Society Limited (BMRCSLTDS) was created in 1975 during the reign of Fon Chu Mbonghekan, Bwai David Awah and Bonghezee II (i.e. two years after Ahmadou Ahidjo launched the Green Revolution), as branches of WADA in Wum area in the then Menchum Division of the North West Province of the United Republic of Cameroon.¹¹⁹

However, it was recognised by the government of Cameroon in 1994, with registration No. NW/CO/011/94/179 of 25th July, 1994. The cooperative was also registered under the Ministry of Agriculture in Bamenda, North West Provincial register (COOP/CIG) No. NW/CO/01/94/179 on 14th February, 1994. This was in compliance with Law No. 92/06 of 14th August, 1992, relating to cooperative societies and common initiatives groups and its decree of application No. 92/455/PM of 23rd November, 1992. From its creation, the active farming population of Bu Ethnic group was 7000 while that of Mbengkas was 3762 inhabitants with an annual output of 780 100 kg of rice.

The membership of the cooperative numbered only 145 with 3 workers, 8 board members as well as 5 supervisors. The first chairman was Koi Clement Chembei, who was assisted by Ngeh Pius and Akou Nathaniel among others. The management of the cooperative

¹¹⁸ NAB File No: P.2/a/S.I. "Wum Agricultural School (German Technical Aid)" 1963, p. 33.

¹¹⁹ BMRCSLTDA, File No.01 Registration Certificate \Provincial Register (coop\CIG) No. NW\CO\01\94\179 on 14 February, 1994, Bamenda, p.3.

was done by a manager, board of directors, supervisors and committee members.¹²⁰ The term of office was 3 year's renewable without any limit and the executive members hold their board meetings after every three months and general sessions. They were supplied with farm inputs like chemicals, fertilisers, and technical services. Machines like rice threshers, hand drawn sowing and spraying machines and rice hullers were equally hired to famers at highly subsidised prices. one year after the introduction of the Bu-Mbengkas Cooperative Society, it produced 39 tons of rice.

In 1975, WADA merged several cooperatives to form one that is the Weh, Esu, Bu, Yemge, Wum to form the Wum Area Multi-purpose cooperative society (WAMCOPS). Rice hullers were installed in Bu in the 1980's for the purpose of easy transformation of rice into finished product. At first, the rice was carried all the way to WADA before it could be transformed to a finish product, because the Bu people lacked hullers.¹²¹ The creation of the cooperative society was quite instrumental in encouraging both social and economic development. Before the creation of the cooperative, most farmers lacked drying space, plate 6 below shows how the rice farmers dried their rice before the construction of the cooperative. The Bu-Mbengkas cooperative society was constructed and equipped by WADA to help provide farm inputs to rice farmers and also to provide an avenue where they could easily market their produce.

¹²⁰ C.Ndifor "History of Bu", Historical Notes Bamenda Grass field, p.113.

¹²¹ Kum. "The Contribution of Small Holder to rice", p.45.

Plate 6: Bu Mbengkas cooperative structure put up by the WADA,1975



Source: Profesor Kah.Elvis' Library, 2001

Plate 7: Drying and winnowing of rice in the farm



Source: Professor Kah Elvis' Library, 2001

From plate 6 above, we can see a cemented surface where rice is dried. Rice hulling was in most cases done on credit basis for payment to be done after the sale of produce. Worthy of note is the fact that the hulling machines depreciated leaving the cooperative with a dilapidated building and a poor performing hullers. It should be noted that due to the coming of the Bu-Mbengkas cooperative, the Bu economy witnessed drastic change in the economic and social life of the people. The cooperative improved upon the lives of the rice farmers, they could now afford basic necessities and finance in which they used to better their lives. Akoh George, Gongs Mercy, Muh Griffith Kang, Toh Zachary, among others. From its creation in 1975 right up to its eminent collapse in 2014, the BMRCSLTD have created more than 62 Interview with Ndeh Richard, 60 years, Retired police officer and shareholder of BMRCSLTD, Muja 8000 jobs in the Liambwe ethnic group. The wages of workers in the cooperative ranged from 9,000 to 30,000 FCFA¹²².

WADA constructed bridges, the difficult hill from Bu village down to river Muteh and also the stretches of roads in the same region from river Muteh to Mbengkas village and from Mbengkas to Moghum, Bu to Aguli and Aguli to mile 37 on the Bamenda roads all these roads were linking one village to another. Plate 1 and 2 shows pictures of the farm to market road constructed by WADA in collaboration with the Bu people and the bridge that leads to the rice farms

Trainings

WADA's effort in improving on farming in the division through both formal and informal methods; in the cooperative development programmes, Group Farming Programmes (GFPS), a number of farmers were trained from 1982 -1985, this number summed up to 8,614 farmers. Success in implementing modern techniques of agriculture, had to be accompanied by heavy capital inputs. One reason why local farmers remained adamant to the traditional farming system was low cost in order to avoid the high costs involved in modern agriculture. It was due to this that in modernising agriculture, WADA gave credit facilities to extension farmers and other related services to offset the huge cost involved in modern techniques of agricultural production. Another reason why the local farmers resisted fiercely all attempts to coerce them in abandoning their farming methods of agriculture in the beginning was due to the fact that lessons on modern agricultural techniques were never accompanied by practical substantial

¹²² Kai. "The Contribution of the Bu\Mbengkas Economy". p.5.

financial assistance but rather accompanied by much legislature.¹²³ Through their financial assistance, modern techniques of agriculture penetrated the area. They gave out loans of about 46,965,000 francs CFA to cooperatives, block extension farmers, group farmers. These loans placed several thousands of farmers in wum and Bu inclusive on the path of modern agriculture.

C. The Chinese in Tingoh

China signed diplomatic relations with the government of Cameroon on the 26 of March 1971, after both countries decided to end their differences in 1964. The people's republic of china, supported the union des populations du Cameroun (UPC), this did not sit well with the government of Cameroon as it was seen as China interfering in the internal affairs of their country. In order to retaliate, the Cameroonian government under president Ahidjo, decided to give their support to Taiwan. It was not until the 1970's that both parties decided to set aside their differences. This agreement was in various domains¹²⁴, economic and social. In the economic domain, the Chinese decided to assist Cameroon rice farmers as a way to spur up development.

Sino-Cameroon relations has greatly had great impact on the Cameroonian economy. The Chinese government started giving out assistance to the Cameroon rice farmers, as she is known as one of the world's highest producers of rice. So, coming to Cameroon, they decided to assist the rice farmers in learning new methods of rice cultivation for better production. In order to better achieve this, they targeted the various rice producing areas in Cameroon, such as the Northwest, the North just to name a few, and they implemented their projects and programs in those regions. It was in this light that the Chinese came to the northwest region and they discovered that many communities were into rice cultivation but they did not have a high annual yield because of the lack of modern techniques of production and the lack of farming tools.¹²⁵

They came down to Tingoh when they were passing by to go to Wum. They discovered that the Tingoh people found in Bafut sub division, which is under Mezam Division were already cultivating rice, but they lacked the modern techniques. So, they

¹²³ Kum, "Catalyst for Development 1973-1994", p.137.

¹²⁴ Saah. "Swamp rice cultivation in Bafut Sub-Division", 2003, p.45

¹²⁵ D. F. Ngwa, "Fon, Chiefs and people in Conflicts in Bafut, North West Cameroon, 1900-1982", M.A, in History, University of Yaoundé I, 2011, p. 208.

started assisting the Tingoh people by teaching them how rice could be cultivated with the use of modern techniques and giving them free rice seeds.

Group Farming Programmes

The creation of these farming groups was in order to help the Tingoh rice farmers to learn the various modern methods of producing rice. The rice farmers were put in groups and they had different teachers that taught them on how to produce rice. They learnt the various techniques of rice production that is the pre, harvest and post harvesting period of rice production. With the knowledge learnt, the rice farmers started producing rice on a large scale and they could sell rice to neighboring villages. Before, the rice was just for consumption which was still not enough, but with the trainings given, they were now able to cultivate on a large scale and their outputs were high¹²⁶. They gave out seeds known as R.42 and R. 48.

II. Non-State Contributors

In the following section, we shall be analysing the various non-state actors that have greatly contributed to rice cultivation in Bu. Starting from ASPPA to PADFA, ASPPA took over from the WADA while PADFA took over from ASPPA and today, PADFA is still assisting the rice farmers.

A) Appui Aux Stratégies Paysannes et de la Professionnalisation D'Agriculture

Introduced in Cameroon in 1992 by France, ASPPA focused on the organisation of commodity chains by supporting the development and structuring of producer's organisations at various levels (village –inter village, national), with a view of these organisation, taking charge of economic activities, marketing and input supply with aim to create inter branch organisations. ASPPA had as aim;

- Contribute to food security, promote relationships between stakeholders within interpersonal structures, while guaranteeing farmers a better return on their work.
- Strengthen the negotiating power of farmers as economic operators and to add a new distribution of added value in the sector, that is more favorable to the farmers.
- Supporting the dynamics of professional organisation within agricultural production sectors.

¹²⁶ Ngwa. "Fon, Chiefs and people in Conflicts in Bafut...2011, p.209.

- Strengthen the capacity of these structures to act, particularly in terms of taking charge of the main economic support functions for production financing, input supply, processing and marketing.
- Setup a system for capturing results and analysing the impact analysis of actions carried out on the ground enabling rapid adjustments on agricultural policy measures on the part of the ministry of agriculture.

ASPPA projects covered the seven provinces in the south of Cameroon that is the East, Centre, South West, West, North West, and Littoral. It intervenes in commodity chain involving cocoa, coffee, maize, rice, fresh food, processed cassava. ASPPA intervenes at the request of farmers organisations that have already engaged actions to take charge of and control certain economic functions.¹²⁷

i. Advent of ASPPA

They arrived in Bu in 1997 the Bu rice farmers wrote a letter requesting for their assistance. It should be noted that the Bu-Mbengkas cooperative that was created by the Germans was no longer functional because the Germans had left and due to mismanagement, the cooperative crumbled.¹²⁸ These farmers did not know how to manage a cooperative, they lacked the training in marketing their products and they did not have experts who could help in marketing. The cooperative remained stagnant after the fall of WADA. As a result of the fall of WADA, production dropped and output decreased. This was because the farmers lacked the new techniques of cultivation, and tools that they could use in production and especially the marketing of goods. ASPPA saw the cooperative as a means of developing the community, to them development was going to come to the people through the cooperative. If they had a functional cooperative which had good managers, marketers, and trained famers but this did not materialise.

With the coming of ASPPA, things greatly changed, firstly, their main objective was to ameliorate the cooperative but they later on changed their mind because they discovered that

¹²⁷Prod'homme. J.P, *Organisation Paysannes et Professionalisation de L'agriculture en Afrique Noir*, paris,1995 Retrived from <http://editionsdelasorbonne.fr>, consulted June 9, 2024. p.205

¹²⁸Kum. "Curbing Indigenous Fulani Skirmishes Cameroon: Exemplifying the Wum Area Development Authority (WADA) In Menchum Division, 1950-1993", *Science Humaine et Social*, p.274.

them making the cooperative functional again will mean them teaching the farmers how to market the rice and how to run a cooperative which was expensive, they focused on vocational trainings more and giving of farm inputs.¹²⁹ So ASPPA had as aim to train operators, managers. They were mostly focused in giving vocational trainings to the farmers and giving them incentives. ASPPA worked in two phases in Cameroon phase one from 1992 to 1998 and phase two from 2002 to 2013.

ii. ASPPA projects: Awareness Campaigns on Agriculture

After WADA left, many rice farmers could not meet up with the demand that came with rice farming such as the buying of fertilizers, seeds and equipments. consequently, some rice farmers stopped farming rice, there by reducing in the number of rice farmers, as compared during the reign of WADA. Even during the participation of the Germans, many people were not into farming, some never knew of the benefits that came with rice farming, while others did not have the funds to start farming rice, even though the Germans were giving out loans for new beginners but the interest rate were high so most people did not enter into rice farming and some did not see the benefits or profits that rice gave, to them they claimed that rice farming was too costly. With the coming of ASPPA, and the various awareness campaigns carried out, many people started farming rice. This was because ASPPA did not only sensitise them on the importance of rice production, but also helped them with basic rice farming materials and also taught them farming and post-harvest methods of rice production. This awareness campaign was done not only in Bu but also in all of the regions where ASPPA operated in Cameroon.¹³⁰

Vocational Training

One of the projects that ASPPA carried out in Cameroon, including Bu is that of vocational training. They trained the people on how to select a vocation, that is, they helped rice farmers especially to better specialise in a domain where they were best productive in. coming to Bu, the people of Bu did not know how to specialise, most of the farmers farmed several crops and this was not productive because they put in a lot of resources in different crops and they

¹²⁹ Interview with Ndang Ebenezer

¹³⁰ T. Foutem, *Aide Extérieure et Modernisation de la Main D'œuvre dans les activités de Production Agricole au Cameroun, Activités de Production et Syndicalisme en Afrique et au Cameroun : XIXème et XXème Siècle*, L'harmattan, 2022, p.157.

did not take time to farm the crop¹³¹. The coming of ASPPA greatly helped the farmers as they taught the farmers how to better specialise in a specific crop such as rice, maize, coffee. With this specialisation, the farmers saw a great output and increase in sales.

Creation of Farming Groups

In order to improve upon the lives of the rice farmers and the community as a whole, ASPPA was more concentrated in giving these farmers trainings. They created farming groups and these farming groups were based on various crops, the various farming groups were; that of maize, rice and coffee.¹³² Each of these farming groups were given trainings on how to operate these farms, these operators were taken to Mbongsoh to receive trainings on how to operate these rice farms, they were also being taught on how to manage a cooperative and how to audit. These farmers were taught these skills in order for them to be able to manage a cooperative, the collapse of the Bu-Mbengkas cooperative was as a result of the lack of the skills to manage the cooperative.¹³³ The various farming groups were also taught how to use improved seeds. With the usage of improved seeds and the trainings gotten from the training programs, production greatly increased and rice consumption was increased and these farmers made more profits than before.

Management of Supply Input

One of their aims was to train these farmers on how to manage inputs, ASPPA taught the farmers on how to manage the rice after harvesting. Most of the farmers lacked management skills on how to manage, preserve and store their rice for longer period of time without it getting bad. These farmers needed to learn how to manage pest that is pest control.¹³⁴ That is why ASPPA taught them how to preserve the rice in stores without it getting bad through the usage of chemicals. These farmers were taught new techniques of production and they could now use modern techniques of farming which in turn gave them high yields.

During the participation of WADA, they taught the farmers how to manage input supply, but they did not take it serious because they still preferred their traditional methods of

¹³¹ Authors analyses.

¹³² Achanchi, « Renforcer la Collaboration entre la Recherche », 1998, p.26.

¹³³ Ibid, p.28

¹³⁴ Achanchi, « Le Renforcement des Capacités D'action et de Négociation des Organisation Paysannes : Le Cas des Organisation Paysannes Engage dans la Filière Cacao au Cameroun », Master Européen Natura Option Vulgarisation et Organisation Professionnelles Agricole (VOPA)1988 p.107.

preservation. With the coming of ASPPA, they tried to teach these farmers how to manage input supply and how to use new methods of farming and how to audit. Due to the trainings on how to manage input supply, these farmers gradually experienced a great increase in input storage as compared to before¹³⁵. This is because they had now learned how to store their rice better, how to manage their inputs and also an increase in production due to the new techniques of production learnt and it led to increase in sale and economic growth.

Training of Auditors and Animators

ASPPA carried out training on animators and auditors, this was because the rice farmers needed someone to audit the sales and give accountability of all the sales of the cooperative. An agricultural auditor is a professional who conducts audits and inspections of agricultural operations to ensure compliance with regulations, standards and the best practices. These auditors were needed in order to oversee the running of the rice farms. In order to better train the rice farmers on modern techniques of agriculture, ASPPA decided to train animators who could use various forms of media such as videos, animations and graphics to educate and inform people about agricultural topics.

These animators created visual content to explain farming techniques, showcase new technologies in agriculture, promote sustainable farming practices. These animators were used to raise awareness about the importance of agriculture. The animators that were trained help farmers to also plan and organise their farming operations, they also encouraged the use of modern techniques of agriculture, monitor ASPPA projects that were ongoing, organise workshops and seminars to teach farmers of modern farming techniques.¹³⁶

B. Programme d'Appui au Developpement de Filières Agricole (PADFA) 2014 to 2023

The Programme d'Appui au Developpement de Filières Agricole is a project founded within the financing agreements no 805-CM between the Cameroon government and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) with duration of 07 years (2010 to 2017) and has been renewed to run for six years¹³⁷. In 2020, Cameroon with the support fund

¹³⁵ Preparation of Local Animators in View of Initial Animators in the New Group Partners of ASPPA in the Rice Family at Aguilli, 2000, Minutes.p.5.

