

CLASSIFICATION
PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY (PES) - PART I

Report Symbol U-447

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. PROJECT TITLE International Agricultural Economics Seminar Program | | 2. PROJECT NUMBER 931-0887 | 3. MISSION/AID/W OFFICE DSB |
| 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) | |
| A. First PRO-AG or Equivalent FY <u>70</u> | B. Final Obligation Expected FY <u>84</u> | C. Final Input Delivery FY _____ | 6. ESTIMATED PROJECT FUNDING A. Total \$ <u>2116,000</u> B. U.S. \$ <u>2116,000</u> |
| 7. PERIOD COVERED BY EVALUATION From (month/yr.) <u>June 1977</u> To (month/yr.) <u>June 1979</u> | | Date of Evaluation Review <u>June 1979</u> | |

REGULAR EVALUATION SPECIAL EVALUATION Team

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, PIO, which will present detailed request.)

| B. NAME OF OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION | C. DATE ACTION TO BE COMPLETED |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Extend the project for a five year period. | Project Manager | Sept. 30, 1979 |
| Continue follow-up to increase relative number of seminars and workshops on subjects closely tied to the rural development programs of LDCs and the assistance activities of AID. | Project Manager and A/D/C | Ongoing |
| Increase numbers of conferences held in Africa, Near East and Latin America. | Project Manager and A/D/C | Ongoing |
| Increase participation of AID personnel, particularly those at the field level. | Project Manager and A/D/C | Ongoing |
| Initiate questionnaires for seminar participants to solicit feedback on the value of the seminar. | Project Manager and A/D/C | Sept. 30, 1979 |

9. INVENTORY OF DOCUMENTS TO BE REVISED PER ABOVE DECISIONS

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation Plan e.g., CPI Network | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> PIO/T | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Logical Framework | <input type="checkbox"/> PIO/C | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Agreement | <input type="checkbox"/> PIO/P | |

10. ALTERNATIVE DECISIONS ON FUTURE OF PROJECT

A. Continue Project Without Change
B. Change Project Design and/or Change Implementation Plan
C. Discontinue Project

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

S. K. Boyd, DS/AGR/ESP *XRB*
J. C. Day, DS/AGR/ESP *XRB for*
M. Mozynski, DS/AGR *MCB*
J. Wilson, DS/AGR *JW* 7/20/79

12. Mission/AID/W Office Director Approval

Signature: *Tony Babb*
Typed Name: Tony Babb DS/DAA/FN
Date: 8.10.79

13. SUMMARY

The International Agricultural Economics Seminar - Research Training Network project, initiated as a program to assist American universities to better meet AID and LDC needs for research and education in agricultural economics, has evolved into a program that brings together academicians, government officials, international donor agency employees, and development professionals from the U.S. and the LDCs to discuss major rural development problems and issues. It assists these individuals and their offices to identify alternative solutions to significant issues, to exchange information on methodologies and programs for development, and to enhance their expertise in the development field. Moreover, it assists AID in identifying potential employees and consultants and provides opportunities for young professionals to maintain and build interest and expertise in the problems of development. In the past two years, 15 conferences have been held in five different countries involving 367 individuals. Publications resulting from these conferences have been distributed to over 11,500 individuals and organizations around the world.

The Evaluation Committee strongly recommends that the RTN be continued. The favorable response of past participants, the need for continuing dialogue within the development community and the worldwide interest in the program as demonstrated by the breadth of the mailing list for its publications all argue for an extension of this project.

The Evaluation Committee believes that RTN can best serve the needs of the LDCs and AID by providing a program which encompasses the entire spectrum from rural development research and education to rural development policy and programs. The current trend towards increasing emphasis on the latter portion of this spectrum should be continued.

14. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

This evaluation was conducted in accordance with the two year team evaluation requirement of AID. In summary, the Evaluation Team considered the following issues: (1) Were the recommendations of the 1977 Evaluation Team implemented and, if so, did they achieve the intended results? (2) To what degree have the seminars and workshops of the RTN focused on emerging issues relevant to the LDCs, AID and other international donor agencies? (3) Have the seminar/workshop participants represented an appropriate balance of LDC civil servants and academicians, employees of AID and other international donor and technical assistance agencies, and U.S. academicians? (4) Are RTN publications being distributed to appropriate groups in sufficient volume?

The Team undertook the following activities to address these and other related questions. After an initial meeting to clarify issues and data needs, the team carried out a survey of AID employees to determine their impression

of the value of the program. They also summarized data on conferences, conference participation and the dissemination of information. The results of these efforts are included in the attached evaluation report.

15. EXTERNAL FACTORS

The RTN has been responding to changes in both LDC and AID concerns by increasing its focus on rural development issues. It is being asked to further emphasis on topics which have relevance to the field development practitioner.

16. INPUTS

A) RTN Staff

Throughout the history of the RTN Program the staff has consisted of a Director and an administrative assistant. Yet the focus of the RTN program has continually broadened. The staff is now responsible for organizing seminars of widely diverse subjects for participants over a broad range of disciplines, institutional affiliations and locations. This has placed increasingly difficult demands upon the Director.

This Team recommends the expansion of the RTN staff. Furthermore it is recommended that additions to staff be located abroad where they would have responsibility for organizing seminars and workshops and disseminating their results as well as identifying subjects and participants for conferences to be held in other regions. As a first priority an additional member should be located in Africa, in some central easily accessible location such as Nairobi or Abidjan. A second priority is the location of an individual in Latin America. Because A/D/C already has extensive linkages in Asia, placement of staff in that region is not deemed necessary.

The Committee is aware that the cost of the above recommendations is beyond the budgetary resources of DS/AGR and funds will have to come from alternative sources.

