

Yemen Arab Republic
Ministry of Agriculture
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Kingdom of the Netherlands
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Directorate General of
International Technical
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RADA' INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Technical Note No. 12

The Women's Participation Section

February 1983

Ilaco

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SUMMARY

This technical note reports on the activities of the Women's Participation Section of the Rada Integrated Rural Development Project. The section attempts to establish programmes that will improve the lives of women in the project area. In spite of a severe shortage of qualified staff in the section, the socio-economic position of women in villages in the project area and the health care of mothers and children in Rada' town was researched starting in 1978. Based on the research, programmes in literacy training and traditional education, health, hygiene, and nutrition education, handicrafts, agriculture, and livestock were established.

The Section has established literacy classes for both men and women throughout the project area with the help of the Ministry of Education.

The section also works with the Mother and Child Health Clinic (MCH) in Rada' and there are plans to establish a mobile clinic at RIRDP extension centres and plans for training female health extension agents for the women's section.

At the request of women in the area, spinning wheels were imported from the Netherlands and sold by the women's participation section. Women are now able to make rugs more quickly, therefore increasing the amount they can earn. Courses in sewing, knitting, and embroidery are in great demand and can be organized out of the extension centres.

To improve the diets of the people in the project area, a home vegetable garden was started in 1980. The gardens contain onions, tomatoes, eggplants, cucumbers, carrots, and peppers. The programme has expanded to provide fruit trees to women.

Another effort to improve diet is the livestock programme. Milk goats have been distributed to poorer women with young children; care has been taken to assure that each recipient can provide sufficient fodder. Poultry has also been distributed: women were educated in the use of special feed for layers, and in construction of coops. Layers and boilers were distributed beginning in 1979 and this is a popular programme because even though keeping poultry on a small-scale does not produce an income, the benefits to the diet are substantial.

There are many directions in which the Women's Participation Section can expand their activities, however, one of the important aims of the section is to better integrate their activities with those of other sections of the RIRDP project.

The availability of staff remains the largest problem. At present, only two of the six budgeted positions are filled and it does not appear as if the situation will improve in the near future.

1 INTRODUCTION

The main feature of the RIRDP Women's Participation Section is that, unlike many projects aimed at women in the Yemen Arab Republic, it includes most activities and aspects of women's lives. For example, most projects involving women directly are in the health and child care sphere (various Save the Children Funds, BOCD etc.) or, like the Ministry of Education's literacy programme, are limited to formal activities; others such as most water supply projects have influence on women's lives, but are usually planned without in any way taking into consideration women's specific needs (this is usually explained away with excuses about the difficulties in consulting women, as these projects are mainly implemented by men who discuss them with the local notables who are exclusively male).

The premises on which the Women's participation section was set up remain unchanged, and there is no attempt here to make a new analysis of the position of women in the area. We accept the points made in the paper Women's Participation in Development (Ilaco, September 1979) about the objectives, constraints, and tasks of the women's programme within RIRDP.

Much of the literature on the subject of women's role in development leads to the same conclusions on method of approach and aspects of socio-economic life which should form the core of any programme. As was pointed out by Hart and Carapico (USAID 1977, p. 8) "the most effective methodology for any development project is one which takes account of existing social realities, works within the constraints imposed by the existing cultural system, and attempts to maximize the strengths within that system. Such diverse factors as existing family patterns, the protectiveness of Yemeni men towards 'their' women, the exclusiveness of women's society, the lack of formal education for most women, and special areas of women's expertise, therefore, must be taken into consideration".

The authors continue to outline a programme for women which involves most of the aspects which have since been attempted by the RIRDP, i.e. poultry raising, animal husbandry, vegetable gardening, agriculture, health and nutrition, handicrafts and their marketing, and social development. Although some of the points they raise, and which were taken up in the early days of RIRDP, may now seem to have become unsuitable due to developments in the country, on the whole the programmes proposed are still very relevant.