¹³⁶ Authors analyses.

¹³⁷ Sadis. "The Role of Farmers Support Project Towards Poverty Alleviation in Wum Sub Division: Case Study of PADFA Projects", Bachelors of Science B.S.C Degree in Rural Development and Administration, Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development, University of Dschang, 2022, p.5.

from FIDA (*Fund International de Development Agricole*) pressured an engagement with PADFA to carry out a second phase to strategies the production of rice and onion so as to improve the Cameroon economy through the increase in rice and onion, production.

PADFA II project will help to contribute in poverty alleviation and increase in food security and nutritional values of population. Its objectives are to reduce rural poverty, increase household incomes, and improve food security through sustainable development and competitiveness of rice (both lowland and upland).¹³⁸ The rice cooperative was introduced in Menchum valley by the Wum Area Development Authority (WADA) in 1975 In Bu. It was equipped with a ware house, a rice huller and scale. The poor management of these facilities led to a fast depreciation leaving the cooperative with a dilapidated building and poor performing huller. It should be noted that PADFA has two phase, phase 1 which started in 2014 and ended in 2020 and the 2 phase which began in 2021 till date.¹³⁹ It has as objective to invest in rural people and through this objective, their cooperative was created known as the Bu Rice Farmers Cooperative to cover farmers in wum central sub –division.

i. The Advent of PADFA

They arrived Bu in 2014, when the rice cooperative was no longer functional. Their first project was to reameliorate the cooperative and in 2014, they provided the cooperative with a hulling machine known as SB10 rice huller which awakened the activities of the cooperative. The emergence of PADFA helped Revamp the cooperative, it should be noted that PADFA came to Bu through the ministry of Agriculture, and through the ministry, it has been Carrying out its projects and activities. Their arrival has greatly brought about socio-economic changes in the community. Their main aim was reducing poverty and hunger and to them, the cooperative was going to be a means of assisting the rice farmers.

ii. PADFA Projects and Programmes in Bu: Cooperative initiative

The creation of the Bu rice farmer's cooperative is in compliance to law no 92\006 of 14 august 1992 relating to cooperative societies and common initiative groups and its application No 92\455\PM of 23 November 1992 and in conformity to the new *Organisation Pour l'Harmonisation en Afrique du Droit des Affaires* (OHADA) uniform act laying down

¹³⁸ Ibid, p.6.

¹³⁹ Kai. "The Contribution of the Bu\Mbengkas". p.217.

modalities for the creation of cooperative societies. The creation of the cooperative is in response to the Minister of agriculture's call in 2011 during the national budget pastoral agricultural show to transform Cameroon's agriculture to second generation agriculture.¹⁴⁰ The cooperative is now registered under the new OHADA uniform Act as the government of Cameroon has ordered the matriculation of cooperatives. The cooperative is located in Menchum Division, in Wum central sub-division. Bu village is some 14km from Wum, it has one ware house, with a storage of 140 tons of paddies, rice bran and clean rice.¹⁴¹ It sells goods such as rice, rice bran, farm inputs and chemicals and it also supplies agricultural merchandised services such as power tillers, rice hullers.

Plate 8: Bu Rice Cooperative Building, constructed by PADFA,2015



Source: By Author, 2023

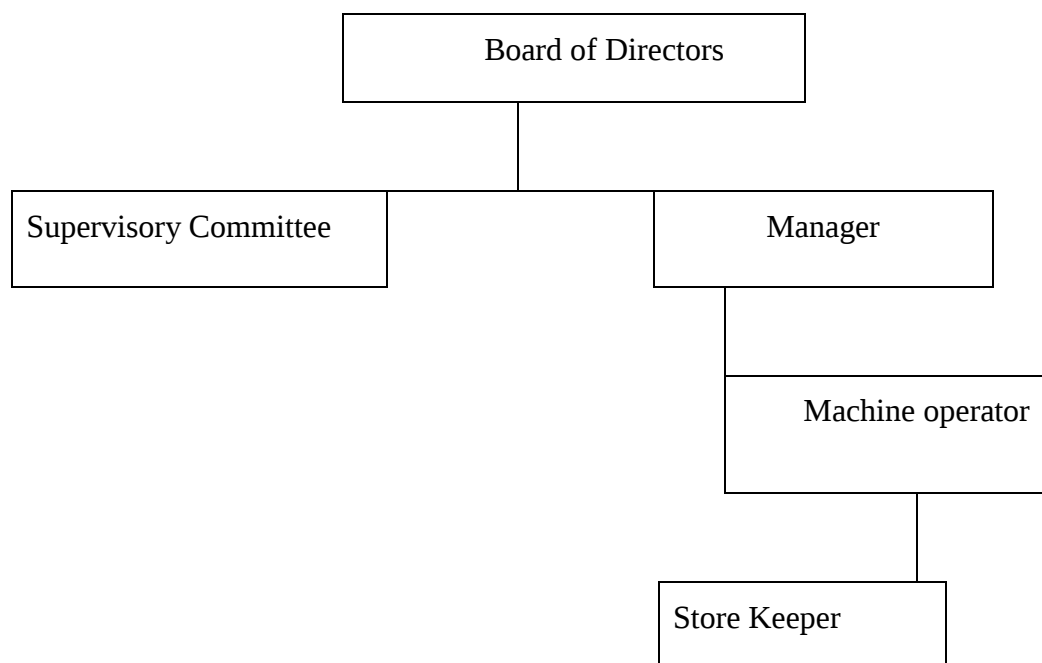
As seen on the picture above, we can observe that there are farmers who are drying their rice on the rice drying slaps. From the picture above, we can see that it is harvesting period and

¹⁴⁰ Bu Cooperative Immatriculation Certificate No 17\015\CMR\NW\37\199\CCA\011\0114.Business Plan ,2017-2021, To PADFAp.4.

¹⁴¹kah. "Sites and Objects, Indigenous Library and the History of Liambwe, Cameroon", *Afrika Focus* Volume 30, No 1,2017, p.60.

the cooperative above was renovated by PADFA to help rice farmers, have a storage house and where they can dry their rice, before, farmers usually dried their rice in their compounds because they lacked drying slaps where they could dry their rice but with the renovation of the cooperative, PADFA made available a place for rice drying.

Figure 2: Structural organisation of the Bu Rice Cooperative



Source: Bu/Mbengkas Rice Cooperative Society (BMRCSLTDS)Archives

The figure above shows the administrative structure of the Bu/Mbengkas rice cooperative. At the helm, we have the Board of directors which are five in number. The Board of directors are responsible for making decisions for the organisation, they are the ones who make the Budget that is to be used to run the cooperative, the Board of directors are made up of members of PADFA organisation and a member of the Bu community and also the Divisional Delegate of Agriculture. They are all answerable to the national coordinator of PADFA in Cameroon.

Supervitory Committee

There are three supervitory committee members, who are incharge of supervising the farmers and have as role:

- They ensure that the programmes and projects that have been implemented are fully carried out and that the farmers follow the various techniques of production that has been put in place.
- They make sure that they supervise the farmers and their farms that is they are incharge of giving accounts how production and harvest went and report back to the Board of directors if in a certain year production met the expected amount that was previewed for that year.
- They also make sure that the farm inputs that are brought by PADFA to share to the rice farmers is equally distributed to the farmers.¹⁴²

The Manager

He oversees the cooperative, he is the one who is incharge of the day to day running of the cooperative, he has the following roles to play;

- Makes sure that the goals of the cooperative for each year is been achieved and he is incharge of the employment of new staff members.
- Gives accounts of how the budget that was set asisde for a specific year was used. He is answerable to the Board of Directors.

Machine Operators

There are two machine operators, who are incharge of operating the machine during hauling. They are the ones who are to ensure that the rice farmers haul their rice well without any damages. They are two in number because incase the other one is absent, the other will represent them. They are people who are specialist in this field of operating such machines because not everyone can operate the machine.

The Store keeper

The store keeper has as role;

¹⁴² Informations about the roles of each structure, was gotten from the PADFA representative in Bu, interviewed on April 28, 2023

- Store the farmer's rice, in good conditions. He is to make sure that the rice that the farmers come to store are kept in good conditions, so that when they come to carry their rice for sale, the rice will still be in good conditions.
- The store keeper is the one who has the keys to the store and he keeps accounts of how many bags of rice were stored in the cooperative store every year.
- He writes accounts of the number of bags of rice stored and the farmers who stored their rice. This is to prevent a farmer coming to carry other farmers' bags of rice. The store keeper is answerable to the Manager.

Irrigation of the rice fields

One of PADFA's pending projects is the irrigation of the rice fields, this project is yet to be completed because of the lack of funds. PADFA has already carried out feasibility studies on the farms and are yet to irrigate the farms. One of the reasons why the process was slowed down was because of the Crisis in the North West and South West Regions. The rice farm is vast and needs enough water that can circulate in the farm. Eventhough the site for rice farming is situated beside a river called river Meteh, the ground is still not wet enough for rice cultivation. It is mostly the farms of those who cultivate beside the river that have very fertile ground.

As more and more people expand their farms, the need for water to fertilise the soil is needed.¹⁴³ That is why this challenge was brought to the notice of PADFA by the farmers and PADFA started the project but it stopped due to the problem of funds and the crisis in the North West and South West Regions. The area of land is at 500hectars of land but only 120 hectars of land has been exploited because of the lack of well organised irrigation system, lack of power tillers, lack of rice threshers, the problems listed above are all problems that the rice farmers are facing. The lack of a well organised irrigation system is a great problem for rice cultivation as farmers do not want to expand.

Farm to Market Roads

One of PADFA's projects in Bu is the construction of farm to market roads but this is yet to be realised. This project is on hold because of the crisis in the North West and South West, since the outbreak of the crisis in 2016. PADFA had as aim to build a well constructed road

¹⁴³ Authors analyses

from the Bu village to the farms, so that the rice farmers can easily transport their rice to the cooperative and to the market. Today, the only road that leads to the farm is a footpath which cars cannot pass through, most farmers use motor bikes to transport their rice to the cooperative and to the market which is very much expensive.¹⁴⁴ PADFA had carried out feasibility studies on the roads, but this project is yet to be materialised. During the period of the Germans, they constructed the present road from Bu to Mbengkas. This road leads half way down to the farm, but the main road that leads to the farm is not yet constructed its just a footpath.

Conclusion

This chapter examined the various contributions of these foreign organisations and their programmes and projects in Bu. Starting with the GTA which created the ATC and through ATC, WADA was created. Through WADA, their developmental activities were extended to Bu which set the pace for foreign assistance in 1965, after WADA, we went further in analysing the coming of the Chinese in Tingoh which through them, swamp rice cultivation was made possible. We then went ahead to analyse ASPPA's projects and programmes in Bu, after ASPPA, we discussed PADFA'S projects in Bu. This chapter was aimed at examining the various contributors to rice production in Bu through their projects and programmes put in place by these foreign organisations in order to boost rice production, and from our discussions above, we discover that the projects of WADA, ASPPA were realised to a certain level, as for PADFA, most of her projects were not realised because of the crisis in the North West and South West that was and is still a hindrance to them not accomplishing their mission and also the lack of finance was also a major problem. These projects and programmes had several socio- economic impacts on rice production and the Bu economy as a whole which will be our main call for concern in the subsequent chapter.

¹⁴⁴ Sadis. "The Role of Farmers Support Project", 2022, p.15

CHAPTER THREE

IMPACT OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN BU

Introduction

This chapter is aims at examining the impact of the state and non state contributor's projects and programmes on rice cultivation and on the community as a whole. This impact is witnessed in the socio-economic domain and has greatly transformed the lives of not just the rice farmers but also the lives of the indigenes and the wum people. In the economic domain, aspects such as increase in productivity, increase in saving, increase in household consumption, employment shall be analysed and in the social domain, we shall see the improvement in housing conditions, road networks, and social cohesion. These aspects listed above shall be analysed in details so as to a better understanding of how foreign assistance had a great impact on the community. In this chapter, we shall discuss the impact of each foreign organisation and country, starting from the state contributors to non state contributors.

I. Impact of state contributors

Here, we shall be analysing the state actors that assisted rice farming, that is ASPPA and PADFA, how their projects and activities had an impact on the social and economic domain. We shall begin by analysing the economic domain before discussing the social domain

A. Impact of German Intervention.

In this section, we shall examine the various activities and projects that the Germans implemented in Bu in 1965, so as to improve upon their economy and bring development to their community. German arrival in Bu was felt in various domains. These domains were under the German plan of activities in the various developmental programmes. Even though their main focus was on Wum central, their developmental activities extended to other villages around Wum and Bu was one of those villages to have received assistance from WADA especially in the agricultural domain and in rice production in particular.

i. Economic domain

In this domain the Germans did put more efforts in developing Menchum valley. The Germans had as aim to bring about development to the Bu people, in order to do that, they

decided to improve upon the living condition of the Bu community and they decided to do so by assisting the already existing rice cultivation. They believed that, in assisting the Bu rice farmers, it will bring change to the community. That is, an increase in rice production will lead to an increase in the living standards of the Bu people. This had a profound change in the living conditions of the Bu people as an increase in production and sales had a spill over effect to other domains.

Improvement in the Method of Production

With the coming of WADA, they discovered that the farmers had a low output and this was due to the fact that, they were still using the old methods of rice cultivation. They preferred their old methods of production to these modern methods because it was not costly. With their arrival, they started teaching the people on modern techniques of rice cultivation. To make the farmers to fast adapt and accept this method of rice cultivation, they had to give farm inputs for free and also on lend for them to pay after selling, all in a bit to motivate the farmers. Inorder to teach these farmers, they grouped them in farming groups which was facilitate the teaching. These farming groups aimed at increasing the average and productivity of existing farms on cooperative basis. This programme was introduced in 1975 inorder to help farmers in far off villages that could not be controlled directly from the central farm. Due to the introduction of modern techniques of agriculture, the methods of production greatly improved and this led to an increase in the methods of cultivation and an increase in output.

Increased Agricultural output

Before the advent of WADA, the Bu people used tools like sticks, spades, and cutlass to do farming. They experienced low yielding seeds and low level of output. Due to the introduction of farming tools by WADA such as tillers, it greatly improved upon farming conditions. The introduction and supply of farm inputs such as fertilisers and chemicals to the Bu rice farmers greatly improved agricultural output. WADA encouraged and promoted the cultivation of rice, beans, cabbage. The increase in the production and sale of these crops in Wum and in Bu greatly increased the consumption pattern of the people. Their main meal was corn fufu, rice was considered as a special meal to be eaten only at Christmas.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴⁵ Interview with Che Coy Odicious, 45 years, Farmer, Bu, 28 December 2023.

New Employment Opportunities

Before the establishment of the BMRCSLTDs, many people lacked jobs to sustain themselves, they could barely fend for their families and for themselves. Some people could not send their children to school because they lacked jobs. The establishment of the BMRCSLTD created employment opportunities in the Liambwe polity especially in the farming sector. Many people obtained jobs as cooperative workers i.e. managers, secretaries, treasurers, supervisors, officers, hullers, operators, trainers, selling and distribution agents, distribution, contractors, etc. some of the pioneer workers were Koi Clement Chimney, Kah Christopher, Muh Andrew Songhi, Ambei John Fangha, Ache Lucas, Wanjuh Alfred, Towah Joshua, , Ndang Ebenezer Fung, Ndang Johnson Ndong, Kamsang Martin Ngeh, Toh Denis Kelah, Akuh George, Gongs Mercy, Muh Griffih Kang, Toh Zachary, among others. From its creation in 1975 right up to its eminent collapse in 2014, the BMRCSLTD have created more than 62 Interview with Ndeh Richard, 60 years, Retired police officer and shareholder of BMRCSLTD, Muja 8000 jobs in the Liambwe ethnic group. The wages of workers in the cooperative ranged from 9,000 Franc CFA to 30,000 Franc CFA¹⁴⁶. Due to these jobs, the farmers and workers of the cooperative, could now afford to send their children to school, the farmers could now buy farm inputs for their farms.

Increase in Commercialisation

Before the coming of German Technical Assistance, the Bu people were the ones who sold their rice by themselves and due to the fact that they had no marketing skills, they sold the rice at lower prices and to them the prices were moderate. They did not know that they could sell the rice more than the amount they usually sold it for. It was not until the coming of the Germans that they witnessed how the Germans sold the rice at higher prices.¹⁴⁷ The Germans had marketability skills and they could bargain more than the farmers, they used the cooperative to carryout administrative commercialisation, that is all the farmers brought their rice to the cooperative and the skilled experts, helped the farmers to sell their rice to potential buyers. This was done in good faith because the price of rice greatly improved from 3550 Franc CFA to 5000 Franc CFA It should be noted that before the coming of the Germans, the

¹⁴⁶ Kai. "The Contribution of the Bu\Mbengkas" 1970-2014. p.34.

¹⁴⁷ NAB, File No.F.785" Wum Farm Institute "p. 28.

