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CLASSIFICATION
PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY (PES) - PART I

Report Symbol U-447

1. PROJECT TITLE Regional Organizations Development (Association for the Advancement of Agricultural Sciences in Africa (AAASA))			2. PROJECT NUMBER 698-0154	3. MISSION/AID/W OFFICE AFR/RA
5. KEY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DATES			4. EVALUATION NUMBER (Enter the number maintained by the reporting unit e.g., Country or AID/W Administrative Code, Fiscal Year, Serial No. beginning with No. 1 each FY) 698-79-4	
A. First PRO-AG or Equivalent FY 1975	B. Final Obligation Expected FY 1977	C. Final Input Delivery FY 1979	<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR EVALUATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL EVALUATION 6. ESTIMATED PROJECT FUNDING A. Total est. \$ 581,000 B. U.S. Stock \$ 265,000 See B/Tock 15	
			7. PERIOD COVERED BY EVALUATION From (month/yr.) June 1975 To (month/yr.) Dec. 1978 Date of Evaluation Review Dec. 1978	

8. ACTION DECISIONS APPROVED BY MISSION OR AID/W OFFICE DIRECTOR

A. List decisions and/or unresolved issues; cite those items needing further study. (NOTE: Mission decisions which anticipate AID/W or regional office action should specify type of document, e.g., airgram, SPAR, PIU, which will present detailed request.)	B. NAME OF OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION	C. DATE ACTION TO BE COMPLETED
DECISIONS:		
- AID is providing \$90,000 support to AAASA as a terminal grant in FY 1979 under another project (698-0413) and backstops project in AID/W.	Sanders AFR/RA	Completed March 1979
- USAID/Ethiopia will continue to monitor AID assistance and be the U.S. liaison with AAASA for AID inputs.	Sherper USAID/ADDIS	Continuing
- AAASA should: (1) seek payment of membership dues and drop non-paying members; (2) continue to seek additional African and donor support from all sources if it is to become effective and viable; (3) seek more formal institutional relationships in order to economize; (4) subject to available resources, continue to pursue their planned program. These actions should allow AAASA to become more self-sufficient	Otiefa AAASA	Continuing

9. INVENTORY OF DOCUMENTS TO BE REVISED PER ABOVE DECISIONS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Paper 698-0413	<input type="checkbox"/> Implementation Plan e.g., CPI Network	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> PIO/T 698-0413-3-6197405 issued 1/30/79	
<input type="checkbox"/> Logical Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> PIO/C	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant signed-698-0413 March 1979	<input type="checkbox"/> PIO/P	

10. ALTERNATIVE DECISIONS ON FUTURE OF PROJECT

A. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continue Project Without Change under 698-0413
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Change Project Design and/or
<input type="checkbox"/> Change Implementation Plan
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue Project

11. PROJECT OFFICER AND HOST COUNTRY OR OTHER RANKING PARTICIPANTS AS APPROPRIATE (Names and Titles)

John Rose, RDO USAID/Addis (substance)
Ken Sherper, RDO, USAID/Addis (substance)
Charles A. Sanders, Agr. Dev. Officer, AFR/RA(drafter)
Bakir A. Otiefa, Adm. Sec. Gen., AAASA

12. Mission/AID/W Office Director Approval

Signature
E. Dennis Conroy
Typed Name
E. Dennis Conroy, AFR/RA
Date
Mar 11 1979
Director

Regional Organizations Development
((Association for the Advancement of
Agricultural Sciences in Africa (AAASA)))
698-0154

13. SUMMARY - This Project Evaluation Summary (PES) is the final report under project 698-0154 to the Association for the Advancement of Agricultural Sciences in Africa (AAASA). Interested readers should note that the assistance to AAASA is only one component of the activities assisted under this project which has phased out. The Assistant Administrator of the Africa Bureau has recently determined (State 295210 dated November 22, 1978) that AID should continue some support to AAASA during 1979 in recognition of their objectives and continuing support from other donors/agencies. This commitment has been programmed and Grant agreement signed under Support to Regional Organizations, Project 698-0413.

AID assistance has been vital to the existence of AAASA, and it is highly problematical that AAASA would have collapsed without AID support.

