

WORLD BANK TECHNICAL PAPER NUMBER 161  
AFRICA TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT SERIES



# **Intermediate Means of Transport In Sub-Saharan Africa**

**Its Potential for Improving Rural Travel and Transport**

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**The World Bank**

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First printing December 1991

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## **ABSTRACT**

To discuss the current situation, develop new policy directions, and specify need and ongoing studies for improving rural travel and transport in Sub-Saharan Africa, three hypotheses are postulated, that:

1. poor rural roads, with inadequate and high cost of road transport services, and the lack of affordable means of transport seriously constrains rural economic and social development;
2. significant time savings and productivity gains can be achieved by using Intermediate Means of Transport (IMTs) ranging from wheel barrows to motor cycles with significant impact on women;
3. that returns on investments in IMTs and low cost rural infrastructure will be so high that private people will respond with government role being largely promotional.

Current rural travel and transport are dominated by head loading and walking (largely by women) to satisfy the daily travel and goods movement needs of rural populations in SSA. Although rural roads and off-road transport may interact synergistically, with each amplifying the economic and social impact of the other, this interaction has not been directly studied or quantified. IMTs would save large amounts of time and energy and reduce drudgery, particularly for women. When IMTs have been introduced in the past and used in the transport system, private individuals have usually developed reaped the benefits. The better understanding that is required of the nature of Rural Travel and Transport and its impact on rural development is being addressed in current studies under the Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Program by the World Bank and ECA with the support of bilateral donors.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This paper has been prepared as part of the Rural Travel and Transport Project of the Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Program (SSATP) managed by the Infrastructure Division of the Africa Technical Department (AFTIN), Division Chief Jean Doyen. Financial support was provided by the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC), NORAD, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and the World Bank. The report was prepared by John Riverson, AFTIN and Steve Carapetis, EDI. The authors reviewed various World Bank publications, and received information and comments from many World Bank staff and members of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC). Special mention is made of Messrs. Paul Peter of SDC, Tore Gjos of NORAD, Per Persson of SIDA, G. Metschies of GTZ, Geoff Edmonds and Sven Hertel of ILO, M. Marumo of ADB, and M. E. Dhliwayo of ECA, members of the ICC who discussed the final results and policy recommendations. The paper also benefited from detailed internal review and comments by B. Chatelin, P. Morris, A. Faiz, S. Carapetis, U. Lele, T. Pankaj, B. Mitchell, S. Onwona and H. Walters. Written or verbal comments were received from C. Cook, A Galenson, H. Beenhakker, J. Peberdy, A. Pellegrini, J. Brown, J. Polak and Prof. A. Mabogunje of DFRRI, Nigeria. The authors benefited from comments made during a seminar attended by managers of Infrastructure and Agriculture divisions chaired by F. S. O'Brien, Chief Economist of the Bank's Africa Region. This paper has also been published in the proceedings of the Fifth International Low Volume Roads Conference by the Transportation Research Board, Washington, D. S. V. Herron and N. Sew Kwan Kan assisted in final word processing for publications. The findings, Interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this paper are entirely those of the authors and should not be attributed in any manner to the World Bank, to its affiliated organizations, or to members of its Board of Executive Directors or the countries they represent.

## FOREWORD

Rural roads and transport are essential for sustaining agricultural development. Recognizing this, the World Bank and others in the donor community have provided financial support to African countries to improve their rural road infrastructure. Despite this, traffic on most rural roads still consists mainly of pedestrians often carrying head loads. African governments have relied on parastatal truck fleets for crop transport. Fuel subsidies, and other policy measures have not helped to improve rural transport services. Chronic scarcity of foreign exchange, lack of spare parts and low vehicle imports have also hampered the development of motorized rural transport services. Moreover, the rural poor usually cannot afford these services. These factors call for alternative and affordable means of transport. Therefore, there is a need to explore the potential of bicycles and other intermediate and low-cost means of transport for improving rural access and personal mobility.

The Bank continues to build on its experience in improving intermediate means of transport in selected transport projects in Ghana, Mozambique, Malawi, Guinea-Bissau, Cameroon and Ethiopia. In northern Ghana, prototype designs for bicycle trailers and handcarts have been built by the Technology Consultancy Center at the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi. Two local producers have manufactured and sold several units based on the designs. These specific interventions provide a good basis for the further review and formulation of rural transport policies. The projects are useful case studies for dissemination under the Rural Travel and Transport Project of the sub-Saharan Africa Transport Program (SSATP).

One of the aims of the Rural Travel and Transport Project of the SSATP is to recommend ways to improve rural transport services, and to adopt intermediate technologies to increase personal mobility and facilitate agricultural production. The review presented in this document has emphasized that gaps exist in rural transport services in Africa as evidenced by the considerable movements of people and goods that occurs off-road. The authors assert that improving rural access and personal mobility of rural people, particularly women, will help to increase productivity, and hence, agricultural production. Intermediate means of transport, such as, bicycles, ox carts, wheelbarrows, etc. have the potential for achieving this. These factors are being further explored in additional studies under the SSATP.

This document is one of a series by the Infrastructure Division of the Africa Technical Department and the SSATP. Through these series, we are addressing policy issues related to the development and maintenance of rural road infrastructure and transport services in Africa. I would like to congratulate the authors for receiving the Eldon J. Yoder Award for the most outstanding paper at the Fifth Low Volume Roads Conference of the Transportation Research Board held in Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A, in May 1991. We are very happy to present the review findings for the consideration of African policy makers and supporting donors.

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Director, Technical Department  
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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| ABD   | African Development Bank                    |
| ECA   | Economic Commission for Africa              |
| ILO   | International Labor Office                  |
| IMT   | Intermediate Means of Transport             |
| MADIA | Managing Agricultural Development in Africa |
| SSA   | Sub-Saharan Africa                          |
| SSATP | Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Program        |

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The gravity of rural transport bottlenecks in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), has recently been underscored by the World Bank's Long-Term Perspective Study (LTPS) (1). This report emphasizes that improving rural infrastructure is an essential requirement for the modernization and growth of agriculture. Further, it cautions that although better market incentives (especially related to prices and inputs) to farmers remain as important factors in agriculture, the effects of these would be blunted if the physical barriers and economic costs of transporting goods to and from local markets remain high. The alleviation of these economic constraints, and the equally important easing of the barriers to social intercourse and development would require improvement in access between villages and markets, schools, medical, economic, administrative and social services which affect the day to day lives of rural people.<sup>1/</sup>

### The Rural Transport Gaps

Like most developing countries, sub-Saharan African countries face two major rural transport gaps:

- a) The rural and feeder roads connecting villages and farming areas to each other and to market centers are usually inadequate, poorly maintained and costly to use; and
- b) Poor and inadequate rural transport services, caused by the lack of intermediate means of transport (IMTs) and appropriate infrastructure for their use, has meant that the carrying of goods between and within villages and between fields, villages, roads, and markets is dependent almost entirely on walking and head- or shoulder-carrying.