Thus the original concept of the Women's Participation programme in RIRDP is unique and also very ambitious in its attempt to cover all aspects of women's lives. It includes health components (in co-ordination with the Rada' Mother and Child Health Clinic (MCH Clinic) and in trying to develop health and hygiene education formally and informally), literacy components (in association with the Ministry of Education's literacy programme which it supports and assists), and also components which aim at improving the family's living conditions such as the home vegetable gardens programme and the goat and chicken programmes. The chicken programme was originally meant as an income generating programme,

but in practice it is mainly significant in terms of improved family nutrition as egg production in the family unit cannot compete with that of commercial egg factories; the broiler programme can only be of relevance as a dietary improvement but its cost to the project make it unfeasible. Finally, the section's work includes income-generating activities: spinning wheels have been introduced and it is hoped that participation in this programme will assist women to earn independent incomes; the chicken programme, although originally seen as an income generating programme, has developed differently. This all-encompassing approach to the problems women encounter in this rapidly changing society is the main asset of the RIRD's section, and compares well with other rural development projects' approach to women, when they have one.

As we shall see in the coming pages, the section has been unable to live up to its ambitions, as it has been operating under very difficult circumstances since the beginning. The largest constraint has been the difficulty in obtaining female staff, and this remains the main problem today.

2 GENERAL SITUATION

2.1 Integration

The main asset of the RIRDP Women's Participation Section is its breadth of approach. Unlike most other projects involving and affecting women, this one attempts to work with women in all fields, thus ideally providing an opportunity for improvement in all spheres of women's lives, in the sense that facilities are provided for literacy training and traditional education, health, hygiene and nutrition education, as well as economic activities in livestock, handicrafts, and agriculture.

Although in practice we do not achieve such a high standard, it would theoretically be possible for an illiterate and poor woman to become an educated and economically independent person within a couple of years if she could participate in all the activities which the Section wants to provide: she could take a class in reading and writing from a Ministry of Education teacher brought to the school by a Project car, or have her classes in a RIRDP extension centre; she could start a vegetable garden to supply vegetables to her family and raise a goat for milk production and chickens for meat and egg production, thus improving her family's health and diet; and she could learn to spin and then weave carpets which could be sold, thus giving her an independent income; finally her water supply could be improved by the programme of the Water Section, and her access to markets improved by the construction of a road by the Road Section. This ideal model is not yet within reach but should be kept in mind when planning the Section's activities.

In this context, activities must be integrated both within the Project where activities should be planned and co-ordinated between sections, meaning that duplication is avoided and that the staff learns from other people's experiences, and within the Section, meaning an all-encompassing approach, including all the different aspects of a woman's life. These two aspects of integration are extremely important in the section's work and must be maintained and strengthened.

2.2 Constraints

Bearing this ambitious objective in mind, and taking into consideration the constraints under which the section must operate, immediate objectives must be limited.

The main constraint on the section's operations is a shortage of staff; although there are signs of improvement and in the long run the situation is expected to improve, in the short term the section cannot expect any dramatic changes and it will be remarkable if all the budgeted posts are filled at one time in the foreseeable future.

2.3 Extension centres

Given the lack of staff, the section should concentrate its new activities in coming years around the new extension centres and those currently under construction; a successful programme in the extension centres will assist in promoting the project in general and the Women's Participation section in particular.

Each extension centre should provide on a weekly basis: a Mother and Child Health clinic; a literacy/education programme (including cooking demonstrations, and lectures or discussions on hygiene and nutrition); a handicrafts programme (ranging from spinning to sewing); the services of a female gardening extension officer to the local women; and the centres should be used as a base for the distribution of chickens and goats when available.

2.4 Presence of the section in the project area

Efforts should be made in future to expand the presence of the Section throughout the project area; this means going beyond the extension centres and their immediate areas, and moving into areas where it will be necessary to operate among women on an informal basis in their homes; this particular aim is more than any other affected by the availability of local staff, but should not be ignored despite the difficulties.

