

**Development in Nigeria**

**A REPORT  
ON  
PARTICIPATORY RAPID  
APPRAISAL**

**OF**

**OKWABANG COMMUNITY**



**March 2002**

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We also thank the Okwabang community for their commitment and cooperation during the PRA exercise. We commend this tireless effort you have shown to see the completion of the exercise. Special thanks go to the Village Head (chief J. Okwo), chairman of the village council, council of elders and the entire PRA team from the community whom without their selfless commitment to this work would not have been accomplished.

Lastly, we wish to thank the DIN staff who with great zeal gave their best to make this exercise a success story. It's our hope that this exercise and the report hereby submitted will guide the community on how to shape their development strategies.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background and Context**

DIN has worked with this community for sometime now and it has been the view of this organization to build capacity and empower it's partners. PRA was then identified as an activity that would help achieve this objective. It would help the community assess its strengths/opportunities to stimulate sustainable rural development. A meeting was held between the community and DIN to plan how this exercise would be undertaken. It was outlined how the process would go and when and what each party would be expected to do. A team of men, women and youth from the community with diverse and long experience was selected to represent the community and work hand in hand with DIN staff during the period. The exercise took 6 days during the month of October 2001.

### **1.2 Purpose and Objectives**

Sustainable rural development can only be realized through a participatory process. It is on this realization that this PRA exercise was carried out for this community.

-The exercise was aimed at mobilizing the community members to identify and prioritize their problems and opportunities that exist in a rapid and cost effective way.

-It also aimed at assessing the strengths/opportunities of the local community to stimulate sustainable local development.

-To help the community develop a workable action plan to address the identified problems in relation to their strengths and possible external support.

-To help identify areas of intervention by interested development partners from outside.

### **1.3 Methodology**

The approach used was participatory where information was collected and analyzed using various tools. Community members together with the DIN staff were explained how they would actively participate during the exercise. The community selected a team of 10 members comprising of 3 women, 4 men and 3 youth while DIN had 5 members of staff from a multi-disciplinary background. Below are the tools used during the exercise:-

? **Model mapping**

? **Semi structured interviews**

? **Focused group discussions**

- ? **Brain storming**
- ? **Observation**
- ? **Wealth ranking**
- ? **Pair wise matrix ranking**
- ? **Action planning**

These tools in many occasions were combined to bring out the desired information

#### **1.4 Limitations**

The exercise could not go as scheduled due to many unavoidable events that took place e.g. burials, settling community disputes and immunization exercise. Instead of the 6 consecutive days as planned, the exercise was later spread over a period of 3 weeks.

## **2.0 THE COMMUNITY PROFILE**

### **2.1 General Description**

Okwabang village is one of the villages in East Boki LGA in Cross River State (CRS). It is situated along Obudu- Ikom road and it lies within the montane tropical rain forest of the North Eastern part of CRS. It neighbours Bateriko, Butatong, Ashishie and Bakum villages (**See appendix 1**)

Okwabang has sub villages within it and is headed by a village Head who is supported by a council of elders and various sub-committees e.g. education, health and sanitation, town council, market, forest, social and political enlightenment committee.

### **2.2 Population**

From the survey conducted it shows that there are 365 households of which 15% are headed by women. The average household size is 10 persons. This figure is subjective due to the polygamous nature of the community. Within this community it was established that there are 3 categories of wealth groups viz. the rich (17%), moderately rich (32%) and poor (51%). (**See appendix 2 for analysis on Wealth Ranking.**)

### **2.3 Local institutions**

The community has a well-established local institutional framework. These include churches, schools, women and men groups, age grades, youth groups, council of

elders and various local committees. These institutions if strengthened could be used to spur rural development.

## **2.4 Natural resources**

The village is endowed with a number of natural resources. For an example, streams that supply water to the community, deep well drained soils, the mountane rain forests that serve as the catchment for these streams and a habitat for a wide range of game animals. These natural forests also serve as a source of livelihood for the majority of the community members. They exploit these forests for supply of wood, wild vegetables and fruits (NTFPs) and game meat. The rate at which these forests are being exploited may lead to loss of bio-diversity and reduced water supply from the streams during the dry period.

## **2.5 Agriculture**

Most of the community members are subsistence farmers with some still practicing shifting cultivation. The main cash crops are cocoa, oil palms, bananas and to a lesser extent cassava while the main food crops are cocoyam, yam, cassava, plantain and melon (eggusi). The climate is favourable for a variety of other crops but the extension service from the government was indicated as limiting. This has led low yields due to disease and pest infestation and lack of certified high yielding crop varieties. This then has left the farmers to learn either from their neighbours or use the traditional farming practices inherited. There is very little livestock activity within the community. When asked why this was the case, the answer was that the animals suffered seasonal disease problems and veterinary services are not available.

