



Actions speak louder . . .

Fact Sheet no.1: Import substitution

Description and analysis

Except in countries with quite sophisticated industrial capacity, materials and components such as cement, glass, asphalt, seasoned timber and steel sections, locks and sanitary-ware will continue to be imported. However, plenty of opportunities for import substitution are available in organising local manufacture of roofing tiles and sheets, floors and external paved areas, pipes of variable sizes, and in the use of cement-conserving methods of constructing walls.

Design response

Import dependent economies have evolved construction technologies to suit the use of imported corrugated iron sheets, cement-based blocks and asphalt hard surfaces for roads and drives. Guidance is needed in the specification and design of new methods of construction to incorporate local resources in place of these imports.

Parry Associates technical input possibilities

Parry equipment is widely used in import substitution industries. The variety of plants available are divided between concrete and clay/laterite processing equipment. The end products include 1/4 square metre semi-sheets and smaller roof tiles; many different

floor tiles, slabs and decorative paving; and a variety of wall products from superior finish facing bricks to low cement-content blocks made from concrete or laterite. Training can be provided in the UK and overseas and on-going technical support services are provided to all customers.

Local resources required

Principally labour (to be trained), clays, sands, gravels, and laterites. Also there is the limited possibility of using straight growing poles in substitution for sawn timber for roof structures.

Potential local business response

Local production of clay bricks is fairly common, and 'sandcrete' blocks are very common. The entrepreneurs concerned are potential users of materials and equipment, leading to commercial production ventures based on upgraded quality traditional manufacturing. Building contractors are also potential business counterparts, consuming their own outputs. Non-governmental organisations (NGO) and local co-operatives are also frequently capable of installing and operating building materials workshops, producing import-saving elements.

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