The major problems encountered have been: (a) continuity of permanent staffing which resulted in part-time, volunteer staffing by interested Africans; (b) inadequate commitment for financial support from others; and (c) need for improvement of financial and operational management. These problems might not have been as crucial if AAASA was an organization with stronger institutional ties and more definitive commitment by supporters than appears to have been the case.

AAASA has an ambitious program of work which seems to be beyond their capacity to secure financial support for and to effectively schedule.

14. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY - This report is primarily based upon an evaluation conducted by Dr. C. C. Murray, AID consultant, dated May 27, 1977 (Attachment A); AAASA Progress Reports covering the periods March 1975 to April 1978 (Attachment B), and April 1978-November 1978 (Attachment C); other related project documentation; and the attendance of the AID representative (drafting officer for this PES) at the AAASA Third General Conference and Tenth Anniversary conducted in Ibadan, Nigeria in April 1978. Several individuals from other donors/agencies (Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, National Academy of Science, FAO/Rome, Agricultural Institute of Canada, International Development Research Centre of Canada, and Organization for African Unity), have been contacted over the past several months vis-a-vis the progress/plans and viability of AAASA. Also, see Attachment D, letter from Dr. Otiefa, Adm. Sec. Gen., AAASA, commenting on this PES.

Because of the uniqueness and special nature of the AAASA, it is not possible to closely comply with or follow the topics to be covered in a regular evaluation. Thus, the reporting unit has opted for a variation which we believe will give the reviewer the best possible understanding of AAASA's problems, progress, and potential.

15. EXTERNAL FACTORS - AAASA is an organization of individuals interested in African agriculture. While there appears to be considerable interest among some individuals to make AAASA a viable and effective organization, there seems to be considerable need for broader individual member dedication and support as well as increased priority and financial support from African countries.

a. Since inauguration of AAASA very few African Government agencies have financially (or in kind) supported it. During the past year or so African support includes:

- (1) Ethiopia - free office accommodations equivalent to about \$7,000 pa;
 - (2) Nigeria - approximately \$54,000 since 1974/75 (\$46,000 of this was in support of AAASA Third General Conference conducted in Ibadan, Nigeria in April 1978);
 - (3) Senegal - \$3,000 - 1975 thru 1978;
 - (4) Libya - reportedly will provide \$10,000 p/a which was to have begun in 1978;
 - (5) Organization for African Unity (OAU) - \$50,000 in 1977/78 and \$55,000 in 1978/79 planned.
- b. Other donor/agency financial support includes:
- (1) AID - \$265,000 - 1974-1978
 - (2) Rockefeller - \$165,000 - 1974-1978
 - (3) Ford - \$69,000 " "
 - (4) AIC/CIDA - \$57,000 - 1976-1979
 - (5) IDRC - Travel expenses for workshop in 1977.
 - (6) ODM - Publications advisor

More recently the Administrative Secretary General of AAASA has submitted requests to the above and several additional potential supporters. Also, considerable effort has been extended to gain greater support for AAASA within Africa.

16. INPUTS - There have been continuing financial problems because of limitations by various supporters and in the past some question regarding

appropriate use of AID funds. Since its inauguration there have been dormant periods in AAASA because of a vacancy for the Administrative Secretary General position. This key position is presently filled by a very energetic, dedicated, capable official (Dr. Bakir Otiefa) which has greatly improved AAASA's image among all interested parties.

There is some doubt whether or not AAASA will ever become fully self sufficient or can become viable without continuing donor government/agency support. Thus, it appears that AAASA needs to economize (particularly on their core budget) and/or secure greater financial support first from its membership; second, from African Governments/Agencies; and third, from international donors/agencies.

17. OUTPUTS - Measurement of actual outputs are, in part, covered under progress in Section 18, below. Copies of all released publications have been sent to all members plus selected scientists and other officials or institutions. Recent reports indicate printing and distribution of 1,000 copies of the technical journal. There is varied opinion regarding the value and utilization of technical reports. Academically, one could argue that technical reports widely circulated among scientists is a very valuable effort. It is probably a positive factor that AAASA has been able to survive a decade as an association of professional individuals. Also, it is debatable as to the value of publications, seminars, and conferences. On the other hand, it seems very logical that the exchange of papers and ideas between key African scientists and their International Colleagues could have a very positive influence upon agricultural development in Africa.

An example of this would be the AAASA Third General Conference where some 200 participants from 26 countries, (15 of these were African), presented and discussed various technical papers.