Bu rice farmers usually sold their rice in cups.¹⁴⁸ The money gotten from the sale of rice was used by these farmers to send their children to school and to get new house hold equipments.

Increase Rice Consumption

Before the arrival of WADA in Bu, one of the main problems that Menchum Division as a whole face was constant food shortages, usually experienced just few months after harvest, the problem was not only the that of low yield, but also the lack of adequate food preservation techniques to ensure smooth consumption throughout the year. Grain, the main staple food of the people lacked drying facilities and this grain was always destroyed by weevils. This greatly had an impact on food and also on seed shortages during planting. Due to the lack of seeds, agricultural output was very low, with the coming of WADA, they built storage facilities, they also introduced new techniques of seed preservation and they built drying places for these farmers. This did not only improve upon the output of rice farming, but had an impact on rice consumption. Rice was now consumed every day and not just on Sunday or special occasions and this impact was not only felt in Bu, but also in Wum.

Increase in Farmers' Income

With the coming of WADA, many Bu people were motivated to farm rice. WADA assisting the rice farmers encouraged many people to join and the already rice farmers were given assistance such as fertilizers, seeds, farming techniques and post-harvest methods of rice preservation. With these, rice production greatly improved and with WADA helping these farmers to market their goods, the sale of their rice was high. Given the fact that the Bu people lacked marketing skills, the Germans helped them in marketing their rice through the cooperative and the incomes of rice farmers greatly increased. The coming of WADA to Bu, in 1977, farmer's income increased from 7000 francs, CFA per year to 54,000 francs CFA and in 1980, they earned 120,000 francs CFA. with this increase in farmer's income, they could now afford basic necessities and some of them could now send their children to school, while others used their money to build better houses for themselves.

Inclusion of Women in Agricultural Activities

¹⁴⁸ Interview with Lark Sarah Mbong.

Before 1965, women did not own farms of their own, women just assisted their husbands in their farms, and they were in charge of cooking the food and taking care of their household.¹⁴⁹ These women had no right to own farms because the people believed that women were not supposed to have farms. Through the GTA and the creation of WADA, in the implementation of its projects, it had a targeted group which were perceived in two major categories: the direct and indirect groups. The direct group were the youths and the indirect groups were the women, the indirect target groups were the women folk¹⁵⁰. Although the agricultural development services of WADA were directly aimed at influencing the active male farmers, the position of women was also very invaluable. Women were included actively in the agricultural activities of WADA these women were given loans just like the men, gradually, women began owning farms of their own because they could now afford the farm inputs and also, they could now own lands because of the influence of WADA on the rice cultivation.

ii. Social domain

Due to the coming of the cooperative to Bu, it did not only improve upon the methods of production of rice and sale, but this had a great impact on the social lives of the rice farmers and the whole village at large. This change was seen in the educational domain, infrastructural domain and housing.

Infrastructural Developments

One of WADA's commitments was the creation of farm to market roads and village linkage within the project zone. The objective of this project could only be achieved through the construction of farm to market roads, small scale village water supplies with maximum participation of the local communities. It was seen that rural development in the wum, depended greatly on substantial improvements in the modes of transportation. It was in line with such presumptions that the farm to market roads programmes went into serious operation in the 1982\83 season.¹⁵¹ Roads in the areas were mostly seasonal and passable only during the dry season. This hindrance made it difficult for WADA to effectively access

¹⁴⁹ Kah, "Masculinity and Female Resistance", p. 54.

¹⁵⁰ Interview with Mendie Titus, 52 years, Farmer, Mile 37, 20 April, 2023.

¹⁵¹ Kum, "Catalyst of Roads Development 1973-1994", 2016, p.37.

many areas. The supply of farm products, purchase and evacuation of agricultural produce from the farm was very difficult because of the lack of farm to market roads.¹⁵²

From the beginning, between 1975 and 1982, only 23 kilometres of feeder roads were constructed. But when it was later realised that the road network problem was great hindrance, much attention was paid on construction of roads in the division. Under rural infrastructural development programme, WADA constructed 162 kilometres, graded 155 kilometres of roads, constructed 46 culverts and 37 bridges from 1982 to 1986. Glaring examples of the roads on which culverts and bridges were, made was the wum –Bu road.

Plate 9: Bridge constructed by WADA,1982



Source: Professor Kah Elvis', Library,2001

Plate 9 above shows the bridge constructed by WADA in order to access the rice farms. Access to rice farms was very difficult because they lacked bridges that could link the farms to the market. during the rainy season, access to the farm was not possible because of heavy rain fall but due to the construction of this bridge, people could access their farms even the

¹⁵² Ibid, p. 38.

dry season. The construction was made possible due to the joint efforts from the WADA and the rice farmers.

Plate 10: Footpath to the rice farms,1982



Source: Professor Kah Elvis' Library, 2001

Plate 10 above shows rice farmers coming back from their farms. The farm footpath was constructed by the Bu people with assistance from WADA. At first, there were no farm to market roads, rice farmers usually carried their rice on their heads because there were no roads. This made many villagers to be reluctant to cultivate rice. Before the coming of WADA only those with many children and wives cultivated rice because they had the labour force and those who could transport the rice .it was only after the coming of WADA and the construction of farm to market roads that many people got engaged in the cultivation of rice. This was because they could now use motor bikes to transport the rice to the cooperative for sale. It should be noted that this footpath constructed by WADA, can only be accessed by motor bikes, cars can not enter right down to the farms. So, most people use motor bikes to transport their rice.

Improved Housing Conditions

The community before 1965 lived in grass huts because they could not afford building materials to build modern houses. The advent of WADA brought about an increase in the income of the rice farmers. With the introduction of cash crops like rice and coffee, agriculture became the main activity of the people. Before GTA, a farmer hardly earned 7,000 Francs CFA per year but with WADA, it was 54,000francs CFA in 1977. The increase

in the income of the rice farmers had a profound impact on their living standards, because they could now earn a high income, this encouraged them to be able to purchase building materials to build their houses. With the advent of GTA many houses were built with sun dried and mud blocks, using corrugated iron zinc for the roof. Hence, WADA improved upon the housing situations in the Bu. WADA provided building materials at cost covering prices such as corrugated iron roofs, nails, rafter's.¹⁵³ some rice farmers who had many responsibilities such as cratering for his family, paying children's fees, could not build these houses. That is why they had to join Njangi houses, they joined these Njangi houses in order to save up money that they could now use to build better houses. In Bu, many rice farmers have joined Njangi houses; after saving up money for a year or more, the farmers now withdraw the money and are now able to build good houses for themselves.

Even though these rice farmers, left from grass hut houses to zinc houses, the living conditions were still not the best. The building methods were not the best, some of these farmers were the ones who built these houses by themselves, and they did not contract builders who were expert in building to build the houses. They did this in order to reduce cost, the coming of WADA greatly improved upon the economy of the Bu people.

Plate 11: Houses Constructed by the Bu Indigenes in the 1980s



Source: Professor Kah Elvis' Library, 2001

¹⁵³ Interview with Chu Henry Ngam

It should be noted that the end of WADA in Menchum had a profound effect on the Bu economy. After Germans left, WADA was now controlled by MINADER and because of the negligence that they had on the projects that were installed in Bu, the Bu rice cooperative stopped functioning and due to the fall of this cooperative, it had a profound impact on their economy. The following reasons accounts for why WADA stopped functioning.

The Bu/Mbengkas cooperative was mismanaged by its board, they embezzled money that was meant for the development of the community. Those who were recruited after WADA left had no experience in management. According to George Akuh, those who were members of the board of directors lacked the management skills and lacked communication skills on how to better communicate with the masses as the people expected more from the cooperative but they could not better communicate with the people. This made the cooperative to stop functioning and which had a profound impact on rice production, output and sale.

Also, one of the reasons why the Bu/Mbengkas rice cooperative stopped functioning after the departure of WADA was because the chiefs who were supposed to encourage the rice farmers on the continual use of the modern methods of rice farming, instead encouraged these rice farmers to going back to their old methods of subsistence farming. This was because the new method of rice farming was considered by them as expensive, they could not afford the new modern way of farming. Before, it was WADA who assisted them with some of these modern farming techniques so as they left, the farmers could not hold up to the farming method¹⁵⁴. This had a profound impact on rice cultivation as the farmers used poor seeds and the output were low and consumption greatly decreased.

Over dependence on WADA, even after the fall of WADA, the rice farmers still depend on WADA for support. With the closing of WADA, it was greatly felt by the Bu rice Farmers as they faced difficulties in managing the cooperative, marketing their rice like the WADA officials and they did not know how to better manage harvest and post harvesting of rice. The Bu rice farmers depended too much on WADA for the growing of their economy and this hit them hard when the Germans left.¹⁵⁵ WADA came to Bu because they wanted to assist the farmers to improve upon rice cultivation in order for them to improve their economy. But

¹⁵⁴ G.F. Kum.” The Socio- Economic Impact of the Liquidation ,2004, p. 50.

¹⁵⁵ NAB, File No.F.785” Wum Farm Institute “p. 29.

these farmers did not take their teachings seriously and when they left, they faced serious difficulties and their economy was faced with increase hunger.

Table 1: An Analysis before and after WADA's Intervention in Bu

Year	Domain	Before WADA	After WADA
1965	Economic	Low agricultural output Low consumption Low employment rate Low income	Increase agricultural output -increase consumption patterns -increase employment rates -increase in farmers income
1980	Social	No Road network Poor housing conditions	-improvement in road networks -improved housing conditions

Source: Author's Conception from Fieldwork

From the table above, we can observe that before the arrival of WADA, both the social and economic domain were not developed. In the economic domain, the farmers witnessed low agricultural output, low consumption patterns, low employment rates and low farmer's income. In the social domain, they witnessed poor housing conditions, no road linkage. It was only after the coming of WADA in 1965 that we saw changes in these domains, firstly there was an increase in output due to the assistance that was given by the Germans, increase in consumption patterns, increase in employment rates and in the social domain, we witnessed an improvement in housing conditions and in road networks.

B. The Impact of the Chinese

Before the arrival of the Chinese rice to Bu, they cultivated upland rice which was not that profitable. This was because upland rice was mostly cultivated on hills and these hills were void of water, this made cultivation difficult and output was low. When pa sam Mbwai Achang went to Tingoh for a visit, he discovered that the Chinese were given out seeds for the cultivation of swamp rice. He observed how this swamp rice was being cultivated and he was given seeds the R.42, he came back to Bu and introduced swamp rice cultivation in 1974.¹⁵⁶ Among the first swamp rice cultivators were; Tschemaaghi, Tom Bong Ache, Daniel Buh. Eventhough output was not that bountiful, they mostly cultivated the rice for consumption. Note should be taken that before the swamp rice cultivation was introduced in Bu, WADA existed already in Wum and was carrying out its activities in Wum central. It was in 1975 that WADA extended its activities to Bu.

i. Economic Impacts

In the economic domain, we shall discuss the how due to the introduction of swamp rice cultivation, through the seeds introduced, there were economic changes in the community such as the improvement in Agricultural output and increase in consumption patterns.

Increase Agricultural Output.

The introduction of swamp rice cultivation was greatly welcome by the people as the cultivation of swamp rice proved very lucrative. Before the introduction of swamp rice cultivation, upland rice was not that productive because it was cultivated on hills and needed a lot of money for fertilisation. Many people did not cultivate swamp rice because to them it was a waste of seeds and finance. With the introduction of swamp rice, people welcomed it because, it was lucrative that is the output they got from swamp rice cultivation was far better as compared to upland rice cultivation. With this increase in output, people sold their rice and with the profit gotten, they could now afford to buy house necessities. A rice farmer bought a radio with the money gotten from rice farming and this greatly ignited the spirit of other rice farmers which made them to start cultivating rice.

Increase Farmers income

¹⁵⁶ Kah, "The contribution of Small Holder rice", p.60

With the introduction of swamp rice cultivation, more and more farmers gradually got involved in rice cultivation. This was because they saw how other farmers were making money from swamp rice cultivation. Due to the cultivation of swamp rice, their income greatly increased as compared to when they were farming upland rice. Farmers income greatly increased because agricultural output increased as compared to when they cultivated upland rice. When these farmers were cultivating upland rice, their output for a harvesting season, was 2-3 mukuta bags of rice which was sold at 2500francs CFA and swamp rice was 5 bags of rice which was sold at 5,000francs CFA. This greatly improved upon the income of the rice farmers, some could now dowry their wives, send their children to school and take care of their families. Not should be taken that a bag of rice was sold at 10francs CFA per cup and 10cups of rice for 100francs CFA.

ii.Social Domain

We shall discuss the social changes brought about through the introduction of swamp rice cultivation. This was seen as there was an increase in consumption patterns, increase in the living standards.

Increase in consumption patterns.

Before the introduction of swamp rice cultivation, rice was eaten on weekly bases because the quantity produced was not enough for sale and for consumption. With the introduction of swamp rice cultivation, production greatly improved because swamp rice cultivation was productive because of the fertile nature of the rice farms. Output gotten could now satisfy house hold consumption and sale purposes. Rice was no longer eaten on weekly basis, it became a daily meal. Even though these rice farmers later on faced several challenges in the cultivation of swamp rice which assistance was needed and with the advent of WADA, the improvement in swamp rice cultivation tripled.

Increase standards of Living

With the introduction of swamp rice cultivation, the standards of living greatly increased because they could now afford basic household necessities. before the introduction of swamp rice cultivation, many farmers could not afford to buy basic household necessities because they did not have enough funds. But with the increase in agricultural outputs, these farmers

now had money gotten from the sale of rice and they could now afford household items such as cups, plates, radios, and some could now afford building materials for the building of their houses

II. Impact of Non-State contributors

In this sub section, we shall examine how the contributions of these non state actors in rice farming, has greatly brought about positive changes in the social and economic domain. We shall first start by analysing the impact of ASPPA in the social and economic domain, before discussing PADFA's impact.

A. Impact of ASPPA Intervention

Here, we shall discuss the impact of the various ASPPA project and activities on rice farming and on the socio-economic life of the people. We shall begin with the economic domain and we shall discuss economic impacts such as increase in the number of farmers, increase input and output supply and in the social domain we shall see increase in food security, social cohesion just to name a few.

i. Economic Domain: Increase in Number of Rice Farmers

With the arrival of ASPPA in the late 1990's, most of the villagers were not into rice farming even though rice farming was their main agricultural activity. With the arrival of ASPPA, the numbers of rice farmers greatly increased, because of the sensitisation campaigns held by ASPPA on the importance of rice farming and the lucrativeness of rice farming. They opened up people's minds on rice farming and it was due to these campaigns that most people decided to start cultivating rice, so as to fend for themselves and their families. They were easily convinced to join because ASPPA gave them trainings on how to farm rice and also incentives such as farm tools to start farming and fertilisers to nourish the rice plants.¹⁵⁷ They also trained farm animators and auditors even managers who could serve in their rice farms. The campaigns greatly helped in convincing villagers because they had to farm rice and with them farming rice, they could now afford to send their children to school and care for themselves with the money gotten from rice sale.

¹⁵⁷ BMRCSLTDA, Report on the Evaluation Workshop Held in Bu –Mbengkas Rice Cooperative head office, 30th June 2001 p.20.

Increase in production and output supply

With the programmes and projects that ASPPA carried out in Bu, that of farming groups for the farmers and vocational trainings, it greatly impacted rice production. The rice farmers had learnt how to use improved seeds and also how to use modern techniques of cultivation. This made the farmers to use seeds that were of good quality and also an improved method of cultivation, which lead to an increase in output as compared to before. The outputs that they got before these trainings were low because they lacked improved seeds and the modern methods of rice cultivation. Output was high which made the rice farmers to have a great profit. The vocational trainings given by ASPPA impacted the farmers. They were now specialised in a domain, that is most farmers started farming rice and with this specialisation, inputs were geared to a specific domain which led to a high output. All resources that were first of shared in various domains such as rice, coffee, beans production, were now channelled in a specific domain and which lead to a high yield.¹⁵⁸ This increase in output, lead to an increase in sales which improved upon income and household consumption. Vocational trainings provided farmers with valuable skills that helped them secure employment and started their own businesses, this led to an increase in income and economic stability for the farmers and families of the community.

ii. Social Domain

In this domain, we shall be analysing the social changes brought about by ASPPA, these changes were witnessed in improved livelihoods, social cohesion, increase food security.

Improved Livelihoods

The people of the community did not have a good living condition before the arrival of ASPPA this is because they did not have the means or finance of purchasing other food varieties and also basic amenities. The creation of farming groups by ASPPA, helped improve food security and provided sustainable sources of income for the rice farmers and the community as a whole. The farming groups that were created help to train the farmers to be more skilled in the domain of rice cultivation which improved production and output. This increase in output led to a high consumption thereby reducing scarcity and increase in income. Food security led to improved nutrition, health and overall wellbeing. The villagers

¹⁵⁸ Fung, "The History of Bu/ Mbengkas Rice" p.8.

did not have a good nutritive balance because they did not have varieties in food. With the increase in rice production, many households could now afford rice and they now consumed different food varieties which lead to balance in nutrition¹⁵⁹.