By far the majority of transport and travel activity in sub-Saharan African countries occurs in rural areas. The greater part of transport in rural areas -- in terms of both distances and amounts carried -- is usually off-road. Almost all this transport, in turn, is non-motorized -- in fact, non-wheeled -- and dominated by head-carrying by women and children of loads of up to 30 kg.

### Rural Road Network in SSA

Large efforts at rural transport improvement in SSA have, so far, concentrated on the design and construction of secondary and tertiary roads for motorized transportation. As a result, there are approximately 700,000 kilometers of rural roads in SSA (Table 1). The condition of SSA rural roads is poor, with about half the network (350,000 km) requiring substantial rehabilitation. Even in countries with the highest concentration of roads, the density of rural roads is low compared with the needs for full economic development. Completed Bank projects have so far constructed or rehabilitated some 89,000 km and enhanced maintenance over a further 75,000 km of the network (Table 2). The World Bank has estimated that partial rehabilitation of existing rural roads would require an outlay of US\$3 billion (2,3), which compares with the US\$1.7 billion of Bank funded rural road rehabilitation over the past 25 years (Table 3). If rehabilitation were to be done over five years, the cost (US\$600 million per year, with a further US\$400 million for routine and emergency maintenance) would amount to about 0.7 per cent of the region's GNP of US\$149 billion in 1987 (3,4).

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<sup>1</sup> The conceptual basis for "accessibility", and "personal mobility" are discussed by Barwell et al. (28). Annex 1 also presents definitions of some of the terms used in the paper.



**Table 1. Kilometers of Roads by Type And Region (3)**

| Region                      | All Roads | Rural Roads | Density (M/km <sup>2</sup> ) |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Western Africa              | 430,937   | 286,425     | 32                           |
| Eastern and Southern Africa | 589,943   | 398,972     | 36                           |
| Total                       | 1,020,880 | 685,397     | 34                           |

**Table 2 Rural Road Project Achievements In Sub-Saharan Africa (3)**

| Period      | Roads Constructed or Rehabilitated |          | Roads Maintained |          |
|-------------|------------------------------------|----------|------------------|----------|
|             | Target Km                          | Actual % | Target Km        | Actual % |
| Before 1980 | 49,999                             | 81       | 28,978           | 42       |
| After 1980  | 39,112                             | 72       | 46,193           | 49       |
| TOTAL       | 89,111                             | 79       | 75,171           | 43       |

**Table 3 Rural Road Project Costs In Sub-Saharan Africa (3)**  
(millions of Dollars in 1988 prices)

| Period      | No. of Projects | Loan or Credit Amount | Project Cost | Rural Road Component |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Before 1980 | 79              | 2,860                 | 6,068        | 887                  |
| After 1980  | 43              | 2,408                 | 5,812        | 863                  |
| TOTAL       | 122             | 5,268                 | 11,880       | 1,751                |

The rural road networks have a skewed distribution in lengths between countries. For example, Nigeria, Cameroon and Ivory Coast alone have more than half the rural roads in West Africa, whereas Zaire, Zimbabwe, Madagascar and Tanzania account for more than two thirds of East African rural roads. Rural road density also varies widely within individual countries. Nigeria also has an average of about 83 meters of rural road per square kilometer (individual states' values range from less than 30 to 490 meters). Similar ranges were found in Kenya where high rural road densities were associated with provinces with high population and abundant natural resources (3).

A recent study (5) on food aid and development in the countries of the World Bank's research project "Managing Agricultural Development in Africa (MADIA)" has estimated that the present rural road network of SSA needs to be substantially increased if the full agricultural potential of the region, necessary to support the population, is to be realized. Even if only a part of the extra rural road network required to increase densities were to be built, the annual outlay could double to US\$2 billion a year, or about 1.4 percent of SSA gross national product (GNP). These figures are relevant given the four per cent per annum target for agricultural growth in the region forecast in the LTPS, which translates to about a 1.5 percent increase in GNP. This target for extra agricultural production is unlikely to be achieved if there is no improvement in rural roads and

other infrastructure. The needs are great, and although it may be possible to make a viable economic case for an improved and larger rural road network, the concept is not feasible unless specific financial and institutional arrangements for construction and maintenance can be put in place.<sup>2/</sup> The question is whether SSA countries can sustain the large network of roads that would result from massive improvements.

### **Current Rural Transport Services and Vehicle Availability**

The problems caused by the lack of a reliable, well-maintained rural road systems are exacerbated by the lack of motor vehicle capacity caused by relatively small vehicle fleets and the poor condition of the vehicles that exist in these countries. The vehicle fleets are small as a result of the generally low importation of vehicles. Data collected from Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tanzania, the study countries of the World Bank's MADIA research project, confirm the low vehicle availability and importation levels. Even Nigeria with the largest share of vehicle imports in the region has shown declining trends. After exceeding US\$2.8 billion in 1981, total vehicle import values for Nigeria have decreased 90 percent accounting for only US\$295 million in 1987. The other five countries only showed modest increases up to peak values ranging from a high of less than US\$50 million for Malawi and Senegal to US\$192,000 for Cameroon in 1987 (6).

In addition to these trends in reduced imports, which gradually reduce the size of vehicle fleets, the aging and deteriorating vehicle parks in many countries add to the continuing constraints. In many countries, vehicles have survived only by cannibalizing broken-down vehicles for scarce spare parts. Survival and continued use of many vehicles have depended on the ingenuity of good indigenous mechanics in modifying vehicles to the prevailing conditions including the spare parts available. Notwithstanding these remarkable achievements, vehicle capacity and availability remain inadequate. Even where motorable roads exist, transport services are unreliable and infrequent in most rural areas; where available, such services are for-hire and the majority of rural inhabitants cannot afford them (7). This situation clearly highlights the need for alternative approaches to satisfying the rural transport market.

Beenhakker et al. (8) pointed out that an improved feeder road may only satisfy 5 percent of local farmers' transport needs, and then only after the surplus has been transported to the road side. This fact suggests that only an extremely small proportion of the total rural transport and personal mobility journeys would benefit from the extension of roads suitable for motor vehicles. Progress in these fields has been slow and expensive, and the transport and travel burden of the poorer rural inhabitants will not be significantly relieved for many decades to come. Without an alternative approach, transport services in rural areas will remain inadequate to sustain acceptable levels of social and economic activity and development.

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<sup>2</sup> The review of experience with rural roads in sub-Saharan Africa suggests that an effective institutional arrangement is likely to be one in which a small centralized agency acts as a focal point for policies, planning and funding of rural roads, but operates through local organizations and communities responsible for maintenance, and able to raise their own funds. Initially, technical advice would also be provided by a central agency (3).

## **Hypotheses For Policy Analysis**

The transport characteristics have been summarized in three hypotheses below that form the basis for discussion of policy issues and options.

