

1.3 THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE PEOPLE.

Villagers in the majority of the instances own their houses which could reflect their level of poverty. Houses in the community range from pimento with thatch roofs to lumber with zinc roofs as well as a few concrete buildings. It must be mentioned that the housing styles or types in no way represents the level of poverty or wealth for that matter, but rather an expression of traditional and cultural values. Meals which are prepared by the women, are served early in the morning, at midday (the big meal) and in the evenings. Some even have a fourth helping before going to bed! Farmers in the region are self-employed for about 200 days per annum in their milpas and related activities. This brings in an annual income of about \$2,000.00 . In the relative sense of the word, a wouldn't classify any of these villagers as "POOR" rather I would say they are a little less fortunate in their financial situation since this income is not steady or secure and is fully dependent on mother nature.

The activities that create the generation of income other than farming in their milpas' include the following: rearing and marketing of pigs, chickens and cattle, marketing of labour, cutting of logs, cutting pimento, small business⁷ such as shops and saloons, wine making, cashew fruit and nut marketing as well as the sale of game meat, fish and turtle.

1.4 SOCIO-POLITICAL FRAME WORK

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Villagers in this community are governed by a village council and have been operating in organized groups for years. Some of the groups and organizations still in existence include:

- (1) village council
- (2) Social Department
- (3) Mennonite community
- (4) Agriculture department
- (5) Anglican church
- (6) Credit Union
- (7) Reap program
- (8) Cooperative department
- (9) Belize Rural High
- (10) Belize Agency for Rural Development
- (11) Catholic mission
- (12) Peace Corps
- (13) Pentecostal Church

Villagers are very responsive to the needs of others and rarely, if ever hesitate to help a fellowman in distress.