B) Funding

Given the staffing recommendation and the currently restricted DS/AGR/ESP budget, the Evaluation team recommended that future sources for additional funding be sought. Joint funding could be explored with IIA, PPC or the proposed Institute for Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

C) RTN Program Committee

The Evaluation Team found that the RTN Program Committee has taken on a

passive role of reviewing A/D/C RTN proposals. Nevertheless, they recommended that the RTN Director make every effort to more fully utilize this resource.

17. OUTPUTS

A) Seminars and Workshops

Since May 1977, 15 seminars and workshops and 11 planning sessions have been organized by the A/D/C as a part of the RTN program. A summary of these activities (excluding planning sessions) is presented in Table 1, p. 6, of the Evaluation Report. The 15 seminars and workshops brought together 376 individuals. Seminars were held in five different countries and seminar topics covered varied widely, although a major focus during the current evaluation period was on cooperatives. Seven seminars were held on policy and problem-oriented topics, six on research-oriented areas and two on training and education. (See Table 7, Evaluation Report, p. 14.)

The Evaluation Team found that the subject matter areas of the RTN project are consistent with the objectives of the project and responsive to the needs of AID and LDCs. The Team specifically endorsed the inclusion of seminars and workshops which are intended to facilitate resolution of policy issues among donor and technical assistance agencies and to exchange information about and improve development methodologies.

B) Participants

The Evaluation Team reviewed the list of participants in the 15 seminars held between May 1, 1977 and April 30, 1979 and categorized the participants on the basis of employer and national origin. (See Tables 3 and 4, Evaluation Report, p. 8.)

Although participation of representatives of LDC organizations and governments increased greatly in 1979, it was lower early in the evaluation period. Participation by AID, other U.S. Government agencies and international organizations increased significantly. Conversely, university participation was lower.

C) RTN Publications

During this evaluation period, 8 reports were produced and disseminated to 11,800 individuals.

18. PURPOSE

One of the great strengths of this project has been its adaptability to changing needs and emphases. As A/D/C and DS/AGR/ESP perceived new needs and opportunities, the project activities were redirected to respond to them. As initiated, the project consisted of continuing intermittent seminars to discuss areas of agricultural economics research and teaching relevant to the less developed countries. Participation was drawn primarily from the U.S. academic community. Prior to completion of the first project period (1970-75) it was recognized that conditions had changed and critical needs unfulfilled requiring modification of the focus of the project. As a result, workshops began to include LDC scholars and the subject matter areas were broadened considerably to permit discussion of priority rural development problems and strategies. This approach was reflected in the 1975 project paper.

The 1975 project paper specified the following purposes: To provide a mechanism and structure (seminars and workshops) whereby U.S. and LDC agricultural economists and other scientists can pool their knowledge on priority rural and agricultural development problems:

- a. to develop better information on the impact of alternative development strategies,
- b. to improve the methodology for analysis and evaluation of rural and agricultural development programs, and
- c. to develop new course materials for use in U.S. and LDC training programs.

The Evaluation Team found that the RTN program has progressed toward realizing its objective through its adaptability in subject matter area and seminar participant composition. Furthermore, the RTN has recognized the utility of bringing together individuals with responsibilities for economic and technical assistance in order to learn from each other and address mutual issues and problems. In the years 1977-79, 45 percent of the participants were employees of AID, LDC governments, and other international donor and technical assistance agencies.

The Evaluation Team also discussed the end of project status conditions and their appropriateness. It was recommended that the EOPS be reviewed and evaluated for possible alteration when the project extension is drafted. (Revisions have been incorporated in the new project paper.)

19. GOAL/SUBGOAL

"To increase the effectiveness of rural and agricultural development programs and policies by improving the basic information and methodology needed

to design, implement and evaluate programs and policies aimed at increasing food production and the welfare of the rural poor."

The Evaluation Team discussed the project's goal/subgoal criteria. It was felt that the project is advancing toward the achievement of its goal. However, it was suggested that the goal/subgoal criteria also be reviewed for revision during the drafting of the project's extension. (Changes have been made in the new project paper.)

20. BENEFICIARIES

The benefits of this project will continue to be realized in the following ways:

1. improved rural development activities in LDCs through the increased knowledge and awareness of LDC civil servants and academicians; and
2. orientation of donor country planners to the most effective means of meeting rural development problems by the increased awareness of alternative methodologies for problem-solving and by the interaction with LDC nationals.

21. UNPLANNED EFFECTS

Not pertinent at this time.

22. LESSONS LEARNED

1. Forward funding is necessary to successfully implement seminar/workshop projects.
2. Continued linkages with AID/Washington Regional Bureaus and USAIDs are critical to insure the relevancy and utilization of information generated by the RTN seminar program.
3. Seminars continue to be regarded as an acceptable way to develop ideas and share information.

23. SPECIAL COMMENTS OR REMARKS

As previously mentioned, the Evaluation Team felt that the RTN program has shown adaptability to changing AID and LDC needs and emphases. It has evolved beyond a focus on agricultural economics, research and education to include priority rural development problems. The Evaluation Team noted this sensitivity to AID's needs and the willingness to further adapt to identified needs as an important strength of the program.

The Team believes that RTN can continue to serve the needs of the LDCs and AID by providing a program which continues to encompass these areas. The current trend toward emphasis on the latter portion of the spectrum should be continued.

In order to achieve this goal, the following recommendations were made.

Continue to increase the relative number of seminars and workshops on subjects closely tied to the rural development programs of the LDCs and assistance activities of AID.

DS/AGR Comment: DS/AGR/ESP and the A/D/C RTN are working together to build closer linkages with the Regional Bureaus and AID field missions. DS/AGR/ESP is outlining its strategy for systematic and long-term collaboration in subject matter and other areas to facilitate the seminar program's responsiveness to AID's needs. The A/D/C will also develop yearly work plans in conjunction with its Program Committee, which includes three members from AID.

Increase the number of conference participants from the LDCs to roles and numbers equivalent to the developed country participants.

