FOREWORD

This Annual Progress Report has been prepared to give the highlights of CRDC activities for the fiscal year October 1, 1978 to September 30, 1979.

In its sixth year of operation, the Center has been able to implement rural development programs and research at the institutional level through a variety of activities. The conviction of the Center that truly being felt.

Each project undertaken has been selected on the basis of high priority research needs. The Center will continue to add to both the record of accomplishments and as a forum for furthering a rural program of new ideas, research, and extension are important.
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 1979

SOUTHERN RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

A Report to the
Board of Directors
State Experiment Stations
State Extension Services
U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Oklahoma
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BACKGROUND

The Southern Rural Development Center has completed its sixth year of operation. As in 1974, when the work of the Center began, the main concern is to maintain an operational organization through which academic endeavor and field application can funnel and/or take place. Funding for the work of the Center is made available through Title V of the Rural Development Act of 1972, and Public Law 89-106 (Science and Education Administration - Cooperative Research). A grant from the Farmers Home Administration was also utilized to implement a National Training Program through the Center. Vital support is received from Alcorn State University and Mississippi State University as the cosponsors of the Regional Center.

Educators and researchers all across the South have long been involved in rural development. Recording what has taken place and what is being established is one of the priorities of the Center. Towards this end SRDC has compiled lists and summaries of personnel, projects and publications concerning rural development in the region. These are discussed individually in this report.

The SRDC has also been instrumental in establishing regional cooperation to synthesize research knowledge in pressing rural development areas. The funding and operation of these efforts are taking place under an emphasis called "Functional Networks." It is through these networks that teams of researchers and educators in the rural development profession have concentrated on eleven crucial problems. Results of their work are discussed in a separate section of this report.
HIGHLIGHTS

Training for Rural Development

In cooperation with the funding agency, Farmers Home Administration, USDA and the three other Regional Rural Development Centers, a National Orientation Workshop was conducted by the Southern Center for the purpose of training regional teams in the use of the packet, "Training for Rural Development." The Center, using a network of writers and consultants developed the packet as a "do-it-yourself" approach to rural development. After introducing the packet to the South in 1978 and gaining strong reception, the original funding source, FmHA, provided funding for a second printing and distribution during the current year.

The Center convened the National Orientation Workshop in St. Louis, Missouri, May 21-23, 1979 to provide training for a selected training team from each of the Regional Centers: Northeast Center for Rural Development, North Central Regional Center for Rural Development and Western Center for Rural Development. These teams were prepared to return to their respective regions and conduct region-wide "train-the-trainer" workshops in the use of the packet.

The Western and North Central Regional teams have completed their workshops and dissemination of the packet. The Northeast Center plans to implement its workshop during the January-March quarter of 1980. To date approximately 450 packets are in use throughout the nation.

Functional Networks

With primary support from Cooperative States Research Service Special Funds (PL 89-106) and support of Title V staff and funds, the Center was able to capitalize on the knowledge and work of the many
## Southern Rural Development Center

### Functional Networks

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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[ ] Completed in 1979  
X Completed prior to 1979  
* Funded in 1979
about efforts to provide a data base for decision making, to design alternative models, select and test one of the models and evaluate the tested model.

The Center is concurrently working on a project to study various ways in which the process of universities responding to community needs for research information can be expedited. To disseminate the findings from this project, the Center is publishing three documents. One, *Regional Perspectives in Rural Development*, released in July of this year, dealt with the needs of local communities for answers to their development questions, the needs of action agencies for assistance in determining appropriate development strategies, the ability of universities to respond to those needs, and problems in responding to community and agency needs. The second publication, a special issue of the Center's quarterly magazine, contains nine articles prepared by various university personnel involved in production and dissemination of research information useful to local decision makers. Currently being printed, this special issue is scheduled for release in December. The third publication, a research report entitled "A Model for Providing Operational Research to Community Decision Makers" examines a number of mechanisms designed to bring university resources together with local officials to solve immediate and long term local problems.

The SRDC, under the PL 89-106 Project and with the help of special funds from SEA-Extension Service, began to underwrite approximately 50% of the expenses of a circuit-rider for the Community Technology Initiatives Program (CTIP) to test one of the models being developed. Public Technology Incorporated (PTI) provides program management for CTIP which has seven circuit-riders. PTI is a national research and development
#32. Rural Industrialization: A Monograph - The publication contains eight papers presented at the Workshop on Rural Industrialization held February 7-8, 1979, in New Orleans sponsored by SRDC.

#33. Small Farms: A Review of Characteristics, Constraints and Policy Implications - This publication discusses constraints on increasing agricultural income on small farms and suggests approaches for overcoming those constraints.

In addition to the Publications Series, the Center has published numerous materials developed by the ten SRDC functional networks. These can be noted on page 4 of this report.

In 1979 four issues of the SRDC magazine, Rural Development Research and Education, were published. A special issue devoted to the topic "Researchers Responding to Community Needs: Expediting the Process" is currently being printed. This magazine focuses on successful rural development programs and research efforts and is distributed to approximately 2200 researchers and educators. The magazine has aided tremendously in the dissemination of valuable and pertinent rural development research and programming information throughout the Southern Region.

Regional Workshops

Title V of the Rural Development Act authorizes increased Extension-Research communication, dialogue, and joint programming. The SRDC has brought experts across state lines and from various disciplines to focus on problems common to the region.

For example, regional groups have long been interested in issues of industrialization in rural areas. In February of 1979 the SRDC convened a meeting of interested individuals to discuss the situation. Topics dealt with in the workshop were research needs and priorities, plant
site development, opportunities for development and the effects that communities will face if they industrialize.

Liaison With Regional Agencies and Organizations

Efforts to utilize the work and experience of all agencies and organizations involved in rural development projects is constantly being explored. Contacts during this past year included the following:

October 25-27, Southern Extension Small Farms Conference, Nashville, Tennessee

November 9-10, Met with Institute of Government representatives from the Southeastern U.S., in Atlanta

December 5-6, Met with Southern CRD Executive Committee, Atlanta

December 19-21, Met with Circuit Rider Interviewee and officials of Oklahoma State University regarding proposal on Community Technology Initiatives Program

January 21-26, Met with National Rural Center, Public Technology, Inc., and others in Washington, D. C.

January 26-28, Public Programs in Rural Development at Albuquerque, N. M.

February 2-7, Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists and Industrialization Workshop in New Orleans

February 18-21, Southern Newspaper Publishers Assn.

February 26, Farmers' Home Administration Officials meeting in Nashville

March 7-10, Met with National Rural Center, Public Technology Inc. and others in Washington, D.C.

March 8-9, Met with Southern CRD Executive Committee, Atlanta

March 17, Workshop for Mayors of the 2nd Congressional District, Starkville, MS

March 28-29, Met with Public Policy Committee of the CRD