Alternative Approach to Rural Development

Saemaul Movement

UNGC
United Nations Governance Centre
Saemaul Movement

- **Saemaul: “New Village”**

Alternative Development Framework
Distinctive Features of Saemaul

Saemaul projects

➤ Focused primarily on transferring the management techniques/educational training programs

➤ Actively incorporates local community members to take the initiative on the practical ground

➤ Premised on the presence of strong central government leadership and a high degree of political willingness from the top

➤ Results in an enhanced degree of local autonomy/independence in terms of conceiving, negotiating, and implementing development agenda, thus allowing policy sustainability

➤ Policy needs are first identified by local population, and the process of implementation actively utilizes (and cultivates) local human resources
Historical Context: Korea

- Colonial past: 36 years of Japanese occupation
- Korean war: 1950~1953
- Near-total devastation
- Division of the country
- Economic & social foundation in urgent need of revival

Process of economic rebuilding

Commonalities found in African experience
Process of Economic Rebuilding: Challenges and Response

- Poverty-reduction plan
  - mainly focused on heavy industry

Underdeveloped Rural Area

Urban-Rural Disparity
Motivating Impetus

3 Fundamental Features of Saemaul
Government Leadership and Support

Leadership and support which actively encourage local communities’ decision making processes

STRONG POLITICAL WILL
Transformation of Mentality
Process of Implementation

- Projects related to basic social services
- Income-increasing projects

Support from the Central Government

Community-Level Decision-Making & Implementation

Projects related to basic social services

Income-increasing projects
Saemaul Projects

- Advancement of farming vehicles
- Education/technology development in the area of agricultural production
- Further development of water systems
- Readjustment/development of transportation system
- Joint venture with neighboring villages

• 1974 average rural household income > urban income
• 98% of all rural villages became self-help villages
Supportive Roles of Gov’t

Rural Community

- General Guidance
- Incentives
- Monitoring
- Evaluation
- Information Sharing
- Managing
- Performance

Central Government

Regional/Local Government
Expansion of the Movement

Success of Saemaul in Rural Areas

Efforts to eradicate corruption

Improvement of social services

Enhanced public order

Environmental reforms

Strengthening of community awareness

Improvement of working environment

Enhanced community outreach

Development into a Nation-Wide Movement

URBAN AREA

CORPORATE SOCIETY
Factors of Success

- Breaking away from the cycle of foreign aid dependency
- Long-term sustainable rural development
Applicability

Saemaul in Africa

- Features of historical commonalities
  (colonial past, civil war, need for effective poverty reduction)
- Need of alternative development mechanism
- Success of pilot projects in Democratic Republic of Congo

Viable Alternative Approach to Rural Development
Thank you !

UNGC
United Nations Governance Centre