Social Cohesion

The farmers before the advent of ASPPA cultivated their rice solely by themselves, that is these farmers did not work together to see to it that they could better the conditions of cultivation. The various ASPPA projects and programmes greatly brought rice farmers and the community together. They were put in various farming groups and these made the farmers to work together towards attaining their goals. This cohesion, greatly brought about social bonds, increase trust and a greater sense of belonging. Farmers that were found in the same farming groups worked hand in hand with each other to teach each other of what they learnt during the trainings. This greatly improved upon the productivity of rice because farmers who did not attend the training programmes helped in teaching others on what they learnt and the farm animators were also indigenes of the village they made sure that the farmers were fully equipped and guided on rice farming's.

Increase in Food Security

After the fall of WADA, consumption patterns drastically reduced and there was an increase in demand and the fall in supply. With the arrival of ASPPA, they ensured a steady supply of quality inputs such as seeds supply, fertilisers and pesticides, farmers were able to increase their crop yields and overall productivity. The steady supply of these farm inputs leads to an increase in productivity. Since they were using the modern techniques, the output gotten were of good quality which in turn led to an increase in income and improved food security for the community¹⁶⁰.

Table 2: An Analysis of before and after ASPPA's Intervention in Bu

Year	Domains	Before ASPPA	After ASPPA
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¹⁵⁹ Kum "Wum Area Development Authority", p. 189.

¹⁶⁰ Kum "Wum Area Development Authority (WADA) 1965-1994", p. 134.

1997	Social	No social cohesion -reduction in consumption patterns	-social cohesion -increase food security
2013	Economic	-low agricultural input and output -reduction in rice cultivators	-increase input and output -increase in the number of rice farmers.

Source: Author's Conception from Fieldwork

From the table above, before the arrival of ASPPA, rice farming had drastically reduced and this affected the economic and social domain. In the economic domain, these farmers witnessed low agricultural output and input supply, low consumption and in the social domain, no social cohesion, increase food security. with ASPPA intervention, these domains experienced changes, because of the assistance gotten from this foreign organisation.

B. Impact of PADFA Intervention

The arrival of PADFA in Bu was felt in different domains, that is the social and economic domain. The changes brought by PADFA greatly improved the living conditions of the people and reduced hunger, till date, this organisation is still assisting the rice farmers.

i. Economic domain

here, we shall be examining the impact of WADA activities in Bu, that is how their activities brought about economic changes in the community. This economic change was witnessed in the rehabilitation of the cooperative, increased consumption patterns, increase in savings and borrowing, increase employment opportunities just to name a few.

Rehabilitation of the Cooperative

With the liquidation of WADA and it not being functional again, with the arrival of ASPPA, they had as aim to rehabilitate the cooperative, but they later on focused on vocational trainings. PADFA ameliorated the Bu cooperative by extending the cooperative, they have added new ware houses and the cooperative has increased in size as compared to how it was before. After the Germans left, the cooperative stopped functioning and the building was deteriorating because there was no maintenance. When PADFA came to Bu their first project was to rehabilitate the cooperative so that it could function as before. Today, the cooperative has two ware houses meant for storing rice and a room meant for hulling rice and offices.¹⁶¹ The cooperative has a board of directors, the cooperative serves as a market where buyers buy and sell rice. Due to the presence of the cooperative, there has been a great change in the sale of rice, the marketability of rice in Bu has greatly improved because the rice farmers have been taught on how to market the rice and it has led to development in the community¹⁶². See picture of the cooperative above in plate 8.

Increase in Saving and Borrowing

To save and borrow before the advent of PADFA was a great problem to these farmers because, the money they got from rice cultivation did not permit them to save or borrow. It was meant just for the house hold and sending their children to school. The accumulation of capital by rich farmers in Bu has greatly increased upon the level of saving of the rice farmers and beneficiaries. This increase in saving is as a result of improvements in productivity and an increase in output and sale of rice. They can now join Njangi groups, save and borrow from local thrifts and loans projects in wum subdivision whereas that was not the case before, household savings has increased from 50.000francs CFA to 150.000francs CFA annually. This ability to save and receive loans has made these farmers receive recognition by the community and respect. This has also reduced the level of poverty and living standards has greatly increased¹⁶³.

Table 3: Analyses of PADFA Intervention in Bu

¹⁶¹ Interview with Chu Koi Andrew, 61 years, Farmer, Bu, 28 December 2022.

¹⁶² BMRCSLTD, Rice Processing Projects, p.4.

¹⁶³ Kai. "The Contribution of the Bu/Mbengkas Rice". p.6.

	Before PADFA	After PADFA
Quantity of fertilisers used	0-2 bags	3-4 bags
Household income	10.000-20.000frs/ha	30.000-40.000frs/ha
Household savings per year	40.000-50.000frs/ha	100.000-150.000frs/ha

Source: Authors compilation.

From the table above, we can see that before PADFA's intervention, the number of fertiliser bags used was at 2bags but after their intervention, it increased to 4 bags. Household income was st 20.000francs CFA before their intervention, but after their assistance, household income increased to 40.000francs CFA and household savings greatly increased from 50.000francs CFA to 150.000francs CFA per year this ch ages in house hold savings and house hold income was as a result of increase in productivity which was s a result of the usage of more fertilisers.

Increase employment Opportunities

The arrival of PADFA and the rehabilitation of the cooperative has greatly increased employment, the coming of PADFA has increased the number of farmers who have taken up farming as a profession and also the cooperative has employed people who are trained to manage the cooperative.

Table 4: Workers of the Bu/Mbengkas cooperative.

NO	POST	QUANTITY	QUALIFICATION	RESPONSIBILITY
01	MANAGING DIRECTOR	01	NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN MANAGING	PLAN, MANAGE, COORDINATE, MONITOR AND EVALUATE ACTIVITIES
02	Store keeper	01	A\level	Records and checks stocks inventory, keep statistics and manage data on stocks
03	Mill operator	01	FSLC	Process paddy, control fuel and mechanical state of the huller
04	Night watch	01	FSLC	Protect and secure the properties of the cooperative
05	Day watch	01	FSLC	Protect and secure the properties of the cooperative
06	Power tiller operator	01	FSLC	Operates the power tiller
07	General labourer	01	FSLC	Carryout general labor within the cooperative like packaging, classification of produce.

Source: Bu/Mbengkas Rice Cooperative Society (BMRCSLTDs) Archives

The above table is showing the number of people that has been employed by the cooperative and it also shows the managing board of the cooperative. The table illustrates the rank of the workers from the highest to the lowest and their level of competence. These workers earn a salary and their salaries vary depending on their competence level. People are now able to send their children to schools and afford basic needs.

ii. Social domain

Here, we shall be analysing the impacts brought about by PADFA in the social domain, we shall begin by examining how the society was before the intervention of this body, then how their assistance impacted this sector. We shall be discussing: reduction in poverty and

improvement in standards of living, increase in human capital through trainings, increase in area of land cultivated, improved housing conditions, increase farm inputs.

Reduction in Poverty Rate and Improvement in Standards of Living

PADFA projects was observed in its contribution towards increase productivity, increase in farm incomes and improvement in general farm management. This change in the income level of the beneficiary population after the implantation of the PADFA projects implies those who benefited from the project have witnessed an increase in their income as a result in an increase in their investment through increased land cultivation, seeds planted. This as expected translated into an increase household savings. As a secondary impact, this beneficiary may now be able to acquire certain goods and services such as better education for their children, better health care, improve nutritional intake, clothing, which they could not afford before the project. This positive impact has reduced poverty and improved living standards¹⁶⁴.

Increase in Human Capital through Trainings

The rice farmers lacked trainings on pest control, post harvest management, seed selection and this greatly had a negative impact on rice cultivation. With the assistance gotten from PADFA, Trainings were conducted, the beneficiaries were trained on how to use improved seeds, general farm management, book keeping, pest and disease management, seed selection, post-harvest management, knowledge on irrigation systems, water management through school farms, these trainings were organised by PADFA and MINADER. The impacts of these trainings was seen with respect to an increase in productivity, there was a decrease in disease attack, reduction in post-harvest losses and high level of water control in the fields. These trainings given to these beneficiaries have greatly had a positive impact on the beneficiaries and the community at large, farmers gained knowledge on how to better cultivate and due to the increase in cultivation, their human capital greatly increased¹⁶⁵.

Increase in the Area of Land Cultivated

The valley of rice cultivation has a vast area surface for cultivation, but has not yet been fully used due to the lack of farm inputs but with the arrival of PADFA, they had a positive

¹⁶⁴ Ake, *The Role of Farmers Support and Rural*”, p. 33

¹⁶⁵ Authors Analysis

impact on area of land cultivated. This impact was witnessed positively in an increase in the area of land cultivated. Before the coming of PADFA, the area of land cultivated in 2010-2015 was at 160 hectares but after their arrival, area of land cultivation greatly increased. Between 2015-2021 the area of land cultivated was 400 making a total of 100% increase and equally an increase in yields per hectare is equally witnessed as 0.6 ton/ha was formally produced but as of now beneficiary produce 2ton/ha after the first phase of the project¹⁶⁶.profit before the program stood at 20.000frs per hectare and during and after the first phase of the program profit has gone up to 40.000frs per hectare.

Table 5: Area of land cultivated before and after.

	Before PADFA intervention	After PADFA intervention
Area of land cultivated	160ha	400
Yields/ha	0.6ton/ha	2ton/ha

Source: Authors conception from field work.

Improved Housing Conditions

Due to the increase in the financial, social and human capital of the workers of the cooperative and the beneficiaries of PADFA projects, there has been developments in housing conditions. Most of the farmers lived in houses built with bricks and the roof were made up of grass. But with the increase in the salaries of these workers and an increase in saving and loans, these rice farmers can now build good houses. Some of these rice farmers have built houses that are made up of bricks and cemented, the roofs are made with zinc. Most of the Bu rice farmers, especially the successful ones have been able to build houses with the money gotten from the rice and some have sent their children to universities, while some have been able to marry their wives because of the impact of PADFA intervention. People in the likes of pa George Akuh Have built houses with the increase in capital.¹⁶⁷

¹⁶⁶ BMRCSLTD. File No .015, Description project of FIDA/PADFA, December. 2

¹⁶⁷ Interview with George Akuh

Plate 12: Rice Farmer's House in Bu constructed in 2005



Source: Photo credit Author, 2023

Increase in Farming Input

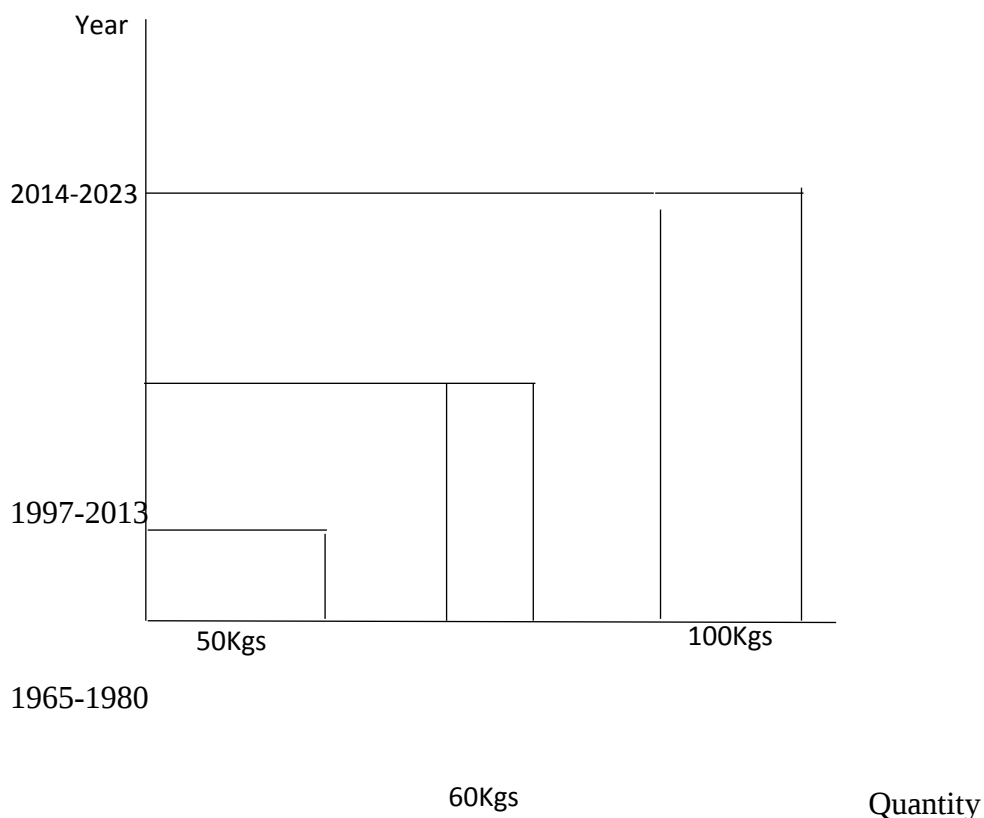
The Bu farmers could not afford farm inputs such as fertilisers, seeds, this is because the output they got from their harvest was low and the sales were poor. With the coming of PADFA to Bu, they trained and sensitised against the usage of old and local seeds, there has been an increase in the usage of improved seeds from 20% before PADFA to 80% after their intervention, which has had an impact on productivity. An increase in the number of these farmers who used these improved seeds will also lead to an increase in output and an increase in consumption. Also, the number of those who can afford a bag of fertiliser has greatly improved. Before the arrival of PADFA, people could not afford a bag of fertiliser because it was expensive which was affecting productivity and output but with their intervention, these rice farmers can now afford to buy bags of fertilisers for their farms.¹⁶⁸ Before their arrival, they could just afford only 2 bags of fertiliser which was not sufficient for their farms but after they can now buy 3 -4 bags of fertilisers.

¹⁶⁸ Kum. "The Contributions of Small Holder rice", p.45.

Table 6: A Change in Prices from the WADA to PADFA

Year	Minimum quantity produced annually	Amount
WADA (1973-1980)	700bags of 50kgs	3550francs
		5000francs
ASPPA 1997-2013	700bags of 60kgs	8000-9000francs
		12000francs
PADFA (2014-2023)	3000bags of 100kgs	15000francs

Source: Authors compilation.

Figure 3: Representation of quantity produced on a column chart

As seen on the column chart above, it indicates that rice production in Bu has evolved over time from the WADA to PADFA. In the year 1965-1980, rice production gradually increased, a bag of rice was sold at 3500 before the coming of WADA, with the coming of WADA rice was now sold at 5,000 francs CFA. This was because the government in collaboration with

WADA were assisting the rice farmers that is WADA was incharge of commercialising the rice, they were the ones incharge of selling the rice, it was done at the cooperative and also rice production greatly improved because the farmers were given farm inputs and materials for production. In the year 1997-2013, quantity produced greatly increased from 50kgs to 60kgs. This was due to the fact that farmers had adapted to the modern techniques of rice cultivation taught to them by the Germans and also because ASPPA taught them how to preserve the rice and also ASPPA assisted them in giving tools and farm inputs. ASPPA gave these farmers vocational trainings on how to be experts in Rice cultivation that is, how to specialise on a single crop. Due to this, output greatly increased and the quantity produced increased to 700bags of 60kgs, which was now sold at a price of 9,000 CFA in 2014 and in 2015 the price increased to 12,000 CFA.¹⁶⁹

In the year 2014 right up to 2022, quantity produced greatly increased to 3000bags of 100kgs of rice. This is because PADFA Is assisting the rice farmers, they are providing the farmers with farm inputs and also helping the farmers in getting buyers. These rice farmers are now using the various modern techniques of rice production and also the new fertilizers which contribute in nourishing the rice that is why lately, the quantity produced has greatly increased which is enough for consumption and for because of the challenges faced by WADA in assisting the rice farmers such as Adamant to adapt to change,

¹⁶⁹ Authors analyses

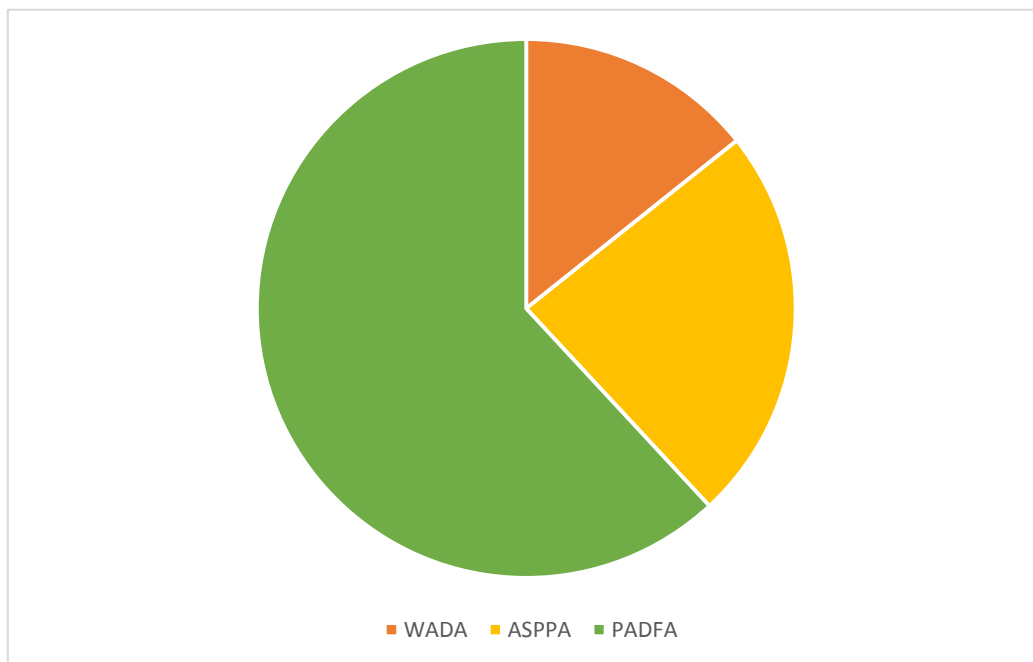


Figure 4: Representation of Output percentage for each foreign organisation.

