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JOHN JONES:
NARRATOR

This week we are dealing with an approach to architecture in Kumasi, and, the pros and cons of locust control in Nigeria.

For some ten years now we have been chanting the theme that Universities in Africa should involve themselves in the thousand and one problems that touch on the growth and development of the countries in which they are. Today in African Universities, this is an accepted criteria and examples of it can be cited over and over again. However, most projects done in Universities seem to be long term rather than supplying immediate needs, but Ahmadu Bello's Institute for Agricultural Research is actively involved in the recent, and by far the most serious outbreak of locusts in the North Eastern State of Nigeria since the late 30's. Migratory and Desert locusts invade this part of Nigeria either during their southern migration period from March to June, or when returning northwards in October and November at the end of the rains and their breeding season. In October of 1968 and 1969, small swarms of locusts were reported in the North Eastern State. This year's outbreak however, was much larger with an estimated 15 million locusts in the area. Well, how are the authorities coping with the problem? Mr. Ochapa Onazi is the Extension Entomologist of the Institute's Extension and Research Liason Section at Ahmadu Bello University; and he is responsible for providing any assistance with locust control that the Institute for Agricultural Research can provide for the Government or State locust authorities. In Zaria Mr. Onazi spoke to Robin Story, and first he explains which crops are damaged most by locusts.

MR. ONAZI: The migratory locust seems to have a preference for cereal crops. They usually remain in vegetation during the day, travelling rather slowly, feeding as they go along from cereals. This year they have feed very actively on a form of dry guinea grass which is the main food crop of the area. It is estimated that more than 400 acres of crop were destroyed in the present outbreak.

ROBIN STORY: What part does the Institute for Agricultural Research of the Ahmadu Bello University play in the locust control?

MR. ONAZI: The Institute plays a very vital role in locust control activities in the six northern states. The Institute acts as technical adviser to the state ministries of natural resources all matters concerning locust control. The Institute also trains personnel for the state ministries of natural resources who are responsible for locust control at state level. And the Institute also succeeds in actual control operations when a outbreak is reported, for instance, in 1968 when a locust outbreak was reported the Institute sent a entomologist to take charge of the control operations. And again last year when we had a locust outbreak the Institute sent stocks of insecticide held at Samaru for locust control to the scene of the outbreak.

ROBIN STORY: And what has the Institute done this year with this more serious outbreak?

MR. ONAZI: We have been fortunate this year that we had a expert from the Anti-locust Research Centre from London on the scene of a outbreak. As soon as this outbreak was reported he took charge of the control operations. But the Institute had direct contact with him. We normally hold stocks of insecticide for locust control provided by the Federal government and spare machines at Samaru. As soon as the outbreak was reported the Institute sent these insecticides and spraying machines to the scene of the outbreak. In addition, a control team was despatched from Samaru,

MR. ONAZI:
(CONT'D.)

at very short notice, to assist the state officials in controlling the outbreak. The Senior Entomologist of the Institute also visited the scene of the outbreak to advise on the control operations.

ROBIN STORY: But what progress have you made this year with this outbreak?

MR. ONAZI:

Since the outbreak of 1968 we have been better organised in locust control than we used to be. In the first place, the Federal government increased its vote on locust control for a token sum of £300 to more than £5,000. So we have now bought new equipment, we have more than fourteen motorised sprayers, we have brought large-scale micron sprayers which we consider necessary for spraying locusts which are roosting on trees and other types of vegetation. And the Federal government have also provided radio sets for locust control so the Institute is now linked by radio to Kaduna and most of the state headquarters in the northern states. Through this radio we can get in touch with any state headquarters, at any time. So that as soon as an outbreak was reported the Minister of Natural Resources in Maiduguri got in touch with us by radio and they asked for spraying machines and insecticides and we supplied these at very short notice. A driver from Samaru got through to Maiduguri driving all night and reported at 7 a.m. with all the equipment that we asked for.

ROBIN STORY: And this is a distance of what, over five hundred miles. So you have the present outbreak under control?

MR. ONAZI:

It is yet too early to say. We have stopped our main control operations but all our teams are still standing by. What we would like to do is an arias of the whole belt which extends all the way to the Cameroun border. It is after this survey has been completed that we will be in a position to assess the general situation.

JOHN JONES: Mr. Ochapa Onazi - he was talking to Robin Story about how Ahmadu Bello University and the Federal Government have joined forces to tackle the locust plagues. Now over to to the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi. Professor John Owusu-Addo of the Faculty of Architecture there, was in London recently and he spared some time to talk to Gwyneth Henderson about the University's approach to architecture, a subject still relatively little studied in Africa. Apart from Kumasi, only Zaria, Makerere, Nairobi, Addis Abada, and Khartoum are training their own architects. And for all of them the problem here is the same as for most disciplines; how do you relate to the environment and the developing needs of the society? In Africa all of us have come across structures that are grotesquely inapporopriate to our climate and to the landscape. They were placed there innocently because European architecture was inexperienced in the needs of the tropics. It was with this in mind that Gwyneth Henderson asked Professor Addo how far he and the University have gone in adapting traditional architectural formats to the needs of tropical countries.

