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VITA



VOLUNTEERS IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

VITA

Dear Friend:

In response to your request for information about VITA and its programs, I am sending you the text of VITA's forthcoming brochure. I hope it answers any questions you might have about VITA. Copies of the brochure itself will be available upon request by mid-April.

Thank you for contacting VITA.

Sincerely,

Laurel Druben
Director, Communications

LD/cm
Enclosure

V I T A

is a private, non-profit association which has supported people working on technical problems faced by developing areas since 1960. VITA offers information and assistance aimed at extending the ability of institutions and individuals overseas to select and implement technologies appropriate to their particular situations.

VITA's technical services are provided by a skilled Volunteer corps of 4,500 and a central staff of 20.

This pamphlet presents an overview of VITA's

- °Technical Information Service
- °Special Projects
- °Volunteer Program
- °Communications Services

TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Quietly and effectively, VITA has been designing and adapting tools, methods, programs to fit local needs and resources for almost two decades.

Through the dedicated support of its specialist Volunteers, VITA develops small-scale agricultural implements; assists large numbers of people solve problems ranging from soil testing to tanning drum fabrication; aids bridge construction projects in remote areas. In addition, VITA produces plans in such areas as solar and wind energy and publishes a wide variety of plans and manuals which it disseminates worldwide to make technology choices available to the widest possible audience. Firm institutional relationships with development organizations continue to facilitate VITA's ability to develop and distribute materials which respond to local needs.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE

VITA's request-answering program, the Technical Information Service, has responded to over 25,000 inquiries. Requests for technical assistance come from all parts of the world -- from extension agents, village councils, small business owners, farmers, development organizations, government agencies, among others. VITA places priority on offering assistance which will benefit those most in need.

The majority of requests coming to VITA require direct Volunteer participation. These are handled on a case basis by staff coordinators who match the problem with those Volunteers best qualified to supply answers. The case may be worked on by one or several interested Volunteers who correspond directly with the requestor until the problem is solved or the project completed. The VITA staffer serves as a resource person during the interaction.

Through the Technical Information Service, VITA also responds to inquiries which can be answered by providing already-published information. To facilitate this service, VITA maintains an outstanding library of appropriate technology materials.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

VITA regularly undertakes special projects. A request being handled through the Technical Information Service may promise wider than usual impact; Or a project may result from recognition of VITA's capable leadership in the field of appropriate technology and from VITA's close working relationships with field-based organizations. In any case, a special project requires that VITA devote more of its resources and make longer-term institutional commitments than would be involved in the handling of a routine request.

VITA's current projects include: developing an appropriate technology center in Upper Volta (VITA has a staff member on-site); adapting and testing a wide variety of agricultural implements in cooperation with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Ibadan, Nigeria; working with a lime producers cooperative in Honduras to design, build, and monitor the performance of a new kiln.

VOLUNTEERING -- VITA STYLE

VITA people are scientists, engineers, carpenters, agriculturalists, architects, educators, electricians, farmers. They may be professionals returned from overseas assignments, retired executives, business administrators, college instructors, or combinations of these. All are skilled people who freely offer their talent and spare time to find, adapt, and design technologies to fit the needs described by requestors.

VITA Volunteering entails no fixed tour of duty or limit to length of service. There is no need to pack up, leave home, job, country; people can participate in development overseas from their homes, workshops, and offices.

VITA Volunteering provides an avenue through which individuals can use their professional and avocational skills in a special way. The informative interchange between Volunteer and requestor can encourage a very real partnership in a problem-solving process. For many Volunteers the search for solutions appropriate to restricted conditions -- limited materials and capital, for example -- represents a professional challenge and an interesting change from the day-to-day routine of working with complex technologies. Other VITA supporters provide writing and illustrating skills to assist in preparing materials for print: much of the best information produced through the Volunteer network is published and becomes available to a worldwide audience.

If you would like to participate in development activities through VITA and become part of an information exchange that leads to real progress and viable solutions, please complete and return the reply form provided with this brochure.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Two major communication channels are used to keep far-flung Volunteers, programs, and supporters part of an effective network: VITA NEWS and VIS-A-VIS.

VITA NEWS

This newsletter is distributed to VITA requestors, supporters, funders, institutional contacts, interested parties. It is issued at least three times a year (quarterly when funds are available). The News contains updates on VITA activities -- status of programs, interactions with other appropriate technology groups, notices of important events, technical abstracts, etc.

VITA VIS-A-VIS

This newsletter is primarily for VITA Volunteers and is issued on the same basis as the VITA News, funding permitting. The VIS-A-VIS profiles important Volunteers, lists technical problems requiring solution, highlights Volunteer participation in VITA activities. The VIS-A-VIS also carries reviews and articles prepared by VITA people and abstracts of technical materials. It features a readers' exchange so that readers of the VIS-A-VIS working in similar fields can be made aware of areas of mutual interest.

