

AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Proj. No. 5960026.2
ON*

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TO: **AID/WASHINGTON CAPTO A -188 X**

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DATE SENT

August 4, 1970

FROM: **ROCAP/Guatemala**

SUBJECT: **Noncapital Project Paper: (PROP)**

REFERENCE:

Project Title: AGRICULTURE PLANNING

Project Number: 596-11-140-026.2

Activity Title: AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COORDINATION.

Submission Dates: **July 31, 1970**

U.S. Obligation Span: **FY 71-73**

Gross Life-of-Project Financial Requirements:

U.S. Dollars	\$150,000
U.S. Owned Currency	
Cooperating Country Cash Contribution	(see narrative)

The reader is referred to CAPTO A-2 dated January 6, 1970 which shows how this project fits into ROCAP's other agriculture sector activities. A PROP for sub-project 026.1, Regional Agricultural Policy is now being prepared.

(Copies being sent to all USAID Missions)

PAGE 1 OF 9 PAGES

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7/31/70

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AID AND OTHER AGENCIES

ADDP:NEW:LLA:1970

APO:G:Weld

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AAPO:MIngle

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NONCAPITAL PROJECT FUNDING (OBLIGATIONS IN \$000)

PROP DATE 7/31/70

Original X

Rev. No. _____

Project No. 026.2

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ROCAP/Guatemala CAPTO A 185

Fiscal Years	AP	L/G	Total	Cont ^{1/}			Participants		Commodities		Other Cost	
				AID	PASA	CONT	U.S. AG	CONT	Dir US AG	CONT	Dir & US AG	CONT
Prior through Act. FY <u>70</u>												
Oper. FY <u>71</u>			60									
Bldg. FY <u>72</u>			50								60	
B + 1 FY <u>73</u>			50								50	
B + 2 FY _____											40	
B + 3 FY _____												
All Subs.												
Total Life			150									

150

^{1/} Memorandum (nonadd) column

I. Summary Description:

During the October, 1965, meeting of the Central American Sub-committee on Agricultural and Economic Development and in the First Joint Meeting of Ministers of Economy and Agriculture of Central America, the Ministers agreed:

- a. To create a Permanent Committee on Agricultural Research for Central America and to appoint the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Economic Integration of Central America (SIECA), as the Secretariat of the Committee;
- b. To request the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IICA) to provide SIECA with technical cooperation in carrying out its agricultural integration activities and to outline a coordinated-agricultural research program for the Central American countries; and
- c. To give priority in the regional agricultural research program to the following in this order: basic foods, including beef; export products; and agricultural diversification of products.

To date, because of lack of resources, neither SIECA nor IICA has been able to carry out this mandate. Moreover, in the operation of some 30 experiment stations and research centers, the national governments, also because of lack of resources, have not been able to effectively coordinate their respective plans and programs for agricultural research. Much of the research which has been completed in these institutions has not been compiled and published. On-going and pending agricultural research programs and plans at many of the national level institutions are not coordinated within the research community. As a result of these factors, there is considerable duplication of effort in some areas and virtual neglect in others. The agriculture research which is being conducted is characterized by wide variations in approach and methodology.

In an attempt to resolve these problems, IICA now plans to:

- a. Review and evaluate agricultural research projects which have been completed at the various experiment stations and research centers, and prepare and distribute publications of findings considered to be useful to researchers, students, government and private institutions and producers.
- b. Review and evaluate agricultural research programs now underway in the region and prepare and distribute reports of such findings which might be useful to institutions and individuals involved in research undertakings.
- c. Review agricultural research efforts planned or pending during the years immediately ahead by the institutions in the region, and compile and distribute the findings to institutions and individuals engaged in agricultural research.

This project activity is designed to support the IICA initiative.

II. The Setting:

During the past several years in Central America and Panama, high priority has been given to speeding development of the private sector. More recently, it has been recognized that any self-sustained growth in the private sector will be directly related to the pace of development in the agricultural sector. Given the wide range in climate, soils, ecology in the region and the lack of reliable information on these matters, there is a growing awareness that the rate of development in the agricultural sector will depend in large measure on sound agricultural research.

Preliminary studies have already shown that modern technology and management can increase per acre yields very substantially with modest investments in these inputs. Much

more detailed information is still required on how to increase production, particularly for the basic food crops in the region (corn, rice and beans) which provide an estimated 87 percent of the total caloric intake for more than 90 percent of the population. The national average yield per acre for these crops throughout the region is substantially below the U.S. yield. The national average yield per acre for corn, for example, is about one-fourth that of the U.S. Similarly the lack of important information on production, processing, handling, and packaging and marketing methods has limited successful efforts to expand non-traditional agricultural exports. Lack of reliable information has also hampered profitable diversification from such crops as cotton and coffee. Finally, the effective future use of current AID loans, as well as even larger investments by national and private sources, which place considerable emphasis on the basic grain crops and diversified non-traditional exports, will require effective support in agricultural research during the next several years.