We can examine that starting from the WADA, the percentage of rice that was produced when WADA were assisting the farmers was 15%. This shows that rice production was not really productive. This was because of the lack of farm to market roads, during the time of ASPPA in Bu, the percentage of rice production increased from 15% to 20%, this was because, ASPPA carried out vocational trainings in Bu and made the people see reasons how important rice farming was, this made many people to start cultivating rice and also with the assistance given by ASPPA, rice production was gradually improving. With the advent of PADFA in Bu, rice production is at its peak as we can see that rice production is 65%. This is due to the fact that the rice farmers have adapted to the modern techniques of rice production, and they are also assisted by PADFA. These farmers have also learnt how to market their goods by themselves. They can now bargain well without the help of the cooperative workers. Rice production has greatly increased because the farmers now use the modern techniques of cultivation to cultivate which in turn gives them a high yield.

Conclusion

This chapter examined the impact of state and non state programmes and projects on the Bu community. The advent of foreign organisations and countries is a blessing because its programmes and projects were geared towards improving rice productivity in Bu, but did not only improve productivity, but also greatly improved upon the social and economic

domain of the people. In this chapter we examined the state and non state impact starting from WADA, the Chinese, ASPPA and PADFA which is still present now in the community. As discussed above, we have seen that from each organisation or country to another, productivity gradually increased. From the Germans we examined that the improvement in rice production was because of the assistance given to the farmers by the Germans. After WADA, ASPPA came and the increase in rice production greatly went up from 15% to 35% and now with the presence of PADFA, rice production has greatly increased to 50%. This is because the Bu rice farmers have all adapted to the modern techniques of rice cultivation and can now better market their goods. With the assistance that they get from PADFA, rice production has gradually improved in Bu even though the farmers face certain challenges in cultivating the rice which will be examined below.

CHAPTER FOUR

CHALLENGES FACING THE BU RICE FARMERS AND WAY FORWARD

Introduction

Chapter four analyses the challenges that the foreign organisations and countries faced in assisting the rice farmers. In chapter 2, we noticed that WADA, PADFA, ASPPA, made considerable efforts in advancing development in Bu through their programmes and projects. However, it faced a good number of challenges in achieving their goals and objectives. From one foreign organisation to another, the problems existed such as overdependence on foreign assistance, lack of farm to market roads, insufficient machines and farm products, the crisis in the North West and South West, farmer grazer problem, lacks of working population, physical structure and inaccessibility and Insufficient funding. This chapter will move further to look at the solutions brought up by the rice farmers, and the various foreign organisations, countries and the researcher to boost up rice production in Bu.

A. Challenges

We shall be discussing the various social and economic challenges faced by the various foreign organisations and countries and the rice farmers. We shall begin by examining the social challenges before the economic challenges.

i. Social Challenges: Lack of Farm to Market Roads

After the liquidation of WADA, most roads in Wum central and its neighbouring villages that were constructed by WADA, drastically deteriorated. After the Germans left, the roads that they had constructed were not maintained. farm to market roads were destroyed by natural hazards like landslides. This resulted to the lack of farm to market roads which affected cultivation greatly and increased hunger. The Germans created farm to market roads, they created foot paths in which people could walk to their farms and motorable roads, so all the outputs from the farms were carried on motor bikes. Today, the Bu people lack farm to market roads where cars can go down to the farms, most people still use motorbikes to carry their harvested rice to the cooperative¹⁷⁰.

They lack motorable roads where cars can access the farm, this is a great setback because the harvest is very fruitful, they find it difficult to transport their rice to the cooperative and to the market. They have to use several days to transport the rice using motor bikes which can take 2 to 3 days, meanwhile if it was in a car it will be a day's job.¹⁷¹ Also, PADFA today is facing difficulties to access the farms that is they cannot transport the farm products directly to the farm. They have to use a car half way down to the farm, then they carry the materials using their heads down to the farm. It should be noted that the topography is rough which makes the transportation process very stressful and difficult especially when it rains, which makes the roads very slippery.¹⁷² Bu has a surface area of 500hecters of land but only 120hecters of land has been exploited due to the lack of farm to market roads

The Crisis in the North West and South West Regions

The Anglophone crisis is another pertinent challenge that has constantly affected rice cultivation in the north west region of Cameroon. The crisis has greatly led to a slowdown in the production of rice cultivation in Bu. The crisis began in 2016 when PADFA had just began its activities in Menchum Division. Due to the crisis, PADFA slowed down its activities in the region because of the insecurities. the crisis greatly affected the level of output, sales and the working population in Bu. PADFA could not access Bu because of road blockages, constant killing in the region, this caused them to halt the assistance in Bu. As a

¹⁷⁰ Kah, "Masculinity and Female Resistance", p.123

¹⁷¹ Kum: "Wum Area Development Authority (WADA)", p.368.

¹⁷² Interview with Aleah John Lark

result of PADFA suspending its activities in Bu, farmers faced several difficulties in cultivation.¹⁷³

This is because they were already use to the assistance that was given to them in terms of farm equipment's and in the cooperative to market the rice. Due to the crisis, many people fled their homes, especially the youths, during the crisis, mostly youths were killed. This made the youths of the Division to flee to safe towns, the agile and working population in Bu was mostly the youths. They helped their parents to work on their farms and there was a high yield at the end. The lack of a working population greatly led to a low level of cultivation in Bu and this increased hunger. Even some of the middle-aged men and women who formed most of the working population also fled their homes. Mostly the elderly were left, just few people remained in the village and the output they got was very low which could not feed the whole village.¹⁷⁴

The crisis has greatly affected the sale of Bu rice. Before the crisis, a bag of rice was sold at 16000francs CFA, but now a bag is sold at 15000francCFA, which does not yield any profit for the farmers. Also, the crisis has caused the marketing of the rice to be very slow. Before the crisis, the rice farmers had buyers who came from Bamenda and other neighbouring villages to buy the rice, making the rice gradually gaining grounds in the Cameroonian market, as other Cameroonian produced rice like the Ndop rice. Bu rice was consumed in Bamenda and beyond which was solving the problem of hunger which is the aim of the Cameroon's government to reduce poverty and hunger. Before the crisis, many Bu rice farmers earned lots of money from the sales of the rice in which they used to send their children school, build houses and others.¹⁷⁵

The crisis brought about a drastic drop in the cultivation, sales and it also had an impact on the farmers and the village as a whole. The low output gotten from the farms could only be sold in Wum market because the level of production had greatly reduced and there was an increase in demand and a drop in supply. The crisis, prevented buyers from Bamenda to come down to Wum to buy the rice. This was because the roads were bad and also because the

¹⁷³ F.B. Nyamnjoh & P. Koning, "The Anglophone Problem in Cameroon", University of Capetown, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, vol,35, NO 2, June 1977, p. 257.

¹⁷⁴ V.G. Fanson, *Cameroon History for Secondary Schools and Colleges, Vol, 1: Pre-colonial times to the Nineteen Century*, London, Macmillan Press Limite 1980 p.217.

¹⁷⁵ B. Agwanda & I. N. Nyadera, *Cameroon and the Anglophone Crisis*, the Palgrave Encyclopedia of Peace and Conflict Studies 2020, p.12.

buyers usually bought and sold in Bamenda.¹⁷⁶ The crisis made it difficult to access the market to buy rice, due to the standstill, the assistance that PADFA usually granted, cultivation was low the farmers did not profit anything from their outputs because of the lack of buyers, this lead to an increase in hunger and they lacked money to buy basic necessities in the community.

Farmer-Grazer Conflicts

The Farmer-grazer conflict is a common clash that keeps occurring between the Fulani pastoralist and Bu rice farmers. This is a serious problem that has been affecting rice cultivation in Bu. Given the fact that the grazing land is found beside the rice farms, grazing is usually left in the hands of youths who serve as herdsmen. negligence on the side of herdsmen, sometimes lead to cattle moving out of track into rice farms there by destroying crops. This negligence happens when the herdsmen take the cattle to the fields which is on the hills which is around the farms.¹⁷⁷

The rice cultivating area has witnessed several cattle attacks because the land which is used foe rice cultivation is claimed by the herdsmen as theirs. There has been a lot of farmers-grazer conflicts, this is because the grazing land and the rice cultivation land are in this location, so herdsmen claim that the land belongs to them, while farmers claim that it is their land. Due this, on several occasions, herdsmen have voluntarily let their cattle to destroy the rice farms of the workers. Also, the herdsmen during dry season set the bushes that are near the rice farms on fire, which crosses to the rice farms and burns the rice¹⁷⁸.

ii. Economic Challenges: Over Dependence on Foreign Aid

One of the problems facing rice cultivation in Bu is over dependence on foreign assistance, for funding, and smooth functioning of its activities. To begin with, the Germans started off with assistance in Bu, after the Germans left, rice cultivation in Bu was very low because they lacked the basic farming equipment's to continue with rice cultivation. After the Germans, we had the chinese, the farmers still faced great difficulties in rice cultivation, ASPPA also assisted the farmers, then PADFA. Till date, the rice farmers rely greatly on

¹⁷⁶ Interview with Ntang Joseph

¹⁷⁷ NAB, File No LG.2281/S1" Demarcation of Farmer Grazer Boundary.p.12.

¹⁷⁸ U. A Adamu, "Grazing Dynamics and Implications for Development in Wum Sub Division," Post Graduate Diploma (Dipes II) in Geography, Department of Geography, Higher training college, 2012 p. 38.

PADFA to cultivate rice, the cooperative that the German opened was left on a standstill after the Germans left, till PADFA came and took over. Over dependence on foreign assistance is a great stumbling block on the production of rice¹⁷⁹. The cooperative constructed by WADA was no longer functional because the Bu and Mbengkas rice farmers could not maintain the cooperative. Maintenance cost was very expensive, this resulted to the lack of a hulling machine and an avenue to market their products. They had to carry the rice all the way to mile 37 in order to hull the rice, and all the way to wum market to sell the rice.

After the Germans left, many people became reluctant in farming rice, it was not until ASPPA came in 1997 and started giving them vocational training and classes on the importance of rice cultivation that many people decided to farm rice again. It was until 2015 that the cooperative was brought back to life by PADFA that they could hull rice and market their products from the cooperative. This goes to prove that the Bu rice farmers depend solely on foreign aid to farm and commercialise their rice. This is so because after the foreign organisations and countries left, before the coming of PADFA, the output was very low which greatly impacted the lives of the farmers. This overdependence has long been since from 1965 till date and has been a part and parcel of them. Without foreign assistance, rice production in Bu will be very slow and the people will greatly suffer because rice farming is one of the main activities that brings them income¹⁸⁰.

This over dependence is a drawback to rice production in Bu because in a case where foreign aid is no longer possible, the rice farmers will face great difficulties to single handily cultivate the desired quantity of rice and also, they will not have hulling machines and other equipment's to effectively produce good quality rice. Even though some farmers single handily buy their farm products, but they still depend on PADFA for assistance. This dependence has made not just the rice farmers to remain stagnant, but Cameroon and Africa at large.

Physical Structure and Accessibility

Menchum Division was one of the least developed areas in the North West, before the coming of foreign assistance. It was poor in terms of road infrastructures and development, Bu was the least developed in Wum central, it lacked linking roads to other villages and farm to

¹⁷⁹ Kum, "The Contributions of Small Holders" p. 55.

¹⁸⁰ Interview with Itung Johnathan, 60 years, Secretary Bu Cooperative, Bu, 28 April, 2023.

market roads, road development in Bu was hampered by its topography, patches of forest, hilly terrain. Which caused road and bridges construction very expensive, this situation limited the integration of farmers in the market-oriented economy. Agricultural inputs could not easily reach the markets and marketing of agricultural products faced serious constraints. The inaccessibility of roads especially during the rainy season hampered the supply for agricultural inputs to farmers and the evacuation of produce from the farm to markets.

In present day, rice farmers still face this problem because they lack farm to market roads. Even though WADA with the help of the villagers, jointly created a footpath road to the farm, the farmers still face serious difficulties in transporting the produced rice to the market.¹⁸¹ This is because the terrain is sloppy and is rough, during the rainy season, the roads are very slippery which makes it difficult for the people to effectively transport the rice and also, motorbikes find it difficult to actually reach the farm because of the sloppy nature of the terrain. The farmers have to carry the bags of rice from the farm up to a certain level before motorbikes can carry to the market for sale. This rough terrain has greatly limited the activities of foreign organisations and countries. It has made it difficult for them to access the farm and for farm equipment's to reach the farm and for the products to reach the market. This has greatly affected rice cultivation in Bu.

Increase in Surface Runoffs

Due to the climatic condition of Menchum, which is that of the tropical monsoon, rainfall is a natural disaster that happens mostly during the months of August, September and October which are all months during which rice is been cultivated. During these months, rainfall is very heavy and this makes rivers to overflow its banks. River Meteh which is the main river flowing down the rice farms, overflows its banks during the rainy season and rises above its normal level, enters rice farms and destroys the rice, during these months, rice transplant is very difficult, the rice cultivated is not yet matured enough that is the roots are not yet strong which causes erosion. When this happens, most of the rice are destroyed, making farmers to lose their crop¹⁸². The lack of canals that could really ensure perfect water circulations in the farm is a great setback.

¹⁸¹ Kah "The Role of Local Communities", p. 223

¹⁸² NAB, File No Qj (1952) Rainfall Statistics –Wum Division Southern Cameroon 1952-1955, p.12.

Climate change is another challenge which the rice farmers face, due to the changes in the climatic condition, many farmers did not farm rice this year because of the change in climate, the change in climatic condition caused changes in rainfall variations¹⁸³. This change in rainfall was a serious problem to the rice farmers this year, most people who cultivated this year did not really benefit from the outputs they got because the rice did not really yield well. The lack of an irrigation system is a great setback to the rice farmers¹⁸⁴. They lack constant water running in the farms, another problem is the constant insect attacks on the rice, Insects are feeding on the rice. The presence of insects in the farms prevents the rice from growing because the insects feed on rice leaves. Even though farmers have tried to prevent these insects from eating the rice, it still persists.

Lack of Farm Inputs and Materials

One of the challenges that the rice farmers are facing is the lack of farm inputs such as farm tillers, rice hullers, fertilizers and hybrid seeds. Due to the lack of these materials, production is low and the output is very insufficient to meet up with demand. The lack of sufficient farm tillers makes cultivation very slow; farmers have to wait for those who own tillers to finish using theirs before they can lend from them. This is a serious drawback as not all farmers cultivate at the same time. Another major challenge is the lack of fertilisers to fertilise the rice and to drive away insects, these insects eat rice leaves during transplant which prevents the rice from growing. When the insects feed on rice leaves, it makes output to be low because not all of the transplanted rice yielded fruits.

The lack of seeds is another reason why the farmers of Bu face a great challenge in rice cultivation. It should be noted that most rice farmers rely on foreign organisations for seeds before they can cultivate rice. This dependence on assistance from foreign organisations, cause many farmers not to cultivate rice. some rice farmers lack the funds to buy rice seeds to farm so they have to depend on these organisations for seeds, some farmers purchase these rice seeds themselves¹⁸⁵. The uneven cultivation and production of rice that is some produce in a small scale because they lack sufficient seeds, while some produce on a large scale because they have the funds to purchase these seeds, and some not cultivating at

¹⁸³ Interview with Chu Henry

¹⁸⁴ Ake "The Role of Farmers Support Program...", p.120.