2.5 Local initiative

Finally, as a long term objective, the section should bear in mind the need to develop people's self-reliance and encourage local initiatives. Given all the constraints under which it must operate, including in the long run, budgetary constraints, and assuming a continuation of a high level of private cash availability and low government investment possibilities, the section should see its future as an advisory, rather than an executive agency. In this perspective it should develop a coordinating rather than an executive role. Although this should not make any immediate change in the section's programme, it should be borne in mind that a different approach is needed, that would lead to a position where the section assists and supports local initiative.

3 RESEARCH

The first activity of the section was research done in 1978 by a Dutch sociologist and her Yemeni counterpart. This research was aimed at assisting the project in planning its activities with the needs of women in mind and concentrated on studying the socio-economic position of women in villages and health care for mothers and children in Rada' town. It is worth pointing out that this had not been originally planned as being part of the RIRDP and only became so as a result of the initiative of the two women concerned whose hard work led to the creation of the section.

Their first studies led to the report entitled The position of rural women in water management, animal husbandry, agriculture, and mother and child care dated 1978, and concentrating on in-depth interviews of women in three villages (Wathba, Qariyat al Sawda, and al Rubat). The second report was entitled Women in Child Care, study of mother and child care in the Rada' area of the YAR (November 1979). The research continued up to March 1980.

Between 1980 and 1982, research stopped. In the summer of 1982 it was resumed as part of a Farming Systems Research programme undertaken jointly by the Economics and the Women's Participation sections, the latter concentrating on distributing a questionnaire specifically aimed at establishing the input of women in all aspects of farm activity. This survey is ongoing and should have covered the project's core areas by early 1983. Further research was carried out in late 1982 into domestic water use (RIRDP Technical Note No. 10) and domestic practices (RIRDP Technical Note No. 11).

The need for research is not academic: detailed information on all aspects of the lives of rural women is necessary to ensure that the work of the section and the RIRDP in general is relevant to the real needs of the people. Research is also useful for other similar projects in the country. The RIRDP's Women's Participation section is unique and could become a model for integrated work among women in other parts of the country.

4 MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH AND OTHER HEALTH RELATED ACTIVITIES

Work in the field of mother and child health began in the earliest days of the project and was originally seen as a means to first reach women and to later involve them in other activities.

4.1 The Rada' Mother and Child Health clinic

The first activity of the Women's section was the research which led to the paper on Women in Child Care (Technical Note No. 4). One reason for the research was to establish a working relationship with the Mother and Child Health Clinic in Rada' which was built with Dutch funding.

In May 1979, as a result of disagreements with the Ministry of Health the MCH clinic in Rada closed down and the expatriate Scottish Mission staff left. The clinic reopened under Swedish Radde Barnen management in September 1979, but co-operation with the Women's participation section was not immediately resumed.

In early 1981 there was further co-ordination in an attempt to select locations for the MCH mobile clinic which was due to start operating. In February 1981, the mobile clinic started its activities in the project extension centre in Draibah, but this centre was closed in August 1981 because it was not safe to work there.

There was no further contact between the Rada' MCH Clinic and the RIRDP Women's Participation section until the summer of 1982 when new attempts at co-ordination were made; these include trying to open a mobile, weekly clinic in RIRDP extension centres as they open, and plans for the training in Primary Health Care of female health extension agents for the RIRDP Women's Section.

In the future the Section should in the course of its work try to find female and male candidates for the Primary Health Care training courses run by the clinic. Strengthening co-operation with the Rada' MCH Clinic should be a priority. The clinic also suffers from a lack of staff and is therefore unable to do all it would like.

4.2 Informal work

Other forms of work in the health field should concentrate on prevention through education. This should include all the features usually associated with an education programme: classes, formal and informal discussions, and audio-visual presentations.

The section should try to find women willing to undergo partial training in hygiene and nutrition who could then become 'informal' health workers in their home villages. Such workers should be backed up and helped by at least one full-time woman health extension officer.