## **3.0 MAIN FINDINGS/ANALYSIS**

### **3.1 Time lines for Okwabang**

The timelines do give an indication of events that have taken place and affected the community either positively or negatively. As they plan they reflect back on some of these events. Some may recur and affect their plans and projects e.g. the recurrence of stormy winds may mean when building houses, reinforcement may be necessary or plant research stations should breed short varieties which would resist lodging of the crops. **(For details see Appendix 3)**

### **3.2 Trend lines for Okwabang**

The team together with the community members addressed some selected issues and their trends over the years. These were education; health related issues, population, forest degradation, agricultural production and supply and demand of bush mango None Timber Forest Products (NTFP). These trend lines reinforced the problem identification process and their causes. Possible interventions were also suggested.

**(For details see Appendix 4)**

### **3.3 The summary of the prioritized problems.**

During the analysis, problems cut across the 3 categories of men, women and the youth and through sorting and re-ranking the list below was developed which formed the basis of the community action planning (CAP).

#### ***List of problems:***

1. Health facility
2. Education facility
3. Nursery school
4. Provision of clean water during the dry season
5. HIV/AIDS pandemic
6. Soil fertility, pest attack, land use management
7. Adult illiteracy
8. Cassava mill
9. Palm oil mill
10. Unemployment

**(For more details see Appendix 5,6,7)**

## 4.0 ACTION PLANNING

### 4.1 Community/Village Action Plans

#### a) The problem: Lack of proper health facility

**Objective: To have a functional health center in the village**

Options	What should be done	Resources/ inputs needed	Responsibility (who to do it)	Cost implication	When to be done (time frame)	Who to follow up
Construction of a Health center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✍ Select a site</li> <li>✍ Actual construction</li> </ul>	Land Sand Cement  Labour Wood Zinc  blocks	Community „ external support  community „ external support  community	In kind „ costing to be done by expert In kind „ costing by expert community	The project is in progress	Chairman Okwabang town council
Employment of qualified staff	Community to apply to Government for qualified staff	-	community	In kind	As soon as the building is complete	„
Provision of drugs	Community to approach the Government and other health agency for drugs	-	Community/staff	In kind	soon	Staff
Provision of equipment for the health center	Community to apply for equipment from the Government	Stationery consultation (health expert)	Community /staff Community	In kind In kind	Soon	Health committee

**b) The problem: Poor quality of education**

**Objectives: -To provide quality teaching staff and equipment**

**-To provide standard laboratories for the school**

Options	What should be done	Resources/ inputs needed	Responsibility (who to do it)	Cost implication	When to be done (time frame)	Who to follow up
Approach the Government and table the problem	Write a formal application to the Government	Stationeries/ Postage Transport cost Logistics	Chairman of the education committee	In kind ..	As soon as possible	Village education committee
Consult the politicians	Formally invite the area councilor for a meeting with the community	Logistics Transport cost Stationary	Village education committee	All in kind	immediately	Village education committee

**c) The Problem: Lack of a nursery school**

**Objective: To provide Pre-primary education to the young children**

Options	What should be done	Resources/ inputs needed	Responsibility (who to do it)	Cost implication	When to be done (time frame)	Who to follow up
Construction of a nursery school	-Select a site -set up a project committee -actual construction of the school block	Land Books/resource persons Blocks Sand Wood Labour Cement zinc	) ) ) )to be provided by the community ) ) ) )External support )	) ) )to be provided in kind ) ) ) )External support	As soon as possible	Project committee
Provision of teachers	Community to put up the adverts.	Stationaries Staff salaries	Parents	The fees raised from the students	As soon as the block is completed	Village education committee
Provision of text books	Parents will source for the text books for their children	Books Transport costs	Parents	To be done by the parents	When the school takes off	Committee
Provision of the furniture	Provision of furniture to the school	Wood Labour (Fees for the artisan)	Community/ External support	In kind Expert to cost	Should run concurrently with the construction of the school	Project committee
Recreational facilities	Procure the facilities for the school	Equipment (wood, iron etc)	community	In kind	When the school takes off	

**d) The Problem: -Difficulty in processing cassava into Garri**

**Objective:** -To reduce the wastage of grown cassava  
 -To reduce drudgery in processing cassava through improved methods  
 -To generate income for women through commercializing the processing unit

Options	What should be done	Resources/ inputs needed	Responsibility (who to do it)	Cost implication	When to be done (time frame)	Who to follow up
Provision of a cassava processing unit	-procure a machine that process cassava into garri and other uses	Funds	External Donor (NGO)	Expert to do the costing	When appropriate	Women Leader
	-pay a visit to a garri processing plant to have an idea of what it takes to run one	Transport cost	The women group leader	Time/transport	„	„
	-Beneficiaries to provide a % required to procure the unit	The % of the total cost	The women group	In kind or in cash	„	„

**e) The problem: Difficulties in oil palm processing**

**Objective:** -To reduce drudgery in oil palm processing  
 -To increase efficiency in oil palm extraction  
 -To increase income of farmers from palm oil production

