

CROP RESIDUES AND GRASS IN CITY

As it is the intention a) to encourage a close relationship between man^{and} land in the growing city (see Master Plan and note below) by the provision of planting areas in the vicinity of each community but b) to prohibit the herding of livestock in the city (witness the present efforts to get rid of the Somali cattle) the matter of disposal of crop residues will require consideration.

2. The usual practice of the Wagogo is for the stubble areas to be grazed over by the livestock. This disposes of the edible residues, but leaves the hard core material (including root stumps) which is burnt before the onset of the rains. But this practice has the disadvantage of raising dust, Not only from the soil, but from the fragmented dry leaves of the crop, and smoke.

3. What will happen to the crop residues without cattle to dispose of them and indeed to the grass which will grow in all open spaces? The answer depends on the type of crop permitted. In the past the growing of maize and other high standing crops was prohibited in townships. This prohibition was designed to counter the disadvantages of such crops in towns viz:

- i) Maize plants provide breeding places for mosquitos in the "cup" where the stem and the leaf meet.
- ii) Tall crops provided cover for thieves to approach and depart from dwellings unobserved.
- iii) They give privacy for defecation.
- iv) It is difficult to collect empty tins, broken bottles and other sources of mosquitos when they are hidden;
- v) Tall crops render many crossing 'blind', thus increasing accident risks (as can be seen today at the back of the Dodoma Hotel).

4. More recently the urgent necessity for Tanzania to make itself self supporting has led to a relaxation of this prohibition. What will be future policy? To enable sound decisions to be made, it is suggested that observations be commenced forthwith. This year it seems unprobable that the cattle will be removed before the next rains; hopefully both the rains and the removal of the cattle can be expected in December 1977. Thus there will be chance to observe the

the effects of maize without cattle can be observed.

5. It is suggested that from now on weekly observations, supported by photographs, should be recorded, sample sites should be selected in typical locations, low, medium and high density dwelling areas, vacant undeveloped areas etc. The local housewives should be interviewed and their observations recorded concerning dust, broken leaf residue blown by wind, smoke and ash when the residues are burnt (in the absence of their consumption by cattle).
6. On a purely practical basis, the decision obviously should be to ban high standing crops, - maize, sorghum etc. - but to encourage low growing types, - all varieties of vegetables, beans, groundnuts, etc. But the issue is likely to prove highly emotive, so whatever decision is taken should be supported by the best evidence available - and now is the time to start collecting this.
7. Whatever food crops are grown their culture must be on a basis of sustained yield, or the condition of the soil, already poor, will deteriorate until the Capital deteriorates into a dust bowl rather than developing into a garden city. Hence the urgent necessity of setting up a city extension service under a chief conservation officer, with composting and horticultural advisers, as suggested in the organizational chart submitted with Socio-Ecological Consultant's Report in December, 1975.



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See Director General as quoted in Kenya Builder
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"Agriculture will always be an integral part of the Capital's life. Small-scale farming will be encouraged in and immediately around the residential communities".

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