DS/AGR Comment: AID, particularly the field missions, will assist the RTN in identifying increased numbers of skilled LDC participants.

Increase the participation of AID personnel, particularly those working at the field level.

DS/AGR Comment: Through the linkages the AID/C RTN is building with the assistance of DS/AGR/ESP, increased identification of appropriate AID representatives will be possible.

Make more effective use of the Program committee as a source of ideas for conferences and for planning the program of RTN for at least two years in advance.

DS/AGR Comment: The Program Committee will be utilized in this way for future seminar planning. Work plans for seminars will be developed by the Committee.

The staff of RTN should be expanded in order to allow for location of staff in Africa and Latin America. These individuals will have responsibility for establishing linkages with professionals in those areas in order to identify priority subjects and highly qualified participants for RTN seminars and workshops.

DS/AGR Comment: Although this recommendation is useful, it is beyond the budgetary resources of DS/AGR/ESP at this time. Recognizing this budgetary constraint, the team recommended that joint funding of this project could be explored with PPC, IIA and the proposed ISTC. DS/AGR/ESP will explore this option for assistance in future RTN funding.

The number of conferences held in Africa and Latin America should be increased while the number in the U.S. should be reduced.

DS/AGR/Comment: The A/D/C RTN and DS/AGR/ESP have been engaged in considerable discussion with representatives of the Africa, Latin American and Near East Bureaus concerning seminar possibilities in these areas. Discussion and planning will continue as further linkages are built and needs identified.

To improve the dissemination of the RTN publications, the team made the following suggestions:

Distribute selected papers presented at seminars in mimeographed form.

Encourage the authors of conference summaries to remain at the conference site one or two days after conclusion of the conference to prepare the conference report.

Initiate a possible series of papers with a program and policy focus aimed at rural development planners, donor agency employees, and development technicians which would summarize the conference's implications for their work.

Expand the number of individuals and organizations in Africa and Latin America receiving RTN publications.

DS/AGR Comment: DS/AGR/ESP will explore these options with the A/D/C RTN for implementation if possible within the current project budget.

The team also recommended the implementations of a small grants program as a valuable adjunct to the project.

DS/AGR Comment: This proposed program, suggested in the 1974, 77, 78, and 79 evaluations is beyond the budgetary resources of DS/AGR/ESP at this time.

**Evaluation of the
Research and Training Network
of the
Agricultural Development Council**

June 1979

**Division of Economic and Sector Planning
Office of Agriculture
Agency for International Development**

EVALUATION
of the
RESEARCH AND TRAINING NETWORK
of the
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC AND SECTOR PLANNING
OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE
U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 1979

EVALUATION
of the
RESEARCH AND TRAINING NETWORK
of the
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

JUNE 1979

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I. SUMMARY

The International Agricultural Economics Seminar - Research Training Network project, initiated as a program to assist american universities to better meet AID's and LDCs' needs for research and education in agricultural economics, has evolved into a program that brings together academicians, government officials, international donor agency employees, and development professionals from the U.S. and the LDCs to discuss major rural development problems and issues. It assists these individuals and their offices to identify alternative solutions to significant issues, to exchange information on methodologies and programs for development, and to enhance their expertise in the development field. Moreover, it assists AID in identifying potential employees and consultants and provides opportunities for young professionals to maintain and build interest and expertise in the problems of development. In the past two years, 15 conferences have been held in five different countries involving 367 individuals. Publications resulting from these conferences have been distributed to over 11,500 individuals and organizations around the world.

The Evaluation Committee strongly recommends that the RTN be continued. The favorable response of past participants, the need for continuing dialogue within the development community and the worldwide interest in the program as demonstrated by the breadth of the mailing list for its publications all argue for an extension of this project.

The Evaluation Committee believes that RTN can best serve the needs of the LDCs and AID by providing a program which encompasses the entire spectrum from rural development research and education to rural development policy and programs. The current trend towards increasing emphasis on the latter portion of this spectrum should be continued.

In order to achieve this goal the following recommendations are offered.

Continue to increase the relative number of seminars and workshops on subjects closely tied to the rural development programs of the LDCs and the assistance activities of AID.

Increase the number of conference participants from the less developed countries to roles and numbers equivalent to the developed country participants.

Increase the participation of AID personnel, particularly those working at the field level.

Make more effective use of the Program Committee as a source of ideas for conferences and for planning the program of RTN for at least two years in advance.

The primary weakness of the RTN is that it does not adequately serve the needs of Africa and Latin America. At the present time relatively few individuals in these areas receive RTN publications. In most years only a handful of individuals from Africa and Latin America participated in RTN conferences and few conferences have been held on those continents. In order to overcome this deficiency it is recommended that:

the staff of RTN should be expanded in order to allow for location of staff in Africa and Latin America. Priority should be given to Africa. These individuals will have responsibility for establishing linkages with professionals in those areas in order to identify priority subjects and highly qualified participants for RTN seminars and workshops.

The number of conferences held in Africa and Latin America should be increased while the number in the United States should be reduced.

The dissemination of the publications of the RTN could be substantially strengthened. At the present time, a number of months elapse between a seminar and the publication of the seminar report. These reports are typically summaries of conference proceedings and tend to be rather academic. The Committee makes the following recommendations to alleviate these problems.

Distribute selected papers presented at conferences in mimeographed form.

Encourage the authors of conference summaries to remain at the conference site one or two days after conclusion of the conference to prepare the conference report.

Initiate a new series of papers with a program and policy focus. Authors might be drawn from conference participants who are employees of LDC planning agencies, AID or other donors. This series, aimed at rural development planners, donor agency employees, and development technicians would summarize the conference's implications for their work. It might include discussions of policy, program, and project options for solving specific problems as well as discussions of current development issues and their implications for development planning and assistance.

Expand the number of individuals and organizations in Africa and Latin America receiving RTN publications.