VITA PUBLICATIONS

VITA currently offers about 40 appropriate technology manuals, and distributes them widely both in the U.S. and abroad; many of them are available in French and Spanish as well as English. VITA's Village Technology Handbook, which contains do-it-yourself plans for activities from digging wells to making soap, has long been a favorite. Others deal with such topics as windmills, solar cookers, and water wheels. A complete publications list giving titles, descriptions of content and prices is available upon request (see reply form).

In addition, a number of VITA-published Technical Bulletins are available. These are plans, case studies and think papers. They present new ideas and alternatives to generate more experimentation and testing and give the public ready access to some of the best from VITA Volunteers and others. A list of these Bulletins and their prices is available upon request.

VITA AND YOUR SUPPORT

VITA is a dynamic, flexible organization with an extremely cost-effective program for meeting overseas development needs. Funding comes from a variety of public and private sources. As costs continue to rise,

VITA must ask increased support from interested persons to insure the continuation of its communications activities. The last page of this brochure contains some additional information about how you might support VITA.

Funds received as a result of this brochure are used only to support the stated activities. VITA makes a full financial statement in its Annual Report, which is available upon request.

REPLY FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

-
- ☐ Please send me a copy of VITA's free Publications List; I enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.
- ☐ Please send me a VITA Volunteer form; I am interested in sharing my skills.
- ☐ Enclosed find a \$5 donation. Please place me on the VITA News mailing list.
- ☐ Enclosed find a \$10 donation. Please place me on the lists to receive both VITA News and VITA Vis-A-Vis. Although I am not a VITA Volunteer, at this time, I am interested in the activities of VITA Volunteers.
- ☐ Enclosed find a \$25 donation. I understand I will automatically receive copies of all VITA's communication pieces -- VITA News, Vis-A-Vis, Annual Report, Publications List, Lecture and Conference Announcements, etc.
- ☐ Enclosed find an additional contribution of \$_____ to support VITA's program of providing technical assistance to people in developing countries.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO VITA ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

VITA

**VOLUNTEERS
IN TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE**

3706 Rhode Island Avenue
Mt Rainier, Maryland, USA 20822

Prices effective thru September 1977

**VITA
PUBLICATIONS**

- 1 **VILLAGE TECHNOLOGY HANDBOOK (1970)** 350 pages, English, French, Spanish
VITA's valuable guide to alternative technologies. Provides detailed technical plans in the areas of water resources, tools for agriculture, construction, sanitation, among others. \$9.00 (Airmail Code E)
- 2 **AUTOMOTIVE OPERATION & MAINTENANCE (1975)** 202 pgs. English
A do-it-yourself guide for drivers who face bad roads and poor service facilities. \$6.50 (Airmail Code D)
- 3 **BAT CONTROL (1963)** 8 pages, English
Recommendations for controlling and repelling bats. \$1.00 (Airmail Code A)
- 5 **SMOKING FISH IN A CARDBOARD SMOKEHOUSE (1966)** 12 pages, English, French, and Spanish
How to build and use a smokehouse made from cardboard cartons. \$1.00 (Airmail Code A)
- 6 **HOW TO SALT FISH (1966)** 10 pages, English, Spanish
An excerpt from VITA's *Village Technology Handbook*. \$1.00 (Airmail Code A)
- 7 **MAKING BUILDING BLOCKS WITH THE CINVA-RAM BLOCK PRESS (1966)** 30 pages, English, French, Spanish
Detailed instruction manual particularly useful for those directing construction projects utilizing a CINVA-Ram. \$1.50 (Airmail Code A)
- 8 **LOW COST DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL WATER POWER SITES (1967)** 50 pages, English, French, Spanish
How to assess water sources to determine possibilities for power generation. Describes construction of small dam; discusses turbines and water wheels (including how to build a Michell or Banki turbine) \$2.50 (Airmail Code A)
- 9 **SOLAR COOKER CONSTRUCTION MANUAL (1967)** 25 pages, English, French, Spanish
Detailed, illustrated instructions for building low-cost solar cooker of wood. \$2.00 (Airmail Code A)
- 10 **SMALL SCALE MANUFACTURE OF BURNED BUILDING BRICK (1968)** 24 pages, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese
Directions for molding, drying, and firing clay bricks for domestic building purposes. Includes directions for building kiln. \$2.00 (Airmail Code A)
- 12 **FRESH PRODUCE HANDLING AND DISTRIBUTION (1968)** 10 pages, English, French
Excerpted from the *Village Technology Handbook*. \$1.00 (Airmail Code A)
- 13 **CHALK STICK MAKING (1969)** 25 pages, English, French
Three methods for small scale manufacture of chalk sticks, including plans for extrusion press made from meat grinder. \$2.00 (Airmail Code A)
- 14 **PLAYGROUND MANUAL (1969)** 40 pages, English
Detailed construction plans for selection of playground equipment made from local or imported materials. \$.25 (Airmail Code A)