Options	What should be done	Resources/ inputs needed	Responsibility (who to do it)	Cost implication	When to be done (time frame)	Who to follow up
Provision of palm oil processing unit	Procure one unit of palm oil processor	Funds	Donor	Raise quotation to determine the cost	When appropriate	Member of the community
	-Beneficiaries to provide a % of the cost of the unit	Funds	Farmers			
Raise oil palm trees	Establishment of a nursery for oil palms	Poly pots Transport Labour Manure	Farmers  Farmers	To be computed In kind In kind To be computed	When appropriate time	The president of the group

**f) The problem: Lack of clean water during the dry season**

**Objective: Supply of safe clean water during the dry season**

Options	What should be done	Resources/ inputs needed	Responsibility (who to do it)	Cost implication	When to be done (time frame)	Who to follow up
Construction of Bore holes	-Consult a water engineer -select a site -actual construction	-stationery -transport cost -land -sand -tendering -hand pump -labour	}community }community ,, ,, }external input ,, community	In kind ,, ,, ,, external donor	As soon as possible	DIN
Construction of (4) wells	-Source for technical advice -Provide site -Actual construction	-transport cost -consultation (DSA) -labour/gravel/land -rings(Concrete) pulley/cement	}community ,, }community ,, ,, }external support ,, ,,	In kind ,, ,, ,, external donor ,,	As soon as possible	Okwabang town council
Protect and plant trees in water catchment areas	-Collect germinated seedlings from the virgin forests -Approach forestry department for seedlings -Establish community trees nurseries -purchase seedlings from established private tree nurseries	Tree seedlings/ time  -time by community members  -training/land/ seeds /poly pots  Funds to purchase	Community ,, ,, ,,  expert/community  community	In kind ,, ,, ,, ,,  expert external support community to raise funds	During the rainy season  Dry season  During the wet season  During the wet season	

**g) The problem: HIV/AIDS pandemic**

**Objective: To reduce the spread/infection by HIV/AIDS in the community**

<b>Options</b>	<b>What should be done</b>	<b>Resources/ inputs needed</b>	<b>Responsibility (who to do it)</b>	<b>Cost implication</b>	<b>When to be done (time frame)</b>	<b>Who to follow up</b>
<b>Parents to provide sex education to their children</b>	-parents to give this challenge a trial -parents to create a friendly/ conducive environment for discussion with the children	Time and will power	-parents "	Time	Now/ immediately "	Parents
<b>Introduce Sex Education in school curriculum</b>	PTA should put up a proposal with school authority	Time Training materials Trained teachers on HIV/AIDS	PTA	Time	Immediately	PTA/ Village Education Council
<b>Awareness creation by experts in Public Health/ HIV/AIDS</b>	Health committee to invite experts	Stationery/ transport cost for the expert,	Health committee	Volunteers will be used	Immediately	Council of Chiefs
<b>Formation of Anti-Aids campaign groups</b>	Youths to set up committee that will facilitate this process	-Time -Youths to available -Materials	Youth Leader	Time	Immediately	Youth Leader
<b>Church to actively get involved in the HIV/AIDS campaign</b>	Church to incorporate HIV/AIDS messages in their programmes	Time Will power Training materials	The clergy Church leaders	Time	Immediately	Church leadership

**h) The problem: - Poor agricultural farming systems**

- Objectives:**
- To reduce the incidence of hunger
  - To provide technical information on modern farming methods
  - To provide Agricultural extension services

Options	What should be done	Resources/ inputs needed	Responsibility (who to do it)	Cost implication	When to be done (time frame)	Who to follow up
Good farm selection	Do the selection at the appropriate time	Time Tools Labour	Farmer	Time	Dry season Dry season	Farmer
Provision of extension service	Agricultural experts to be invited to carry out demonstrations Extension agents to train farmers on modern farming methods	Logistics  Training/ demonstration materials	Expert/ government  NGO's	To be determined by the expert	Dry season and to continue thereafter	Okwabang Town council
Source for improved varieties of food and cash crops	Apply to Research Stations for improved plant materials	-transport cost materials to be procured	Government/ NGO's	Costing to be done by the experts	Before the planting period	Okwabang Town Council DIN Other NGO's
Provision of farm inputs	Government to subsidize the cost of farm inputs and make them available	-	Government	To be determined by the government	„	Ministry of agriculture
Avail agricultural loan schemes	Farmers/individuals to seek and apply for loans Farmers to form cooperatives	Collateral	Farmer/government NGO's with micro credit schemes	Interest rate	Timely	Okwabang Town council

## **5. Conclusion**

The exercise has served to organize and mobilize the community develop a framework for developmental strategies- The village/ Community Action Plan. Findings have revealed that the community has the potential/opportunities needed to solve the inherent problems that exist. Such potentials could be utilized to mobilize resources and facilitate the implementation of the plans for developmental purposes. The community needs external support so that the planned projects will be executed.