4.3 Health research

The section should continue to do research on MCH conditions and issues as opportunities arise, for example during the Farming Systems Research surveys, and water evaluation surveys. Research should be undertaken in co-operation with the Rada' MCH, the Medical Research Unit in Sana'a and any other interested party.

5 LITERACY AND ADULT EDUCATION

After lengthy negotiations, an adult education programme aimed mainly at women was started in the RIRD area in early 1980 under the sponsorship of the project. In Rada' four classes started to operate for some 100 students and in Musallah 60 students were distributed in 3 classes. In the second quarter of 1980 literacy classes were started in Wathba with two classes, one for men and boys and the other for women and girls. A further two classes (one for males, one for females) were opened in al Khabar.

In the 1981-82 academic year, 9 classes were opened, 3 in Rada' for women, one in Musalla, one in Bani Ziyad, 2 in Wathba (one for men), one in al Khabar, and one in Mallah. The 1982-83 academic year shows marked expansion, and 16 classes have been opened.

The Ministry of Education bears full responsibility for the literacy programme. The Women's participation section is involved in the following activities: supervision of the classes, distribution of books, transportation of teachers to remote villages at the expense of the project, organization of examinations, distribution of certificates, organization of the classes for the new year, and creation of new classes.

This programme should operate increasingly smoothly and was given a boost in October 1982 when the President of the Republic issued a new decree concerning the eradication of illiteracy throughout the country.

In 1983, the section should continue its support of the Ministry of Education programme, which has risen from 9 to 16 classes and will therefore require more time.

5.1 Extension Centres

Aside from its co-operation with the Ministry of Education, the section should initiate literacy and general education programmes in the extension centres as they open; such classes should include reading and writing, religion, nutrition and cooking, vegetable gardening advice, sewing, spinning, health and hygiene, and other crafts as the need arises.

5.2 Informal network

Insofar as possible, given the constraints, the section should consider starting informal literacy and education programmes in villages where there is neither school and teacher nor extension centre. This could be done by encouraging a local woman who is literate to teach others in someone's house, and could be supported by the health and nutrition extension agent, the handicrafts programme, and the livestock programme. The approach should be informal, thus reducing the reluctance of women (and their husbands)

6 WATER

In late 1979 and early 1980 the idea was discussed of starting an experimental extension programme on the proper use of water, specifically in al Qahara, where the Women's Participation section also hoped to start a communal washing place. It appears that nothing came of this idea and it was not pursued.

Coordination with the Water Section, despite its obvious importance, has in the past been one of the weaker points of the WP section. This should be urgently remedied, given that the WP section's objectives should be seen as the improvement of living and working conditions of women, and water is one of the major factors affecting women's lives, since they are the main fetchers and carriers, as well as the prime users of water.

Water projects have up to now been designed and constructed with little information on the specific needs of women since they are mainly built by men who have limited access to women. There are also general points relating to the improvement in water supply. For example the supply of piped water to houses increases water consumption considerably and unless adequate measures are taken to improve the disposal of waste water, they are likely to form another health hazard, and thus negate whatever health benefits may have originally accrued from the water project.

6.1 Education

The importance of educating women in the best use of water and its positive and negative aspects cannot be overstressed. A hygiene promotion scheme should be started immediately to inform women of the dangers associated with the use of water and the advantages of the introduction of piped water supplies. These must be studied in detail and then an experimental programme set up, to be implemented by the health extension agent in coordination with the MCH. This should be closely monitored in order to establish over a period of time the most effective means of communicating this basic health message. This campaign should use all forms of communication, from word-of-mouth to TV, and special audio-visual messages should be prepared locally.

6.2 New projects

In the future the WP section should also participate actively in the design of new RIRDP water schemes by starting to visit villages from the earliest days of the Water Section's involvement and using these opportunities to investigate the specific water supply needs and requirements of the women. These contacts can also be used to initiate other programmes and start a nucleus of women who could get involved in literacy, handicrafts, gardening, etc.

