

IERD-Documentation

Outline Studies in Rural Development from Various Projects in Germany

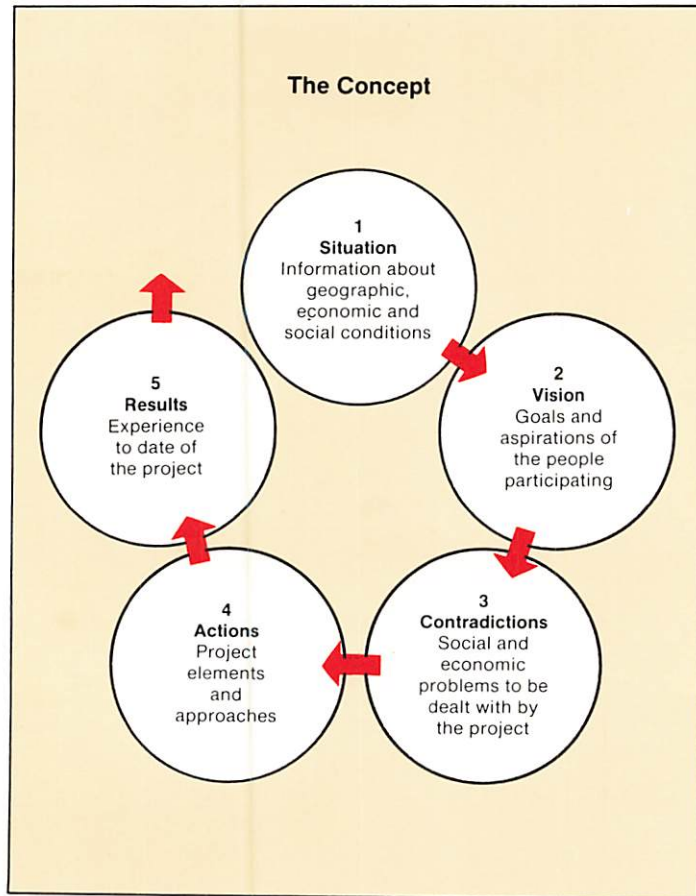
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A brief introduction to successful projects in W.-Germany

Rural Development in Germany from 1945 to

Each project reported here is presented through the same 5 point screen: situation, vision, contradictions, actions, results, to enable comparison. This does not indicate that the project concerned followed such a process self-consciously, indeed for all of them it was much more a learning journey where proposed actions revealed contradictions unnoticed before or where achieved results stimulated wider visions.



Situation

Rural Germany has gone through several major transformations in the last 40 years. In the 1940s and 50s the emphasis was on the rebuilding of communities after the destruction of World War II and on the resettlement of millions of people who came from Eastern Europe after the War. In the 1960s major efforts were made to reorganize and consolidate landholdings to provide for larger farms, to upgrade and modernize infrastructure such as highways and drainage canals and to centralize many rural activities (schools, post offices, train stations, dairies) into larger more efficient units. Major political reorganisation in this time reduced the number of municipal governments from 24.000 to 8.500 as villages were amalgamated with each other or with nearby towns. Also during the 1960s Germany's entry into the European Community stabilized farm prices and provided subsidies for certain agricultural products expanding production of those products in some cases to levels of continuous surplus.

Vision

"The village, overlooked for a long time, has again directed attention to itself. The urban crisis and the ecological movement are both the expression of a new relationship to the environment and to changed lifestyles.

Rural areas have become noticeably more attractive as a location for residency in the last few years. One can expect that continually more people will migrate from the city to the small centers and settlements in the surrounding rural areas.

The reasons for this are not only to be found in cheap land and lower construction costs. In addition ... the migration to rural areas expresses a reevaluation of the terms "Home(land)" (Heimat) and "region". Social ties, possibilities for neighbourhood and self help and the identification with small, familiar conditions and relation-ships ... are again being cherished by many as the advantages of village life. These factors lead, when possible, to a return to the homeland.

At the same time it is clear that the villagers feel strengthened in their determination to stay in the village through the higher valuation of rural life".

Contradiction

All the changes of the 50s and 60s were primarily economic in nature; that is, they were done to bring about economies of scale in agricultural production and public services. What was not seen at the time was the social cost of these changes: the loss of village identity, the breakdown of a sense of community as more and more services were relocated in the bigger centres, the narrowing of economic security as more and more rural families became dependent on full-time work outside the village and gave up a multiple-income life-style that included production for their own consumption, the loss of farmland for urbanstyle subdivisions, the separation of generations as children were bussed to larger schools outside, the segregation of older residents and low-income families to the deteriorating old buildings of the village core, and the increased financial stress on the few full-time farmers as agriculture became agro business producing for a national, continental and global market, requiring higher and higher capital investments and more debtfinancing.

Action

In the last 15 years however, a substantial shift in thinking has taken place. In rural organizations and in government ministries the re-valuation of traditional village community and local economy has led to new programmes, some of them, at least in spirit, in contradiction to what had been official policy only a few years previously.

"The village as a social unit with economic, physical and cultural aspects must be looked upon as an especially effective starting point for shaping future developments.

Village assistance is increasingly being valued as a part of a constructive structural rural policy. Instead of following a general policy with emphasis on industrial land development settled by middle and larger entrepreneurs, efforts are now being shifted to a smaller, spatially limited level appropriate to the village. This amounts to a support of the originally decentralized rural economic structure. It has been realized that problems of the village can only be solved for the long term when they are attacked at their roots and when their interrelationships are considered.

"Comprehensive village development", a necessity because of the complexity of the village problematic, becomes an interdisciplinary, interadministrative activity which includes an inter-

locking of the participating areas: culture, economy, agriculture and forestry, transportation, tourism, water supply, emission control ... So seen, village development assistance is not so much an explicit programme but rather a task for comprehensive advising and coordination ... Once the village is basically accepted as a living space and as a way of life, then the next task is to give this movement a solid basis".

*- quotations from "For the Village" -
Konrad Adenauer Foundation, 1983*

Coincidental with this shift is the emergence of the ecology movement as a major force with its emphasis on organic farming, small-scale agriculture, simpler lifestyle and living in harmony with, not opposition to, the environment. This movement has its strongest support among younger university-educated, city-dwellers many of whom have moved to the rural areas in the last 15 years. Together these trends have produced a new focus on rural life in Germany.

The four projects here described are a brief sampling of what is happening today:

Project	Page
Regional Economy: <u>Bayerwald Lamm & Rundholz e.V.</u>	
● A model for agricultural self-help on a regional level.	4
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Regional Economy: The „Schafhalter-Vereinigung Bayerischer Wald e.V.“

The „Schafhalter-Vereinigung Bayerischer Wald e.V.“ is an association of full and part-time shearherders in the eastern part of Bavaria, approximately 45 km from the Czecho-Slovakian border. The association has members from across the region and a co-ordination centre in the village of Mitterfels.