**Appendix 1 - Social Map**

## **Appendix 2**

### **Wealth Ranking**

Five (5) key informants –3 males and 2 females helped in ranking. Of the five 5 informants, 4 categorized community householders into 3 wealth groups while the informant categorized them into 4 wealth groups. An average of 3 wealth groups have been used i.e. the rich (17%), the moderately rich (32%), and the poor (51%). The tool is useful in the following ways: -

- ? It gave an indication of the population of the village
- ? Helped to define the community into definable terms e.g. rich, moderately poor and poor
- ? It gave an indication of possible target groups for specific projects

## **Appendix 3**

### **Time lines for Okwabang**

1945 –Catholic Church established in Okwabang

1951 –Boki New yam festival fist celebration

1954 –Customary court established in Okwabang

-A man got lost in the bush and has not been found till date

-Assemblies of God church established

1957 –Police post established

1958 –Market square established

1960 –Nigeria independence

1965 –The first zinc house constructed

1967 –Measles outbreak

1970 –Wind storm which destroyed houses and crops

-The government officials came to assess the damage

1971 –Postal agency opened

1973 –Locust outbreak

1974 –Baby born and thrown in a pit latrine by an outsider in Okwabang

1977 –St. Michael primary school Bateriko became St. Michael primary school, Okwabang

1979 –A secondary school established

1981 –Another wind storm

1982 –Outbreak of locusts

1983 –A big fire outbreak

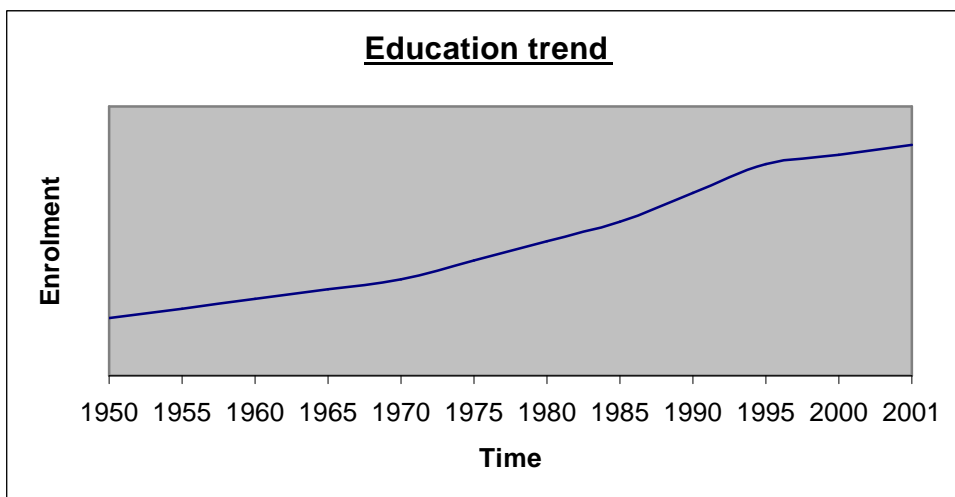
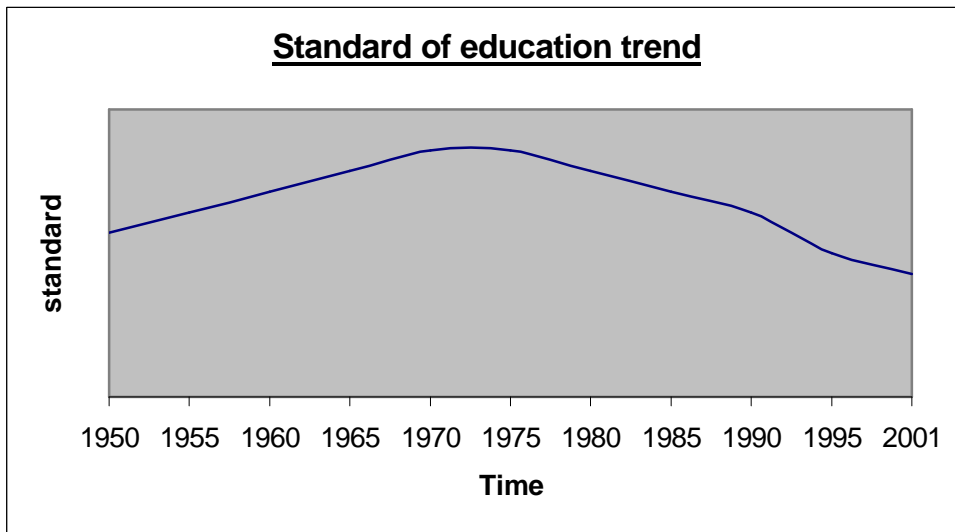
1984 –Another wind storm

