

THE EXPERIMENTALIST

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Editorial

The aim of technology should be to serve the people, but low cost appropriate technology is not often accessible to many. Here in Mozambique there are many industries and many technologies, but most of the technologies are not available for the rural poor.

About ninety per cent of homes have no electricity. Most children in rural areas do not have adequate lighting at night to do their homework. Most of the poor have no access to mechanised agriculture. And so on.

In general, industries in Mozambique produce for the richer level of society, not for the poor. One reason is that they assume that this is the way to make more money - sell to few people at high prices. However, there is a different logic, that few consider, but it would be beneficial economically and socially - by selling to a very large market at very low prices.

This implies the need for research to invent low-priced equivalents of the high-priced commodities. Part of the industries of Mozambique and universities should be dedicated to this investigation. Then, the results should be promoted to local industries.



If the product is really cheap in terms of raw materials, tools, skill and work, such "industries" could be industries at village level and can contribute to employment in the country.

In this "Experimentalist" we present an example of the attempt of our Spark Group to do research in this field - the replacement of corrugated iron with sheets made of empty beer cans. **Keith Warren**

<A small, cheap, commercial wind turbine

Technology: Some Wind Turbine Models;

Construction: How to make a Soldering Iron and how to make a Siphon Filter;

Community: How to make roofing sheets using empty tins;

World Technology: The biggest solar heater in the world.