Unfortunately, even the very limited resources available for agricultural research in the region are not now being used effectively. On many occasions research efforts have not been coordinated and research findings from the experiment stations and research centers have not been disseminated. As a result researchers are usually not knowledgeable of other research efforts being conducted in the region. Many of the institutions do not follow standard research procedures. Individual research efforts, therefore, have often been conducted in an inefficient manner.

III. Strategy and Program Goals:

Under this project, ROCAP will support the policies, plans and operations of regional agricultural research efforts, and contribute to developing a regional institution (IICA, Northern Zone) with the capability for coordinating agricultural research efforts throughout the area. The program will also contribute to a more effective use of the substantial resources being channeled into the agriculture sector via A I D loans and local public and private sector investments. It will complement other A.I.D.-supported research efforts in soil fertility improvements, weed control and animal nutrition. More specifically, efforts under

the program will be directed toward the following goals:

- a. Improving the compilation and exchange of information between researchers and public officials on completed, on-going and planned research activities in the region;
- b. Encouraging region-wide coordination of agricultural research plans and programs, and
- c. Promoting more effective use of available agricultural research resources.

As the results of this project become available, it is expected that much of the duplication of efforts in agricultural research in the region will be eliminated. Then, new research plans and programs can be directed toward selected crops. In conjunction with this, ICAITI (the Central American Research Institute for Industry) is expected to give attention to those components of the seed-to-consumer process which are impeding a smooth and continuous flow in the total system. These efforts would be focused particularly on improving harvesting, handling, packaging, storing and marketing problems occurring in subsequent stages of preparing the crop for delivery to the consumer.

This project is expected to support and reinforce the broad "systems approach" to region-wide agricultural development and the expanding interest in agro-industries in each of the countries. It will also increase the utility of AID/W agriculture research projects now under way in the area.

IV. Targets and Course of Action:

A. Targets: Since this is an initial effort to devise a regional agricultural research, extension and coordination program, targets for prescribed time periods are necessarily somewhat imprecise. However, it is anticipated that:

1. During the first 12 to 18 months of the project period (FY 71 and first half FY 72) IICA will review and evaluate the completed agricultural research efforts of all the experiment stations

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and research centers and begin preparing manuscripts considered suitable for publication.

2. During the first year of the project IICA will examine the on-going agricultural research projects of the experiment stations and research centers in the region and prepare and distribute a report of such on-going programs to the respective entities and to local government officials and regional institutions having need for the report.
3. In the second year of the project IICA will review agricultural research plans for each of the research institutions for the years immediately ahead, will review national-level research plans, and will prepare and distribute copies of reports of findings to entities and institutions having need for such documents.
4. During the third year of the project (FY 73) IICA will urge regional research centers to adopt modern management techniques and standard research procedures.
5. In the third year of the project IICA will develop a region-wide plan for agricultural research, including provisions for disseminating available research findings and area-wide coordination of efforts, programs and plans.
6. As part of the review process, IICA representatives will sponsor periodic meetings of researchers and administrators of research projects and programs as may be required for exchanging information and experiences and improving coordination of research efforts in the area.
7. After the phase-out of ROCAP assistance, IICA and SIECA will continue to coordinate agriculture research efforts and disseminate findings throughout the region.

At least once each year, IICA and ROCAP will undertake a detailed review and evaluation of the program and prepare such changes as may be appropriate for succeeding years.

Estimated U.S. costs for the project for FY 71-73 are as follows:

<u>ILLUSTRATIVE ROCAP BUDGET (dollars)</u>				
	FY 71	FY 72	FY 73	Totals
Salaries (full-time)	24,000	20,000	16,000	60,000
Salaries (part-time)	16,000	15,000	10,000	41,000
Travel	7,000	5,000	4,000	16,000
Equipment/supplies	5,000	3,000	3,000	11,000
Publications	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
Miscellaneous	<u>3,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>7,000</u>
<u>Totals</u>	60,000	50,000	40,000	150,000

The Central American contribution to this project will be considerable, but is difficult to measure quantitatively. The effort to coordinate research throughout the region will require the time and effort of countless national level officials in the Ministries of Agriculture and in the 34 research centers and experiment stations. In addition, IICA personnel will provide administrative and technical support services to the ROCAP-supported personnel. IICA will also provide the resources to continue coordinating agriculture research after the phase-out of ROCAP assistance. Perhaps, most importantly, the much greater level of resources required to carry out the agriculture research itself comes primarily from Central American sources.

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