1986 –Measles outbreak

1998 –Another wind storm

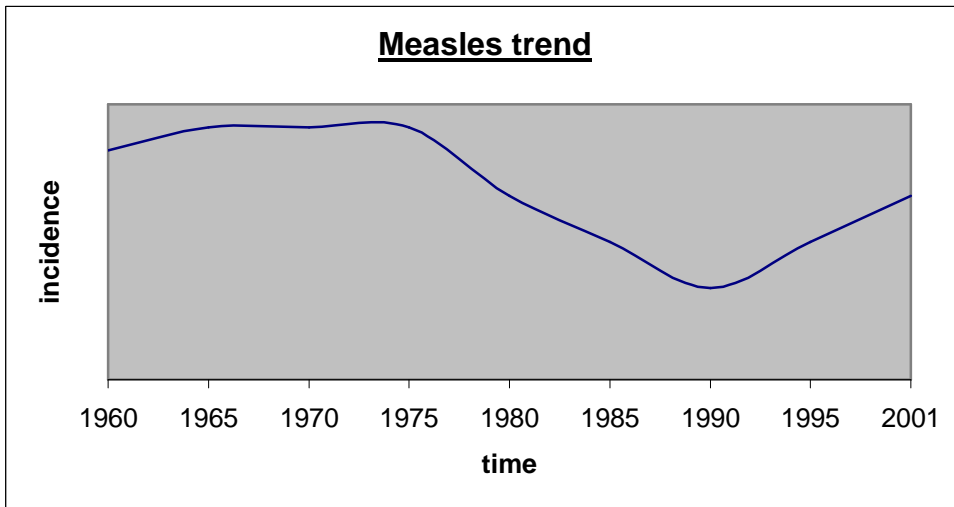
1999 - Okwabang national day established

#### Appendix 4- Trend lines

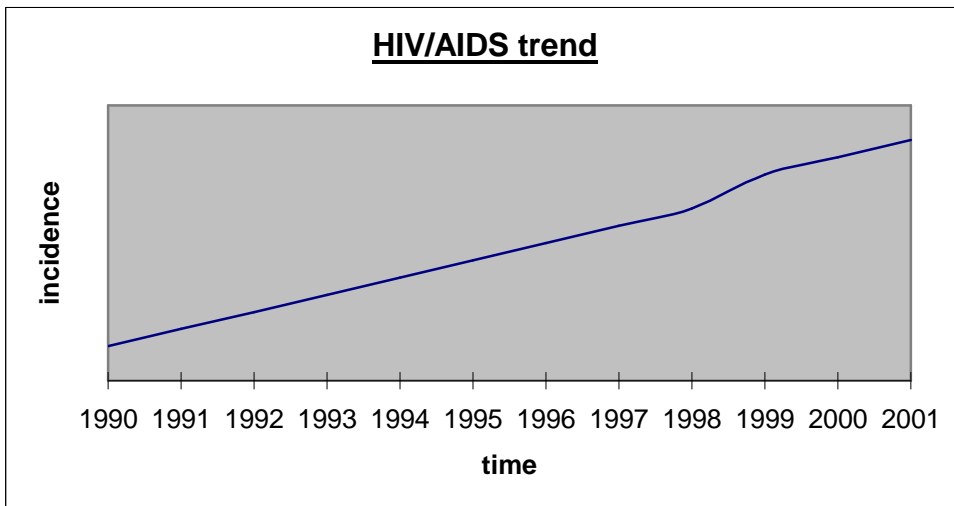


The trend of the enrollment has encouraging over the years. In 1970, assumed Local Contribution (ALC) tax was introduced for every body and hence all parents took their children to school. In 1976, the government introduced free education in primary schools. In 1985, the government paid teachers and supplied textbooks to all students. These incentives by the government favored the enrollment of students.

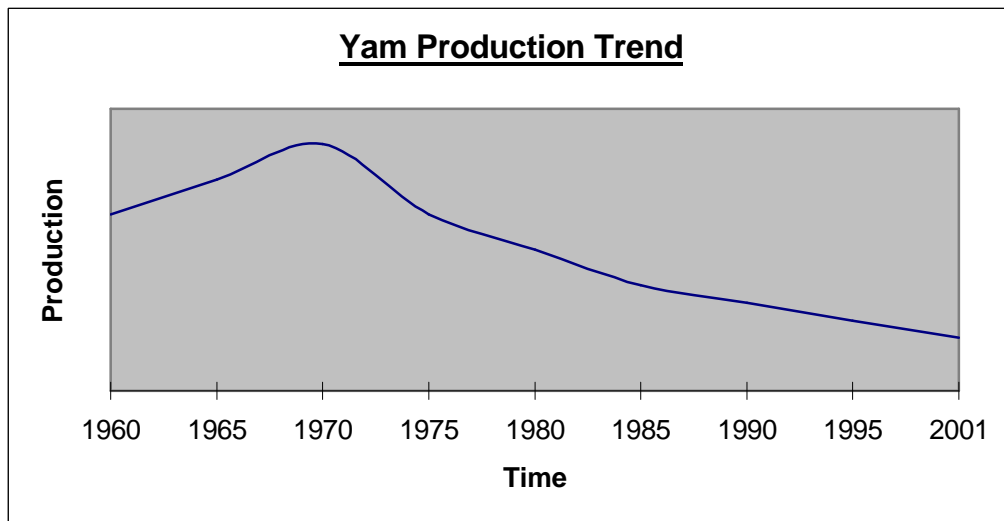
Initially the standard of education was high and increasing which the community attributed to influence of the missionaries. But in 1995, there was mass promotion of students from one class to another without merit.