Printing and distribution of AAASA publications have been difficult to keep on a systematic schedule. This results from a combination of management and financial problems.

18. PURPOSE - The purpose of this activity is: To assist in the development of a viable and effective Association for the Advancement of Agricultural Sciences in Africa (AAASA).

AAASA is an association of individual agricultural scientists, research institutions, and organizations engaged in agriculturally related research, teaching and extension education in Africa.

The objectives are:

- a. To foster the development and application of agricultural sciences throughout Africa;
- b. To provide for the exchanges of experiences among scientists and all professionals engaged in agricultural research and production throughout Africa, by means of periodic conferences and meetings, and through exchange of publications;
- c. To encourage Africans to avail themselves of the opportunity to get training in the various fields of agricultural sciences;
- d. To cooperate with other organizations interested in the steady progress and development of African agriculture.

<u>Indicators (EOPS)</u>	<u>Progress</u>
(1) Membership Growth	882 members as of Nov. 1978, which is an increase of 154 new members since Jan. 1978. There were 457 members as of March 1975.
(2) Publications:	
(a) Journal	Vol. V No. 1 & 2 in 1978
(b) Newsletter	Vol. X No. 1 thru 4 in 1978
(c) Membership Directory	To be completed in 1978
(d) Reports on workshops/ seminars	Two during 1978
(e) Report on Annual Conference	Third Conference April 1978
(f) Cropping Systems & Related Research in Africa, B. Okigbo, April 1978.	
(3) Workshops/seminars/conferences conducted - three in 1978	

The EOPs and progress are detailed in Programme and Operational Activities sections of Attachment B (see pages 3 thru 9) and Attachment C (see pages 2 thru 5). Major concerns re the shortfalls of AAASA involves delays in publications and reporting total membership rather than active total dues paying membership. A related concern is whether AAASA's role can be effectively developed to encompass more than individual members; the conducting of seminars; the distribution of publications, etc., without adequate assured financial support which has been a continuing problem to date.

19. GOAL/SUBGOAL - The AID assistance has contributed to the development and a degree of effectiveness of the AAASA in addressing its goal. On the other hand, when one more broadly adds the terms "viable and effective" it becomes somewhat more complicated to measure progress. AAASA has a considerable amount of membership interest and support among scientists. It has not been able, however, to develop any appreciable degree of financial

viability. This is despite its existence for a decade and having been able to maintain and gain increasing recognition for its professional identity. An indicator of this problem has been the current Administrative Secretary General's constant plea that AID assistance is vital for AAASA to maintain its identity and pursue its purpose and objectives.

20. BENEFICIARIES - The direct beneficiaries are the African scientists and planners who attend AAASA sponsored seminars, conferences and receive their publications. This would permit them access to current technical information on agriculture and rural development which they, in turn, could utilize in their individual roles in their own country. This, in turn, would be supportive of the Foreign Assistance Act; e.g., increasing production and income of rural poor through creation and strengthening local institutions linked to regional and national levels.

21. UNPLANNED EFFECTS - The AAASA has developed slower than anticipated because of staffing and financial problems. The drafter is unaware of any identifiable changes in social structure, environment, health, technical or economic situations resulting from AAASA.

22. LESSONS LEARNED - Support to organizations such as AAASA are perhaps somewhat unique and therefore is difficult to adequately relate to AID programming procedures. It appears that a more formalized host institutional arrangement would have been an asset to the development of AAASA. This would have permitted more continuity in staffing and program development. Also, it would have possibly resulted in greater support from African Governments/Agencies. A point worthy of more serious consideration

vis-a-vis assisting professional organizations is whether or not they can ever become self sufficient.

23. SPECIAL COMMENTS OR REMARKS - Because of the uniqueness of AAASA and the complicated programming procedures of AID, this relatively small activity has required staff time and effort that is excessive in comparison to the more conventional AID assisted programs. Although this evaluation is a final report under Project 698-0154, there will need to be an additional evaluation done at the end of the next year for the AID assistance programmed in FY 1979 under Project 698-0413.

Attachment

EVALUATION REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL
SCIENCES IN AFRICA (AAASA)

PROJECT NO. 698-0154

BY

C.C. MURRAY, CONSULTANT, TAB/AID

MAY 27, 1977

This report is based upon a review of the well documented files of the African Bureau of A.I.D. provided by Mr. Charles Sanders, Agriculture Development Officer, and discussion with appropriate personnel of A.I.D., NAS and others who have had experience in Africa and are knowledgeable about AAASA.