II. INTRODUCTION

Since 1970, AID has funded a project titled International Agricultural Economics Seminar, Research-Training Network (RTN). Throughout its life, it has been contracted to the Agricultural Development Council (A/D/C). This report summarizes the results of an evaluation of this project carried out in accordance with a provision of the project paper requiring an in-depth evaluation every two years. The evaluation team consisted of:

Kurt Anschel - University of Kentucky (rapporteur)
 Harold Jones - AID
 Calvin Martin - AID
 Lyle Schertz - U.S.D.A.

Mark Sorensen and Jim Schoettler assisted the team by tabulating and analyzing data provided by A/D/C, surveying a sample of participants, and drafting portions of this report. Ms. Kathy Boyd of DS/AGR/ESP participated in team meetings and provided information as requested by the team.

DS/AGR/ESP prepared a scope of work for the evaluation which is attached in Annex VII. In broad summary, the issues to be considered are: (1) Were the recommendations of the 1977 evaluation team implemented and, if so, did they achieve the intended results? (2) To what degree have the seminars and workshops organized by A/D/C focused on emerging issues relevant to the LDCs, AID and other international donor agencies? (3) Have the seminar/workshop participants represented an appropriate balance of American university professors, employees of AID and other international donor and technical assistance agencies, and LDC civil servants and academicians? (4) Are RTN publications being distributed to appropriate groups in sufficient volume?

In order to answer these and related questions, the committee undertook the following activities. It initially met on May 16, 1979 to further clarify the issues and to specify the data required to assess them. Mark Sorensen, Jim Schoettler, and Kurt Anschel carried out a survey of AID employees who had participated in one or more conference to determine their impressions of the value of the seminar program and summarized the data on conferences, conference participation, and the dissemination of information. The results of this effort are presented in the tables included in this report. On May 18, 1979 the team held a second meeting to review the results of the surveys and data analysis and to discuss the content of the team's report. A draft evaluation report was then prepared by Dr. Anschel with the assistance of Mr. Schoettler and Mr. Sorensen and circulated to the team on May 31. This report is the final revised evaluation report.

III. PURPOSES OF THE RESEARCH TRAINING NETWORK

One of the great strengths of this project has been its adaptability to changing needs and emphases. As A/D/C and DS/AGR/ESP perceived new needs and opportunities, the project activities were redirected to respond to them. As initiated, the project consisted of continuing intermittent seminars to discuss areas of agricultural economics research and teaching relevant to the less developed countries. Participation was drawn primarily from the U.S. academic community. The level of participation of LDC nationals and AID employees was low. It appears that the objective of the project was to strengthen American universities' agricultural economic research and educational programs on the agricultural development of the less developed countries.

Prior to completion of the first project period (1970-75) it was recognized that conditions had changed and critical needs unfulfilled requiring modification of the focus of the project. It was realized that seminars and workshops could substantially benefit from the participation of scholars from Third World countries. As a result increasing numbers of scholars from the developing countries were invited to the conferences. The leadership of the program also recognized that the traditional research areas in agricultural economics are too narrow to permit the discussion of current issues in the field. As a result, A/D/C organized individual conferences on specific current policy issues and problems such as Women in Development, Survey Data Collection in Less Developed Countries as well as the formalized intermittent seminars on specific research and training areas. After 1974 the formalized conferences were discontinued in favor of those emphasizing policy and problem-related issues. This approach was reflected in the 1975 project paper.

The 1975 project paper specified the following purposes: To provide a mechanism and structure (seminars and workshops) whereby U.S. and LDC agricultural economists and other scientists can pool their knowledge on priority rural and agricultural development problems:

- a. to develop better information on the impact of alternative development strategies,
- b. to improve the methodology for analysis and evaluation of rural and agricultural development programs, and
- c. to develop new course materials for use in U.S. and LDC training programs.

These purposes reflect a broadening of the project which had already begun to take place prior to preparation of the new project paper. Instead of emphasizing agricultural economics research and education, the major focus was priority rural development problems and strategies. LDC as well as American scientists were specified as the participants and the need for participation of scientists other than agricultural economists was recognized. The project encompassed a broad array of subject matter from basic research to immediate agricultural and rural development policy issues involving LDC and American scientists from all the major disciplines.

In the four years since the 1975 project paper was approved, new needs have been identified and the project has again evolved. Review of conference subjects and participants demonstrates that increasing efforts have been placed on involving development professionals: employees of AID, LDC governments, other international donor and technical assistance agencies although their participation was not specifically delineated in the project paper. In the years 1977-79, 45 percent of the participants were employed by these agencies. This seems to reflect a recognition that the conferences on the issues and problems of development are made more meaningful by the participation of those who have had "firing line" experience along with academics. A/D/C has also organized two conferences in the past year in which the majority of the participants were development planners and professionals rather than scholars. Apparently A/D/C and DS/AGR have recognized the utility of bringing individuals with responsibilities for economic and technical assistance together in order to learn from each other and to address mutual issues and problems. This is a logical extension of the RTN project.

A second major innovation of the past several years is an increasing number of conferences in which LDC scholars and practitioners are in the majority. Implicit in this innovation is recognition that the social sciences of the developing world have attained a substantial degree of maturity and there is now a sufficiently large body of experienced and skilled third world scientists, particularly in Asia and Latin America who no longer need to be nurtured and supplemented by foreign specialists. Of the five conferences planned for 1979, three will be held abroad with few Americans or European participants. This trend reflects that A/D/C and DS/AGR have recognized a new reality and are responding appropriately.

IV. ACTIVITIES OF A/D/C - RTN, 1977-79

Seminars and Workshops

Since May 1977, 15 seminar and workshops and 11 planning sessions have been organized by A/D/C as part of the RTN program. A summary of these activities (excluding planning sessions) is presented in Table 1. The 15 seminars and workshops brought together 376 individuals, including 61 from less developed countries (LDC). Seminars were held principally in the U.S. although four took place abroad: two in developed countries (DC) and two in LDCs (Columbia and Kenya). Topics covered varied widely, though a major focus of RTN during the current evaluation period (January 1977 to April 30, 1979) was on cooperatives.