### **Hypothesis 1:**

Inadequate on-road transport services coupled with the lack of off-road transport, which reduces the timeliness and amount of agricultural goods delivered to on-road transport, seriously constrains the growth of rural economies. Deficient off-road transport also restricts the flow of agricultural and other inputs from the road system to farming villages. Raising the capability of off-road transport could be reflected in much higher returns to rural road investments.

### **Hypothesis 2:**

Significant productivity gains can be achieved by low-cost investments in improving off-road transport. These gains reflect both the ability to move more goods more quickly within rural communities and important reductions in the time and drudgery that afflicts transport tasks - particularly those undertaken by women. Reducing transport burdens could, thus, free significant human resources of energy and time for the economic and social development of rural Africa.

### **Hypothesis 3.**

The returns on such investments (i.e., for appropriate low-cost infrastructure and IMTs ranging from wheelbarrows to motorcycles) to farm families themselves would be so high that they will be undertaken by private individuals, and the government's role could, therefore, be largely facilitative and promotional rather than requiring direct investment.

## II. THE RURAL TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT TASK

The rural transport task in Sub-Saharan Africa is of far greater complexity than is shown in most traffic surveys. Most surveys are conducted along roadways, and usually record only motorized traffic. They ignore the large numbers of informal means of transport such as pedestrians, bicycles, pack animals and animal-drawn carts. Motorable roads comprise only a small portion of the rural transport and travel network. There exist vast but unmeasured networks of tracks, paths, and trails linking scattered villages with each other and the fields in which women, children, and men do the bulk of their work.

### The Predominance of Head-Loading

In many food-growing areas, food has to be carried many kilometers by head portage either to the village market or roadside points from which vehicles transport it to major consuming centers. For many rural people, a trip on a bus, matatu or bush taxi still entails a long access walk from the village (9,10). Head-loading is frequently performed in conjunction with other farming activities such as weeding and harvesting. Heidemann and Kaira (11) report that in Kirinyaga District of Kenya, 70% of all journeys made in the rural areas were on foot, with 7% by public transport and only 2% in private cars. Transport in these circumstances is limited to what can be back- or shoulder-carried or head-loaded to road sides and along rural roads. Riverson and Afele (12) also reported that in Ghana, on average, 38 percent of the weight of commodities carried on more than 200 rural roads were by head loads. The proportion carried by head load was up to 90 percent for roads carrying much less than 25 vehicles per day (vpd), but roads carrying 100 vpd and more also registered up to 25 percent of total goods movements by head-loading. The two major reasons given for head-loading along rural roads were (a) lack of alternative means of transport, and (b) lack of funds to pay for the for-hire services when they were available.

### Time Used in Rural Transport Activities

Research studies in Ghana and Tanzania (13,14) have confirmed that activities involving transport consume inordinate amounts of household time and energy in rural areas. The average total time spent by village households on transport ranged between 1,875 hours a year (for about 80 ton-kilometers in southwest Tanzania, with an average household size of 4.5) and 4,830 hours per year (for about 216 ton-kilometers in study villages in Ashanti, Northern and Volta regions of Ghana, with an average household size of 11.9).

The time and energy spent on transporting for agricultural and other household activities are major constraints to increased agricultural production or other productive economic ventures. Household transportation, especially for water and firewood, is in fact the major task that competes for household labor time and limits ability to do other things. Internal trips (for water and firewood collection, crop production and marketing, to local market and grinding mill) represented 73 and 80 percent of total time and ton-kilometers spent on transport, respectively, in the Ghana and Tanzania studies. External trips were those to health facilities, external markets, and outside locations.<sup>3/</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The time and effort devoted to external crop marketing, in the case of Ghana, excluded transport by motor vehicle, as well as head-loading to, and loading of, vehicles. Only 8 percent of total load-carrying effort on external marketing was provided by vehicles.

## The Extent and Distance of Head Loading

In a study (15,16) of Ashanti Region, Ghana, it was found that for more than 90 percent of the households surveyed the principal means of carrying goods from the field was by head load. Fifty-six percent of the households used only household labor, whereas 44 percent used hired labor, or a combination of household and hired labor. Motorized transport was used to a significant degree only in one zone where tractors were reported as one of the principal means of transport. The average distance between field and village was 3.9 kilometers, with nearly three quarters of the distance taken up by footpaths. In only two of the eight zones studied did motorable tracks and feeder roads count for an appreciable component of journeys from farm to village, and in two other zones, a part of the journey from farm to village was along a main road. Cocoa loads have also been found to be carried an average distance of 5 km from the farm to village or buying centers (9).

Based on carrying, each day, two head loads of approximately 30 kg over an average distance of 5 km, it would require 15 person-days to move cocoa (900 kg/ha), and 167 person-days to move cassava and palm fruits (10,000 kg/ha) from a 1-hectare (1-ha) field to a nearby village or the roadside (see Table 4). In general, about 70 percent of agricultural activity involves transport with load consignments of 15 to 150 kg carried a distance of 1 to 13 kilometers for on-farm trips, and load consignments of 15 to 150 kg carried a distance of 1 to 20 kilometers for off-farm trips (10,13,14). Head loads of cassava, maize, cocoa beans, plantain and palm fruits weigh typically 30 kilograms each (9), which is similar to other estimated head load weight range of 25-40 kg (17). Heidemann and Barth (18) present a comprehensive discussion and analysis that confirm these characteristics. If average load sizes and speed of these movements could be increased, rural families would gain great savings in time and energy expenditures for tasks from wood and water gathering to field-to-road transport of produce.

**Table 4: Time Required To Head-Load Crops From Farm To Village Or Road (9)**

| <b>Crop</b> | <b>Kg/Ha</b> | <b>Person-days Needed to Head-load 1 Acre from Farm to Village</b> | <b>Type of Labor Typically Used for Head-loading</b> |
|-------------|--------------|--|--|
| Cocoa       | 900          | 15   | M,F,H,C <sup>1</sup>                                 |
| Oil Palm    | 10,000       | 167  | F,H,C  |
| Cassava     | 10,000       | 167  | F,C  |
| Maize       | 1,900        | 32   | F,C  |
| Rice        | 1,500        | 25   | F,C  |
| Plantain    | 9,000        | 150  | F,C  |
| Cocoyam     | 7,000        | 117  | F,C  |
| Yams        | 8,000        | 133  | F,C  |

1. M = Male, F = Female, H = Hired hand, C = Child

**Table 5. Characteristics Of Selected Export and Food Crops in Ghana (9)**

| <b>Crop</b> | <b>Marketed Product</b> | <b>Storage Involved</b> | <b>Yield Kg/Ha</b> | <b>Storage Life</b> | <b>Keeping Quality</b> |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Cocoa       | Dry Beans               | Yes                     | 900                | 6 – 12 mos.         | Good                   |
| Oil Palm    | Palm Oil                | Yes                     | NA                 | 6 – 12 mos.         | Good                   |
|             | Palm Kennel             | Yes                     | NA                 | 3 – 6 mos.          | Fair                   |
|             | Fresh Fruits            | No                      | 10,000             | 1 – 2 wks.          | Poor                   |
| Maize       | Grain Maize             | No                      | 1,900              | 6 – 12 mos.         | Good                   |
| Rice        | Milled Rice             | Yes                     | 1,500              | 6 – 12 mos.         | Good                   |
| Plantain    | Fingers                 | No                      | 9,000              | 1 – 2 wks.          | Poor                   |
| Yams        | Tubers                  | No                      | 8,000              | 1 – 6 wks.          | Fair                   |
| Cocoyam     | Corns                   | No                      | 7,000              | 1 – 3 wks.          | Poor                   |
| Cassava     | Roots                   | No                      | 10,000             | 1 – 2 wks.          | Poor                   |