Situation

The Bavarian Woods are situated in the south east of the Federal Republic. They cover an area of 6000 sq. km approx. Historically the region has been lightly populated; today the population is approximately 200.000. The traditional culture was one of sheepherding and forestry with a living pattern of single-family, isolated farmhouses and small villages. In the mid-19th century there were an estimated 300.000 sheep in the region.

Today the area is classified as an underdeveloped region. It has higher unemployment than the rest of Bavaria and doesn't offer

many opportunities for large scale farming due to the terrain. The population had been decreasing as people left the area to look for jobs in the cities to the south and west. Others converted from sheepherding to keeping dairy cattle because of the large subsidy supporting milk production. Agricultural development tended to follow the mechanical and chemical innovations introduced elsewhere without regard for the environmental and cultural consequences in a region with a unique topography, climate and culture.

Vision

The vision of the founders of this project was simple: how could families who had traditionally lived in the region have an adequate income base so that they could continue to live there; and could this be done in such a way that traditional culture and living patterns were preserved as much as possible? Such an economic base should be solid for the future as well as the present.

Contradictions

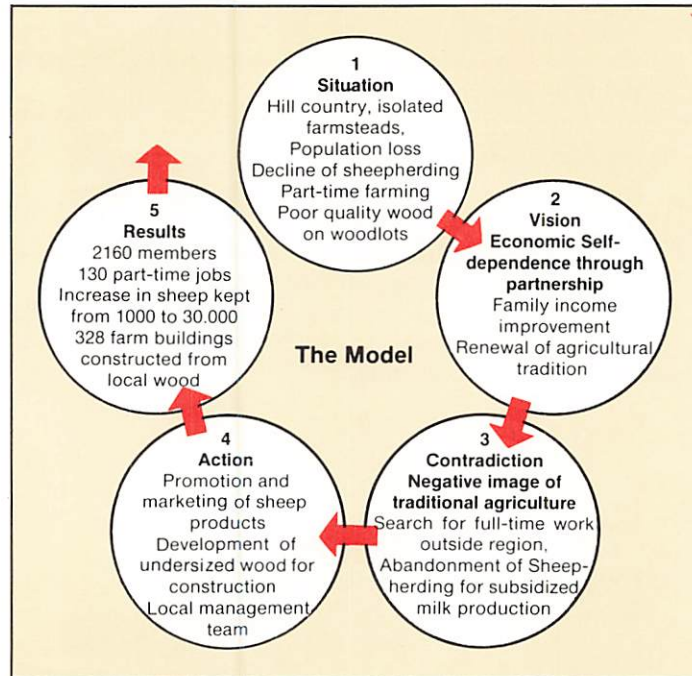
One of the challenges that had to be dealt with therefore was the negative image people had of the region, of themselves and of sheepherding. Related to this were the economic and political support structures for the new agriculture, including the indebtedness of many farmers who had invested heavily in equipment for milk production, and the lack of services for part-time farmers who were most of the population.

Project

A small group of residents decided not to follow the trend and "go back" to sheepherding. At this time (1970) the number of sheep in the region had dropped to around 1000. In 1972 these sheepherders formed the „Schafhalter-Vereinigung Bayerischer Wald“ (Bavarian Woods Shepherders Association). Its purpose was the preservation of the natural environment, promotion of labour extensive employment, and partnership cooperation on a broad scale between members.

In particular the association set out to provide services to part-time and full-time shearherders that were appropriate to their situation and working hours. It also worked on more effective marketing including registration, finishing of animals intended for slaughter, and common transport from collecting stations.

A number of other services have been added since its inception as described in the Organisational Structure diagramme. The

