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DEVELOPMENT AS PROCESS


How can the complexity and unpredictability of planned development be understood?

How can project managers deal with the social relationships and institutional contexts in which they operate?

Linking practical experience and contemporary social theory, this book offers alternative ways of thinking about 'development as process' and new methods for field research and programme monitoring. Conventionally, the complexity of development work has been 'managed' through the use of simple project models in which planned inputs lead logically to predictable outputs. In focusing on the unintended outcome, the unmanageable element, the local variability of effects, and the importance of social relationships, the contributors in this book challenge simplistic managerial models and suggest new approaches and methods which acknowledge, explore and positively engage with the unexpected and with diversity in the development process.

Drawing on work in agriculture, irrigation, forestry, and fisheries in countries in Asia and the former Soviet Union, *Development as Process* examines changing information needs faced by development agencies as they shift from simple technology-led project approaches, towards an emphasis on policy change, institutional reform and inter-agency partnerships. In looking critically at the politics of information production and use in different cultural and institutional settings, *Development as Process* goes beyond method and technique and proposes a new look at the role of monitoring information in planned development.

David Mosse is Lecturer in Anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. **John Farrington** is Research Fellow and Co-ordinator of the Natural Resources Group at the Overseas Development Institute, London. **Alan Rew** is Professor of Development Policy and Planning and Director of the Centre for Development Studies at the University of Wales, Swansea.

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Process" approaches to economic and social development appear to be more flexible and offer greater prospects of success than traditional "project" methods. Development as Process addresses the questions raised by the different natures of the two approaches. The authors examine development projects through experience in water resources development in India and in organizational learning by a Bangladeshi NGO. Inter-agency contexts are examined in the setting of an aquaculture project in Bangladesh and in the setting of agriculture and natural resources development in

Rajasthan, India. Finally, the role of process monitoring is explained in the context of policy reform, with illustrations from forestry in India and land reform in Russia.