### **The Impact of Transport Constraints on Food Production**

Local food supplies from many rural areas do not usually respond quickly to changes in demand (19). Although many factors contribute to this effect, some transport-related ones are highlighted. Increases in production of smallholder farmers who dominate African agriculture, depend on the assurance of good prices and market opportunities. Market opportunities, in particular, are constrained by poor rural travel and transport services, which adversely affect accessibility and personal mobility. Although often unaccounted for, farmers' production activities and costs include costs of trekking between home and field often over long distances, quite apart from the transport requirements for marketing harvested crops. The proportion of production costs represented by transport and travel costs usually increases rapidly with distance between village and fields. These constraints in off-road transport limit farmers' production to fields closer to the village. Dapaah (9) contends that the slow and expensive head-loading, as the only alternative to the limited capacity of unreliable vehicular transportation, as well as the poor keeping qualities of most staple food crops in West Africa (Table 5) are also major factors in the limiting of food production to levels considerably below the potential of rural areas. The extent to which this applies, however, is not quantified and calls for additional study and research on the subject.

### **III. INTERMEDIATE MEANS OF TRANSPORT**

#### **Indications for Use of IMTs**

The time and energy burdens involved in off-road transport represent one of the major constraints to any efforts by smallholders to move from subsistence agriculture to produce more marketable surpluses. As described, agricultural production and consumption within rural areas rarely involve motor vehicles (10,20), rely heavily on household labor, and create a need for time- and energy-consuming movements of small loads over relatively short distances. Necessarily small load sizes, on the other hand, mean that the return to labor -- and the surplus it generates -- is small, and the marginal cost of increasing production -- in terms of time and energy expended -- is high.

The trip ranges and load consignments typical of these transport tasks could suitably be undertaken using IMTs. IMTs have higher load capacities than head-loading, and the potential for higher travel speeds than walking, and thus significantly reduce the amounts of time and energy spent walking and head loading. For example, McCall (17) estimates that walking about 4 kilometers to a plot reduces time available for fieldwork by about 25 percent, even assuming a generous 8-hour day. As a result, intensive cultivation of small scale farming crops generally tends to drop off beyond 2 to 4 kilometers (i.e., 1 hour's walk) from home villages. For female farmers, walking to distant farms significantly reduces the time and energy available for domestic household and other economic activities. The experience in other developing regions demonstrates that the introduction of low-cost IMTs, in conjunction with simple, usually community-based, infrastructure improvements, can provide a level of improvement in rural transport that will affect travel for social, educational, health, administrative and recreational, as well as directly economic purposes, that is rarely achieved through road improvements alone.

#### **Potential of IMTs**

IMTs are widely used in the developing world, both to improve the efficiency of directly productive tasks, and to serve as a bridge between rural fields and villages and nearby road networks or market towns. The list of IMTs used is impressive and has been widely documented (7,8,21,22). Nonmotorized transport ranges from bicycles with or without attachments, to animal-drawn carts. The latter often make use of draught animals that are also used to aid cultivation. These human- and animal-powered vehicles provide low-cost and widely affordable means of transport, and their capacity and speed -- though limited compared to motorized transport -- is far beyond that of head- or back-loading. The design and manufacture of motorized low-cost IMTs have also been documented. However, the geographical coverage of their use is limited (21). As a result, some vehicles are used in some countries and not others, or in some regions and not others within the same country.

The design and application of existing IMTs tend to be specific to a country or region of a country. The extensive use of the motorcycle with sidecar, in the Philippines, for example, is one case where local needs appear to be adequately served through a locally developed and accepted solution. Animal-drawn carts have been adopted in some parts of Africa as a result of programs to promote the use of draft animals. Use of bicycles and mopeds is widespread in Burkina Faso, and bicycles in Northern Ghana, Uganda and Rwanda. Kaira (10) reports some use of bicycles and animal carts in Kenya; Dixon-Fyle and Relf (23) report that in Malawi, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization is promoting the use of animal (draft) power for transport, which

dates back to the Lilongwe Land Development Project in early 1970s. Reports on India describe extensive use of non-motorized transport, particularly animal-drawn vehicles using bullocks, buffaloes, camels (in desert areas of Rajasthan), horses and mules (in urban areas). The type of transport used is closely associated with the nature and type of farming undertaken. Hence, where bullock ploughs are used, bullock-carts are predominant, whereas tractors with trailers are associated with tractor-related farming. The performance characteristics of various IMTs are presented in Table 6. A great deal of IMT know-how is available; information needs to be widely disseminated within countries and between countries to ensure more widespread use. However, in each local situation, needs must be clearly identified so that suitable interventions can be made.

**Table 6. Performance Characteristics And Relative Cost of Some IMTs (27)**

| Vehicle                         | Max. Load (kg) | Max. Speed (kph) | Max. Range (km) | Terrain/Route Requirements   | Relative Cost <sup>1</sup> |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Wheelbarrow                     | 100            | 5                | 10              | Flat, narrow path            | 20                         |
| Bicycle                         | 75             | 20               | 20              | Flat, narrow path            | 50-90                      |
| Bicycle with trailer            | 200            | 10-15            | 15-20           | Flat, wide track             | 90-150                     |
| Bicycle and sidecar             | 150            | 10-15            | 15-20           | Flat, wide track             | 90-150                     |
| Pack Animal                     | 100-250        | 5                | 15-20           | Hilly, narrow path           | Variable                   |
| Animal-drawn sledge (buffalo)   | 200-400        | 5                | 10              | Unsuitable for steep terrain | 10                         |
| Animal-drawn cart (oxen)        | 500-1500       | 5                | 15-20           | Flat, wide track             | 100-180                    |
| Motorcycle                      | 100            | 40-90            | 100             | Motorable path               | 250-600                    |
| Motorcycle and sidecar          | 250-500        | 30-60            | 60              | Unsuitable for steep hills   | 350-800                    |
| Motorcycle and trailer          | 250            | 30-60            | 60              | Unsuitable for steep hills   | 350-800                    |
| Single-axle tractor and trailer | 1500           | 15-20            | 40              | Unsuitable for steep hills   | 1500                       |
| Asian Utility Vehicle           | 1000           | 60               | 60              | Motorable road or track      | 3000                       |

1. Typical values are quoted with variations expected in specific locations. No currency is quoted or intended for the relative costs. The order of cost magnitude is in relation to other values in the Table.