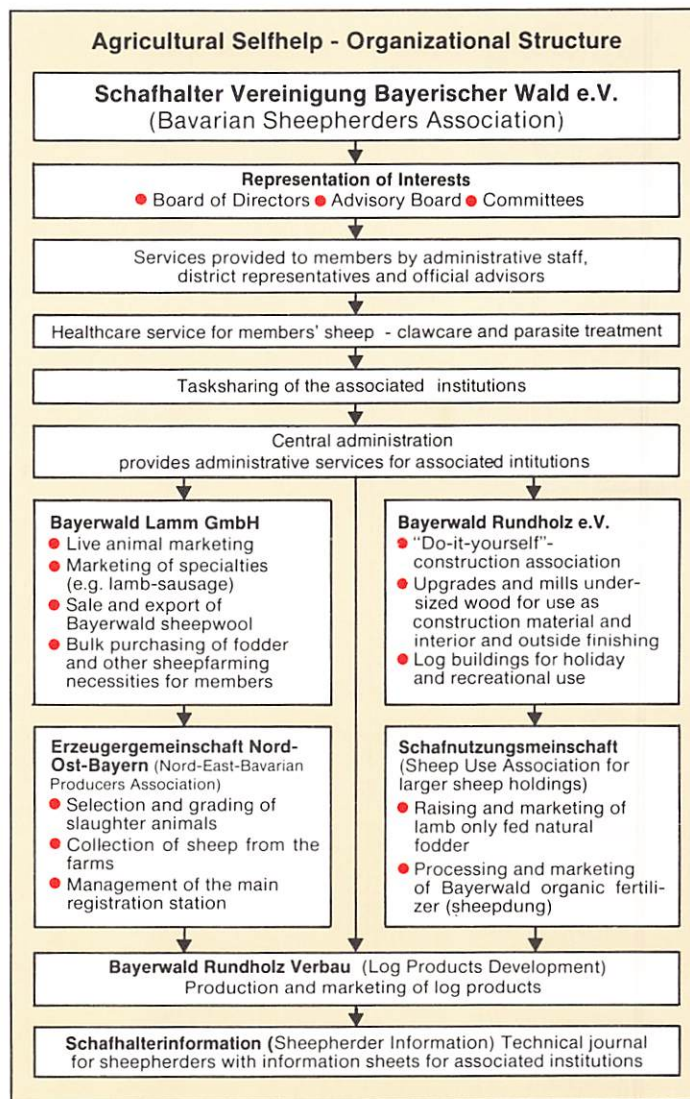


„nigung Bayerischer Wald e.V.“

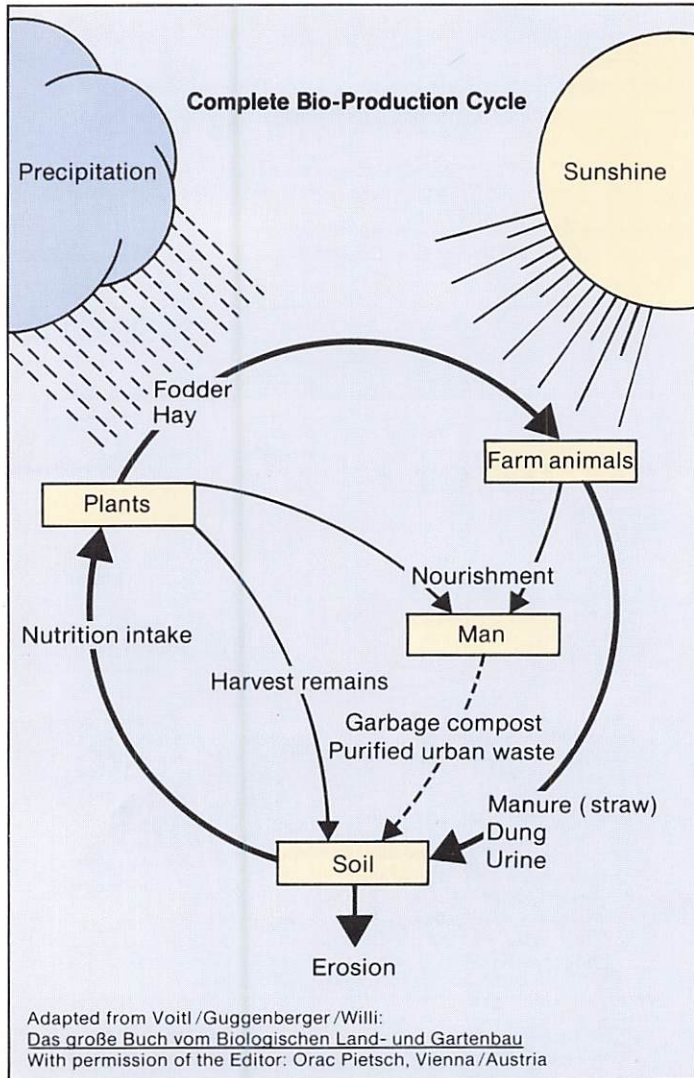
central administration team of 10 people handles bookkeeping, marketing and coordination of part-time work by members. The presupposition of the project is that families that have lived in the region for generations should continue to do so and have ways of supporting themselves appropriate to their culture. This led to the focus on ways for many members to have some more income rather than on full-time employment for a few. For example, a farm family today who owns some land, a few sheep and some woodland has improved income earning potential because: the association provides them with a way to get a higher value for animals sold for meat; for wool; for the wood sold for construction that was formerly only good for pulpwood or firewood. The project has created new part-time work in sheep care, knitting, construction, animal registration and work at the roundwood mill. New products have been developed and marketed such as fleece-lined slippers, organic fertilizer from sheep dung, and interior paneling from roundwood. The partnership basis of the association and the focus on spreading out the income possibilities among all the members has led to the development of services that suit the time schedules of the member-customers, not the 8 to 5 standard working hours. A member working part-time in the claw cutting and parasite control programme for example, as a means of supplementing the income from his own farm, is willing to come at the convenience of the member who works fulltime at a job in a town and keeps 10 or 15 sheep to increase his income. Other part-time farmers find work constructing sheds and fences for other members. The members also save costs by using wood from their own woodlots in such construction only having to pay for the costs of milling.

Results 1972 - 1982

- Total membership 2160
- Total investment by membership \$ 160.000
- Part-time employment created for 130 people
- Full-time jobs created for 10 people
- Increase in sheep kept from 1000 to 30.000
- 328 buildings constructed from local wood by members
- 3800 hectares of land kept or returned to sheep raising
- Quarterly magazine published
- 500.000 DM taxes paid on income (estimate)
net saving to taxpayers (after subtracting grants to project):
\$5.600.000 on milk subsidier not paid (estimate)



Holistic Education: „Tagungsstätte Stien



The „Stienkens-Hof“ is a traditional Friesian Farmhouse that serves as a training and meeting center in a village of 650 residents in Schleswig-Holstein, Northern Germany. It is one of approximately 100 similar institutions in the rural area that have grown up over the last 10 years. Even though they have been founded independently from one another they loosely organized themselves in an informal network related to the ecology movement.

Situation

This part of Germany is very flat and has a harsher climate than other parts of Germany since it lies between the North Sea and the Baltic. It is a remote area without big industrial or commercial centers. People live in villages or small towns and mostly rely on agriculture and tourism.

Contradiction

Financial support and government subsidies are given more to large farms, so that it is hard for small farmers to survive. The unemployment rate is high in this area. A lot of people, especially the youth, no longer identify with the local culture and don't see ways for significant and fulfilling political and cultural engagement.

Vision

This was the background in 1979 when 20 people founded a non-profit organization: „Stienkens-Hof für aktives Leben und Lernen e.V.“ - for nonformal training and education especially in ecological and political topics. Their aim was not to train experts but to provide a context for people to make decisions about the direction they want to go in the future and the kind of engagement they were looking for. They wanted to try not to separate “learning” from practical life-experience; to move with their programmes and seminars towards holistic education.

Project

The parallel activity to the foundation of the non-profit organization took place on „Stienkens-Hof“ itself, which belonged to the parents of a member of the organization. The farmhouse was renovated and rebuilt so that it offers housing for 25 persons and space for groups to hold meetings and seminars. But it also gives the group of people which founded the organizations the opportunity to carry out their initial ideas. They do their

Stienkens-Hof“

own seminars and programmes. These are related to the issues that come up on a working farm such as Stienkens-Hof (35 hectares farmland) or are related to the region as a whole. Courses organized by the people from Stienkens-Hof and the non-profit organization deal with natural nutrition, rural life, women's issues, arts and crafts, alternative energy, unemployed youth, organic farming and gardening. Participants take part in the decision-making about the content of the programmes and set-up of structures. Often learning experiences from seminars have had an influence on the day-to-day life and work on the farm. For example as a consequence of the mutual learning process, the people living on Stienkens-Hof changed their agricultural approach to organic farming. The awareness that the living environment and nature gets destroyed by the increasing use of chemicals and poisons in agriculture and that in the end the living basis for human beings will be effected and destroyed led to their decision. The people of Stienkens-Hof didn't only want to talk about a more natural way of living but considered it a logical consequence to try out the practical implications of these insights. Now courses taught about organic farming methods are backed up by the practical experiences from the farm itself.

