13th WEDC Conference *Rural development in Africa* *Malawi: 1987*	**DISCUSSION GROUP REPORT** Integrated rural development including building and housing Chairman: M.S. Polela Rapporteur: G. Kamwenja Discussion paper: D.R.G. Morris and R.B.M. Hunink

1. The Present State of Implementing Rural Projects

   The participants noted with concern that most rural development projects in developing countries are not carried out in a coordinated fashion due to the following reasons:

   (a) Sectorial Interests

   - There is a tendency by individual ministries/
   - departments to think that they can carryout their
   - projects in isolation of other related projects
   - e.g. water supply without consideration for
   - sanitation.

   (b) Lack of linkages of community needs as being e.g. too many project officers in one area at the same time each emphasing their own projects, rather than a single unified project.

   (c) Wastage of Scarce Resources

   e.g. Different Ministries providing similar facilities within the same area, without consultation with other Ministries.

2. Integrated Approach to Rural Development

   In order to improve on the present trend of running the rural development projects, the following approaches are recommended:

   (a) Establishment of a national Institution/Ministry to coordinate all Rural Development Projects from the various Ministries. Such an institution/Ministry would be expected to:-

   (i)   Establish aoverall Rural Development Policy.
   (ii) Establishment of national development priority areas.
   (iii) Coordinate all inputs from donor agencies.
   (iv) Coordinate Management and Training programmes relevant to Rural Development.

   (b) Because of the importance of local participation in the rural development programmes, it is recommended that Development countries at District or village level be formed/ strengthened, with powers to take charge of the development activities in their areas such as:

   (i)   Decision on priority Project.
   (ii) Decision in the allocations of funds.
   (iii) Maintenance of projects after completion.