.... OF CONTINUING INTEREST

- 15 GROUNDNUT (PEANUT) HULLER (revised 1977) 10 pages, English and French
Plan using scrap motor-vehicle parts to construct hulling machine which can be run by electric or animal power. \$1.00 (Airmail Code A)
- 18 HYDRAULIC RAM (1970) 15 pages, English, French and Spanish
Plans for building hydraulic ram for water-lifting. \$1.50 (Airmail Code A)
- 19 DESIGN GUIDE FOR LIGHT AIRCRAFT AIRPORT (1970) 5 pages, English
A handbook for building airstrips in remote areas. Prepared by VITA Volunteers of LOCKHEED-GEORGIA (C). \$2.50 (Airmail Code A)
- 20 LOW COST WINDMILL FOR DEVELOPING NATIONS (1970) 45 pages, English, French
Complete plan for building windmill of 5 major components. Uses spare auto parts. \$2.50 (Airmail Code A)
- 22 HEALTH RECORDS SYSTEM (1971) 25 pages, English
System for maintaining health records which does not depend upon experience with filing methods. \$1.50 (Airmail Code A)
- 23 BANDAGES IMPREGNATED WITH PLASTER OF PARIS (1971) 22 pages, English
Presents method for preparing bandages for supporting broken bones during healing. \$1.50 (Airmail Code A)
- 24 HOW TO PERFORM AN AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT (1971) 30 pages, English, French, Spanish
Detailed instructions for conducting valid agricultural experiments. \$2.00 (Airmail Code A)
- 25 HOW TO GET WATERPROOFING SUBSTANCES FROM PLANTS (1973) 15 pages, English, French
Helpful guide to using local trees and other plant materials to provide substances for waterproofing constructions made of earth. Includes directions for extracting oils, etc. \$2.00 (Airmail Code A)
- 26 A GUIDE TO MOBILIZING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE VOLUNTEERS (1975) 75 pages, English, Portuguese
In-depth, how-to-do-it look at a VITA-type operation. \$3.00 (Airmail Code B)
- 27 DESIGN MANUAL FOR WATER WHEELS (1975) 80 pages, English
Complete how-to description of an overshot wheel design to provide, without additional devices, sufficient power for hulling rice, pumping water, etc. Includes plan for simple pump attachment. \$4.50 (Airmail Code B)
- 28 HANDPUMPS FOR VILLAGE WELLS (1975) 15 pages, English, French
Designs for three inexpensive, easy to maintain and repair piston pumps: shallow well pump and deep well pumps for cased and uncased wells. \$1.75 (Airmail Code A)
- 30 SIMPLE FURNITURE DESIGN (1975) 18 pages, English
Completely illustrated plans for constructing bookshelves, bed frames, tables, and chairs of varying sizes. \$1.00 (Airmail Code A)

ANNOUNCING !!

- 33 SMALL FARM GRAIN STORAGE (1976) 575 pages, English**
A complete practical overview of small farm grain storage questions for use by development workers and others concerned with small-scale grain production. Includes fully illustrated plans for grain dryer and storage facilities, instructions for rodent and insect control, etc. Limited number of introductory copies available at \$2.00 each. (Airmail Code F)
- 36 FRESHWATER FISH POND CULTURE AND MANAGEMENT (1976) 200 pages, English**
Guide to planning, constructing, and maintaining smaller-scale fish pond operations. Information on selecting warm water fish, choosing drainage systems, treating fish for disease, fertilizing ponds, and so on. Limited number of introductory copies available at \$1.50 each. (Airmail Code D)
- 38 USING WATER RESOURCES (1977) 160 pages, English**
Available for the first time as separate offering in response to user demand, this volume is excerpted from VITA's ever popular, highly praised *Village Technology Handbook* (also included on this list). *Using Water Resources* contains information and detailed plans for tubewells and dug wells, water lifting, pumps, water storing and purifying, and so on. \$5.00 (Airmail Code C)
- HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
- A1 APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY SOURCEBOOK (1976) by Ken Darrow and Rick Pam, Volunteers in Asia, Inc. 305 pages, English**
Guide to practical plans and books for village and small community technology. Reviews of 375 selected U.S. and international publications on alternative sources of energy, shop tools, agriculture, low-cost housing, water supply, and so on. Includes addresses and prices for entries. \$4.00 (Airmail Code E)
- L1 LIKLIK BUK, A RURAL DEVELOPMENT HANDBOOK CATALOGUE (1977) 270 pages, English**
Prepared for use by community-level leaders and others interested in village self-help action (originally in Papua New Guinea), this valuable handbook provides plans and leads to information on subjects of worldwide importance; for example, village industry and crafts, fish culture, animal husbandry, water resource development, visual aids for community education, soil management, building and road construction. \$5.00 (Airmail Code D)
- FORTHCOMING....**
- 37 REFORESTATION IN ARID LANDS (June), English**
Provides guidelines for planning and carrying out reforestation project -- from nursery to planting site. Includes information on planting, transplanting, and transporting. Extensive appendices present detailed look at trees, soil, climate, and reforestation activities in sub-Saharan West Africa.
- 39 HANDLOOM CONSTRUCTION (April), English**
Detailed, fully illustrated, step-by-step construction procedures for three types of handloom.
- 40 RABBIT RAISING (March), English**
A complete guide for the rabbit raiser. Contains guidelines for breeding rabbits, treating for disease, feeding stock, building hutches, keeping records, and tanning skins.