6.3 Evaluation

The third important role of the WP section in the water projects should be positive participation in ongoing evaluation of existing water schemes and the existing water supply situation in general. A start has been made with evaluation in six villages, see Technical Note No. 10. Observation, rather than interview has been used as this is clearly a more reliable method of investigation. The study includes:

- villages with water supply with house connections;
- villages with water supply without house connections;
- villages with no domestic water supply.

This initial study should be followed up, both by further observation in the same households to evaluate changes after an interval of one or two years, and by similar studies in other households and other villages. These studies should be part of an ongoing programme of monitoring water use over a very long period, in order to discover how and when change in water-use takes place, and its relevance to designing water schemes and health programmes.

7 HANDICRAFTS

In the second quarter of 1979, a handicrafts programme was started and 3 spinning wheels were ordered from Holland, following a request from women in Al Wathba who had asked for help in reducing their workload in carpet making. These spinning wheels were distributed in late 1979, their distribution having been delayed by an epidemic in the village.

Later on attempts were made to have spinning wheels manufactured by a local carpenter, but these were unsuccessful. In early 1981, 35 spinning wheels arrived from Holland and six of these were sold for Y.RI 400 a piece by May 1981.

Altogether, 9 spinning wheels were sold to local women, all of whom were trained in their use and early reports suggest that they were satisfied with them although they felt the original price was too high. However, thanks to the increasing strength of the US dollar and consequently of the Y.RI, the unit price has gone down from the original Y.RI 670 to Y.RI 350 and by late 1982, the remaining wheels could be sold for Y.RI 285.

The interruption of the spinning wheel programme can be attributed in part to the staffing problem in the section and the absence of any staff member experienced in the use of spinning wheels.

This part of the WP section's work has been rather neglected in the last two years, mainly due to the lack of qualified staff. The importance of handicrafts should not be ignored and it would be a very positive move if the decline in local production could be slowed, if not stopped, thanks to the programme's activities. At the moment, handicrafts suffer essentially from competition of imported mass manufactured goods which are both cheaper and have the appeal of 'modernity', as well as from their weaker distribution network, particularly since women do not normally have direct access to markets (except in the case of poorer unsupported women).

In order to revive and redevelop the handicrafts sector the first step is to investigate the current situation, i.e. what handicrafts are being produced where, by whom, and at what cost; what are the constraints on this production? We know that basketwork and carpets are being made, is there anything else? These aspects can be investigated along with other rural research of the socio-economics section. After having obtained the necessary information, steps can be taken to improve productivity. For example, the spinning wheel programme provides women with spinning wheels so that they can make their rugs more quickly and is now being expanded because the wife of a Dutch volunteer is willing and able to teach spinning on a part-time basis.

At a later stage improvements in marketing can be investigated, including outlets through the Tourism Corporation and the Tourism Company shops, and possible exports.

Another aspect of handicrafts is the teaching of handicrafts in the extension centres or informally; here we include such things as sewing, knitting and embroidery, which are in great demand.

8 GARDENING

In late 1980 the home vegetable gardens programme for women was started with the intention of improving nutrition by introducing more vegetables into people's diet. The extension agent gave the women advice and demonstrations on the creation and maintenance of vegetable gardens and provided seeds to begin this programme.

Since early 1981, 7 gardens have been started in Rada, 8 in Musallah, 3 in Safiah, and one in 'Asara. The gardens contain onions, tomatoes, aubergines, cucumbers, carrots, and peppers.

In early 1982, a number of fruit trees were sold to the women who had gardens and extension visits were continued.

The home vegetable garden programme is another successful operation of the WP section. This should be developed and expanded in the coming year. In order to expand the programme without having it become too time-consuming for the project, it might be possible to start one garden in a village and give its owner full detailed instructions on vegetable gardening, and encourage her to pass on the skills to her friends and neighbours, thus making it possible for the programme to develop informally and expand, with the project input being gradually limited to the supply of seeds and advice in cases of problems (e.g. diseases, insects, need for fertilizers).

This programme should also be promoted through the extension centres, by having the extension officer's wife grow a vegetable garden around the centre itself; otherwise publicity for these gardens could be done by putting photos on the walls and discussing them.