Table 1: A/D/C - RTN Location and Number of Seminars, and Number of Participants, July 1, 1975 - April 30, 1979

| | July 1, 1975- April 30, 1979 | July 1, 1975- April 30, 1977 | May 1, 1977- April 30, 1979 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Number of seminars | 29 | 4 | 15 |
| Location: | | | |
| United States | 18 | 7 | 11 |
| Latin America | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Asia | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| England | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Africa | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| North Africa- Middle East | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of participants | 764 | 388 | 376 |
| LDC | 197 | 136 | 61 |
| DC | 567 | 252 | 315 |

Source: Evaluation of the Research and Training Network of the Agricultural Development Council, June 1977 and materials provided by A/D/C.

Nevertheless, as Table 2 below illustrates, other subjects also received attention (See Annex I for seminar titles and location).

Table 2: RTN Seminar Subject Areas, 5/77 - 4/79

| Topic | No. of Seminar/Workshops |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cooperatives | 4 |
| Agricultural Production | 2 |
| Food AID | 2 |
| Education | 1 |
| Irrigation | 1 |
| Land Reform | 1 |
| Marine Resources | 1 |
| Nutrition | 1 |
| Rural Development Research | 1 |
| Rural Finance | 1 |

Two seminars will also be held in the next few months in the Philippines and India, "Communication Responsibilities of International Agricultural Research Centers" and "Adjustment Mechanism of Rural Labor Markets." Further, major seminars are planned or in the planning stage for late 1979 on graduate education in agricultural economics, food aid, irrigation, and the role of women in development.

Participants

The evaluation team reviewed the list of participants in the 15 seminars held between May 1, 1977 and April 30, 1979 and categorized the participants on the basis of employer and national origin (see Tables 3 and 4). In presenting this data it must be noted that some LDC nationals who participated on behalf of international agencies based in developed countries such as the World Bank were excluded. While this method was felt to be valid by the committee, it introduces a downward bias which partially explains the unfavorable comparison of these figures with those of earlier evaluation periods.

Table 3 shows that the characteristics of the participants are changing dramatically. Participation of representatives of LDC organizations and governments was low early in the period, but increased greatly in 1979. Participation by AID, other U.S. government agencies and international organizations increased significantly. Conversely, university participation was lower.

Table 3: Employers of RTN Conference Participants

| Employers | July 1975- Apr. 1977 | May 1977- Dec. 1977 | Jan. 1978- Dec. 1978 | Jan. 1979- Apr. 1979 | May 1977- Apr. 1979 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| | Percent | | | | |
| University | 50 | 62 | 31 | 15 | 43 |
| U.S. | 35 | 50 | 28 | 10 | 35 |
| LDC | 15 | 4 | 1.5 | 3 | 3 |
| Other | | 8 | 1.5 | 2 | 5 |
| International Organization | 18 | 22 | 34 | 18 | 24 |
| LDC Organization or Government | 18 | 2 | 6 | 30 | 8 |
| AID | 7 | 10 | 17 | 13 | 13 |
| Other U.S. Gov't | 7 | 2 | 8 | 21 | 7 |
| Other | | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |

Source: Material provided by A/D/C.

Table 4: Participants in A/D/C RTN Seminars from Less Developed Countries, 1977-79

| | 1977 ^{1/} | 1978 | 1979 ^{2/} | 77-79 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|-------|
| Total LDC participants | 26 | 14 | 21 | 61 |
| LDC participants as % of total | 14 | 11 | 34 | 16 |
| LDC participation by region: | | | | |
| Africa | 8 | 2 | 2 | 12 |
| Asia | 12 | 7 | 1 | 20 |
| Latin America | 4 | 4 | 18 | 26 |
| Near East | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Regional participants as % of total: | | | | |
| Africa | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Asia | 7 | 5 | 2 | 5 |
| Latin America | 2 | 3 | 29 | 7 |
| Near East | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

^{1/} Beginning May 1, 1977.

^{2/} Through April 1979.

Source: Work material provided by A/D/C.

Participation by LDCs representatives declined since the last evaluation period. In the previous period, LDC representatives made up 35 percent of the total number of participants. In comparison, the figure for the current period is 16 percent (61 individuals), though Table 4 shows that the trend has been reversed in the first half of 1979. The overall decline reflects in part the organization of three seminars in which LDC attendance was purposefully minimized. When these seminars are excluded, LDC participation is 21 percent of the total. The decline also reflects a change in the method of compilation as LDC nationals residing in DC's and employed by international organizations could not be identified and were excluded.

A total of thirty seven (37) AID personnel attended the RTN seminars and workshops during the current evaluation period. Three came from USAID missions (Kenya, Ethiopia and Indonesia), while 13 represented the Development Support Bureau. The majority (56.7%) however, came from the other bureaus of AID, including AID Regional Bureaus.

In addition to the AID personnel, there was significant participation by members of other government agencies, particularly the Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Dissemination of Conference Results

RTN publication for the current evaluation period included:

1. De Tray, D.N., Seminar Report No. 13, Household Studies, May 1977.
2. Cummings Jr., R.W., Seminar Report No. 14, Minimum Information Systems for Agricultural Development in Low-Income Countries, September 1977.
3. Roumasset, J.A., Seminar Report No. 15, Risk and Uncertainty in Agricultural Development, October 1977.
4. Marshall, N., Seminar Report No. 16, The U.S. University Role in Education for Marine Resources Development in the LDCs, March 1978.
5. Adams, D.S., Kato, Y., Seminar Report No. 17, Research on Rural Finance: A Seminar Report, June 1978.
6. Coward Jr., E.W., Seminar Report No. 18, Research Methodology in the Study of Irrigation Organization: A Review of Approaches and Applications, December 1978.
7. Kears, B., Weisblat, A.M., Seminar Report No. 19, Institutional Innovational Reform: The Ladejinsky Legacy, May 1979.
8. McGrath, M.J., University of Wisconsin Land Tenure Center, ed. Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development, January 1979.
9. Roumasset, J.A., Boussard, J.M., Singh, I., Risk, Uncertainty and Agricultural Development, SEARCA/ADC, April 1979.

