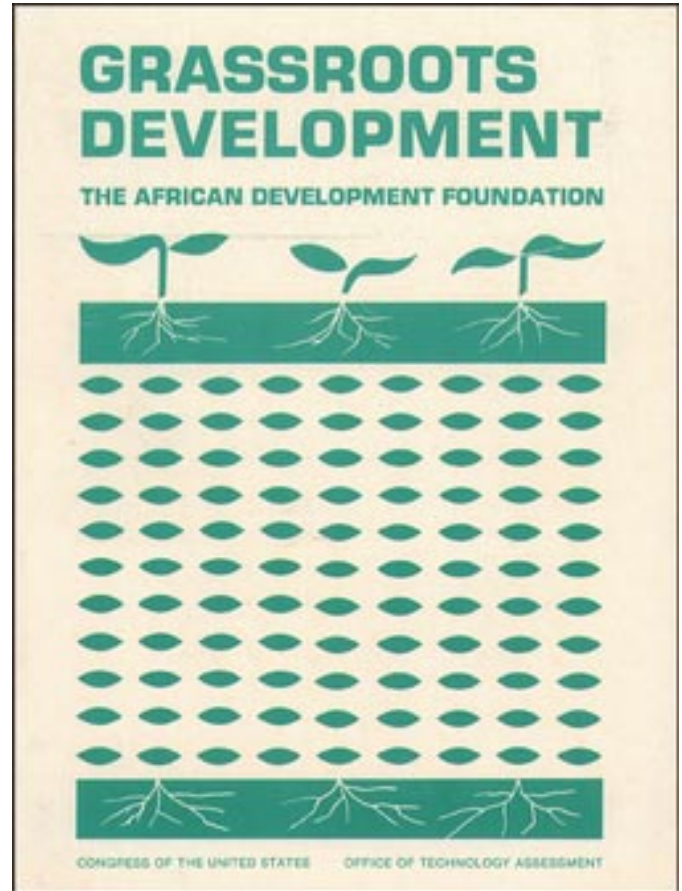


*Grassroots Development: The African  
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## Foreword

Grassroots development, to some, is a contradiction in terms. They identify development with industrialization, with large-scale transportation systems and U.S.-style agriculture with its expensive equipment. To others, grassroots development is a means to achieve results, an approach that has been missing from too many foreign aid programs and partly to blame for their failures. For yet others, grassroots development is an end in itself because it promotes people's well-being and empowers self-help groups to expand and make their own choices and bring about change.

Grassroots development may be a little of all these things to the members of Congress who established the African Development Foundation (ADF) in **1980**. This report is about the Foundation - the only program wholly funded by the U.S. Congress to support grassroots development in Africa. Our analysis of ADF's experience is broadly drawn; it will be of interest to anyone involved in self-help efforts of any kind. What works? What doesn't? And why?

This is OTA'S third report on U.S. foreign aid and African agriculture and the most comprehensive look at a single program. It complements a larger, more general work in press on enhancing agriculture in Africa and its already-published companion report on the Sahel Development Program. The House Foreign Affairs Committee, its Subcommittee on Africa, and the House Select Committee on Hunger requested this study. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Subcommittee on African Affairs, endorsed their request.

OTA'S special thanks go to the Washington-based and African staff of the Foundation who openly discussed their philosophy, their work, and their plans at length and who spent their holidays reviewing our draft. Also, we gratefully acknowledge the help of the people who participate in the 12 ADF-funded projects that we visited in Africa. They contributed their time, resources, knowledge, and enthusiasm to this assessment and it could not have been done without their help. Many others shared their insights with us, both in Africa and here in Washington. Members and leaders of the field teams, workshop participants, reviewers, and members of OTA'S Low-Resource Agriculture Advisory Panel all deserve, and have, our appreciation. As with all OTA studies, the content of this report is solely OTA'S responsibility.

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