This cooperation and assistance is gratefully appreciated. The recommendations made, however, represent my own best judgement and in no way should they be interpreted as reflecting the views or opinions of A.I.D. personnel.

1. Background

The AAASA came into being following a successful conference on priorities for Agricultural Research for Economic Development in Africa. This conference was held in April 1968 at Abidjan. It was organized by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and supported by AID and FAO. Approximately 200 representatives from 32 countries attended. Organizations which took an active role in this conference included; EDA, FAO, UNESCO, AID, ORSTOM, IRAT, IRAM, IEMVT, OAU/STRC, ADB and IBRD.*

It was the feeling of those attending the conference that such an association would enhance the exchange of ideas and technical material between French and English speaking scientists in Africa. It could also provide a mechanism for pointing out important issues and problems for discussion as well as encourage young scientists to participate actively in agricultural scientific activities. The decision was made to establish the AAASA. The organization of the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers (US) was used as a model. An Interim Executive Committee was elected.

The Interim Executive Committee established the Association's headquarters and organized the First General Conference of the Association. At the second meeting of the Interim Executive Committee in Addis Ababa in July 1969 it decided to establish the permanent headquarters of the Association in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and employ a secretariat.

2. Activities

Following the establishment of an office in Addis Ababa and the position of Secretariat a constitution was drafted, a membership program developed, budget requirements prepared, financial support obtained, the publication of the Association's Journal and Newsletter activated.

The first AAASA General Conference was held August 29 - September 4, 1971 with an attendance of 130 members. The constitution was adopted and scientific sections established in the following subject matter areas:

1. Crop production and protection
2. Animal Health and production
3. Soil, water management and mechanization
4. Agricultural economics
5. Agricultural education, extension and rural sociology

The second General Conference of AAASA was held in March 1975 at Dakar, Senegal attended by 150 participants mostly from 20 African countries. The theme was "Making Agricultural Research More Meaningful to the Farmer". Twelve papers were presented. A five year program of activities was drafted.

It was decided to plan workshops in the following areas:

*See attached Glossary of Acronyms

1. Administration of Agricultural Research 1977
2. Plant Genetic Resources in Africa 1977
3. Mechanization of Small Farms 1978

A topic was selected for the third General Conference - "Food Crisis and Agricultural Production in Africa" to be held in April 1978.

Membership in AAASA involves representatives from 32 African and 19 other countries. Current membership is reported to be 559.

The Journal of AAASA is commendable and contains good papers which should be useful to research, teaching and extension personnel. It is a medium through which its members can share information which will stimulate interest in research by personnel in institutions and agencies and through this process build a base for the allocation of more resources for the support of research relevant to the needs for advancing the role of agriculture in the economy of the African nations.

The Quarterly Newsletter of AAASA has recently adopted a new format and is printed for wide distribution. It contains news items and announcements of interest to members and others who have access to it.

AAASA Program of Activities (1975-1980) was adopted March 1975 at the second General Conference - Dakar, Senegal. This effort at long range planning reflects much thought of significant activities which need to be activated. It is an ambitious proposed program. It appears, however, that to accomplish this scope of work as outlined will necessitate the participation of organizations such as FAO, AFAA, OAU, AAU, and others, including donors.

AAASA could take the initiative in getting the program underway and seek the support of all organizations having capability, interest and resources to be actively involved. Such an approach would enhance the image of AAASA, increase its visibility throughout Africa and improve and solidify its working relationship with the administrative and governmental leadership of the respective countries of Africa.

The cost of this five-year program is reported as US \$1,317,000. It is suggested that careful and thorough study be made of the most effective, economical, and efficient way of carrying on this work with the assistance and support of the organizations cited above and others including indigenous and those of international scope.

3. Relationships of AAASA and AFAA

This subject was discussed at the meeting of the Steering Committee of AFAA in August 1973. The Committee felt that close identification with AAASA would alienate many of the delegates support of AFAA. There were two reasons stated for this reaction: 1) it was felt that there had been excessive involvement from outside individuals and organizations in the establishment and early nurturing of AAASA; 2) there had been resentment manifested over the

permanent location of the Secretariat at Addis Ababa.