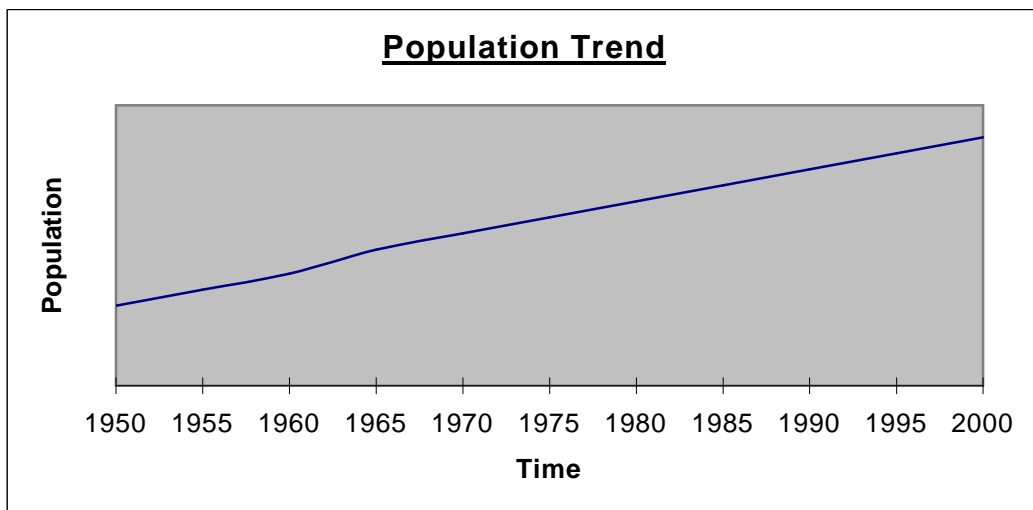
In the 60's the incidence of the disease was high due to lack of immunization programmes. By 1974, the government introduced the immunization programs and provision of improved health service delivery system. 1990 saw some resistance from the parents to take their children for the immunization exercise due to misconception that the vaccine would cause infections. A strong intervention by the health officials was mounted by giving health education to demystify the held belief.



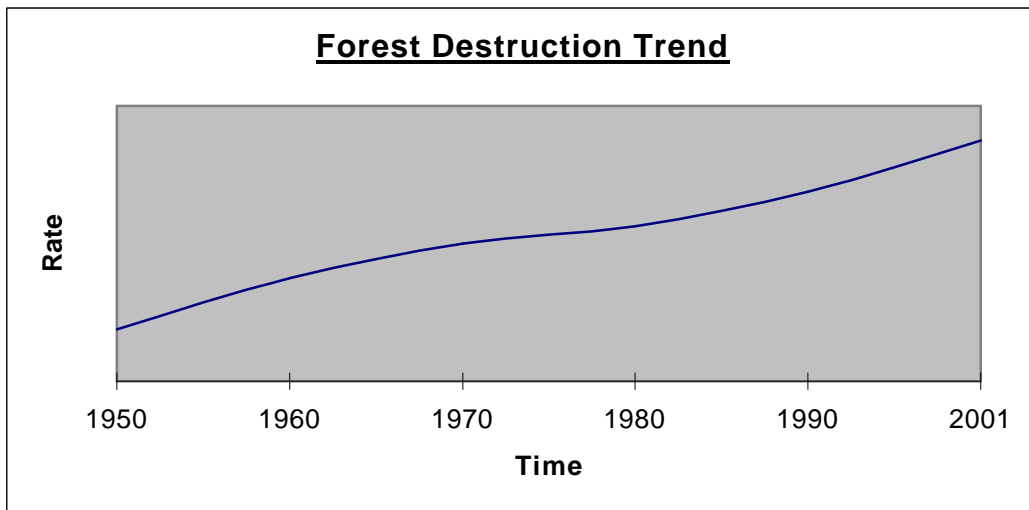
The trend of HIV/AIDS infection is on the rise and its alarming. There is a felt need to create awareness on the facts and the truth about this infection by the relevant bodies.



