Before any work was done in the river valley the soils were mapped on the surrounding more readily accessible areas. This, of course, gave us a better idea of what soils we would likely encounter.

The limestone and sandstone bluffs provided us with pleasant scenery along with a good look at the exposed geology of this beautiful part of Arkansas (Fig. 3).

The soils that we encountered were not new to us, as they were mostly of the Entisol and Alfisol orders on the bottomlands and Alfisols on the small terraces (Fig. 4). The very steep slopes are mostly Alfisols and Ultisols. The shallow areas between the rock outcrops are either Mollisols, or they are classified only to the great group level as Udorthents. Most of these areas are mapped as a complex with rock outcrop. A topographic map with scale 1:24,000 was used as a base map in the field. We used the topographic maps to keep our aerial photographs from getting wet in the event our canoe capsized in the river. This mapping was later transferred to aerial photography with scale 1:20,000 for a permanent record, and eventually publication in the Newton County, Ark. Soil Survey Report.

Despite a couple of mishaps while in the canoe, one which resulted in the canoe being sunk and everyone getting soaked, no injuries were reported and no equipment was lost.

The opportunity presented itself for this soil survey party to break out of our everyday routine soil survey work and yet still do our jobs, so we took advantage of the opportunity. An accurate and detailed soil survey was made which will undoubtedly result in the increased use of soil surveys as a resource management tool.

Plans are already being made to do the soil survey work in other wilderness areas along the 148-mile route of the Buffalo River, now known as the Buffalo National River.

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On the Peasant Classification of Soils in Niger

Elisabeth Bui

In a strictly pedological context, a soil classification aims to characterize soils in a systematic manner based on mutually exclusive criteria, in order to identify and differentiate them. From the agronomic point of view a soil classification aims rather at determining land use capability and agricultural potential of soils so as to orient them toward optimal usage.

In the context of agricultural development, in order to facilitate dialogue between scientists, extension agents, and peasants, it would seem...