## **IV. WOMEN AND RURAL TRANSPORT**

### **The Transport Burden of Women**

Households constitute the unit of agricultural production in Africa, and household labor is a most important resource. Any measures to increase the time available to households for productive agriculture or to improve the movement of commodities will contribute to the long-term processes of socio-economic development (24). Hence, reducing household transport time is essential, especially for women, because the most important productive activity in Sub-Saharan Africa is small-scale agriculture for which the majority of labor is carried out by women. Head-loading of food crops is typically carried out by women and children. Thus, the transport burden is particularly onerous for women in rural Africa, who play predominant roles in both domestic and economic activities, including the production of food and cash crops (Tables 7 and 8). Women accounted for more than 70 percent of transport time and the ton-kilometers carried in Tanzania (13,14). The large amount of female and child labor required to head-load food crops from farm to village or roadside have important implications for the attainment of food self-sufficiency in several African countries. McCall (17) also reports that women almost exclusively transport water and biomass fuel in addition to the movement of harvested crops from the fields.

Female labor availability in terms of quantity, seasonability, location, labor quality, and incentives, is therefore the key to agricultural improvement (24). As stated earlier, much time and energy are spent on transport-related activities associated with rural lifestyles.

### **Varying Roles of Women**

The role played by women in African transport industry varies from country to country. Hine et al. (16) recount that food marketing in southern Ghana is dominated by a large number of independent operators, most of whom are women. They collect produce from rural areas (rural assemblers), arrange for its transport to town (traveling wholesalers), transport the produce (transporters), wholesale the produce in urban areas (nontravelling urban wholesalers) and finally sell it to the urban population (retailers). Throughout West Africa, women are actively engaged in selling food crops and prepared foods and other products in traditional rural and urban markets. Urban market women sometimes prefinance the purchase and transport of food from rural farmers. Within rural areas, the constraints on the rural transport and travel task for women can have two main effects: (a) they have a relatively high workload in other economic sectors (both market and household oriented), which is cut into by transport constraints; and (b) the heavy burden of head loading can cut into agricultural productivity, which also depends on a large input by women.

**Table 7. Women's Participation in Labor Activities:**

**General African Situation (18)**

| <b>Production Activities</b>              | <b>Percent of Work by Women</b> |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Cash Crop Production                      | 30 - 70                         |
| Food Production                           | 60 - 90                         |
| Food Processing                           | 100                             |
| Animal Husbandry                          | 30 - 50                         |
| Marketing                                 | 50 - 80                         |
| Brewing                                   | 90                              |
| Water Collection                          | 90 - 100                        |
| Fuel Collection                           | 80 - 100                        |
| Transport Crops from Field                | 70- 90                          |
| <b>Household/Community Activities</b>     |                                 |
| Rearing and Care of Children              | 100                             |
| Cooking                                   | 100                             |
| Cleaning, Washing, etc.                   | 100                             |
| House Building and Repair                 | 30 - 60                         |
| Communal Farming                          | 50 - 80                         |
| Social - Dances, Funerals, Weddings, etc. | 50                              |
| Litigation Activities                     | 10 - 20                         |
| Political Meetings, etc.                  | 10 - 25                         |

**Table 8. Participation in Labor Activities By Gender:  
A Case from Bukoba District, Tanzania (18)**

| <b>Average Hours Spent per Adult Household Member in 14-hour Day</b> |                   |                     |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Type of Activity</b>  | <b>Male Input</b> | <b>Female Input</b> |
| Total on-farm Work   | 3.10              | 4.37                |
| Domestic (food production, wood, water, child care, etc.)            | 1.16              | 3.37                |
|  | 6.44              | 7.90                |
| Total Work – including paid employment                               | 4.83              | 3.41                |
| Leisure  |                   |                     |

## **Potential for Relieving Women's Transport Burden**

The extent to which the transport burden on women can be ameliorated will depend on the policies affecting rural development and the role of women in the planning of transport and social services. It will also depend on the willingness of men and women to learn new skills such as bicycle riding for the performance of their duties. In all cases, the transition must be gradual, and will depend on the education, experience and attitudes of husbands and their female partners. In general, IMTs introduce new roles for husbands that will ultimately reduce the burden on rural women. Experience shows that, usually when improved means of goods transport in the form of pack animals such as donkeys, ox sleds, or tractors have been introduced, men increase their share of transport because of the skills required. However, the issues and the resultant problems must be understood by both genders who must participate equally in the process.

## V. INDICATIONS OF THE NEED FOR CHANGE

IMTs such as bicycles with or without trailers, and animal-drawn carts have proven their worth as labor- and time-saving and productivity-increasing devices in many areas of the developing world. More widespread introduction, in Africa, of proven relatively low-cost IMTs, with appropriate infrastructure aimed at improving access, would provide a valuable complement to road improvements. Improving off-road transport and relieving its onerous burden on rural farm families -- especially women -- can be expected to raise production and speed transport to rural roads, thus increasing the volume of goods on roads and improving the economic impact of the roads themselves. IMTs, properly developed locally, would complement rather than replace existing motorized transport systems where these exist. They would, therefore, provide an intermediate transitional improvement to satisfy transport and travel needs until improved motor roads and vehicular transport systems become more widespread. The introduction of IMTs is, therefore, thought of as an important first step in upgrading rural transport technology to induce increased economic activity. In effect, the aim is to provide a south-to-south transfer of appropriate technology because these IMTs are in significant use both in Asia and Latin America. In this regard, it is essential to understand the pattern of adoption and development of IMTs and to identify the helping factors and the barriers.

Extensive use of IMTs will also necessitate the construction of suitable paths. Beenhakker et al. (8) present specifications for the development of suitable infrastructure for IMTs. These infrastructure design considerations will, however, have to be taken into account in any policies aimed at promoting the use of IMTs. For example, a greater than 2-meter-wide unpaved path or trail for bicycles would cost less than 10 percent of the cost of a 6-meter-wide all-weather rural road for motorized transport. Such access infrastructure would also be more amenable to locally mobilized labor-based construction and maintenance.

### **Ongoing Applications in Africa**

The potential of IMTs has been shown in some recent donor-assisted investment projects designed to improve personal mobility through the introduction of intermediate transport facilities. These have included bicycles with trailers introduced in Ghana with World Bank assistance, and wooden wheelbarrows and donkey panniers by the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Makete district, Tanzania, with assistance from the Swiss Development Cooperation (see Box 1). Reaction of rural populations to these initiatives will do much to determine the interest that rural families show in the potential of IMTs to save time and energy and to raise productivity. It will also highlight their willingness to undertake the investments needed to acquire such devices, and to provide and maintain the usually rudimentary infrastructure needed to operate them efficiently.