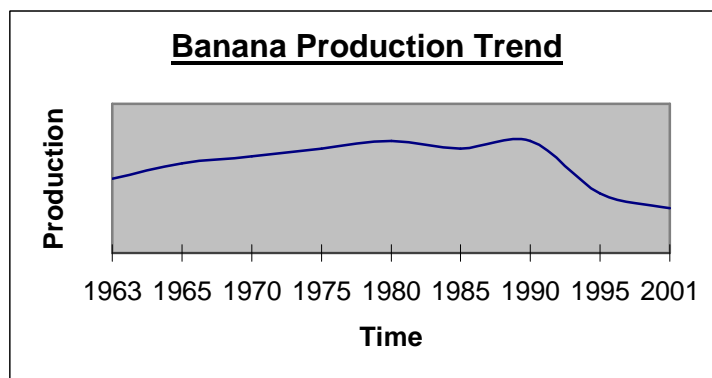
The reasons given by the community members for this trend was: -  
 Poor soil fertility, destruction by wild animals, lack of new high yielding varieties and Labour intensive.



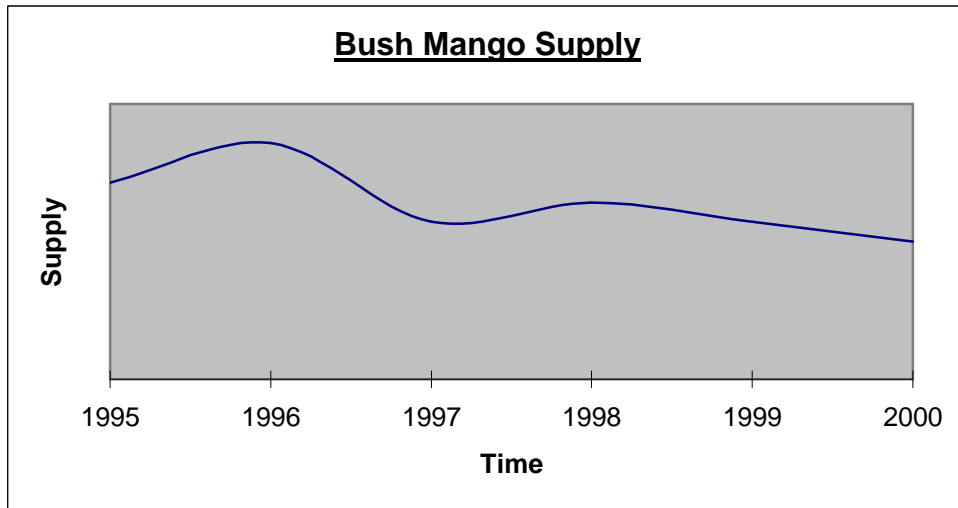
The community members identified this trend and attributed it to:  
 -Polygamy  
 -Natural factors  
 -The mortality is lower than birth rate due to improved health services



The destruction of the forests is increasing at a high rate and the reasons given by the community members were –more demand for timber, pressure on land for farming and high unemployment of the youth. There is then need for an aggressive forest protection campaign and improved land use management system.