Publications that are in manuscript form and will be available over the next two months are:

10. Implementation of United States Food Aid - Title III: Summary Report.
11. Mosher, A.T., Readings in Agricultural Administration.

In addition the University of Wisconsin Press will publish a volume based on the Ladejinsky Symposium.

To evaluate the effectiveness of A/D/C's dissemination effort, the evaluation committee staff sampled 3 percent (1/33) of the A/D/C mailing list of recipients. The staff then categorized the recipients according to the nature of the organization receiving the document or employing the recipient, the region in which the recipient is based and the disciplinary background of the recipient (if identifiable). Tables 5 and 6 show the results of this analysis. LDC organizations, governments and universities are by far the major recipients. Overall, LDC recipients totaled 41 percent of the mailing list. Among all recipients, 39 percent are located in Asia, 5 percent in Latin America, 4 percent in Africa and only 1 percent in the Near East/North African countries.

In terms of disciplinary background, agricultural and other economists represented 43 percent of the recipients. Social scientists followed with 32 percent and other agricultural scientists represented 17 percent.

Table 5: Institutional Affiliation of Individuals and Organizations Receiving A/D/C RTN Publications

| Organizations | Individual Recipients | | Institutional Recipients | | Total | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------|------------------|
| | Number | Percent of Total | Number | Percent of Total | Number | Percent of Total |
| | | | | | | |
| AID | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| State Department | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Other U.S. Government | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| U.S. Universities | 69 | 22 | 9 | 17 | 78 | 22 |
| LDC Universities | 68 | 22 | 17 | 33 | 85 | 24 |
| LDC Organizations and Governments | 52 | 17 | 10 | 19 | 62 | 17 |
| International and D.C. Organizations | 34 | 11 | 9 | 17 | 43 | 12 |
| Other D.C. Universities | 20 | 7 | 6 | 12 | 26 | 7 |
| Others | 52 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 15 |
| Total | 306 | 100 | 52 | 100 | 358 | 100 |

Source: 3 percent sample of A/D/C mailing list.

Table 6: Regional and Disciplinary Distribution of Recipients of A/D/C RTN Publications

| | Number | Percent of Total |
|---------------------------|--------|------------------|
| Africa | 15 | 4 |
| Near East/North Africa | 5 | 1 |
| Asia | 139 | 39 |
| Latin America | 18 | 5 |
| United States | 133 | 37 |
| Other Developed Countries | 48 | 13 |
| Total | 358 | 100 |
| Agricultural Economics | 28 | 18 |
| Other Agriculture | 27 | 17 |
| Economics | 40 | 25 |
| Social Sciences | 51 | 32 |
| Related Technical Fields | 13 | 8 |
| Total | 159 | 100 |

Source: 3 percent sample of A/D/C mailing list.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF 1977 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Evaluation Report of June 1977 included the following major recommendations:

- . Expand LDC participation
- . Keep emphasis on economics but expand numbers of other scientists
- . Adopt a five-year planning horizon
- . Implement a small grants program
- . Invest heavily in Africa
- . Watch for opportunities to support Title XII activities.

The RTN has been partially successful in carrying out these recommendations. LDC participation declined during the period, but this year it is at 34% and will continue to expand with the upcoming seminars to be held in LDC areas.

The emphasis on economics has been maintained but the number of other scientists appears to have increased as recommended. The RTN has concentrated on problem areas in which the interaction of different specialists could contribute to arriving at solutions. Participants were brought together from both social and production sciences.

The five year planning horizon has not yet been implemented as recommended. The small grants program has not been implemented by agreement between AID and the RTN. There have been some difficulties in increasing the programs involvement with Africa. Participation of African governments or organizations has been at about 3%. However, a seminar was held in Africa on African Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Development. Also, RTN has been working closely with the Africa Bureau and has delineated the Role of Rural Women in Development for future seminar activity. Further recommendations made in this report are expected to increase project involvement with Africa as well as increase LDC representation in the seminars.

This Evaluation Committee feels that opportunities to support Title XII have not come about during this period, although input has been provided in the reviewing and evaluation of graduate training in agricultural economics. Continued sensitivity to Title XII is recommended.

VI. APPROPRIATENESS OF RTN SEMINARS AND WORKSHOP SUBJECTS

The seminars and workshops sponsored by RTN between May 1977 and April 1979 are listed in Annex I. The Committee's scope of work asked that it assess whether the RTN seminars focused on (a) the key problem areas of rural development, (b) on topics suggested by the Congressional Mandate, (c) anticipated major policy, program, training, and technical cooperation issues and (d) has been responsive to AID's needs in its field programs. The Evaluation Team was able to point to one or more seminars that addressed one or more of these criteria. Every seminar held in the past two years could be identified as fulfilling these criteria. Table 7 categorizes the seminars by subject and research, policy, and education emphasis.

Further insight into the value of the seminars is obtained by reviewing the results of a survey of participants conducted by the 1977 Evaluation Team. Of those responding, 85 percent indicated that attendance was a worthwhile use of their time and 77 percent indicated that their work had been influenced by their participation. Only 2 percent felt that the seminars should not be continued.