### **Government Roles**

These recent projects, also, will help to demonstrate the roles governments could play in promoting IMTs. Actions may range from providing information on such devices to making credit available to purchase them, and could also involve education, technical assistance, or community organization to ensure that appropriate infrastructure is built and maintained. Governments may also have a role on the supply side in promoting the production of IMTs. Evaluation of the extent of IMT use would also form a basis for quantifying the impact of improving rural transport and mobility in general.

### **IMT Development in Ghana and Tanzania**

In Northern Ghana, field studies have demonstrated that taking into account both speed and payload, a bicycle trailer can increase a person's capacity by at least five times. A bicycle trailer enables the rider to carry up to 440 pounds, and specially designed small handcarts, as much as 330 pounds. These intermediate forms of transport can greatly reduce the amount of time and human energy wasted through back and head loading. Based on these findings the Bank is monitoring performance and productivity.

With International Development Association financing, Ghana's Technology Consultancy Center is promoting the production and use of two forms of intermediate transport - bicycles with trailers and hand-propelled farm vehicles. Vehicle designs have been adapted to local conditions, and demonstration lots are being produced for promotion through local organizations. The third phase of the project establish credit lines and provide technical assistance to start-up firms to manufacture, assemble and maintain the vehicles. The nurturing of local institutional capacity will provide a sound basis for a longer term strategy to promote intermediate transport in Ghana.

These efforts by the Bank are complementary to similar efforts being undertaken by the ILO in Makete, Tanzania with the support of Swiss Development Corporation. In Makete, local carpenters have been trained to make specially designed wooden wheelbarrows and donkey panniers for use in the hilly areas of Makete district. Demonstration projects have been used to assist marketing, and with the cooperation of the district council, project staff have provided technical advice and supervised local communities in labor-based rehabilitation of earth and gravel roads on a self-help basis. A survey of paths has been undertaken to assess the improvements required for use by wheelbarrows and donkeys.

#### **BOX 1**

#### **Reasons for Slow Development of IMTs in Africa**

Africa has lagged behind other developing regions in its adoption of IMTs to increase rural productivity. Kaira (10) cites two important reasons for the slow uptake of IMT: attitude, and custom or lifestyle. The attitudinal problems start with a bias against governmental, institutional and commercial bodies which favor road construction and motor vehicle use as the unique solution to rural transport problems. This bias will only be overcome with a clear understanding of the benefits that can be achieved through relatively low-cost investments in IMTs and rural transport infrastructure. Studies have been proposed as part of the Rural Travel and Transport Project of the World Bank and Economic Commission for Africa's sub-Saharan Africa Transport Program that will attempt to isolate and quantify these benefits.

#### **Technological Degradation or Upgrading**

A major obstacle to be overcome is the notion held by most African policy makers that the use of IMTs amounts to technological degradation. However, this perspective can only be justified if IMTs are viewed in the context of motor transport as the only feasible alternative. They cannot be justified when viewed in the context of preponderance of head- and back- loading as exist at present, and with the realization that motor roads and road transport are still decades away from universal availability and use. In addition, the educational curricula for professional engineers

and planners have usually been geared to the design and development of high technology. In most countries, not much is done to promote design practices that make the best use of available local resources. It is easily forgotten that transport development in industrialized countries began with draft animals and carts, and other forms of IMTs, and that changes came as economic development increased and incomes rose. On custom and lifestyle, Kaira (10) argues that failure of the animal-drawn cart, for example, may be due to lack of experience in feeding, training and caring for animals. In some places, climate and existence of pests such as the tse-tse fly, may also have contributed to unsuccessful adoption. Local taboos may also have prevented certain segments of the society -- such as women -- from riding bicycles and tricycles. However, in other parts of the world experience has shown that, with increased levels of education and the appreciation of the potential benefits, this situation may change.

### **The Rural Transport Institutional and Planning Gaps**

National transport planning systems in sub-Saharan Africa have often neglected the secondary and tertiary roads that serve rural areas -- and largely ignored the off-road transport and travel that make up the bulk of rural journeys. Possible -- in fact, quite likely -- synergistic interaction between these two modes of transport has received almost no attention.

A further problem is that the major rural transport and travel tasks, such as the extensive use of nonmotorized transport, including walking with back- or head-loading, is not recognized or taken into account by most planning approaches. The planning approaches focus on roads and their requirements assuming that someone, usually the private sector, will provide the vehicles and services needed for the roads to be used at an economic level. They also assume that rural people can afford the potential motor trips and transport activities predicted. These assumptions are not valid in many rural areas in which the opportunity costs of time and labor for getting to roads are the dominant factors governing, and often limiting, their use.

In addition, the methods and tools applied by many donor and national agencies, sometimes with minor modifications, are dependent on extensive data bases that are not available in most developing countries, and even less so in their rural areas. This paucity of data is a deficiency that continues to cast doubts on the applicability of these methodologies for transport investment decisions. Most African planners would rather take their decisions on the basis of local knowledge to satisfy locally defined needs and assume that roads will create the required impact on rural development. The lack of data affects projections into the future for rural roads which generally serve areas with relatively low levels of development.

### **Invisible and Uncounted Traffic**

Rural transport development is based largely on planning and decision making processes that do not take into account the need for farm families to get more quickly and efficiently between their homes and fields and the rural roads to which they must bring their produce if it is to reach market. Head-loading, though an important cost of production, has usually been excluded from most rural transport evaluations. Part of the gap in data is caused by the fact that even on motorable roads, nonmotorized transport and travel are not recorded or counted. The impact of this would be evident when one examines traffic statistics on rural roads for which all movements are recorded. For example, recent counts on rural roads in southwest Uganda, where bicycle use is widespread (25), indicated that the pedestrian and bicycle counts far outweighed the traffic distribution of motor vehicles on 55 rural road count locations (see Box 2).

### **Bicycles -- The Work Horse of Rural Uganda**

The bicycle has become one of the lynch-pins of Uganda's path to rural economic recovery. Although official figures are not available for the total number of bicycles in the country, their existence and intensive use in many rural areas is providing an obvious and visible valuable to the producers, suppliers and marketers of the country's staple food -- matoke (green bananas). They are also used extensively for transport of other commodities and cash crops in most rural areas. The official figures that are available obviously understate the level of bicycle imports. However, the evidence of their widespread and intensive use can be seen from recent traffic counts taken from 55 counting stations on rural roads in South-West Uganda. Total traffic counts at those stations averaged 715 movements per day, with 538 pedestrians (75%), 164 bicycles (22%) and only 15 motor vehicles (2%). The motor vehicle traffic of 15 ADT included 4 trucks, 1 tractor, 2 cars and 8 pick-ups/4-wheel drive vehicles. Minibuses and buses were observed at only 9 of the 55 counting stations.