¹⁸⁵ Interview with Toh Denis ,65Years, Internal Board Presaident, Bu,18 April,2023.

all leads to a low output that cannot satisfy demand and cannot be marketed because the rice is been bought all at home. Some farmers still use the old seeds to cultivate rice and these old seeds have lost their potentials. They still use the old seeds because, the old seeds are way cheaper than the new ones. The old seeds are less productive and they donot yield quality output like the new seeds.

Lack of Machines and Storage Ban

The lack of machines and a storage ban is a great drawback, the Bu –Mbengkas rice cooperative has just 1 hulling machine which is not sufficient to hull rice given the fact that the cooperative is meant for the Bu and Mbengkas people. This machine is kept at the cooperative and makes rice production slow because, when it is time for hulling a farmer has to wait for another to finish hulling his own rice before the others which is a drawback¹⁸⁶. This makes people to go rent peoples private hulling machines in order to hull their rice. some farmers who could not stand to watch the slow rate of hulling had to go buy their own hulling machines and are now using it to make money by using it to rent to farmers. The only hulling machine at the cooperative is called SP.10 which was given to them by PADFA. some people hull their own rice late and this makes them to sell their rice late. They finish hulling their own rice late and this leads to loss of customers, they hull when their customers most have ran out of patience and bought rice from others who had already hulled their own rice. December is the period when people hull and sell their rice, due to the lack of hullers, some farmers finally sell their rice in January and during that time, most buyers might have already gone back to their towns and the price of buying will not be Same as that of December¹⁸⁷.

After the rice is hulled and put in rice bags, they lack storage bans, this causes post-harvest management, most of their warehouses needs rehabilitation and the few they are using is not enough to store rice. The cooperative in place is very small to store the rice. When output is high, there is a shortage in storage space because both the Mbengkas and the Bu framers store their rice in the cooperative stores. Most of the farmers prefer to store their rice in the cooperative stores because they have modern techniques of preserving the rice from been eaten by weevils. Due to the lack of storage space, most of the farmers tend to sell their rice out at cheaper prices just so that the rice should not get bad at home. This is a

¹⁸⁶ Kum “Wum Area Development Authority”, p.356.

¹⁸⁷ NAB, File No F.785” Wum Farm Institute “p. 48.

setback to rice production because the farmers cannot store their rice to sell in a later date to buyers who come from different towns. While those who had stored their rice in the cooperative stores and were under good storage conditions, gain more than others. This shows that due to the lack of storage bans, many farmers who had invested their money in rice production work on losses because their rice is been eaten up by insects which damage the rice.

Insufficient Agricultural Manpower

The crisis has caused people to flee their homes especially the youthful population. The youths were very vital in rice cultivation; this has caused production to be low. This is because the active population now in the village who are farming the rice are mostly made up of the old and their working capacity cannot be compared to that of the youths.¹⁸⁸ The crisis is a great drawback to rice cultivation and output has greatly reduced and the living conditions has reduced drastically. Before the crisis, the youths were actively involved in rice production and it was a source of income to them, some of them paid their fee, some married wives and built houses with money gotten from rice cultivation. Due to the outbreak of the crisis, most of them fled their homes to the city because of the fear of losing their lives and this has greatly impacted rice production in Bu negatively.

Lack of Sufficient Funding

One of the challenges faced by the Bu rice farmers and the present foreign organisation in Bu is the lack of sufficient funding. Even though PADFA is present in Bu and is assisting the rice farmers physically, financially and technically, the funds are still not sufficient to fully finance their projects in Bu. The projects that PADFA started in Bu are yet to be completed, this is because they lack sufficient funds to carry out these projects.¹⁸⁹ The rice farmers lack machines and farm supplies, the lack of insufficient funding is not only driven from the fact that PADFA cannot finance all the projects in the village, it is also from the fact that the government of Cameroon has stopped assisting the rice cooperative, all the finance is now weighing on PADFA's shoulders. During the time of WADA, the government of Cameroon was supporting the rice farmers financially and materially but today, the support from the

¹⁸⁸ Interview with Mvo Hycinth Ettia, 63Years, Technical Supervisor PADFA, Wum, 18 April 2023.

¹⁸⁹ BMRCSLTDA, Minutes of Bu- Mbengkas Rice Cooperative General Meeting ,2nd January 2013 p. 10.

government has drastically reduced that is the government is not fully involved in the financing of the cooperative as compared to before.¹⁹⁰

High Interest Rates of Micro Finance Initiatives.

Most micro finance houses have high interest rates, which is a drawback to rice farmers in taking loans. The micro finance houses put their interest rates very high, the farmers do not longer go borrow from them because, they are more interested in their interest than the actual loans taken. That is why, these farmers prefer to join njangi houses where they can easy borrow and refund, and the interest rate is not that high. This high interest rates of these micro finance houses have made the rice farmers to stop borrowing from them.

Lack of an Irrigation System

The Bu community has a surface area of 500hecters of land but only 120 hectares is being cultivated due to the lack of a well organised irrigation system. The lack of a good irrigation system is a major drawback to expansion. The rice farmers are willing to expand their lands and cultivate more but the lack of an irrigation system has made them given up their drive.¹⁹¹ The lack of water in the other part of the land is a challenge. This has greatly hampered production in the community and reduced the living conditions of the farmers.

Limited Access to Quality Input and Output Markets

This is one of the main challenges faced by the rice cooperative today, the lack of quality markets to sell their rice. Given the fact that the rice is of good quality and has good nutritional values, it still lacks good markets where the rice can be sold. Before the Anglophone crisis, the rice was being sold in the Bamenda market but as the problem prolonged till now, the farmers still lack good markets where they can sell and market their rice. Another challenge is the fact that the Bu rice still lacks publicity, the rice is still not known in every part of Cameroon, even in the northwest region the rice is still not known by all. The rice farmers lack marketability strategy to market the rice and incorporate it to the world. If the rice was being sold in all parts of the country, the productivity level would have

¹⁹⁰ Interview with Ake Sadis, 59 Years, Farmers Advisory Agent, Bu, 18 april 2023.

¹⁹¹ S. M. Ake "The Role of Farmers Support...2022". p.125.

greatly increased and consumption would have also increased which would increase the living standards of the people and reduce poverty.¹⁹²

B. Way Forward

In order to resolve some of the problems that these farmers and the foreign organisation faced and are still facing, the following solutions have been proposed.

i. Social Domain: Construction of the Wum-Bamenda Road by the Government

One of the main problems that these rice farmers face is the lack of buyers, before the crisis, rice buyers came from different regions to buy the rice and resell, which was gradually making the rice known in other regions of Cameroon. The outbreak of the crisis prevented these buyers from coming to buy the rice as usual, coupled with the bad road networks, made these buyers to stop buying. In an attempt to solve this bad road network problem, the government has started construction on the Wum-Bamenda road. They have started with the digging of the road, but due to the presence of the separatist fighters, they sometimes attack the road workers which has made the project to be on a stand still.

National Dialogue

In an attempt to solve the Anglophone crisis, the government of Cameroon has tried to hold a national dialogue between the separatist fighters and the government to see how they can discuss a way out for the crisis but this dialogue failed. This crisis is a great drawback to rice cultivation in Menchum Valley because these separatist fighters attack the rice farmers. This makes the farmers to flee their farms. This attempt by the government was not successful and the crisis still persists which is a challenge to rice cultivation.

Modern Techniques of Cultivation

To solve the problem of the usage of local techniques of cultivation, WADA, ASPPA, PADFA have tried to improve upon their methods of cultivation by giving these farmers trainings on methods of cultivation and also giving them farm inputs to reduce the cost of cultivation. When WADA were present in Bu, the rice farmers were adamant to change their

¹⁹² Interview with Chu Koi Andrew

local methods of cultivation because they found the new methods too costly. The Germans had to give them farm inputs to reduce the cost of cultivation. Some farmers welcomed this while others did not, when WADA left, ASPPA did the same thing as WADA, that is giving out farm inputs for free all in a bit to make these farmers to adapt to the modern techniques but some farmers were still adamant. Till date, PADFA has tried to make these farmers to fully accept the modern methods of production, but some farmers are still adamant. Due to this reluctant nature of the rice farmers, output is not the best.

Irrigation of Rice Fields

One of the problems that the rice farmers are facing currently is insufficient water supply in the rice fields. The rice farmers want to expand their rice farms, but there is no sufficient water supply in other parts of the farm. In an attempt to solve this problem, PADFA has started carrying out feasibility studies on the rice fields to see how they can irrigate a Dam that will supply water in every part of the rice fields. This attempted solution by PADFA is a project that is still in motion, they have not yet realised the project.

Less Dependent

From research carried out, it was proven that the Bu people are disunited, since from the chieftaincy feud that happened, they have been disunited. This disunity has made these people to not be able to come together and work for the betterment of their community. If the community was in unity, they would not have depended so much on foreign assistance, they would have worked together to see how they could finance their projects without the intervention of any outside body. They have well to do men in the community who would have put their heads together to help solve their problems instead of asking for assistance. We therefore recommend that, the Bu people should try to build unity amongst themselves because unity and peace leads to development. They should not rely so much on foreign assistance, research has shown that it is only when a foreign organisation or countries intervenes that the level of production increases and the level of sale is high. These rice farmers should be able to depend on themselves and try to seek solutions to their problems without asking for intervention.

Allocation of Road Construction Projects to Local Authorities

Local communities should be given authority and special budget by the government to create roads. In Cameroon, road construction is solely done by the government and that is why the creation of farm to market roads has been slowed down in local communities because before a road is constructed, the local community authorities have to send the person in charge of transport to communicate with the government about constructing the roads which might take a very long time. If the road projects were given to local communities, and a budget allocated to them every year for the construction of roads in their communities, there would have been an increase in farm to market roads which would have greatly brought about development. Also, targeted government investments in infrastructural developments, including rural roads construction and maintenance, is crucial, public- private partnerships can leverage private sector expertise and resources to accelerate road construction projects and finally, promoting community- based initiatives, where farmers collaborate to build and maintain smaller access roads, can supplement larger government projects and empower local communities.

ii. Economic Domain

We shall be examining the various possible solutions brought up by the researcher in solving the challenges that rice production is facing in Bu. These solutions are improvement in their bargaining power, supporting micro finance initiative, just to name a few and they shall be analysed subsequently.

Improve their Bargaining Power in the Market

If farmers in the agricultural sector, including small holders, want to compete successfully, they must not only respond to customer demand, but also focus on efficient operations that are cost effective and reliable. Farmers need access to efficient market chains that they can rely on to dispose of their products at competitive and stable prices. Small farmers face major difficulties in accessing modern market chains, these include low volumes of produce to sell, variable quality, seasonality and limited storage, high transaction costs, poor market information and contacts and limited ability to meet the high acceptable requirements of

some high value outlets. Although many local markets outlets still exist, the best business opportunities often lie with farmers who can organize for urban export markets. Promising alternatives include contract arrangements with large marketing processing agents, marketing cooperatives and trade fairs. Small holders have to organise themselves in strong farming organisations that are able, motivated and sufficiently independent to effectively represent farmers' interest.

Creation of a national agricultural extension and advisory system (NAEAS) that can provided by the public, private and non-profit sectors (NGO's). a strong system of NAEAS is therefore a prerequisite to agricultural development, it plays an important role in ensuring that farmers and various stakeholders have access to improved and proven technologies and that their concerns needs are properly addressed by relevant service providers¹⁹³. This body is greatly needed to address the various challenges facing the rice farmers not only in Bu, but in the country at large. Also, the promotion of direct sales is important through farmer's online platforms can connect producers directly with consumers, bypassing intermediaries and potentially increasing profit margins.

Increase State Intervention

During the presence of the Germans in Bu, government intervention in the agricultural sector was greatly witnessed, but with the collapse of WADA, the level of government intervention greatly dropped. The government has reduced its activities in assisting the rice farmers, its assistance is very minimal and has a great impact on the rice farmers. The government should improve on their assistance to the rice farmers because them assisting the rice farmers with finance, materials, resources have a great impact on production and consumption. One of the problems that the rice farmers are facing is the lack of resources and if the government was still actively assisting the rice farmers as before, there would have witnessed an increase in productivity, reduction in income capital and reduction in poverty.

Increase in Capacity Building Programs and Research

¹⁹³ Ake, "The Role of Farmers Support Program Towards Poverty Alleviation in Wum Sub Division (Case Study PADFA)," Bachelors of Science B.S.C Degree in Rural Development and Administration, Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development, University of Dschang 2022, p. 18

Studies have shown that the rice farmers have limited trainings on farming techniques and have limited knowledge on new farming technologies. The rice farmers are facing problems such as the lack of adequate knowledge on new farming techniques, lack of farming capacity because they lack trainings on how to manage the farms and how to market their rice. Rice farmers should carryout reserch more. They should research on new farming techniques; they should be innovative. In the world today, new farming techniques are developed and these techniques can help the rice farming in the various problems they are facing, but due to the fact that they donot carry out research more, they have no knowledge of these techniques. Its only when an organisation assist them that they gain knowledge on this technique.

The rice farmers should carry out more capacity trainings and attend seminars on rice farming so that they can gain more insight on the new techniques on rice farming. Studies have proven that the Bu rice farmers actually carry out capacity buildings only when an organisation present in their community organises it. Capacity building and having trainings on rice production is very essential and that is why those who have the capacity and have had trainings on rice production, have a high productive capacity more than those who have not undergone trainings.

Supporting Microfinance Initiatives

The government should encourage the establishment and growth of microfinance institutions that cater specially to the needs of rice farmers. It is true that there exist several microfinance institutions that are out to help solve farmer's problems but most of this microfinance is way costly more than what the farmers earn. Some of these institutions have high interest rates which prevents the farmers from taking loans. The rice farmers prefer to keep their savings in Njangi houses rather than in these institutions because in Njangi houses, they can easily borrow money at any time when they are in great need and the interest rate is affordable to them. The government should make these microfinance institutions, to give financial literacy trainings to these farmers because most of them donot know the use of saving or borrowing money from a microfinance institution and the few that know prefer Njangi houses to these institutions.

Farmers view grazing as a threat to their rice fields, leading to crop damage and economic losses. This conflict stems from competition for land and water resources, particularly during the dry season when grazing pressure intensifies. Designated grazing

corridors, establishing designated corridors for cattle movements can significantly reduce conflict. These corridors could be strategically located away from rice fields, providing herders with defined routes and minimising the risk of crop damage. This requires collaboration between local authorities, farmers and herder communities to establish clear boundaries and ensure adherence. Improved livestock management practices, promoting sustainable grazing practices, such as rotational grazing and improved herd management, can further mitigate conflict. This involves educating herders on responsible grazing techniques that minimise environmental impact and reduce pressure on specific areas. Additionally, supporting the development of water points outside rice cultivation zones can lessen the competition for water resources during the dry season.

Conclusion

This chapter has critically examined the problems facing rice cultivation in Bu, this could be explained by the many challenges that plagued the farmers such as lack of farm to market roads, lack of farm inputs, lack of a storage bin and a hulling machine just to name a few. These challenges heavily discourage many farmers who as a result abandoned rice cultivation and indulge themselves in other economic activities such as buying and selling of goods. These challenges are not only experienced by the farmers but also a drawback to the present organisation that is in Bu now. A challenge such as the crisis in the North West and South West is a big obstacle to them as they find it difficult in carrying out their projects in the community. This crisis has not just stopped the projects of the organisation present in Bu but has also made the active population to flee, that is the agile population. The community now is mostly made up of old people who can not cultivate and produce as compared to the agile population.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

The study set out to examine the impact of foreign assistance in the production of rice in Bu community. This study has brought out the evolution of the various foreign countries organisations that have assisted the Bu rice farmers from 1965 to 2022, and has brought to lime light the impact of these foreign countries and organisation on the socio-economic life of the Bu people and Wum community at large. In this work, we showed how rice production in Bu gradually evolved, due to the coming of these foreign countries and organisations. Starting from the Germans in 1965 through WADA to ASPPA in 1997 and PADFA in 2014. Each state, organisation has had a great role to play in rice production in Bu through their projects and programmes implemented in Bu community which has impacted their community positively in the social and economic domain and today has made the rice farmers to use modern techniques of production. Rice production in Menchum and in Bu in particular has reduced poverty and hunger which is the aim of the government of Cameroon.

We depict that the impact of foreign organisation and countries on rice production in Bu was favourable due to the Geographical, human and social setting of the sub region which has been presented. The North West Region in general and specific divisions in particular (Bui, Wum, Fundong, etc.) had a particularly favourable climate and topography for the cultivation of rice. This was made possible by the climate which has two main seasons (dry and rainy) respects to vegetation. The vegetation was favourable for the cultivation of rice just like the rest of Western Grass fields of Cameroon, the Bu indigenes were involved in several activities such as fishing, hunting and farming, rice farming gradually imposed herself as one of the pillars which pivoted the economic life of the people because of the favourable climatic, vegetation and topography.

Prior to the coming of foreign organisations, states to Bu, the number of rice farmers gradually increased. Even though rice farming is the predominant activity of the people, they also have other economic activities such as hunting, fishing and coffee production even though it is not profitable like rice cultivation. Hunting was commonly practiced with the use of rudimentary tools like cutlasses, knives, bows and arrows, spears. Apart from rice, they cultivate cereals like coffee, maize, beans, cassava, cocoyam's amongst others. With the assistance from foreign countries and organisations, modern techniques of cultivation were introduced in 1975. However, as the activities of these Foreign countries, organisations were evolving, there was gradual increase in the number of rice farmers in Bu. Foreign assistance

in Bu has greatly impacted the lives, rice production and the economy of the community and Wum as a whole which was the main aim of the government to increase development through poverty reduction and the elevation of hunger.

During the early years of the coming of foreign organisation and countries to Bu, accessibility to the farm was a problem and is still a great hindrance to rice cultivation. Many problems emerge ranging from both natural to human aspects. These include natural hazards like heavy rainfall which persisted as there was no solution. There was also the growing increase of insects that feed on rice leaves for survival. These insects destroyed the rice from spouting which caused the rice farmers to incur losses. The topography also made it difficult for rice farmers to reach their farms. The topography is mountainous and the rice farmers farm rice in a valley, so for them to reach the valley is not easy these difficulties made the projects of the foreign organisations and countries to slow down.

The coming of foreign organisations and countries had a tremendous impact on the people of the wum and Menchum at large .it helped in poverty alleviation as job opportunities were provided to many people. As a result of this, the rate of rural exodus was slowed down due to the lucrative nature of the cultivation of rice. However, the coming of foreign assistance did not only necessitate an increase in rice cultivation, but also necessitated development in other areas. With the creation of the Bu/Mbengkas rice cooperative, rice farmers were able to store and preserve stocks. The cooperative served as a market where rice was sold and due to the cooperative, a hauling machine was stationed in the cooperative to help rice farmers hull rice and also a storage ban.

The creation of the cooperative that is still existing till date has greatly helped the rice farmers in acquiring marketability skills. The cooperative served as a market where people stored their rice and experts who worked in the cooperative helped the rice market their rice and through this means, many rice farmers started learning on how market their rice by themselves and today, they sell their rice by themselves and earn profit. Also, through the cooperative, many people have been employed and they work there to earn a living. Since 1965 right up 2016, the cooperative was used by the rice farmers to market their rice. Not until the Anglophone crisis broke out and buyers no longer came down to the cooperative to buy, so the farmers now had to look for other means to sell their rice by themselves and that is why today, the farmers market their rice by themselves, they sell in wum market in cups meanwhile before the rice was sold in bags.

The study brings to light the following findings

The development induced in the community with the advent of foreign organisations and countries was to transform the rice producing sector from local methods of rice cultivation to modern methods of rice production. It was discovered that rice production in Bu is a very lucrative business and has greatly helped in reducing poverty and hunger, especially with the assistance gotten from the various countries and organisations in a bit to boost the rice production sector. Also, this assistance did not only affect the rice producing sector but indirectly had a positive impact on the social and economic life of the people. We also discovered that from one foreign organisation to another, the percentage of rice production greatly increased and the rice was gradually making its way into the regional markets but with the outbreak of the Anglophone crisis, rice production in Bu has greatly witnessed a setback.

More and more people have abandoned their rice farms, the lack of markets to sell the rice, the lack of a working population, increase in rural urban migration are all the impact of this crisis. The price of rice has gradually reduced; the farmers no longer make profound gain in the selling of rice as before. Despite all efforts in curbing problems, rice farmers and the various foreign organisations present in Bu face serious problems, these include farmer – grazer conflict, lack of farm to market roads, lack of government assistance, On the whole, the presence of PADFA in Bu now has helped in maintaining the rice production sector, with their assistance, many people who abandoned rice production, have gone back to cultivating rice. PADFA's presence in Bu has helped in solving some of their problems.

But it is worthwhile to mention that in an attempt to achieve its goals, the various foreign organisations and countries have carried out several activities and these activities had several negative impacts on the community, so it can be contended that the coming of foreign assistance to the rice farmers through the various states. Organisations was and is still a mixed blessing to the community. Whatever the case, the study has demonstrated that the development-oriented achievements of these organisations and countries in the rice producing sector in Bu, and the development of the Sub region outweighed the negative impacts. In spite of this the sub region and Bu community in particular still remain in dire need of further socio-economic development. Foreign assistance is still regarded as an indispensable development tool in the Region. This therefore calls for further transformation through new policies and techniques by the government.

What generally emerge from these findings is that rice production which is one of the main economic activities of the Northwest region has unprecedented implications on the wellbeing of the people. The study suggests short- and long-term measures that will go beyond state actions alone. All these now give us a premise to make useful recommendations. Very few countries, particularly in the developing world, have experienced rapid growth without agricultural growth either preceding or accompanying it.

There is a greater need for the state to train advance agricultural technicians and to boost agricultural research centres and infrastructures like the IRAD Bambui and the Regional college of Agriculture, Bambili that can handle future rice related problems in the region and the nation in general. The government through agricultural extension services must reassume the responsibility too as a medium for supply of rice incentives and education on the use of rice inputs. Efforts should be intensified to lure unwilling rice farmers through constant personal contacts. The trained technicians need to learn from farmers by also becoming listeners and facilitators of rice development processes.

PADFA should continue to sensitize and create awareness on the importance of agriculture and the use of modern techniques of rice cultivation to those using traditional methods of rice cultivation. The rice farmers should seek assistance from just more than one foreign organisation because the presence of one organisation cannot sufficiently do all the work needed. The presence of PADFA in Bu has greatly helped the rice farmers, but PADFA cannot do all the work because they donot have sufficient funds, if another organisation or state was present, the work that was needed to be done could be financed by the two organisation which could make rice production greatly flourish.

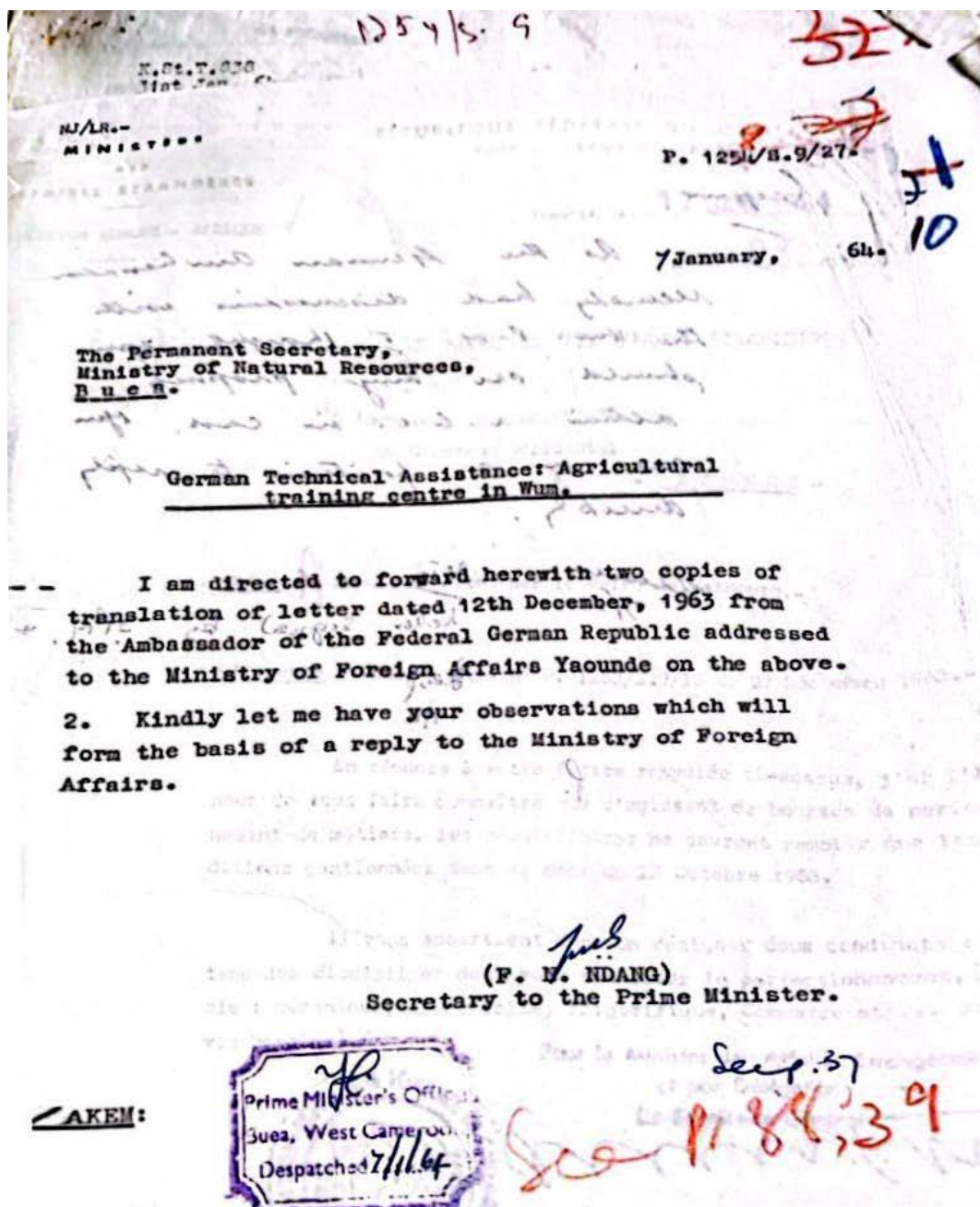
Flood resistant rice varieties possess specific adaptation that enables them to survive and thrive in flooded conditions. Scientist have developed rice strains with the “SUB1 gene”, which allows them to tolerate submergence for extended periods. This gene triggers a physiological response that slows down the plant’s metabolism, conserving energy and preventing drowning. Examples include swarna-sub1 and varieties developed by African rice. Implementing these varieties can significantly reduce crop losses during heavy rainfall, leading to improved yields and food security.

Futhermore, promoting farm owned cooperatives can create a collective bargaining power for negotiating better prices for their produce and accessing bulk discounts on

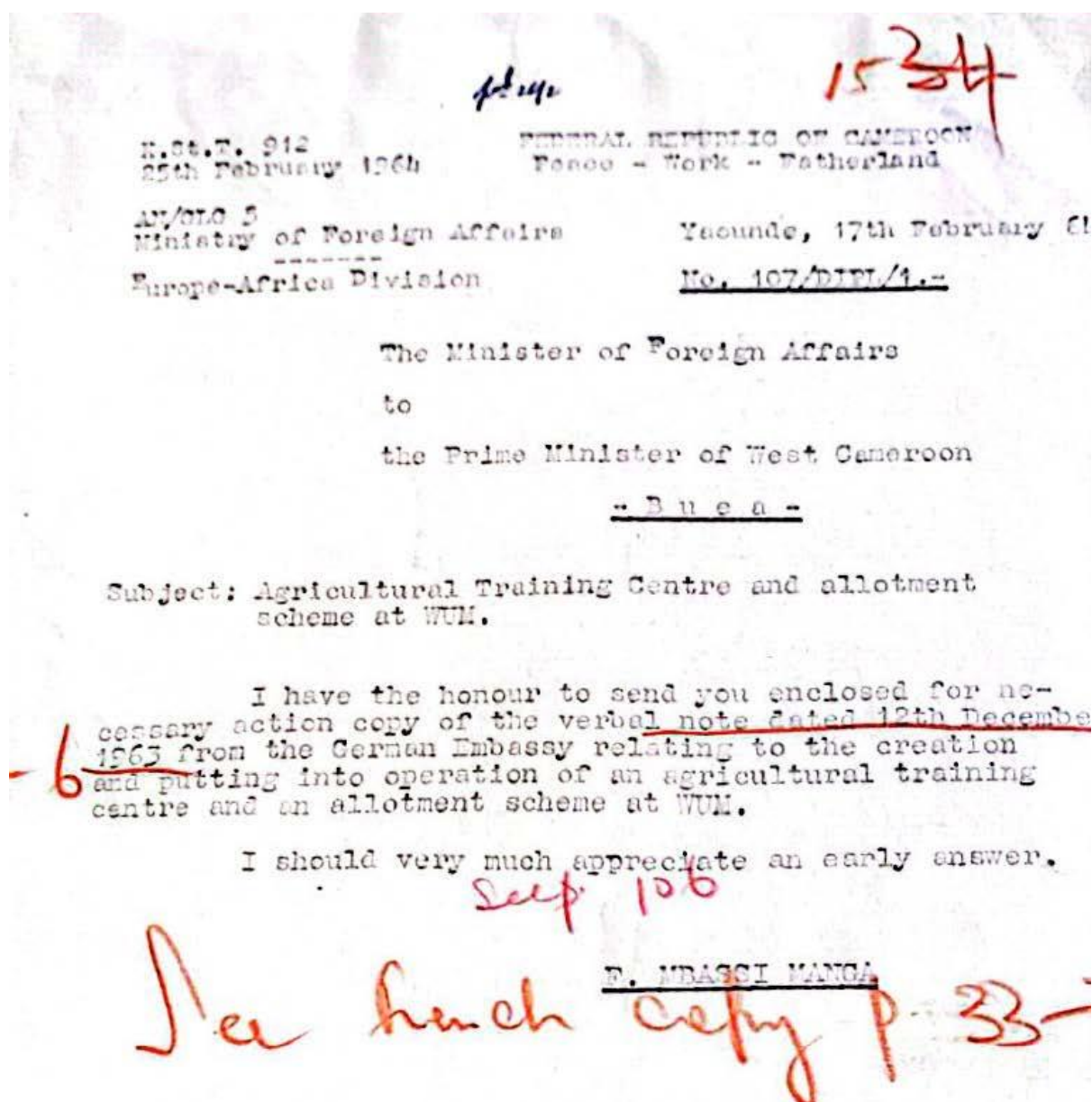
agricultural inputs. This is not only reducing individual financial burdens but also fosters a sense of community and collective actions within the rice farming sector. By addressing the funding gap through targeted financial programs, partnerships and cooperative structures, we can empower rice farmers in Bu.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: German Technical Assistance.



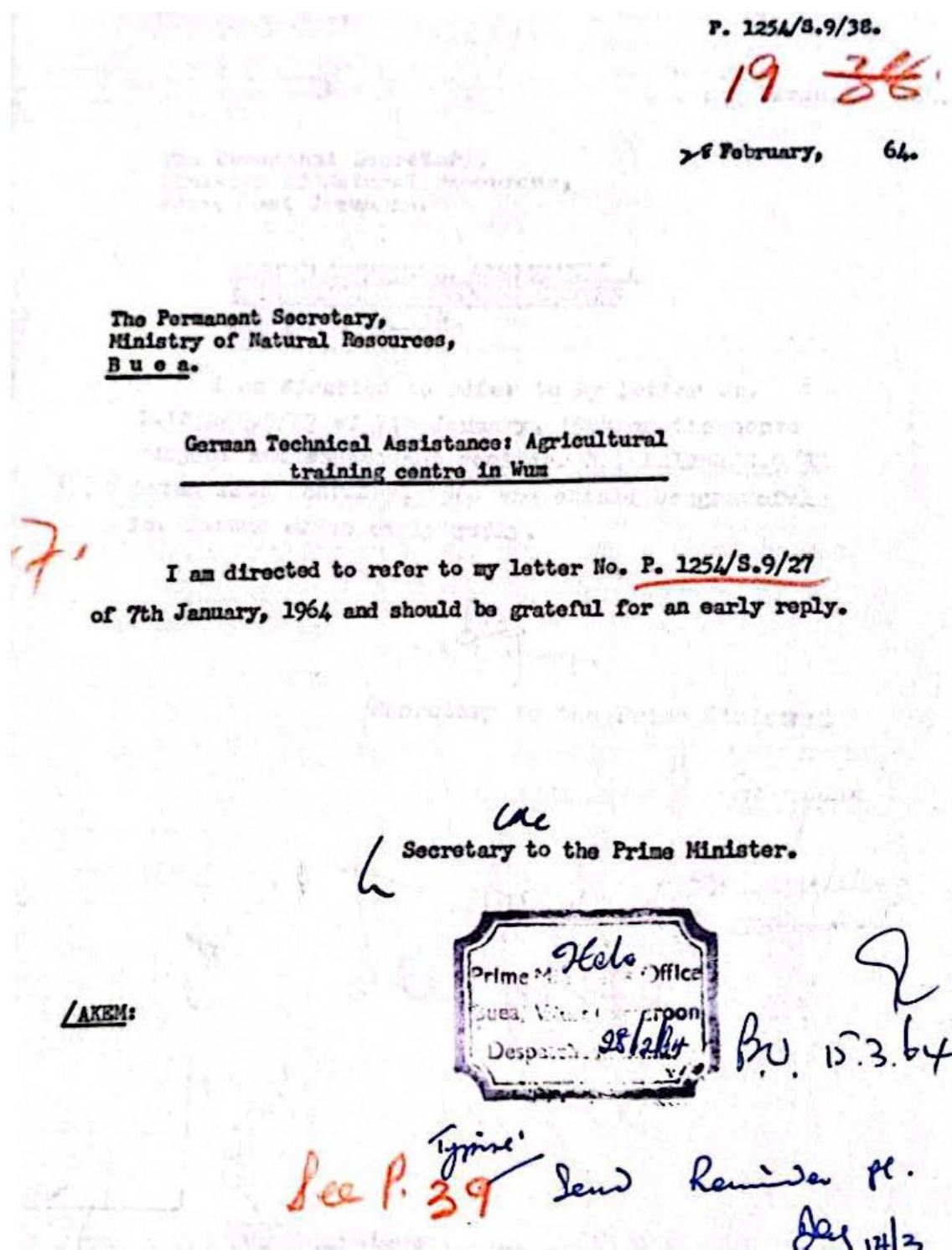
SOURCE: National Archive Buea, Retrived March 18, 2023.



Appendix 2: Agricultural Training Center

Source: National Archives Buea, 18 march 2024

Appendix 3: letter of referral on the German Technical Assistance



Source: National Archive Buea 18 March 2024

Appendix 4: German Technical Assistance Report

P 1254/59.

21 H2

Telephone Nos Telegraphic Office House Address Secretary of State for Natural Resources 98 ext. 3 146 MINNAT Parliamentary Secretary 98 ext. 1 3 PARLNAT Permanent Secretary 98 ext. 4 106 PERMNAT Assistant Secretary 98 ext. 2 — —		Ref No <u>NR. 881/19.</u> Ministry of Natural Resources Buen, West Cameroon Federal Republic of Cameroon <u>31st March, 1964.</u>
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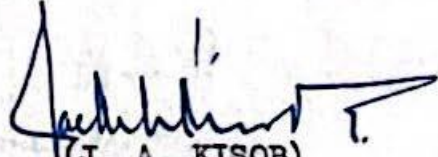
The Secretary to the Prime Minister,
Office of the Prime Minister,
BUEA.

GERMAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTRE
IN WUM

I regret the delay in supplying you the in-
formation in respect of the above subject. In the
absence of the Director of Agriculture on a pro-
tracted tour of the Continent of Europe, this matter
has to await his comments at least on the report
of the German Expert before your office is addressed.

2. You should therefore expect to hear from me in
the near future.

See p. 39


 (J. A. KISOB)
 PERMANENT SECRETARY.

ORDER OF ACTION	Initial JAN/PRM	Date
Received	Jey	1/4
P.A.	pub	1/4
LS		

bv. 20.4.64
20. 5. 64

Pal
Pub

FB 2/4

Source: National Archives Buea 18 Msrch 2024

TEL: YAOUNDE 42-89
(SIX LINES)

XXX

The Secretary to the
Prime Minister,
BUEA.

P.4405 1254/s.9
PEACE - WORK - FATHERLAND

1-37

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
25 JUL 1964
BUEA, W. CAMEROON

Ref. No. *2266* VP/6/Vol.2/163:
CABINET OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT
YAOUNDE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Yaounde the 22 July 19 64.

Proposed Agricultural School Wum.

I am directed to forward the attached letter No 696/D1P/1
dated 20th July 1964 from our Foreign Ministry inviting two or three West
Cameroon Representatives to attend a meeting in Yaounde on 3rd August 1964.

The subject would be the proposed Agricultural School at
Wum.

The Hon. Prime Minister of West Cameroon has recommended
that the Hon. W.N.O. Effiom Minister of Natural Resources, The Director of
Agriculture and the Director of Education or his representative should
attend.

hoo *Shena*
S. N. EXOBENA
Director of Cabinet/.

CC
Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Natural Resources,

For Information A Copy of the letter is attached hereto.

Appendix 5: Proposed Agricultural School

Source: National Archives Buea, 18 March 2024

Appendix: 6 Wum Agricultural School

REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE DU CAMEROUN
PAIX — TRAVAIL — PATRIE

40
36

Cable DIPLOCAM, Yaounde
Telephones .. Yaounde, 35-08/35-09
MM/IIA



MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
(SERVICES D.F.M.)
B. P. 1407, YAOUNDE,
le 8 - 8 - 1964

Ref : DFM/228/38

His Excellency,
John Ngu Foncha,
Prime Minister of
West Cameroon

BUEA

WUM Agricultural School

Persuant to my letter N° DFM/228/19 dated July 24, 1964, I wish to inform you that a Conference was held with representatives of the Ministry of Plan, the Ministry of National Economy and other interested Ministries to examine the draft agreement on the proposed WUM Agricultural School.

In consequence I have been directed to contact the Government of West Cameroon to provide us:

- a) with an estimate of the cost of German contribution to the proposed WUM Agricultural School.
- b) with an estimated cost of what the West Cameroon Government will contribute towards the cost
- c) with an estimated cost of training one student in this school.
- d) with an estimated cost of settling a student after graduation from this school.

Trusting to get an answer at your very earliest convenience, I have the honour to be,

Appendix 7: Letter of Delay of the Recruitment of Students for ATC

PEACE - WORK - FATHERLAND.

S.82
up P. n. H. D. E. 13
~~SECRET~~
but to 27/8

REF. No.S.5/Vol.1/785. NOTE OF INFORMATION.

ORIGIN : SURVIV SERVICE WUM
SUBJECT : DELAY IN THE RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS FOR WUM AGRICULTURAL TRAINING SCHOOL.
SOURCE : CONTACT
VALUE : A/1.
DATE : 15/9/69.

INSPECTOR GENERAL
CONFIDENTIAL
20/9/69
1508/CF
FF8

Information has revealed here that the recruitment and commencement of training students in Wum Agricultural Training Centre has been delayed because a ship from Germany conveying the furniture required for the training centre got wrecked on rocks in the Atlantic Ocean.

2. The Project Director of this Centre proposes to recruit in the first set 30 students from among applicants of the locality. And recruitment of the second set would be from among applicants of other parts of the Federation.

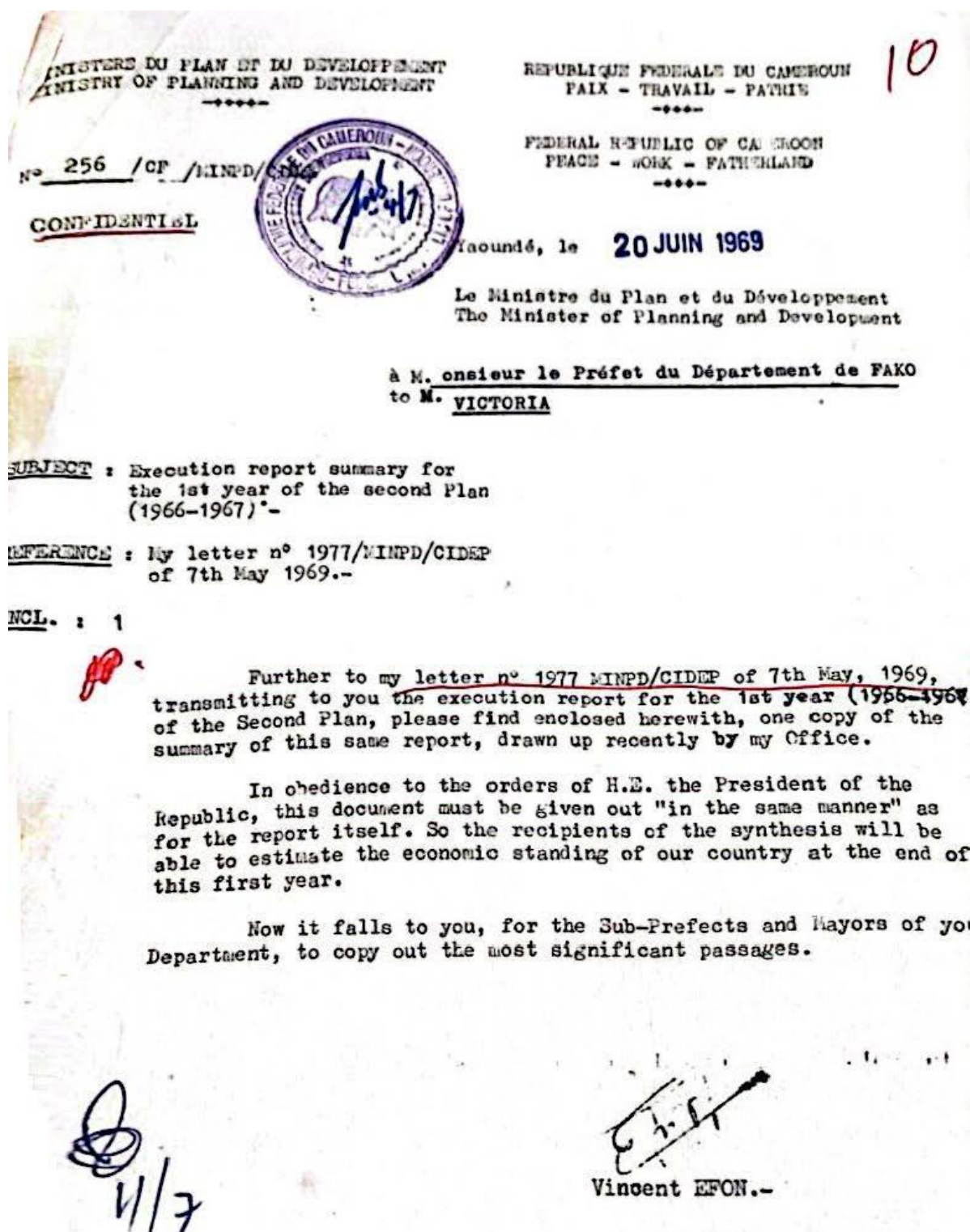
COMMENTS: Many young men both in and outside MENTCHOUN Division are very anxious about this recruitment. Over 300 applications have already been received by the Project Director, each applicant requesting to be recruited. Publicity has not yet been given this recruitment. It is feared that the public may criticise very strongly the proposal to select the first set of students from among the population of MENTCHOUN only. It would be necessary to open the chances to the General Public with a competitive Recruitment test.

WEST CAMEROON
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
CAMEROON
WUM
FEDERAL SECURITY

DESTINATION: THE DELEGATE GENERAL NATIONAL SECURITY YAGOUNDE.
THE FEDERAL INSPECTOR OF ADMIN. BUEA.
THE CHIEF OF REGIONAL SECURITY BUEA.
THE PREFECT MENTCHOUN DIVISION.
FILE COPY.

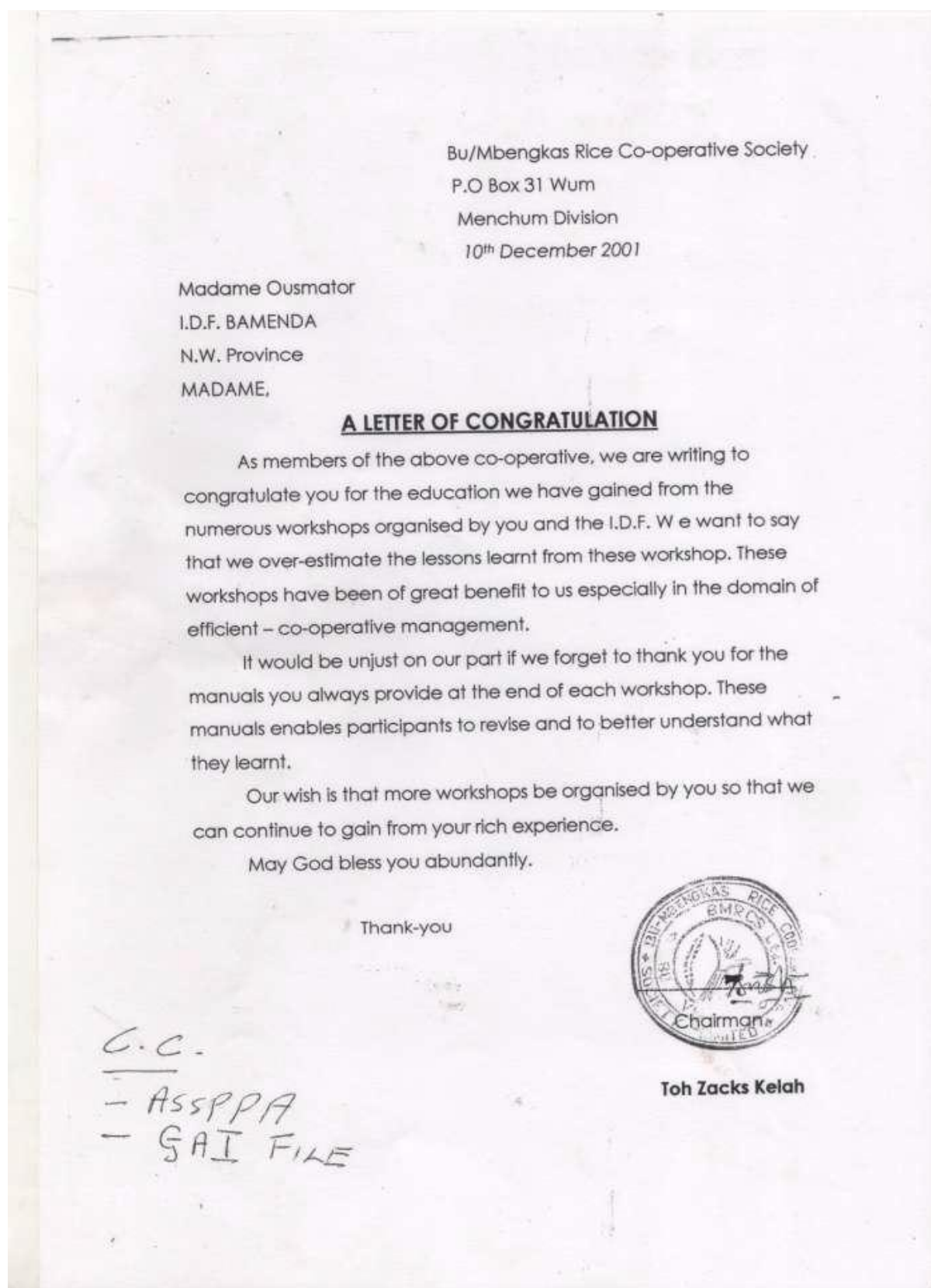
Source: National Archives Buea, Retrived March 18 2024

Appendix 8: Report on the Second Development Plan



Source: National Archives Buea, Retrived March 18, 2024

Appendix 9 : A letter of congratulation to ASPPA



Source: Bu/Mbengkas archives

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Name of interviewees	Age/Years	Profession	Place of Interview	Date of interview
Akeh Rudolf Ntiam	44	Farmer	Befang	April 19,2023
Akolo Prscilia Kumbong	43	Farmer	Mile 37	April 20, 2023
Akuh George	68	Former manager Bu cooperative	Wum	20, December,2022
Aleah John Lark	61	Farmer	Mile 37	April 20, 2023
Aleh Celestine Kum	47	Farmer	Mile 37	April 20, 2023
Amah Julius	67	financial secetrary of WADA,1974	Wum	13 april, 2023
Anangmbi Cyprian	60	Teacher	Wum	Dec 28, 2022

Chuo				
Anangmbi Glory Njei	55	Trader	Wum	Dec 28,2022
Che Odicious Coy	45	Farmer	Bu	Dec 28,2022
Chu Henry Ngam	55	Former treasurer of the cooperative	Bu	Dec 28,2022
Chu Koi Andrew	61	Farmer	Bu	Dec 28 ,2022
Itung Johnathan	58	secretary	Bu	15 April,2023
Kum Judith Mbong	47	Farmer	Mile 37	April 20,2023
Kum linus	60	Agric Demonstrator ,1996	Wum	13 April, 2023
Lark Sarah Mbong	40	Farmer	Befang	April 19,2023
Mendie Titus	52	Farmer	Mile 37	April 20,2023
Mvo Hycinth	66	Technical Supervisor of PADFA	Wum	15 April,2023
Mvo Hycinth Ettia	60	PADFA representative in Menchum	Wum	April 20, 2023
Ndang Ebenezer Fung	66	Former Manager Bu cooperative	Bu	Dec 28,2022
Ndang Johnathan	47	Farmer	Bu	April 18,2023
Ndang Joseph	67	Farmer	Wum	April 16,2023
Ngeh Nicoline	43	Farmer	Befang	April 19,2023
Ngong Henry	60	Agric Demonstrator WADA,1994	Wum	13 April,2023
Njia Roland	50	Farmer	Mile 37	April 20,2023
Sadis Ake Munyah	57	Farmers Aversory agent	Bu	15 April,2023
Toh Denis	62	Internal Board President	Bu	15, April,2023