The programme should emphasize vegetables which are not easily available in the market, as well as encourage the planting of fruit trees; this should be done in conjunction with cooking demonstrations showing how to integrate these vegetables into the traditional dishes and thus improve the family's diet.

The programme should be expanded geographically to reach remote areas which have less vegetables and whose access to a vegetable market is more difficult, and where such gardens are therefore of even greater nutritional value.

9 LIVESTOCK

The Women's Participation Section's livestock programme is one of the more popular aspects of RIRDP work. It includes goats and chickens and was originally seen as an income generating programme, but at the moment its main benefit is in the improvement of people's diets.

9.1 Goats

Distribution of milk-producing goats was planned in early 1979, with the aim of improving family nutrition by providing a cheaper milk producer than the cows who are expensive to maintain and produce only small quantities of milk.

Two goats and their kids were distributed in the second quarter of 1980, one going to Rubat (wadi Matar) and the other to Musallah. In November 1980, 5 Tihama goats were distributed, and instructions were given on their treatment in order to obtain a good milk yield. In 1981, eleven Saanen goats were distributed, and in 1982, another 8 were distributed. This is a very popular programme and its continuation should be considered and a detailed evaluation made.

The goats should be distributed from the farm to suitable women as they become available. Given the limited availability of goats, the goats should be distributed to poorer women with children for whom the home production of milk will make a substantial improvement in nutrition; care should however be taken to ensure that the recipients have access to animal fodder in sufficient quantities.

The import of goats in future should be considered after a full evaluation of the current situation has been made and the various factors have been balanced. The programme should be evaluated according to its cost/benefit ratio at the economic and social levels; popular appeal of the programme should be considered as well as the demands put on the staff's time by the programme; the impact on family nutrition should also be considered. The likelihood of people being willing to replace cows by goats is to be looked at, and also the possibility of introducing goats specifically to households which cannot afford cows. Processing possibilities for goat milk need to be compared to those of cow milk, as well as feeding costs and production of goat milk over long periods.

9.2 Poultry

The poultry programme was the first activity to be launched by the Women's Participation Section and started in the second quarter of 1979 when a layer programme was started in three villages with the aim of setting up small-scale income producing activities accessible to women, as well as improving family diet. In its early days the programme included educating women in the use of special chicken feed to increase egg production, and construction of coops was supervised, etc. Started in Wathba, al Masjara, and Musalla, the programme was interrupted in 1979 by the increase in feed prices. This raised doubts

as to the economic value of the programme given its cost to the women and the competition in egg marketing of large poultry farms in Sana'a and later in the Rada' area itself. The sudden increase in feed prices made the operation uneconomic for the women involved.

The layer programme was revived in September 1980 when an unspecified number of chickens were distributed. In November 1980, 770 layers were distributed in Rada' town, Musalla, Habban, al Safiyah, and other places as well as among project staff; with every 5 chickens, 20 kg of feed were distributed. In the same month 400 broilers were distributed with only 5 kg of feed per 5 chickens.

In February 1981, 599 layers were distributed with 20 kg of feed per chicken. In the same quarter 533 broilers were distributed and 1 kg of feed out of 5 was given out free as a subsidy by the project. In the second quarter of 1981 another 830 layers and 920 broilers were distributed. No further distribution took place in 1981.

In the first quarter of 1982, 1115 broilers were distributed while in the second, 2000 layers were distributed. Activity was interrupted till early November when a new stock of 2000 broilers arrived on the project site, and were distributed in December; a further 450 larger and more expensive layers arrived and were immediately distributed.

This programme should continue while its components are evaluated. The distribution of broilers in particular should be questioned, as their benefits are in no way clear given the input of labour demanded by this distribution, as well as competition from large scale production in the area, although they do provide a cheaper supply of chicken meat for the consumers.