A separate survey and study of the costs of owning and operating a bicycle used in the transport of matoke revealed that all those surveyed were operating on bad roads and tracks. The bicycles were used for an average of 4.3 days per week during which they made 6.3 trips that averaged 13.2 km, one way. Each bicycle moved a total of 260 ton-km per year at an average revenue income of 1050 Ugandan Shillings (UGSh 375 = US\$1.00) per ton-km and an average bicycle operating cost of 336 UGSh per ton-km, leaving the owner with a profit of UGSh 715.0 gross per ton-km. This results in a net return to the operator of UGSh 92.0 per hour for 1,420 hours per year. This excludes the farm-gate value of the matoke which would accrue to the farmer if he were the transporter. The average revenue income include an unstated amount of profit based on the buying and selling prices of the matoke.

## **BOX 2**

### **Understanding Rural Transport**

A better understanding of rural transport and travel needs and the high returns available from low-cost improvements could lead to the development and definition of policies, planning approaches, and other responses that focus on improving farm-to-field-to-road mobility as a necessary complement to roads investment programs. It could also lead to the adoption of policies that would affect the approaches to infrastructure design, construction, and maintenance and give emphasis to the provision of access, rather than to predefined engineered standards.

This situation calls for a review of the level of understanding of the true nature of rural transport needs, priorities and of planning approaches to adequately consider the true nature of rural transport and travel. Cook (26), from a review of research on personal mobility in rural areas, concluded that current rural road evaluation methodologies focus on expected changes in agricultural production, but that the real socio-economic impact of rural road improvements comes about largely through changes in the patterns of personal mobility. Various authors (8,18,22) have presented some general guidelines on this subject. There is a great need to synthesize the various experiences and to develop a conceptual approach for planning that incorporates the lessons learnt from an improved understanding of the rural transport and travel task and needs that would result from an increased use of IMTs.

## VI. NEW APPROACHES TO PLANNING FOR RURAL TRANSPORT

Past planning for rural transport has not given adequate attention to transport services in rural areas. Heidemann and Barth (18) point out that there has been too much preoccupation with low-frequency, large-volume, long-distance, high-speed transport operations. The result is a neglect of the real transport problems of the majority of rural population, which is founded in their inability to reduce the everyday burden of moving small volumes of cargo over short distances at low speeds and, preferably, at no extra cash expense. Hine (20) also emphasizes that roads cannot be considered in isolation from either the vehicles that are to use them or the factors that determine transport demand. Rather, they must be viewed as a component of a much larger distribution system in which changes in one aspect can cause repercussions on all others. For example, improved storage could lead to a reduced need for all-weather access, while better handling and packaging of easily bruised and damaged crops may reduce the need for a good riding surface.

### Two-Part Strategy

The nature of the rural transport problem suggests the adoption of a two-part strategy for provision of transport services in rural areas made up of two complementary systems: (a) conventional motor vehicles along the national road network (essentially all-weather) for moving people, consumer goods and services to an area, and farm products and people out of the area; and b) traditional and intermediate technology modes on the rural access infrastructure joining villages to distribution, buying and collection centers, depots and markets. In most cases, however, the national system has been the focus of most attention. Little attention had been paid to the important needs of the upstream second part (10).

The planning of rural roads and transport must fit the context of national goals and objectives. Beenhakker et al. (8) suggest a comprehensive list of national objectives for rural transport development. These objectives cover social, economic and political aspects and stress the importance of defining clearly the level of access affordable for rural roads and transport to serve different locations and economic and social functions. He notes that there has been a tendency to overdesign, and that the attractiveness of all-weather roads often leads to their construction in areas in which they are not economically justified, and may not even be affordable.

Clear objectives must be followed by formulating strategies for implementation of the planned program. These strategies may cover (a) infrastructure design, construction and maintenance; (b) resource utilization; (c) technology; (d) institutional arrangements; (e) alternative transport; and (f) potential for an integrated approach. The strategy adopted should suit the financial and technical capability and capacity within the country. Ultimately, the goal is to implement a program that can be sustained within the country. Hence, even with technical and financial assistance from donors, the necessary local inputs -- institutions and other resources -- must be forthcoming to ensure sustainability in the long term.

Solutions adopted under more realistic approaches would take account of all alternative means of transport (including IMTs) suitable for the identified rural travel and transport situation peculiar to each country. India has some good lessons to offer in this regard. The needs of villagers and rural farmers and people must be adequately catered for. This could only be achieved by using a bottom-up planning approach that begins with the local transport system and needs as the basis for a continuous planning process. This process must actively involve people at the local level, and the level of sophistication should be increased gradually to suit changing



knowledge and understanding of local situations and trends. Technical assistance will often need to be provided to assist at the local level.

### **Institutional Aspects**

Many of the problems and policy issues that have been highlighted in this review can be addressed through a review of government transport policies and planning mechanisms in SSA countries. The pertinent institutional issues relate to integrating transport into rural and agricultural development, enhancing the role of women in development through transport improvements, improving rural transport services, and development and promotion of IMTs and appropriate infrastructure for their use. The broader issues concern the appropriate organizational set-up for implementing programs to improve rural accessibility, mobility and transport, including the involvement of local or village organizations and institutions, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and mobilization and use of local resources, including the skills and know-how of local people.

#### **India's "Mundi" Grain Regulatory Market**

India presents an interesting case where rural market infrastructure is privately provided and coordinated with rural transport services. In Gujarat State, there are regulated rural markets owned by farmer cooperatives that are set up by law and run by a management committee (The Mundi Committee). All traders wishing to operate in the market must register with the committee. No sales are allowed in the immediate vicinity of the Mundi market area. Market facilities provided include sheds, storage, carts for transport, and other basic social infrastructure and services. Farmers without transport can use carts made available at the market to transport their produce. Farmers' produce is brought to the market and sold by auction. The buyer is then required by law to purchase the farmer's produce at the auction price. The farmer has the right to reject the auction price by refusing to sell. The farmer can then store his produce for up to month in facilities available at the market. With these facilities, the major market and transport constraints to the rural farmer are minimized, and the farmer dictates his own prices.

#### **BOX 3**

Government commitment and cooperation will be necessary for IMTs to be developed locally and effectively marketed. Suitable standards will need to be set for the required infrastructure, with the necessary legislation, regulations and institutional arrangements. The improvements in personal mobility and transport will have greater impact on agriculture if they are properly coordinated with the provision of agricultural extension, crops storage and suitable rural markets, and inputs for rural development. In India, this combination of marketing, storage, and transport has been effectively achieved through the operations of a farmers' cooperative union (see Box 3).

## **Implications for Rural Transport Development**

Government road and transport agencies are likely to be using almost all available human and financial resources, particularly foreign exchange, in the development, maintenance and operation of the formal systems of transport -- main highways and railways. The evidence is that essential institutional arrangements for rural roads cannot depend on central road organizations because most are underfunded and already overburdened by main road responsibilities, and often far removed from the areas served by rural roads. Accordingly, improving transport and travel systems in rural areas must hinge on distinct institutional and funding arrangements for rural roads, including decentralizing some existing institutions, mobilizing local resources including community and self-help interventions, and using local contractors and technicians. However, guidance and technical assistance from in-country and external sources will still be required to assist and train local people for these tasks. Local communities are presently ill-equipped to maintain roads, and will have to be strengthened to improve their capability for rural roads maintenance. However, until motor roads reach them, maintenance needs would be mainly for infrastructure used for walking and any IMTs introduced and used.

