

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION

Village Chief (Diaye)

The village chief is a religious old man. He owns much land in traditional agriculture and his sons send him money from town regularly.

Irrigation is not really important to him. To be recognized in the village is much more important.

He would prefer to receive the honor when the donors give a project to the village without any need to do anything for the village.

He is the one with the last say in the village, but in case he would go against the main ideas of the villagers, he could lose his position.

He approaches the donor by praising them and talk with them about the difficult situation in the village. Diaye could start his speech like:

*"..... We are glad you came. Our problem is money. Therefore we are glad you came all from your country to our village. We thank your people and your government.
..... Agriculture is not really developed here. This brings a burden for us. That God may bring more people like you. Our own government does not have the means.
..... One has not helped us much until now. The government is here now for more than 10 years, but has not helped much for development of this region.
..... There are many problems here. There is a lack of means. We had to do everything with our hands. If your project would have come earlier we would have had better lives. Now, with your arrival, we can only be happy.
..... There is almost no rain anymore and our lands are flooded. Everywhere where such a large project is people have something to live from.
That is all I have to say. Thank you...."*

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PERSONAL DESCRIPTION

The president of the village irrigation systems (Samba Thiam)

Samba Thiam is about 50 years old. He has seen much from the world and is already 7 years president. He knows them by heart.

His traditional fields are located so high, that they are never flooded anymore by the river since the drought of 1980.

He is a hard worker, it is not his fault that the systems do not work anymore. He cannot say that in the open to the mission: you do not wash the dirty linen in public! But it is a fact that people in the village are hard to move.

That is also caused by the fact that young men leave the village. The donor has to help, because the village cannot cope on its own with the problems.

Samba Thiam thinks that mechanization of the agriculture in the village will be the best for the village. And obviously a new irrigation system would be welcome. Who knows he can receive more recognition with a major function in that new system!

Thiam takes the word immediately after the village head. He could say:

"..... I agree with the last speaker. It is true we lack means. But we have good will. We have knowledge, but one is never too old to learn. I already grew rice in 1975 in Richard Toll.

..... Afterwards I worked for the Senegalese government for 8 years. Since then rice cultivation has changed, but that does not change the fact that rice cultivation is still very immature. Therefore people like you are needed. The lands give many problems.

..... Irrigation is very important for us, because without water there is no production. Our village does have a system but there is a big problem. The pump is too old and is broken down. Repairing costs too much for us.

..... We are at your disposal completely. You have more knowledge than we. Agriculture is not well developed. Tell us what to do and we will do it, all members of the village."

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PERSONAL DESCRIPTION

Ibrahim

This farmer is relatively young (40 years), and returned to the village from Europe not so long ago. He rents land from the village chief.

He can use this opportunity to prove his gratitude towards the chief.

He is very tactful, and knows that one should not ask direct questions.

He supports the ideas of the mission, but keeps a bit of a neutral image when asked.

He is thinking of starting a private irrigation system. He probably has an area of 10 hectares for this, but it is a bit far from the river. During an unguarded moment he would like to discuss this option with one of the engineers in the mission, to check what he thinks. He cannot do this too much in the open, as it would undermine the image of unity of the village.

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Aminata

Her husband went to Gabon 12 years ago, where he remarried. This makes Aminata relatively independent in the village, but she will never go against men in public.

The women in the village are well-organized. They have a small vegetable garden, which they water from a well with buckets.

The women from the village have elected Aminata to represent the women from Tatti and to ask for a vegetable garden with some concrete small circular reservoirs to be pumped full of water. This would be much handier than just a well. They would like to have a real canal system, like the men, but that may be too much to ask.

But only if the men agree the plans can continue: men own all the land in the village.

In the meantime she serves tea. The men think this is her main task in the meeting.

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Aliou

Aliou owns little and has had many misfortunes. He does not work as hard as he used too. But he knows much about irrigation and can, when the map is positioned correctly, explain about it excellently.

He is realistic and knows that it is not smart to apply for help too directly with donors. You should always talk their way, support them.

Because such a chance should not be missed! Perhaps he himself can start working for the donor; after all he is the one who understands their maps best.

He does not know whether to choose the side of the village chief or the president of the irrigation systems. They make a lot of promises, but are only interested in power.