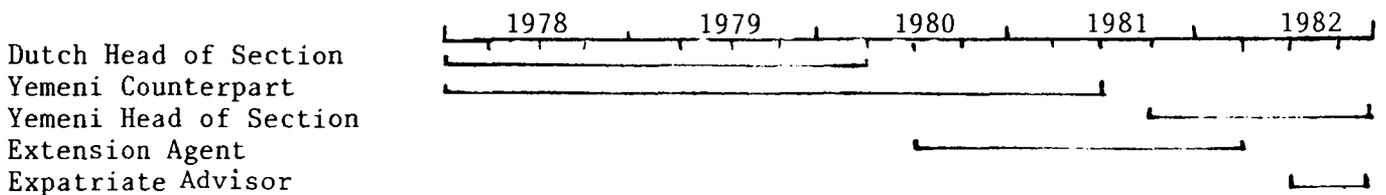
Layers, which have a more obvious benefit, should also be evaluated, given that it is currently not known how they are fed once the initial supply of feed has been consumed, and consequently what their productivity is. Alternative locally available feeds should be considered if egg production is found to be far below expectation.

The popularity of this programme and the increase in female autonomy which it provides should be balanced against the cost in time, money, and labour to the project and the competition from local chicken factories.

10 STAFF

Before the official formation of the section and in its early days, staff consisted of the Dutch female sociologist and her Yemeni counterpart. In early 1980, the first female extension agent was employed and she stayed with the project until May 1982 when she returned to Egypt. The Dutch Head of Section left in the second quarter of 1980 and was not replaced till summer 1982 when a short-term contract expatriate advisor was appointed to the Section. Meanwhile the counterpart left for further education in the USA in the autumn of 1981 and was shortly afterwards replaced by a Yemeni Head of Section who had previously been employed in the project's administrative section, and had not been given the opportunity of overlap takeover or any other assistance in preparing herself for a job which was entirely new to her.

The following chart shows the staff situation since 1978 up to the end of 1982.



In late 1982 the staff situation was quite unsatisfactory, but prospects for improvement exist. According to the budget the full staff of the Section includes one Head of Section, one expatriate advisor, one expatriate counterpart, one expatriate volunteer, and two extension agents. At present the staff consists of short-term contract the head of section and an expatriate advisor. Hopefully the expatriate counterpart will be hired and arrive in the early part of 1983, and one extension agent may become available after training in Primary Health Care. The expatriate volunteer is also being recruited and will hopefully arrive in the second half of 1983. Moreover, the wife of a Dutch volunteer in Rada is willing and able to teach spinning on a part-time basis, thus making it possible to revive the spinning programme. The advisor should be replaced in 1983. There are no candidates for the remaining positions and, as can be seen from the above, the section is overwhelmingly dependent on expatriate staff, Arabic speaking and other. This is an obviously unsatisfactory situation.

Given these uncertainties, it is difficult at the moment to suggest a distribution of labour within the section, but the following possibility can be considered.

- 1) The Head of Section is to supervise and administer the section. Her active participation in all the section's activities is necessary and this will mean delegating some of the tasks she currently undertakes, while taking up others; her role in supervising the literacy programme should be maintained, unless someone else is available for this task.

- 2) The advisor should assist the Head of Section in administration and supervision, she should concentrate on initiating new schemes and ideas, pursue co-ordination with the MCH and the Water Section, and may concentrate her energies on the development of the handicrafts programme.
- 3) The expatriate counterpart should concentrate her activities in home-economics and the actions based at the extension centres, as well as co-ordinate the women's programmes of the centre; she should otherwise be involved in the promotion in the villages and the homes of improved home-economics.
- 4) When the Dutch volunteer arrives should be primarily involved in the section's agriculture and livestock activities, hopefully contributing largely to their development, evaluation and expansion.
- 5) The Primary Health Care trainees should be integrated into the hygiene nutrition and general health component of the programme, particularly operating in the extension centres, giving advice on hygiene and nutrition as part of the centres' programme. They should also operate informally by attending women's gatherings and using these opportunities to promote health messages; they should also participate in the devising of audio-visual materials for use and distribution.