ORDER FORM

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

SHIP TO:

SHIP VIA: ☒ Surface mail ☐ Airmail*

<u>Publication #</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Publication #</u>	<u>Price</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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Indicate language desired:

E = English
F = French
S = Spanish

Sub-total _____

+ Airmail* _____

+ Service Chg.* _____

TOTAL _____

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT VITA PUBLICATIONS?

☐ Check here if you wish to be put on the mailing list for announcements of new titles, etc.

*See directions on reverse side for calculating air-mail costs and service charge. A service charge must be added when payment is not made in U.S. dollars.

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO:

**PUBLICATIONS SERVICE
VOLUNTEERS IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
3706 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE
MT. RAINIER MD 20822 U.S.A**

ORDER INFORMATION

VITA Publications Service is a self-supporting, not-for-profit program. The cost of surface mail is included in the price. Airmail costs are extra and are based on weight and destination. (See box below for airmail costs.)

Please include payment with your order to save billing costs. Make payments in U.S. dollars. VITA accepts bank drafts, international money orders, postal money orders, and UNESCO coupons.

All payments not made in U.S. dollars are subject to a 10% service charge, in addition to the total amount of the order, to cover additional processing costs.

TO CALCULATE AIRMAIL COSTS:

For each publication ordered, find the airmail cost simply by taking the airmail code letter and finding the cost under the destination. For example, a copy of *Using Water Resources* (Airmail Code C) which is going to Africa would cost a total of \$8.85 -- \$5.00 for the publication and \$3.85 for airmail postage.

	USA & CANADA	MEXICO & CENT. AMERICA	EUROPE & SO. AMERICA	AFRICA, ASIA & THE PACIFIC
A	\$.70	\$.95	\$ 1.35	\$ 1.75
B	\$ 1.05	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.95	\$ 2.55
C	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.75	\$ 2.80	\$ 3.85
D	\$ 2.60	\$ 2.25	\$ 3.65	\$ 5.10
E	\$ 4.35	\$ 3.35	\$ 5.70	\$ 8.05
F	\$ 5.45	\$ 4.30	\$ 7.45	\$10.55

Copies of this publications list are available in English, French and Spanish and will be supplied in bulk to requesting organizations.

ABOUT VITA

VITA, Volunteers in Technical Assistance, provides technical support to individuals and organizations working on problems faced by developing countries. Over 4,000 scientists, engineers, carpenters, agriculturalists, architects, educators, electricians, and other skilled people volunteer their talent and their spare time to locate, adapt, and design technologies to fit the needs described by requests for assistance which VITA receives. VITA thus has participated in the development process of over 100 countries.

VITA answers requests from village councils, small business owners, farmers, community workers, extension agents and government agencies, among others. If you, your organization or your community are at work on a project or a problem which relates to third world development, and you have need of help -- with such things as designing appropriate agricultural tools, constructing a bridge from local materials, determining what kind of well to dig for a certain situation, setting up a beekeeping or rabbit raising operation, finding out why a windmill or pump will not work, or any number of other questions on a wide variety of topics -- why not contact VITA and put its technical consultants to work for you?

VITA PUBLICATIONS SERVICE

VITA manuals reflect the organization's emphasis on designing, developing, and distributing village and community level technologies which are appropriate for use in developing areas. At the same time, these technologies often have application wherever people are interested in doing things for themselves. Therefore, VITA makes this information available worldwide through its Publications Service.

VITA's Publications Service seeks to print and distribute manuals in a form which can be used easily by the extension agent in a field situation or by the do-it-yourselfer at home. VITA materials are noted for:

- . technical accuracy in plain language
- . clear, illustrated formats
- . availability in a number of languages
- . reasonable prices

Publications are available in the Pacific area directly from Wantok Publishers, P. O. Box 1982, Boroko, Papua New Guinea.

Discounts available to large quantity purchasers. Please write for more details.