

931-828

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PD-ACL-917-D1

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 2, 1970

TO : AA/TA, Mr. Samuel H. Butterfield

FROM : TA/PM, Kenneth S. Levick *KL*

SUBJECT: TA/PM Review of Plant and Seed Materials Project
931-11-130-828-72-3120266

Subject project was reviewed January 28. This project is conducted under a PASA with USDA and is designed to: (1) provide Missions with technical advisory services related to crop varietal improvement programs abroad, and (2) furnish Missions and LDCs with experimental quantities of improved seeds and plant propagating material.

Mr. Osguthorpe reported that feedback was a problem, i.e., getting reports from the LDCs on the success or failure of the seed or plant material sent to them. They have to be continually reminded of the reports and the overseas trips by the USDA project leader helps in this respect because he then personally follows up. However, since the current overseas travel to Africa completes the regional circuit no overseas travel will be taken again for a few years.

Another problem noted by Mr. Osguthorpe was USDA's slowness in reporting results to Missions. He said he had been trying to get a report from them for several years but now planned to insist on an overall report by June. John Kean suggested consideration be given to an annual USDA report which might include perhaps ten or more of the leading developments each year. I believe you suggested that TA/PM get together with Dr. Long for a possible joint annual report to the Missions on this project together with several related projects such as the*Development and Use of Improved Varieties of Major Cereals in Africa, the Improvement of Grain Legume Production in NESAs and FE Regions, and the Inheritance and Improvement of Protein Quality and Content in Sorghum Vulgare. TA/PM will investigate the feasibility of this approach.

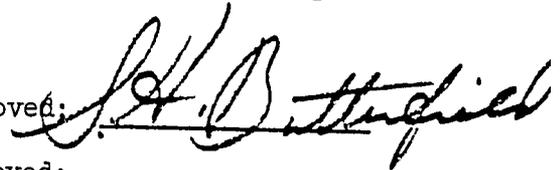
Regional Bureau representatives said they endorsed this project and noted the importance of control. They said the plant and seed samples should go through experiment stations in the LDCs to insure that the experiment will be scientific.

* This project is now with the Bureau for Africa so we will check with them.

It was also pointed out by Mr. Osguthorpe that the USDA staff listed in the budget did not actually work full-time on this project. There was a trade-off arrangement with other USDA offices whose technical advice was necessary. He also reported they were trying to make this service program into a "third country operation" by encouraging exchanges of material between other countries. A final point noted was that some shipments go to non-A.I.D. countries.

The contractor, USDA, is requesting \$60,000 (the same amount as obligated in FY 70) for this project for FY 71. It is recommended that you approve that amount for early FY 71 funding, by signing below.

Approved: _____



Disapproved: _____

Date: _____

2/5/70

Clearance: JHKean,TA/PM _____