## VII. CONCLUSIONS

Evidence of the deficiencies in both the rural road network and the motorized transport services in Africa has been presented. The importance of off-road transport in rural areas and the inadequate understanding of, and lack of attention to, this essential factor of production and rural day-to-day survival has been confirmed. With the predominance of head-loading and walking as the means of personal and goods movements in rural areas, rural travel and transport, accessibility to and from rural areas, and personal mobility of rural people are gravely restricted.

Although there may be a synergy between rural roads and off-road transport, with each amplifying the economic and social impact of the other, as contended in the first hypothesis, this interaction has not been directly studied or quantified. The relationship between rural motor-road use and off-road feeder networks has important policy implications; if a lack of upstream investment -- whether private, public, or combined -- is preventing rural roads from reaching their full potential, this should be included in the economic analysis and planning of rural road systems. Governments may also wish to investigate whether relatively minor investments in off-road transport and infrastructure could be reflected in significantly greater use of rural roads.

IMT use would save large amounts of time and energy and reduce drudgery, particularly for women, as stated in the second hypothesis. A major contribution can be made by planning agencies when they count all IMTs and pedestrians in their traffic planning and monitoring studies. This would fully account for the contribution of IMTs to, improving rural accessibility, and personal mobility improvement. There has been little study of the production and mobility responses that could be expected with the introduction of affordable IMTs. The basic information gap seems to involve the nature and extent of off-road transportation tasks themselves. Although there is considerable data on amount of labor and time expended on the drudgery of head- and back-loading, there has been little analysis of its effect on production or social pattern in rural Africa.

Another question that has not been adequately analyzed is the question why IMT usage in rural Africa has lagged so far behind that in other developing regions. Has the major constraint been a generally low level of economic activity, poor communications that have stifled awareness of such devices, market failures, macroeconomic policies that have discouraged such investments, or local and cultural barriers?

A better understanding of the potential economic and social value of IMTs and the low-cost infrastructure needed to make them effective to rural residents -- and their stimulative effect on production and road transport -- is clearly needed to test the assumptions made in the first two hypotheses. Thereafter, transport planners will address the question of how best to stimulate investment in productive intermediate transport devices at minimum cost -- in both financial and manpower terms -- to national economies. Some promotional and infrastructural work will obviously be needed, but governments will find a path that is stimulative and facilitative without requiring significant allocations of scarce resources. When IMTs have been introduced in the past and used in the transport system, private individuals have usually taken up the initiative to develop them further, and to reap the benefits therefrom as suggested by the third hypothesis.

The development of institutions for the improvement of rural accessibility and personal mobility including the introduction of IMTs would require different approaches to suit particular country situations. But, for all countries, the primary requirement for the success of new initiatives is a clear understanding, by government and local officials, of the policy issues involved and a commitment to pursue solutions applicable to local situations. Once the relevant issues are accepted and the required commitment is attained, it will be necessary to identify

suitable existing institutions, parastatals, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), or private entrepreneurs for the development and promotion of new IMTs. Successful promotion will also depend on the government's creating the enabling environment for the participation of the private sector. In most countries, this will require understandings from, and policy review and initiatives of, ministries or agencies responsible for agriculture, rural development, planning, roads or public works, local government, transport and industries.

These concerns are currently being addressed in the Rural Travel and Transport Project (RTTP) of the World Bank and ECA's sub-Saharan Africa Transport Program. The objectives of the RTTP are (a) to develop and disseminate improved policies to plan, finance, build, and maintain rural roads; (b) to recommend approaches to the improvement of rural transport services, and to the adoption of intermediate technologies to increase personal mobility and agricultural production. The specific recommendations are being developed through village level travel and transport surveys and country case studies that focus on (a) analysis of rural transport and travel patterns by gender in a variety of agricultural, social, economic, or transport environments over a given timeframe; (b) assessment of past experiences in, and prospects and means of, introducing and developing intermediate (low-cost) means of transport (IMTs), including a determination of the institutional requirements and functions and the external constraints to IMT use; and (c) assessment of the impact on the role of women in improving accessibility by introducing IMTs.

## ANNEX I. RURAL ACCESSIBILITY, MOBILITY, and TRANSPORT DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following definitions are provided to clarify some of the terms used in this paper:

**Mobility:** The ability of people to move themselves and their goods (Barwell, et al. [1988]). A means of transport (ranging from the "foot" to the motor vehicle), and a travel route is usually required to satisfy personal mobility. The focus is on *personal mobility* as opposed to population mobility which is related to migration to and from rural areas, or mobility in employment or changes in social status.

Various quantitative measures (variables) have been used to describe mobility: distance covered in a given time; travel time, number of travel modes available; and number of trips made.

**Accessibility:** is similar to mobility, but it usually takes into account the ability or ease to reach various destinations. It generally presupposes transport is available and a reliable travel path/road exists for various means of transport, including motorized and non-motorized vehicles and people on foot, by boat or other transport, hence personal mobility may still be possible.

Quantitative measures of accessibility used include: distance to a given location or a major access link, number of opportunities or destinations reachable in a given time or distance, or inverse travel costs (time, distance or fare), transport cost, travel time to destination, etc. (See Barwell, et al. (28) for a detailed review of the various measures used).

**Intermediate Means of Transport (IMTs):** Motorized and non-motorized transport which may be considered intermediate, in terms of initial investment cost and transport characteristics - payload, range, speed of travel and infrastructure requirements. This group of transport means fall between walking and head-loading, and conventional motor vehicles.

**Household Transport:** Means of transport available for use by rural households, usually IMTs.

**Rural Roads:** are roads functionally classified below "Primary of Trunk, and Secondary" Roads in most countries. They include roads often described as -- rural access, feeder, market, agricultural, irrigation, forestry, or unclassified roads. They could include "Tertiary" roads if the latter are functionally grouped as Rural Roads as defined here.

**Rural Infrastructure:** when used in connection with transport, can be defined as rural transport and communication and certain types of institutional facilities that are critical for enhancement of mobility of people, goods, services, and knowledge and for providing increased access of households to wider economic activities. Infrastructure, in general, has also been defined to include law and order, education, public health, transportation, communications, power, water supply and sanitation, irrigation and drainage.

**Rural Access Infrastructure:** comprises roads, tracks, trails or paths that provide access to abutting property/villages.

**Feeder Roads:** link access zones to the major road network. They are accessible to motor vehicle traffic. But do not usually serve through traffic.

**Tracks:** single-lane cleared, and unimproved seasonal roads that connect higher class roads. They are traversable at certain times by light 4-wheel drive vehicles, pickup trucks, animal-drawn carts or pack animals.

**Trail:** a narrow track suitable only for two-wheeled vehicles, pedestrians, and pack animals.

**Path:** a narrow cleared way for walking traffic and, in some cases bicycles and motorcycles.

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