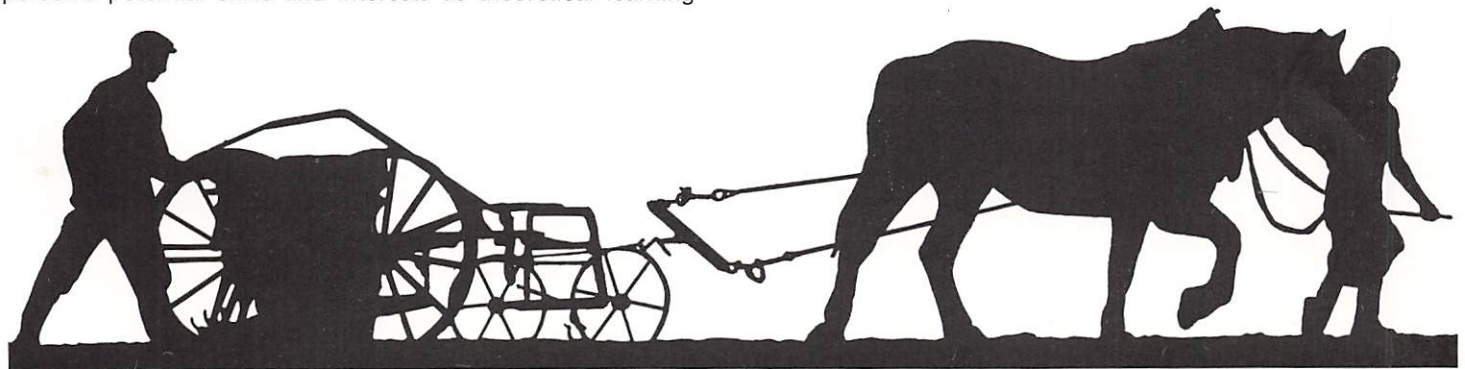
The largest programme so far started in December 1983. The course involves unemployed people from all over the region living, learning and working together on the farm for four months. Practical experience is as important in identifying each person's potential skills and interests as theoretical learning

and reflection. One of the objectives for this programme is to enable the participants to develop ways of significant and creative engagement even if they don't get a permanent job.

Results

It is hard to measure directly what results or success an education programme has. This is a list of courses that have taken place over the past year (not complete):

Course	Date
● Natural nutrition	18. 3.1983 - 20. 3.1983
● Women's weekends	25. 2.1983 - 27. 2.1983 20. 5.1983 - 23. 5.1983
● "A farm in transition" (practical experience in organic agriculture)	11. 2.1983 - 13. 2.1983 3. 6.1983 - 5. 6.1983 10.10.1983 - 15.10.1983
● Organic gardening	15. 4.1983 - 17. 4.1983 2. 8.1983 - 4. 9.1983
● Rural life (yesterday - today - tomorrow)	10.10.1983 - 14.10.1983



Village Identity - The village competition:

The village competition „Unser Dorf soll schöner werden“ - (Our village - a great place to be alive)

Situation

The village competition has been held at the federal level every 2 years since 1961. It is open to every rural community under 3000 population that is not a specially-designated resort or a previous national competition winner. In 1983 6000 communities in the Federal Republic took part with several million people involved.

Vision

The goals of the competition are:

- ① Enabling villages to adjust to the social and economic changes of the post-modern society while guarding their historical uniqueness and their rural character.
- ② Conservation of historical appearance of a village and the encouragement of new construction that is compatible with the traditional building styles of that village.
- ③ Fostering care for the green spaces of the village and surroundings, including gardens, trees and shrubs, rivers and ponds.
- ④ Encouraging care for local wildlife habitat.
- ⑤ Economic construction of streets, roads and footpaths that minimize noise and disturbance to village residents.
- ⑥ Increasing of club activities such as sports and recreation and especially those that foster the preservation of local folklore and customs.

Contradictions

The problems related to loss of village identity described in the introduction on pages 2 and 3 are those most directly addressed by the competition.

Projects

The uniqueness of the competition is that it happens with a minimum of public assistance and a maximum of local self-help through citizen participation in the form of voluntary workdays and money donations. Over 20 years the programme has developed a comprehensive structure of free advisory services from government agencies and sponsoring organisations in regard to horticulture, historical restoration, building renovations, land-use planning etc.

The competition has gone through four shifts in focus. In 1961 the focus was on beautification, especially flowers and green

spaces. This was hardly surprising since the originator of the idea was the German Garden Club.

In the late 1960s the focus shifted to the improvement of buildings - the restorations of historic structures, new facades etc.

In 1975 the focus again shifted to the landscape surrounding the village, its general environment. Since 1979 the focus has been on „Vereinsleben“ - ongoing community activities through local clubs and associations.

To a large extent these four phases describe the journey of a village through its participation in various competitions. It begins with the easiest projects - flowerbeds and general clean-ups, then proceeds to improvements of buildings. The improvement of the general landscape requires more extensive planning. The fourth phase - a more active community life happens to some extent through the first three. Each project engages more people and more groups and gives new vitality to the groups in the process.

The competition system itself is simple. A village notifies the competition office of its desire to participate. It is sent materials and consults with local offices of the department of agriculture and the other sponsors for detail and help. The residents of the village meet and build a plan using as much or as little outside technical advice as they choose. They organize a structure to carry out the plan. For villages which no longer have a council because of amalgamation, this competition task force is often the only structure in the village that not only represents every group but that is open to anyone to participate in.

On a certain day the competition commission comes to the village and reviews its efforts. Most villages prepare a presentation book for the occasion that documents both the history of the community and also their journey of preparation. The judges award points based on the system shown in diagramme (page 9) and these are shared with the village at a later date. Villages that do not win invariably participate again until they do. In some states the total number of villages participating has reached 50% - 90% of those eligible.

Keys to the competition's success are

1. The motivation of expressing pride in one's community reinforced by public recognition
2. The theme of the competition is used to encourage an improvement in the overall quality of life in the villages (not only

„Unser Dorf soll schöner werden“

beautification) particularly through changes in the scoring system of the competition to give more value to participation, club activities etc.

3. The careful classification system that restricts participation to villages under 3000 inhabitants that are not already specially-advantaged by being resorts or health spas
4. The restriction of government assistance to advice (non-binding) on technical matters with no money
5. The coalition of state and national level organizations involved in developing the concept and in being part of the judging commission.
6. An evaluation system that measures the effort a village makes to deal with its situation; not of how it measures up to an arbitrary standard of beauty
7. The levels of the competition (country, district, state and federal) and the well-developed system of awards and prize ceremonies associated with winning culminating in the national awards ceremony at the International Green Week in Berlin (national agricultural show)
8. The project is totally in the hands of the village. They decide whether to participate or not, how much they will spend and how to raise it, whether to accept the technical advice or not.

Indirect Results

1. In states which also have village development programmes (see later project) involving subsidies for house renovation etc., it often seems better to have a village take part in the competition for five or six years first as a way of building participation, confidence in their capacity to accomplish things themselves and a clearer vision of what the residents want the community to look like.
2. The competition fosters interchange among participating villages; busloads of people go from one village to a prize-winning village to find out "How they did it". The rivalry is friendly and often leads to continuing contacts between the communities. Many villages claim to have had 100% participation in preparation for the competition. This claim is borne out by the two examples which follow. The competition has provided an objective task that bridges the gap between old residents and newcomers that is the consequence of the new population flow away from the city.

