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 PD-AAC-840-61

PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY  
 (Submit to MO/PAV after each project evaluation)

1. Mission or AID/W Office Name Development Support Bureau/Office of Agriculture			2. Project Number 931-0236.01			
3. Project Title <span style="float: right;">8p</span> Comprehensive Resource Inventory and Evaluation System (CRIES) for Agricultural Planning						
4. Key project dates (fiscal years)			5. Total U.S. funding - life of project			
a. Project Agreement Signed FY 76	b. Final Obligation FY 80	c. Final input delivered FY 81	\$ 1,269,200			
6. Evaluation number as listed in Eval. Schedule	7. Period covered by this evaluation FROM: June 1977 <del>to</del> April 1978 Month/year	8. Date of this Evaluation Review 5/11/78 month/day/year				
9. Action Decisions Reached at Evaluation Review, including items needing further study (Note--This list does not constitute an action request to AID/W. Use telegrams, airgram, SPARS, etc., for action)			10. Officer or Unit responsible for follow-up			
			11. Date action to be completed			
			1. Explore possibilities for a more secure organizational foundation for CRIES		R. Suttor DS/AGR	1 Oct 1978
			2. Develop information system		USDA CRIES Staff	1 Oct 1978
			3. Integration of CRIES and sector analysis work in Dominican Republic		USDA CRIES Staff	31 Dec 1978
			4. Review of related studies		USDA CRIES Staff	1 Oct 1978
			5. Evaluate quality of data		USDA CRIES Staff	31 Dec 1978
6. Develop mechanism for continuing consulting assistance		R. Suttor DS/AGR	1 Apr 1979			
Clearance: DS/AGR, W.Merrill			Date: 7/1/78			

12. Signatures:

Project Officer Signature: <i>Richard E. Suttor</i> Typed name: Richard E. Suttor Date: 7/10/78	Mission or AID/W Office Director Signature: <i>Leon F. Hesser</i> Typed name: Leon F. Hesser Date: 7/10/78
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13. SUMMARY - Summarize in about 200 words the current project situation, mentioning progress in relation to design; prospects of achieving purpose, major problems encountered, etc.

Work began in The Dominican Republic in June 1976 and has progressed more or less according to schedule. The sector analysis group in the Department of Planning of the Secretariat of Agriculture was designated as the counterpart organization for CRIES. A full time Dominican leader was appointed. The sector analysis project of the Latin America Bureau has the same organizational counterpart; this facilitates the close cooperation that has characterized the two projects during the past year.

A team visited four Central American countries in November 1976 to select the second country for CRIES. Nicaragua was selected and work began there in June 1977. Progress was better than expected until January 1978. Since then civil disturbances in Nicaragua and related changes in CRIES counterpart staff have somewhat delayed progress.

14. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY - Describe the methods used for this evaluation, i.e. was it a regular or special evaluation? was it in accordance with the Evaluation Plan in the PP with respect to timing, study design, scope, methodology and issues? What kinds of data were used and how were they collected and analyzed? Identify agencies and key individuals participating and contributing.
- This is a regular evaluation in accordance with the evaluation plan. The evaluation was prepared by the project officer drawing upon (a) the project officer's contacts with the USDA team both in the U.S. and the two host countries, and (b) an evaluation report prepared by a four person team of outside experts. A copy of the team's report is attached.

15. Documents to be revised to reflect decisions noted page 1 (other side:)

Project Paper (PP)  Logical Framework  CPI Network  Financial Plan

PIO/T  PIO/C  PIO/P  Project Agreement  Other

This evaluation brought out ideas for a new project -- a Project Identification Document (PID) will follow.

Evaluation findings about EXTERNAL FACTORS - Identify and discuss major changes in project setting which have an impact on the project. Examine continuing validity of assumptions.

Civil disturbances in Nicaragua beginning in January 1978 and related changes in CRIES counterpart staff have somewhat delayed progress. However, it now appears that the work will resume normal progress in the near future.

Other assumptions remain valid.

Evaluation findings about GOAL/SUBGOAL - For the reader's convenience, quote the approved sector or other goal (and subgoal, where relevant) to which the project contributes. Then describe status by citing evidence available to date from specified indicators and by mentioning progress of other projects (whether or not U.S.) which contribute to same goal. Discuss causes--can progress toward goal be attributed to project, why shortfalls?

The goal is to provide a data management system and an analytical framework for assembling resource information and assessing the supply and development potential of resources suitable or adaptable for agricultural production in two less developed countries.