It was the concern of this group that this issue raised serious questions to donors relative to support to institutions such as AAU and AFAA vs Associations of individuals such as AAASA.

The Inagural Conference report of the Association of Faculties of Agriculture in Africa (AFAA) gives good information on this organization.

The AFAA, an institutionally based organization, holds great promise. If it develops the capability and resourcefulness inherent in an association of such institutions it can be the most potent force in Africa in getting research, training and service programs undergirded with basic and applied agricultural sciences relevant to the needs of Africa.

AAASA, an association of individuals, without an indigenous institutional base can never, on its own, conduct an ongoing broadly based research program. It has and is now doing good and necessary work in promoting and encouraging research through its individual members who are institutionally located, sponsoring conferences and workshops, publishing its Journal and Newsletter. This represents real achievement and progress in a short span of years and under difficult and trying circumstances.

All of the people and organizations who have worked in organizing and carrying on the work of AAASA and those who have supported it financially deserve the gratitude and admiration of the African nations.

Recommendations:

1. The donors who have supported AAASA and, hopefully others, should continue to support this organization at a level for it to function. (See recommendation No. 5).
2. AAASA should be encouraged to work more closely with other organizations and institutions and thus increase its effectiveness, support and economy of operation.
3. Real effort should be made to develop a close and harmonious working relationship between AAASA, AFAA and AAU. This would be advantageous to the three associations and increase their influence in all aspects of higher education in the agricultural sciences. This recommendation is based on the assumption that these associations have similarities to the American Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges.
4. AAASA and AFAA leadership should give careful consideration to the establishment of a joint Secretariat to serve both associations and be stationed at an accessible location and on a campus or in a Ministry where office space could be provided on a gratis basis.

5. A strategy should be developed to secure support from indigenous resources for the core budget of the joint Secretariat, Journal and Newsletter as soon as possible. When this is accomplished it should be easier to approach outside donors to give financial help for conferences and workshops on specified subjects deemed to be the most important to the agricultural advancement of the nations of Africa.
6. As an organization with the objective of stimulating research and the dissemination of scientific information, AAASA should give consideration to the establishment of additional national Chapters and Sections, and Conducting regional Seminars. Such Chapters or Sections would permit annual meetings, stimulate increased membership and participation on the part of scientists at less travel expenses on a national or regional basis.
7. As AAASA grows in capability and as funding becomes available it should consider conducting studies of regional and international scope on topics of interest to private and public agencies and organizations such as the African Development Bank, the African Economic Council and others.
8. There is a need among the African Nations for the development of the capability to assimilate and publish a listing of all research projects for the knowledge and review by scientists. Consideration should be given to the development of this capacity for service by the utilization of existing computer facilities.

Concluding Statement:

The AAASA as an organization has been assisted in a substantial way over a period of years. It has survived and grown amidst some critical and perplexing times. It has rendered an essential and useful service. At this point in time it needs continued help to enable it to become a still more useful resource in the scientific advancement of the African nations. In light of its activities thus far it will live, though crippled, without AID financial support. It would be most unfortunate, however, at this point in time to discontinue such support in light of past assistance in investing in it, agricultural institutions and the training of personnel. Furthermore, AAASA will continue to need council and advice on perspective and the development of appropriate relationships with scientific organizations in the United States so that scientists in Africa can have access to and contribute to world wide scientific literature.

In considering this report and the situation in Africa at the present time AID has the following alternatives:

1. Continue to support financially AAASA at a level for it to function effectively.
2. Reduce funding to the minimum.
3. Withdraw financial support altogether.

4. Continue to council and advise AAASA with or without financial support. Perhaps a grant to the National Academy of Sciences for this purpose would be a way to do this.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AAU	Association of African Universities
AID	Agency for International Development
ADB	African Development Bank
AFAA	Association of Faculties of Agriculture of Africa
ECA	Economic Commission to Africa of the United Nations
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IEMVT (French)	Institute of Tropical Veterinary Medicine and Livestock
IRAM (French)	Institute for Agricultural Research of the Malagasy Republic
IRAT (French)	Institute for Tropical Agricultural Research
NAS	National Academy of Sciences
OAU	Organization for African Unity
ORSTOM (French)	Organization for Overseas Scientific and Technical Research
STRC/OAU	The Scientific, Technical and Research Commission under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization