

Assessment of Maintenance and Improvement Programs for Rural Production Roads and their Implementation in Region IX, 1986

Summary:

This project focused on Region IX; its aim was to find a way of prioritizing road maintenance and improvement projects on rural production roads. The practical challenges of projects involving rural production roads stem from the fact that most of these roads are unpaved and are difficult to transit at certain times of the year, especially in areas that receive significant rainfall. These seasonal differences in the transitivity of roadways were not acknowledged in the methodology used to design and assess projects on in-use roadways at the time this report was drafted.

Nevertheless, taking this aspect into account could favorably impact the social profitability of projects involving rural production roads, as the usual practice has been to ignore the benefits attributed to traffic “generated” by the roadway. In effect, the traffic generated by this type of road can be significant, if the project managed to prevent times of impassibility during the rainy season.

In this study, a conceptual method was developed to take into account seasonal issues in the proposal, and for illustrative purposes, it was applied to two road projects in Region IX. Furthermore, as the proposed methodology for designing and assessing projects of this type was quite sophisticated, simplifications were suggested to adequately combine theoretical rigor with practical convenience.