## COPING WITH HUNGER

Hazard and experiment in an African rice-farming system

Paul Richards

Department of Anthropology, University College London

London
ALLEN & UNWIN
Boston Sydney

## Contents

Ac	knowledgements	page vii
Lis	t of tables	xi
No	tes on terminology, conventions and units of measurement	xiii
Int	roduction	1
1	Food crises and technology transfer: Sierra Leone 1919–1949 The rice crisis of 1918–19 The Asian option Strengthening the research base The indigenous alternative	4 5 6 9 10
	The return of technology transfer: the polder irrigation scheme	12
2	Bringing the Green Revolution to Sierra Leone The Green Revolution Green Revolution in Sierra Leone Limitations to the Green Revolution swamp package An alternative to technology transfer Conclusion	15 16 18 22 25 27
3	Mogbuama: landscape and society A general introduction to the case study The landscape Administration and politics Settlement pattern and population characteristics Social organisation Summary	28 28 29 45 49 52 57
4	Land and labour  Types of farm Who can farm? Land types and land tenure Land availability and fallow periods The farm household Household work – the roles of men, women and children Non-household labour Summary	58 58 60 60 63 65 68 69 74
5	The farming year Choosing and brushing a farm site The burn Clearing Rice planting	76 76 79 85 86

X CONTENTS

	Weeding, pest control and bird scaring	92
	Harvesting	97
	Conclusion	98
6	The harvest	102
	Data sources	102
	Mogbuama agricultural output	104
	Agricultural savings in Mogbuama	107
	Rice farm yields	108
	Failure and success	111
	Conclusion	114
7	The hungry season	115
	The anatomy of pre-harvest hunger in Mogbuama	116
	Coping with hunger in Mogbuama	118
	Patronage and entitlement	128
	Conclusion	129
8	Rice varieties and farmer experiments	131
	Rice classification in Mogbuama	134
	Development of indigenous rice varieties: selection and experiment	138
	Adoption and abandonment of rice varieties	143
	Conclusion	144
9	Rice R&D in Sierra Leone: a farmer-first-and-last scenario	147
	Lessons of the case study	147
	Early rice	148
	Upland farms	152
	Swamp rice	153
	Conclusion	155
C	onclusion	156
	Postscript	157
References		158
Glossary		165
In	Index	