

## 5 Conclusions

An attempt has been made in this review to trace the influence of agriculture on the economies of industrial nations and the development of economic analysis related to the industry. Apart from some obvious gaps, such as the examination of the international trade in food products and the significance of agricultural surpluses to growth, the approach has been to accent the theme that certain areas of agricultural activity, which are important determinants of the pattern of rural land-use, have been neglected. It is hoped that a fair indication has been given of where economists have failed to make an impact and why. Much space has been devoted to government activity and the implications of its policy devices because of the effect these have on the existing pressures on the use of rural land and because they dictate the direction in which research should proceed. It is apparent that outside the studies of a specific nature related to farm management a new breed of economists is required, because agricultural economists have hardly begun to comprehend the ramifications of wider issues on their own studies. Rural environment economics or rural land economics would adequately describe their sphere of interest, and, at the present state of knowledge, much of their work would be conducted within a kind of cost-benefit analysis framework. The topics of immediate concern would certainly include :

(a) more detailed appraisals of the economic costs of agricultural policy, both domestic and foreign;

(b) the study of human resources in agriculture on a multi-disciplinary basis;

(c) the empirical investigation of the different forms of rural land-use and

(d) the development of methodologies for the appraisal of land-use in conjunction with other disciplines such as social psychology, sociology, planning and law.