Example of scoring system state of North Rhine-Westfalia 1983	
Arena	Points
1. Development of the Village Structures and Planning. Implementation of Plans, (incl. extent and condition of traffic arrangements, water system, garbage disposal etc).	up to 10
2. Shape of the Village Condition of public facilities, historical buildings; arrangement of streets, open spaces, waterways, green spaces; fitting in of agricultural and industrial facilities.	up to 20
3. Community Life Cultural, social and citizen's facilities. Club life.	up to 15
4. Private Buildings and Yards Preservation of buildings that are characteristic of village; use of appropriate building materials and style.	up to 20
5. Arrangement of Plants and Shrubs in Private Areas Flowers and green decor on private buildings; arrangement and care of gardens.	up to 20
6. Integration in Environment Arrangement of village borders, natural shape of ponds and rivers, elimination of environmental damage.	up to 15

Village Identity: Lenzhahn

Reflection of the villagers in their own words on their participation in the competition:

Situation

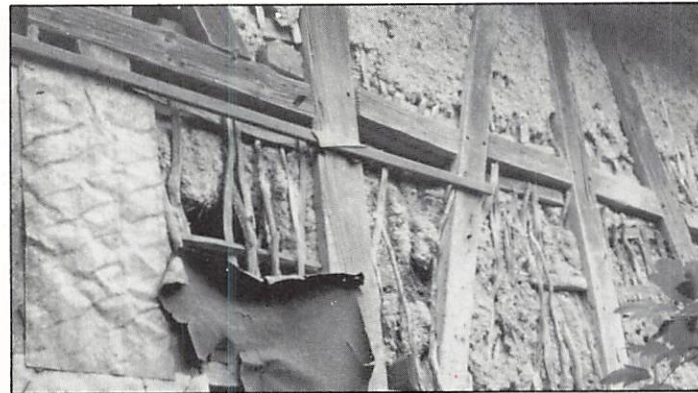
Idstein-Lenzhahn (in the state of Hesse, Taunus hills region) is one of the smallest villages in Germany. Until the beginning of this century it had only 12 houses with the same number of families living in the village. Yet it has been in existence for 750 years and survived times like the 30 Years' War from 1618 to 1648 when many villages in Germany disappeared forever.

Throughout those centuries agriculture and forestry were the living basis; it was only during recent decades, that industry and commerce of nearby towns became the main source of income for the residents of Lenzhahn. For people from nearby cities and towns Lenzhahn is attractive as a recreation area.

The village began to change when farms were more and more mechanized after World War I. Village structures became completely different when the number of residents doubled because of people moving in from outside. Today Lenzhahn has 215 residents. It has been amalgamated with the neighbouring town, Idstein.

Vision

Deep-rooted rivalry between families and the need for integrating new residents in the village community gave the impulse for participation in the competition. „Unser Dorf soll schöner werden“. It was seen as a possibility to bring together the villagers



and create a sense of community through corporate task and work.

But there were also more concrete concerns: improvement of the housing-value of specific houses as well as the community in general through renovation and rehabilitation of private and public buildings and the planting of trees, bushes and flowers; furthermore measures for improving and protection of the natural environment.

Contradictions

In order to implement the plans it was necessary to motivate the residents and families to participate. Deep-rooted quarrels between groups had to be overcome, a great deal of self-initiative had to be brought in and finances needed to be assured. Sometimes desired actions had to be put off for the sake of conforming with government rules and regulations. It became essential to have everybody - all age groups, men and women, people who have been residents for long years as well as those who recently moved in - understand the reasons and aims of the participation. Input of labour, time, materials, ideas and money was required that asked for personal sacrifice of individuals.

Actions

- Renovation of public and private buildings
- Planting green at the village borders
- Renewal and creation of leisure time and recreation facilities for adults and children



- Landscaping of the former garbage dump
- Creation of natural habitat area
- Care of hedges for bird protection
- Repair of environmental damage
- Care for ponds and riversides
- Activating club and community life
- Foundation of a homeland and culture club to organize the competition activities
- Revitalization of village celebrations
- Renewal and deepening of friendship with neighbourhood villages
- Building of relationships with other participating villages

Less visible accomplishments are

- Creation of community spirit
- Strengthening of human interrelations
- Mutual acknowledgement among residents
- Integration of new residents through corporate work and celebrations
- Engagement of all age groups in community task (from youth to senior's club)

Results

The fact that Lenzhahn won the gold medal several times, was 1st at the state level in „Hessen“, took part in the nationwide competition and was 3rd there is a sign for acknowledgement of



this village's achievements, but so far does not say a lot about the efforts having been made. They can be recognized by looking through exterior accomplishments as well as the less visible results. In the process of participation in the competition several experiences and insights became clear:

Good results could only be achieved through careful planning. Measures for reaching the final aims had to be articulated before-hand, even though they needed to be flexible enough to be adjusted to issues coming up during the practical work. The initiators had to step back from immediate credit for their work in order not to develop a new hierarchy within the village. They rather needed to be examples for others. To create and strengthen motivation of the residents they needed to be involved from the beginning, in the planning phase of the project. This gave them the opportunity to bring in and discuss their own ideas and it was easier to accept decisions that had been made corporately. Decisions of the majority then needed to be accepted and implemented by all, even if it meant some individual interests didn't get attention. Implementing a plan is only possible when as large a number of residents as possible contributes time, labour and money. Finally it has become obvious that the experience of success generates motivation for further engagement in the project. This didn't necessarily mean a victory in the competition but could also be achieved through mutual acknowledgement of the efforts.



Village Identity: Milchenbach

Participating village in competition "Our village - a great place to be alive" since 1966, State Silver Medal Winner 1983

Situation

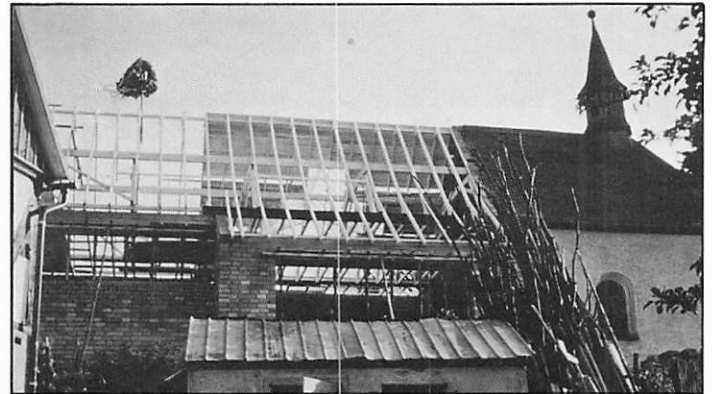
Reflections by the villagers on the results of their participation. Milchenbach is situated in the Sauerlands, the hill country in North Rhine-Westphalia. The village celebrates its 700th birthday this year. It was first named in historical records in 1284. It has 200 residents today and has had about the same population for the last 300 years. It is a very stable community - the same families have been living here for hundreds of years, very few outsiders have moved in. Because of its remote end of the road setting, surrounded by forest, hills and fields, it still has an agricultural image. Over the last 40 years, however, its purely agricultural character has changed. Now most of the families have someone employed outside the village in factories and offices in nearby towns. Recently handicrafts and tourism have become a source of income. 17% of the adults are still employed in agriculture or forestry. The residents are Roman-catholics.