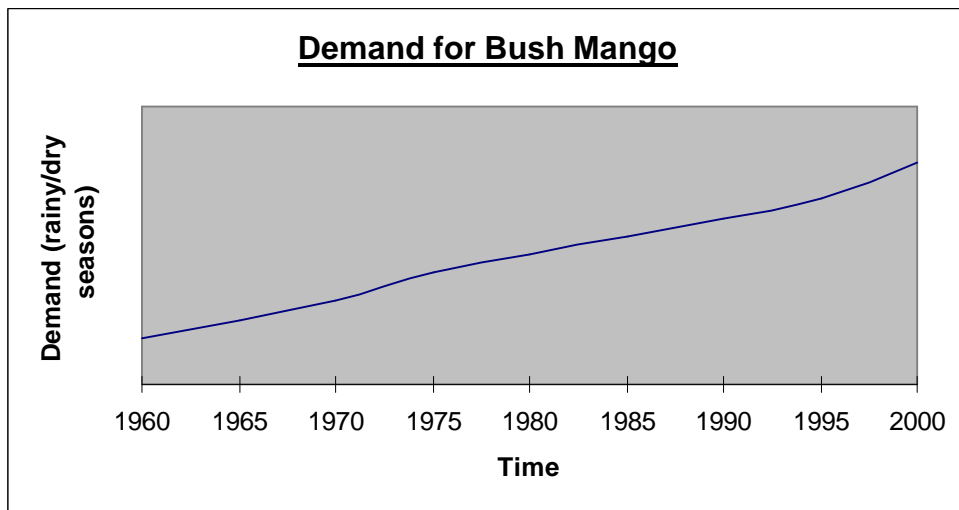


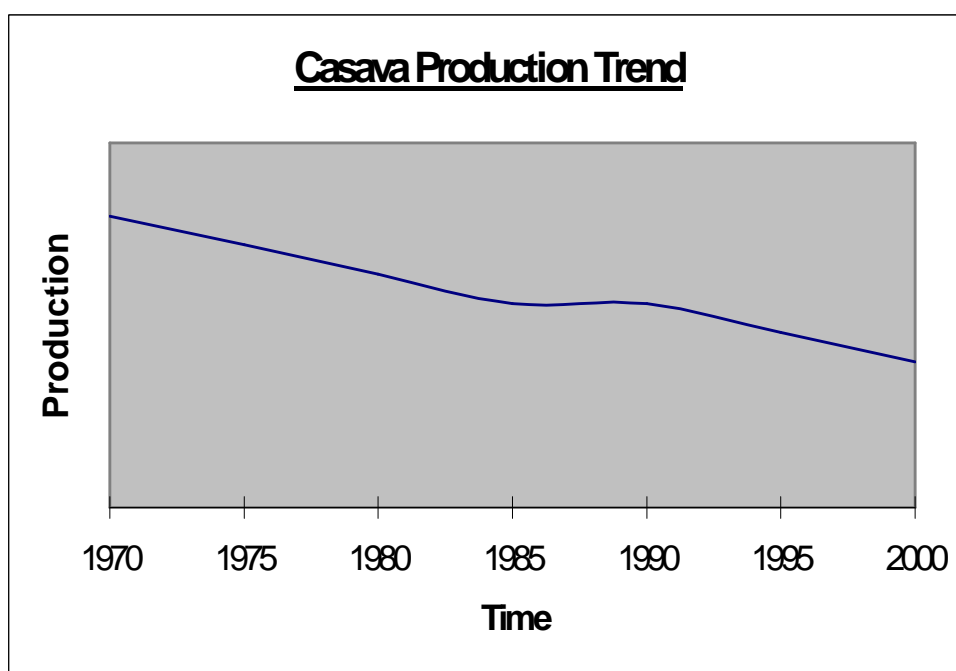
The production trend for this crop has been increasing till 1984 when there was a fire out break that destroyed the crop. Currently they're little virgin land for banana growing hence the decline in production. The identified interventions are:- good land use management, extension service to be introduced, introduction of disease resistant and high yielding varieties.



The supply of this product fluctuates between the years due to its flowering pattern. There is evidence that the supply is declining and the reasons given are - destruction of trees by bush fires and the long maturity period (10-13yrs). Interventions include: - to plant more trees, control bush burning, pest control and provision of improved early maturing varieties.

The demand of the bush mango has been on the increase.





The production per unit area of land is decreasing. The reasons given by the community members are:- poor soil fertility, lack of fertilizer, destruction by diseases and pests, lack of disease resistant varieties and lack of high yielding varieties.

## Appendix 5

### Men's Group Problems and Ranking

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Hunger</b>	<b>Ill-health</b>	<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>H.Cost of living</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>
<b>Hunger</b>		Ill health	Unemployment	Education	H.C. of living	Hunger
<b>Ill-health</b>			Ill health	Ill health	Ill health	Ill health
<b>Unemployment</b>				Education	Unemployment	Unemployment
<b>Education</b>					Education	Education
<b>H.C of living</b>						H. C. Living
<b>Accommodation</b>						
<b>Electricity</b>						

## Appendix 6

### Women's group problems and ranking

Problems	Health facility	mobility	Nursery school	Lack of skilled Teachers	Cassava mill	bursary	Electricity	Oil mill	Pest attack	Loan scheme
Health facilities		Health facility	Health facility	Health facility	Health facility	Health facility	Health facility	Health facility	Health facility	Health facility
Mobility			nursery school	Lack of s. Teachers	Cassava mill	bursary	Electricity	Oil mill	Pest attack	Loan scheme
Nursery school				Nursery school	Nursery school	Nursery school	Nursery school	Nursery school	Nursery school	Nursery school
Lack of S. Teachers					Cassava mill	Bursary	Electricity	Oil mill	Pest attack	Loan scheme
Cassava mill						Cassava mill	Cassava mill	Cassava mill	Cassava mill	Cassava mill
Bursary							Electricity	Oil mill	Pest attack	Loan scheme
Electricity								Oil mill	Electricity	electricity
Oil mill									Oil mill	Oil mill
Pest attack										Pest attack
Loan scheme										
Water										
Toilet										
Adult literacy										

## Appendix 7

### Youth's group problems and ranking

PROBLEMS	Unemployment	Health facility	Clean water	Sex education	Sport facility	HIV/AIDS	Early marriage	Education facility	Soil infertility
Unemployment		Health facility	Clean water	Unemployment	Unemployment	HIV/AIDS	unemployment	Education facility	Soil fertility
Health facility			Health facility	Health facility	Health facility	HIV/AIDS	Health facility	Education facility	Soil fertility
Clean water				Clean water	Clean water	HIV/AIDS	Clean water	Education facility	Clean water
Sex education					Sex education	HIV/AIDS	Sex education	Education facility	Soil fertility
Sport facility						HIV/AIDS	Early marriage	Education facility	Soil fertility
HIV/AIDS							HIV/IADS	Education facility	HIV/IADS
Early marriage								Education facility	Soil fertility
Educational facility									Education facility
Soil in fertility									
Accommodation									