PROFESSOR
ADDO:

First of all I would start by saying that when the Faculty of Architecture was started at Kumasi, the syllabus was all based on the Royal Institute of British Architects requirements but now we have succeeded in throwing that out completely and building up our own syllabus which is suited to the needs of the country. The programmes for the second, third and fourth years have all been based on actual projects. At the end of the third year students are taken out to survey rural areas and during the ensuing year the entire programme is based on the results of the survey. In the fourth year the same thing is repeated, but this time in the urban environment and during that year the entire programme is also based on the results of their survey. This means that the general syllabus for the architectural course in Kumasi is based on the specific requirements of the country.

GWYNETH
HENDERSON:

Has this all been evolved at Kumasi or have you in fact been in strong communication with other tropical countries in and outside Africa?

PROFESSOR
ADDO:

No. This has all been evolved at Kumasi.

GWYNETH
HENDERSON:

How much communication is there between various schools of architecture in tropical countries?

PROFESSOR
ADDO:

There hasn't been very much until quite recently when the Commonwealth Association of Architects met and gave its blessing to the regional groupings, where the African regional group has met twice in Nairobi to discuss architectural education and where representatives of various school of architecture in Africa have taken part. This so far has been the only contact, direct contact, which we have had with the other schools. I would say this though, that Zaria and Khartoum have had some contact with our institution.

GWYNETH
HENDERSON:

Professor Addo, I understand that to turn out a fully-fledged architect you keep them at Kumasi for six years, this is a long time and presumably costs Ghana quite a lot of money. How in fact do you justify the small average number which I understand is twelve graduate students per year?

PROFESSOR
ADDO:

We keep them in Kumasi for six years because we believe that the background of students before they come to the University, and while they are there the sort of things they see around them are not the kind of things which students in developed countries are used to. The environment is part of the actual training and it is possible you could train them in five or four and a half years but even so five years has been the normal. So we think that the changing role of the architect today where important planning decisions as well as architectural decisions are being taken by architects, we think that the training should be very thorough, not only in the design of buildings, but in the design of the entire environment, and this really is responsible for the length of our course.

PROFESSOR
ADDO (CONT'D.)

As to whether this is advisable for a country like Ghana to spend so much money on twelve graduates a year, we have to bear in mind here that it is only the Department of Architecture which turns out an average of twelve. The Faculty is made up of three departments, Architecture, Planning and Building Technology. And in planning alone we have three courses now, we have the normal graduate course, then we have a post-graduate course for Regional Planning where we admit students from other disciplines, graduates in Geography, Economics or Sociology or other courses. We also have a sub-professional course which is a diploma course in Community Planning where we are training students to work as Planning Assistants and the turnout of this is within the region of about twenty, this coupled with say, twelve Building Technologists and about ten Planners. I think this justifies the amount of money which the country is spending on training. This is on the academic side, but there are the other aspects which must not be ignored. During the training students participate in national programmes and also staff take part in research and development work of national importance. The Volta River Resettlement Scheme was produced entirely by the Faculty of Architecture. What's more Faculty members are advised or they are encouraged to take part in what we call a Faculty Project. We have a Faculty Project's office there which takes part in development schemes. At present this unit has been asked to design an office complex for the Bank of Ghana. In the past we have taken part in designing smaller projects, houses, office extensions for the Ministry of Education.

GWYNETH
HENDERSON:

How in fact do these projects work? Are you paid normal professional fees, are you in fact taking jobs away from normal professional groups?

PROFESSOR
ADDO:

We are not taking jobs away from normal professional groups we are just taking part in the development. We are paid the normal architectural fees but the difference here is

PROFESSOR ADDO: (CONT'D.) that half the fee, the net fee, is paid to the university and the other half is distributed among the members of staff who take part in the particular project. :

GWYNETH HENDERSON: So in fact the university is benefiting financially as well as in terms of experience.

PROFESSOR ADDO: Very much indeed.

GWYNETH HENDERSON: How about the students? Do they in fact play a part in these development projects as well?

PROFESSOR ADDO: Yes, they do. A case in point is the use of four students ~~at~~ the beginning of their summer vacation to take part in the drawing ,the final drawings,of the Bank Project I've been talking about and they did this under my supervision and the result has been very good. We intend using students more and more on this. They are paid a honorarium for the work they do, but not only that they really benefit from this.

JOHN JONES: Professor John Owusu-Addo of the Faculty of Architecture at Kumasi's University of Science and Technology talking there to Gwyneth.

And so we end for another week. I'll be back again next week at the same time - so until then from me, Jon Bankole Jones, it's goodbye for now.
