Abstract
The rural area constitutes a key factor for improving the quality of life of small producers. We conducted a qualitative study on the problems of the Paraguayan rural area, focusing particularly on the department of Caazapá. To this purpose we conducted interviews with small producers, extension agents and institutions, which were transcribed and categorised according to contents. It was concluded that political-institutional dynamics play a leading role in the problem at hand; that poverty, the lack of fertility of the land and low agricultural productivity are phenomena that are part of a complex system, and that the implementation of transfer methods of rural extension constitute a key element in the problem under discussion.

Keywords
Rural extension, small producers, Paraguay, Rural development, small farms, sociocultural aspects, Paraguay.