In order to assess the value of the seminar program to AID, the Evaluation Team attempted to contact and survey all AID employees who had participated in the seminars program during the past two years. Of the 32 who were not DS/AGR/ESP staff we were able to locate one-third (11). The remainder were either abroad, had retired or did not respond to telephone calls. All ten who responded to the question indicated that attendance at the seminar was a worthwhile use of their time. Seven of nine who responded indicated that the seminars had influenced their work. Again, all seven who responded indicated that the seminars should be continued. The only real criticism of the seminar was that the LDCs were insufficiently represented. However, the organizers of the two seminars, which many of the respondents had attended explicitly and deliberately involved only a few individuals from the less developed countries.

The Evaluation Team finds that the subject matter areas of the RTN project are consistent with the objectives of the project and responsive to the needs of AID and LDCs. We specifically endorse the inclusion of seminars and workshops which are intended to facilitate resolution of programmatic and policy issues among donor and technical assistance agencies and to exchange information about and improve development methodologies. We also believe that the organization of workshops and seminars for LDC specialists is an important addition to the project. It will allow the individuals to remain current in the newest research and development ideas, to exchange perspectives about research and policy approaches, and provide linkages between their countries, aid agencies and the American academic community.

Table 7: RTN Workshops and Seminars Classified by
Problem and Topical Areas

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Problem Areas | |
| Rural Institutions | 6 |
| Cooperatives (Policy) | (4) |
| Rural Finance (Research) | (1) |
| Land Reform and Tenure (Policy) | (1) |
| Rural Development | 2 |
| Rural Development (Research) | (1) |
| Rural Employment (Research) | (1) |
| Education and Training | 2 |
| Non Degree Education | (1) |
| Marine Resource Education | (1) |
| Nutrition, Food Security and Food Aid | 3 |
| Food Security (Policy) | (1) |
| Title III (Policy) | (1) |
| Nutrition (Research) | (1) |
| Rural Infrastructure | 1 |
| Irrigation (Research) | (1) |
| Production Agriculture | 1 |
| Pre-Release Testing (Research) | (1) |
| Topical Areas | |
| Research | 6 |
| Policy and Problem Issues | 7 |
| Training and Education | 2 |

We recommend that RTN continue to increase its emphasis on workshops and seminars directly related to LDC, AID and other donor agency development programs, projects and policy issues. These conferences should be designed to assist these agencies to design better programs and projects through the exchange of information about alternative approaches to solution of common problems and exposure to relevant research findings. Researchers will also benefit through better understanding of the programmatic issues and dissemination of results. Examples of relevant subjects include: techniques of social analysis, impacts of rural road development and rural electrification, design of management system for irrigation works, linking agricultural research and education, implication of grain stabilization schemes for development planning in less developed countries, and agricultural extension techniques in less developed countries. Through review of development programs and discussion with appropriate individuals, additional subjects may be identified.

VII. SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

A review of the statistics on participation in the seminar reveals that the level of representation of less developed countries (LDCs) has declined below the level achieved during the previous evaluation period. Specifically, participation has fallen to 16 percent down from 35 percent in the previous period. However, in 1979 it is already 34 percent and promises to go even higher.

Three factors partially account for the decline. First, as indicated earlier, it was not possible to identify the national origin of all employees of international agencies. Hence, they were not included in the tabulation of participant's national origin. The prior evaluation had access to more detailed data on the participants and was able to include these individuals.

Second, three conferences within current period did not involve LDC participants because direct LDC input was deemed unnecessary or insufficient time was available to locate appropriate individuals. This was particularly the case with the seminars, "LDC Food Security - The International Response," "Implementation of U.S. Food Aid - Title III," and "Cooperatives, Small Farmers, and Rural Development (Madison)." The first two dealt directly with U.S. policy issues and were intended to bring U.S. officials together to explore problems in implementing Title III. The discussion thus focused on U.S. policies and the participation of LDC nationals were considered inappropriate at the time. A follow-on seminar with LDC participation is planned. The latter seminar was a U.S. follow-up of two others held in LDCs.

Third, the majority of seminars were held in the U.S. and other developed countries. Specifically, eleven out of the fifteen seminars held took place on the U.S. Two more were held in Japan and England. By contrast, six out of the fourteen seminars in the last evaluation period were located in LDCs.

It is expected that the level of LDC participation in the seminars will increase substantially in the next year. Already, LDC participation has risen from 10 percent in 1978 to 34 percent in the first half of 1979. In order to facilitate the attainment of a higher level, the Committee makes the following recommendations.

Locate more seminars in LDCs. In particular, international agricultural research centers should be contacted to explore the possibility of holding seminars at their facilities. Many of these institutions have excellent conference facilities located away from the distractions of major urban centers. Moreover, cost savings may be achieved as the centers may be willing to absorb a portion of the participants' maintenance costs.

Initiate dialogue with LDC professional organizations concerned with the problems of rural development. The members of their organizations should be notified of seminars and workshops and negotiations for joint sponsorship of RTN activities in LDCs could be undertaken with the organization's leadership.

If a seminar is to be held in the U.S., identify LDC nationals studying or teaching in the U.S. who would be able to provide useful input into seminars. Particular emphasis could be given to LDC doctoral candidates at the thesis-writing state.

During the current evaluation period, the RTN program succeeded in involving increased numbers of AID personnel in its activities. The evaluation committee's statistical review indicates that AID participation in the seminars and workshops has increased from 7% to almost 13% since the last evaluation. Of these, the majority came from offices and bureaus outside of the Development Support Bureau. Participation by USAID missions was at a low level with only three mission persons attending.

The evaluation committee recommends that efforts to increase AID participation be intensified. In addition, attention should be given to the inclusion of staff from USAID missions and from AID Regional Bureaus. Their participation in roles other than just participant or observer is highly recommended.

No data on the professional experience of participants was available to the committee. However, a majority of the AID personnel interviewed indicated they felt the experience mix at the seminars was appropriate (see Annex VI).

The evaluation committee continues to support all efforts to increase the participation of young professionals. It also recommends that data on experience levels of participants be provided for use by future evaluation teams.

