

Transfer of Technology: An Overview of the Tanzanian Case

ASC Leiden catalogue

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Year: 1977

The problems attendant upon the transfer of technology to the less developed countries are illustrated by the Tanzania experience. Before independence (1961), the importation of technology to Tanzania was almost entirely a preserve of private investors and it was concentrated in enclave units directed at the production and processing of raw materials for export. After independence, the government had a say in most of the investments that were made. But because of the absence of local capacity, foreign firms continued to dominate the importation of technology, to their own advantage, as is shown by an examination of several projects: the Wazo cement plant; Friendship, Mwanza and Kiltex textile mills; and General Tyres International. The author concludes with a set of recommendations as to measures which a developing country, like Tanzania, can take to maximise the benefits from imported technology. Notes, French sum.