

Chapter VII

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE FOR KENT: A STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

"We are aware that all the problems in Kent County are not caused by agriculture nor will they be solved by agriculture. Farming is one of the many professions which go into the makeup of the rural community in Kent" (Sullivan).

Upon acceptance of the need for agricultural development and the commitment to it, complete understanding of just what a modern agriculture is and what it requires is necessary.

Agriculture in 1976 does not happen only on the farm. Farming is still central but each farm becomes only the assembly line utilizing and combining many different types of inputs drawn from throughout the economy.

Some of the inputs are provided by the commercial agrisupport activities which include the manufacture and distribution of farm inputs, marketing and processing services for handling farm products, and credit for financing farm operations.

Other inputs are provided by the non-commercial agrisupport activities—services such as research and education.

These three components of the agricultural system operate in an agrimilieu which applies influence to all these activities. Some of these influences are economic:

- a) the demand for food products;
- b) extent of non-agricultural opportunities;
- c) price and tax policies;
- d) income distribution;
- e) transportation facilities;
- f) population growth.

Other factors that make up this milieu are political:

- a) land tenure policies;