Work began in the Dominican Republic June 1976 and has progressed more or less according to schedule. Nicaragua was selected as the second country in January 1977; this is in accord with the schedule for the second country to be funded under this project. Although work has been delayed in Nicaragua in recent months, it now appears that normal progress will resume.

8. Evaluation findings about PURPOSE - Quote the approved project purpose. Cite progress toward each End-of-Project Status (EOPS) condition. When can achievement be expected? Discuss causes of progress or shortfalls.
1. To select and apply techniques for collecting, classifying, collating and documenting data on a country's land and water resources, land use, production inputs, and expected outputs, production costs, technology options and institutional constraints.
  2. To establish a system, using existing data management techniques and analytical processes, for evaluating these data.
  3. To demonstrate the analytical capabilities of this system and test the reliability and usefulness of the results.
  4. To develop procedures for linking the resource data and analytical system into a sector analysis.
  5. To internalize utilization of the techniques developed as part of the activity and integrate the system with sector analysis activities in the country.

(continued on page 4a)

19. Evaluation findings about OUTPUTS and INPUTS - Note any particular success or difficulties. Comment on significant management experiences of host contractor, and donor organizations. Describe any necessary changes in schedule or in type and quantity of resources or outputs needed to achieve purpose.

Outputs

1. The merger of soils and climatic data has been completed in The Dominican Republic and has proceeded quite well in Nicaragua.
2. Lack of information on water availability continues to be a problem, although data are better in Nicaragua than the Dominican Republic.
3. More work is needed to define and measure technology options.

Inputs

1. An advisor is now resident in The Dominican Republic.
2. Due to recent events in Nicaragua, the USAID Mission wishes to shift from resident to more TDY assistance.

1. The data and analytical systems for The Dominican Republic have been completed.
2. A resident advisor is working with Dominican counterparts to test the reliability and usefulness of the system.
3. Procedures have been developed for linking the resources data and analytical system into a sector analysis in The Dominican Republic.

20. Evaluation findings about UNPLANNED EFFECTS - Has project had any unexpected results or impact, such as changes in social structure, environment, technical or economic situation? Are these effects advantageous or not? Do they require any change in plans?

There have been no significant unexpected results or impacts yet.

21. CHANGES in DESIGN or EXECUTION - Explain the rationale for any proposed modifications in project design or execution which now appear advisable as a result of the preceding findings (items 16 to 20 above) and which were reflected in one or more of the action decisions listed on page 1 or noted in Item 15 on page 2.

There are no proposed modifications in project design or execution.

LESSONS LEARNED - What advice can you give a colleague about development strategies - e.g., how to tackle a similar development problem or to manage a similar project in another country? What can be suggested for follow-on in this country? Similarly do you have any suggestions about evaluation methodology?

The evaluation by a team of outside experts was useful to the CRIES team, but required a great deal of time to prepare for it. On balance, such an exercise may be worth the cost at least once in a project such as CRIES.

3.  
SPECIAL COMMENTS or REMARKS (For AID/W projects, assess likelihood that results of project will be utilized in LDC's).

Results are being utilized in The Dominican Republic and probably will be in Nicaragua. Lessons learned in those two countries will provide useful guidance for related projects in other LDCs.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DS/FO, Robert Simpson

DATE: July 10, 1978

FROM : DS/AGR/ESP, Leon Hesser *lhb*

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Resource Inventory and Evaluation System (CRIES) Project

Ref: Simpson to Hesser Memorandum, same subject, dated June 28, 1978

The attached PES for the subject project includes a revised first page in line with your recommendation in the referenced memorandum. (Although your memorandum referred to block 8, I assume you meant blocks 9, 10 and 11.)

The six points listed in block 9 refer to the one administrative recommendation and technical recommendations 1, 2, 4 and 8 in the evaluation report.

I would like to briefly comment on the other technical recommendations. Number 3 is rejected because it is beyond the scope of the project and, if implemented, would reduce the effectiveness of the project. Recommendations 5 and 6 are actually "questions" the team wanted AID to consider in future project planning; these are being given due consideration. Recommendation 7 refers to the pace of the CRIES activity in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Since work in these two countries has been underway for one year, the scope for adjusting the pace is limited; however, we are presently negotiating with the two governments detailed plans of work.

Finally, I would like to point out that an extension of the Scope of Work for CRIES in the Dominican Republic is in process. The PIO/T is now in your office for clearance. This extension is specifically designed to improve the quality of the data referred to in the fourth technical recommendation of the evaluation report. Please expedite its clearance.



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