Visible Accomplishments

1. Redesigning of the cemetery in 1973. The project was financed through charging a fee per plot. Today the grave plots are free. Also the burial process is done by the villagers without charge.
2. Children's playground was done in 1965; in 1968 a wading pool was constructed. The cost was largely covered by the

villagers except for a small contribution by the city. The labour was also contributed by the citizens.

3. The building that today is the community hall was bought by the shooting club for 65.000 DM (\$ 25.000) in 1977. It was the former practice hall of the riding school. It was redesigned and added to at a cost of 100.000 DM. The money for the material came from individual donators and an assessment of 500 DM (\$ 200) from each member of the shooting club.
4. The chapel of the village was improved and enlarged in 1966. The entire reconstruction was done through village initiative. The projected costs were 120.000 DM (\$ 50.000). In 1980 the facade was repainted at a cost of 3.500 DM. This was also paid by the villagers.
5. At the same time the youth center was constructed with government subsidy of 7000 DM. The remaining costs were included in the overall projections for the chapel.
6. In 1975 the old school building was transformed into a clubhouse through a subsidy of 15.000 DM from the city of Lenne. Later in 1978 new toilets were built and the stairways renovated. The singing club's choir practices regularly in this building; it is also open to all citizens for a small fee. It is also used for movies and talks. The men's social hour after church takes place here, where 40-45 men of the village take part. All problems and projects are discussed here. This informal meeting is an ideal form of communication and problem solving.



Non-visible Accomplishments

Because of the existence of many clubs and associations practically every resident is member in almost all clubs. This multi-membership is encouraged by financial advantages and communication possibilities. Due to the size of the village, the social composition of the residents (no strangers, everybody knows everybody) and the relatively big number of clubs, there are hardly any secrets in the clubs. The clubs have to be informed from all sides when a project or tasks need to be done.

So the club and village life are transparent to everybody; everybody can participate and be heard. The club celebrations therefore have good participation; people celebrate together and in doing so tensions can be resolved that might have occurred during the week. To this dynamic add the fact that the corporately built village facilities provide more room for family celebrations. So these can take place in a much bigger setting than formerly. An important factor is that food and drink can be purchased independently. Also (their own) homes don't get damaged when they have large family celebrations.

Local participation

The participation of the residents is good, since they are all members in one or more clubs. Corporate interests and initiatives are important. The participation in the redesign of the hall or chapel was great, almost 100%, either by donations or labour. Those projects have been created by village initiative without

outside help. The costs for the materials had to be raised, the clubs give each other support in financial issues. The dialogue between the clubs is essential. Villagers who are not members in one of the clubs don't have other alternatives. The board of directors of the clubs plan projects which are presented and discussed during meetings. When about 95% of the people present in the meeting give their approval, projects have been started and been implemented without problems. A realistic financial plan has always been needed in order to implement the project. Since most of the time the villagers themselves have paid directly, comprehensive information was necessary. Money that has been won in the competition "Our village - a great place to be alive" went back into the village projects. Last but not least, corporate celebrations and events built, sustained and enlarged the sense of community.

The size of Milchenbach

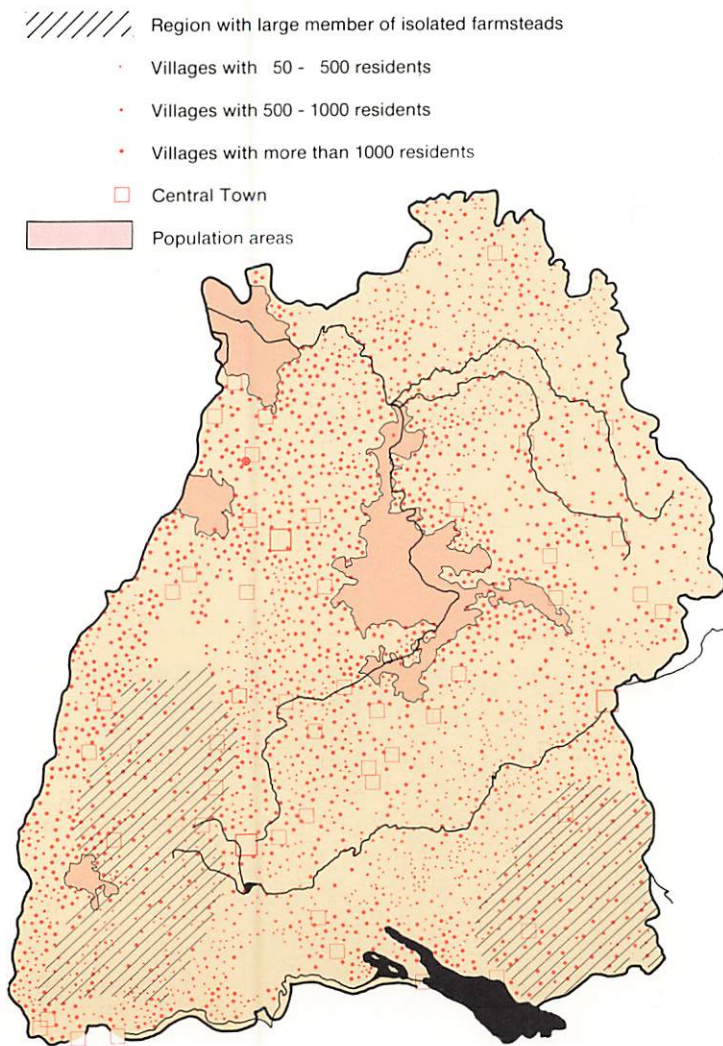
This size of the community of Milchenbach is: 781 hectares, 67 ares* and 89 square meters.

* 1 are - 119,6 square yards



Village Development - Dorfentwicklung:

Rural settlements in Baden Württemberg



Village development or village renewal were begun by most states of the Federal Republic in the early 1970s. One of the earliest and most widely-developed of these programmes is that carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture of the state of Baden-Württemberg.

Situation

Baden-Württemberg lies in South Germany bounded by France on the West and Switzerland in the South. The landscape of the state is very diverse. It includes the Rhine river lowlands, the Black forest, the Swabian plateau, the Neckar and Danube river valleys, and the rolling hills of Franconia. Agriculture varies from wine to wheat and rye growing. Forestry is also very important and is the basis for woodworking enterprises. Baden-Württemberg has a population of 9 million. 20% of these live in rural communities but only 6% are primarily employed in agriculture. The villages of Baden-Württemberg are old settlements - most are at least 500 years old. There are 8600 villages and hamlets in the state, but only 99 are independent municipalities; the other 8501 have been amalgamated into larger political units.

Vision

"The village is a living space, that ...

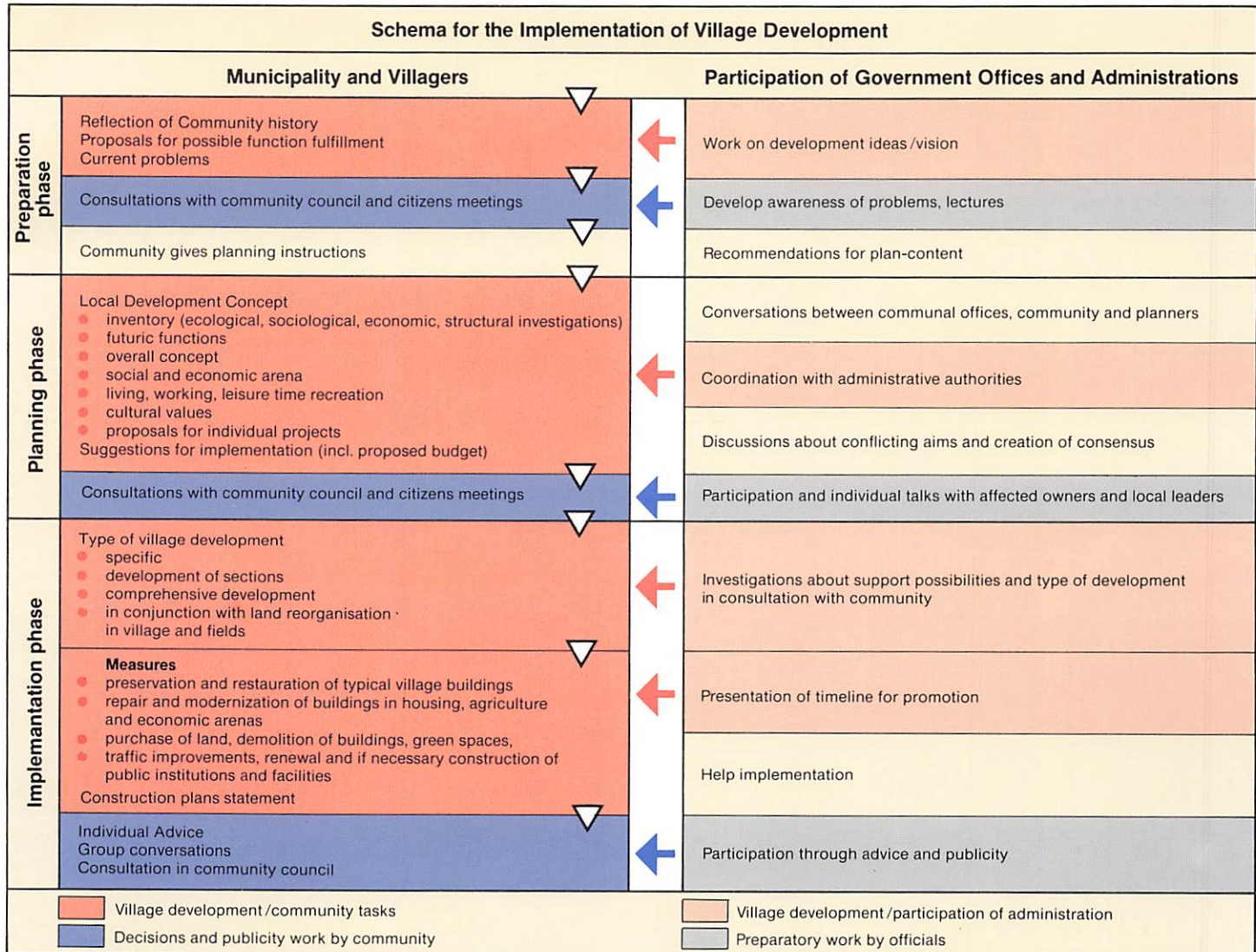
- facilitates sharing responsibility and participation in planning
- encourages contact between generations
- has high value on identification with the local culture
- is on a human scale
- is in close relationship to nature
- is a family-oriented residential form
- enables self-help
- permits part-time employment in garden and house constructions"

(Quotation taken from a talk given in 1982 by the then director of the programme, Dr. Zillenbiller)

Contradictions

In 1960, 2000 of these settlements needed major reconstruction of housing and other infrastructure to meet current living standards. (50% of the buildings in these communities were constructed before 1900 as compared to 20% in the urban areas). All of the other contradictions mentioned in the introduction on pages 2 and 3 of this brochure can be found in the villages of this state.

Baden Württemberg



Project

The village programme began in 1960 with a seven-year experimental „Dorfsanierung“ (village rehabilitation) in five villages. In 1967 it became „Dorferneuerung“ (village renewal) and applied to 120 villages. In 1975 the programme entered a third phase „Dorfentwicklung“ (village development). By 1980 this had engaged 680 more villages. The current plan finishes in 1985, by which time the state will have provided \$ 200 million as stimulus - to villages which moneys will have on the average been tripled by local investment for a total \$ 600 million dollars.

Results

Example: Sternenfels-Diefenbach (selected facts)

Founded: 1232

Present Population: 2406 (Sternenfels 1600 - Diefenbach 806)

Area: 1731 hectares, 260 of them forest

Economy: until 1945 mostly agriculture now employed in industry in other towns in region
1967 - began planning process

1974-75 village meetings to decide on plans

1976 work on renewal of village center began

Finance: from state government: 2.301.000 DM

from local government: 1.949.000 DM

from private: 609.000 DM

total: 4.859.000 DM

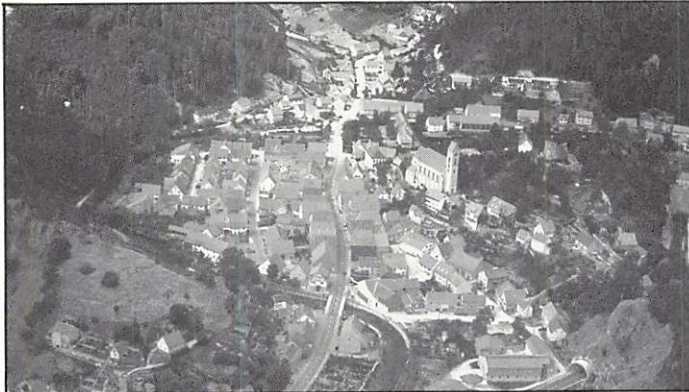
Accomplishments:

Visible:

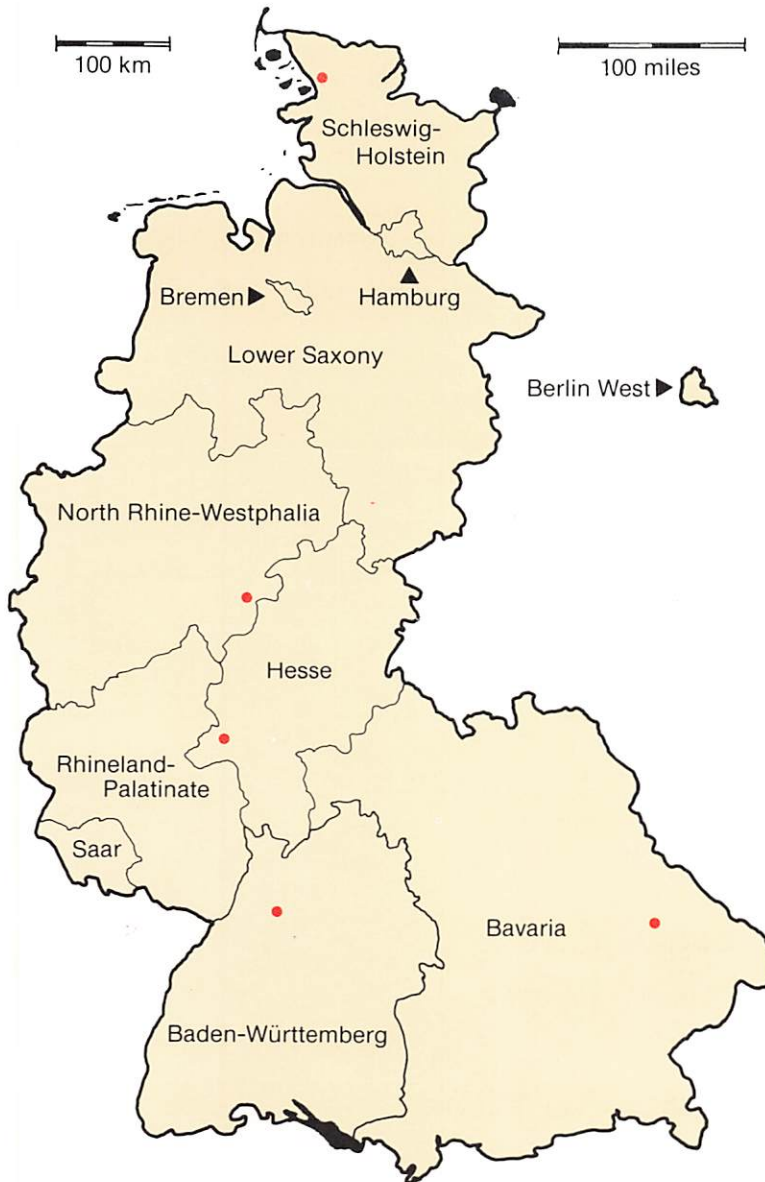
- Village center with rebuilt „Rathaus“ (Council Hall)
- Church community center
- Village garden
- Restored old buildings
- Castle park
- Swimming pool
- Sports facilities

Indirect:

- New clubs - swimming
- fishing
- tennis
- Founding of rural women's association
- Village competition participation
- Youth group
- Exchange programme with choir in Milan /Italy



References



Addresses

1. Regional Economy - The „Schafhalter Vereinigung Bayerischer Wald e.V.“

Mitterfels	Franz Hirtreiter General Manager Bayerwald Lamm /Rundholz Burgstraße 45 8446 Mitterfels Tel. 09961 /437
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2. Holistic Education - Tagungsstätte Stienkens-Hof

Bohmstedt	Hinrich Hansen Stienkens-Hof 2251 Bohmstedt Tel. 04671 /2323
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3. Village Identity - The village competition „Unser Dorf soll schöner werden“

Lenzhahn	Willi Reinhard Ortsstraße 15 6270 Idstein-Lenzhahn Tel. 06127 /5568
Milchenbach	Herrmann-Josef Pohl Kählingstraße 15 5940 Lennestadt 1 Tel. 02972 /6113
Federal Ministry for Agriculture	Wettbewerb „Unser Dorf soll schöner werden“ Dr. Ringck 5300 Bonn Tel. 0228 /5291

4. Village Development - Dorftwicklung Baden Württemberg

Sternenfels-Diefenbach	Helmut Wagner Mayor Rathaus 7137 Sternenfels
Ministry of Agriculture Baden-Württemberg	Herr H. Fastnacht Postfach 491 7000 Stuttgart 1 Tel. 0711 /6676

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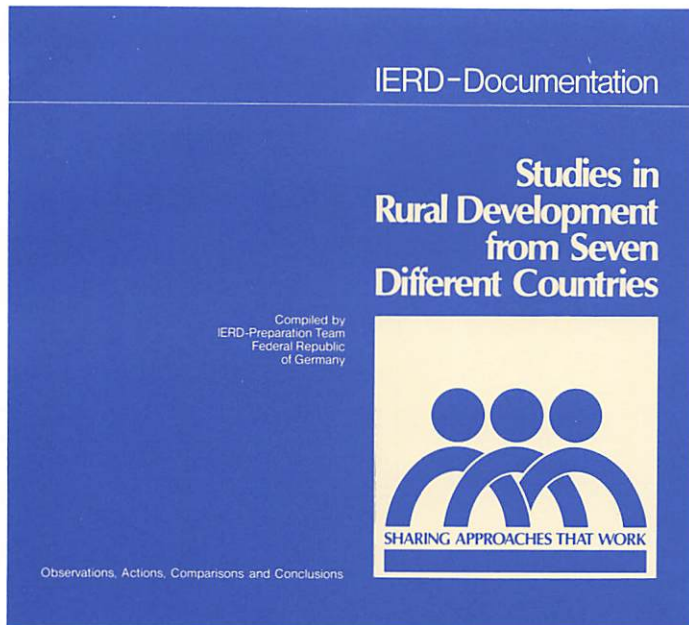
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Organizations lists for identification purposes only.

IERD-Documentation



Studies in Rural Development from seven Different Countries

In the planned handbook - as follow-up work to the IERD in New Delhi - seven international projects will be documented, analyzed and critically compared with one another.

The last two chapters will provide a recapitulation and conclusions and attempt to reveal ways for still better co-operative work in the sense of "sharing approaches that work".

If your interest is active or passive, write to us or mail us the accompanying information - request card located in the back of the brochure.

Planned publication 1984 /85



Studies in Rural Development from Various Projects in Germany

In this handbook - as follow-up work to the IERD in New Delhi - various projects in W.-Germany will be represented, analyzed and critically compared with one another.

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