The Evaluation Team did not have access to data on the exact professions of the conference participants but drew information from their addresses provided by the A/D/C. Since university faculty tend to list their departmental address, a rough sensing of disciplinary mix is possible. It is the Team's impression that the numbers of non-economists, other social scientists and scientists from other fields, has increased very substantially.

The team recommends that the A/D/C continue to utilize disciplines as appropriate to the substance of the conference.

VIII. DISSEMINATION OF RTN PUBLICATIONS

A/D/C seminar reports are distributed to 11,800 individuals and organizations. During the current evaluation period the lag between seminars/workshops and the publication of reports has been varied (see Table 8). The average time lag was 11.5 months.

The committee concluded that this time delay was too lengthy. While it is recognized that formal reports require time for preparation and publication under the current A/D/C format, the need to disseminate the conclusions of seminar/workshops must be given top priority. In the particular case of seminars concerned with issues of current importance (e.g. the recent Food Aid conference), swift distribution of results is vital if the seminar effort is to have any impact on research and/or policymaking on the subject.

In order to facilitate speedier dissemination the committee makes the following recommendations:

Utilize less expensive and time consuming methods for printing and distributing seminar and workshop documentation. Mimeographing for example, could provide a quick and simple method of disseminating material.

Issue interim reports - perhaps simply summaries of discussion notes and conclusions - immediately after a seminar/workshop adjourns. These would serve as useful references and guides for discussion until a formal report can be published.

Whenever practical, establish a firm deadline of no more than three months after a seminar/workshop ends for writing of the report. The rapidity with which seminar reports are published may be increased if those individuals who are selected to prepare conference reports are asked to extend their stay one or two days at the conclusion of the conference to draft their reports.

In order to facilitate the utilization of the seminar/workshop proceedings, by the development community, publish reports summarizing implications for development programming. Conference participants representing LDC development planning offices or international agencies could be asked to prepare these reports.

Table 8: A/D/C RTN Seminars/Workshops Reports -
May 1, 1977 - April 30, 1979

| Name and Date of Seminar/Workshop | Report Published | Lag |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| Household Studies Workshop August 3-7, 1976 | May 1977 | 10 mos. |
| Minimum Information Systems for Ag. Development in Low Income Countries December 6-9, 1976 | September 1977 | 10 mos. |
| Risk and Uncertainty in Ag. Development March 9-13, 1976 | October 1977 | 19 mos. |
| Marine Resources Development November 30 - December 2, 1977 | March 1978 | 4 mos. |
| Rural Finance Research July 28 - August 1, 1977 | June 1978 | 11 mos. |
| Research Methodology for the Study of Irrigation Organization April 30 - May 3, 1978 | December 1978 | 8 mos. |
| Ladejinsky Legacy October 10-12, 1977 | April 1979 | 19 mos. |

The results of the statistical breakdown of RTN publication recipients presented in Tables 5 and 6 indicate that the mix of disciplines to be appropriate but continue to support all efforts to further increase the number and varieties of non-economics disciplines represented among recipients. While the number of LDC recipients was high, the strong bias is favor of Asian recipients indicates that an appropriate mix in this category has yet to be attained.

The committee recommends that measures be taken to improve the flow of seminar/workshop documentation to non-Asian parts of the less developed world. In particular, attention should be given to developing better contact with Africa and other areas where the information is greatly needed.

IX. ADMINISTRATION

Throughout the history of the RTN project, the staff has consisted of a director and an administrative assistant (currently Dr. Abraham Weisblat and Ms. Mary Alice Price respectively). Yet the focus of the project has continually broadened. The staff is now responsible for organizing seminars of widely diverse subjects for participants over a broad range of disciplines, institutional affiliations and locations. This has extended the demands on the director beyond the point where he can provide the detailed administrative and intellectual leadership necessary to maintaining a high quality program.

The 1977 Evaluation Team recognized the problem of understaffing of this project and recommended that one additional staff member be funded. This Team also recommends the expansion of the RTN staff. Furthermore it is recommended that additions to staff be located abroad where they would have responsibility for organizing seminars and workshops and disseminating their results as well as identifying subjects and participants for conferences to be held in other regions. More specifically these staff members would establish close working relationships with professionals employed in LDC government offices and universities, AID missions and other technical and economic assistance agencies in order to identify useful conferences and potential participants. As a first priority an additional member should be located in Africa, in some central easily accessible location such as Nairobi or Abidjan. A second priority is the location of an individual in Latin America. Because A/D/C already has extensive linkages in Asia, placement of staff in that region is not deemed necessary.

The committee is aware that the cost of the above recommendation is beyond the budgetary resources of DS/AGR. Moreover, because of recent budgetary cuts incurred by DS/AGR/ESP the funding for the entire project is in some question.

We recommend that sources for additional funding be sought. Because some of the activities funded by this project serve the needs of PPC and IIA, joint funding of this project should be explored with those Bureaus. Similarly, elements of this project appear to fall within the proposed program of the Institute for Scientific and Technological Cooperation. Once that Institute is in operation, partial funding of the project by that agency should also be explored.

In order to provide on a regular basis on the effectiveness of this project, it is recommended that a questionnaire be distributed to seminar and workshop participants to obtain their assessment of the value of the seminar they attended. This would provide the contractor with a better understanding of the effectiveness of the program and would facilitate future evaluations. This questionnaire should be distributed 12 to 18 months after their participation so that a perspective may be gained on the influence of the conference on the substance of their work.

In addition, each participant should be asked to complete an information sheet at the conferences describing his/her age, disciplinary background, national origin, employer, etc. This will facilitate A/D/C's achievement of a more balanced representation in the conferences.

The Evaluation Team agrees with the 1977 Evaluation Team that a small research grants program would be a valuable adjunct to this project and recommends its initiation. The team recognizes that this decision is subject to considerations beyond the scope of the evaluation.

Although valid in concept, the Program Committee has not achieved the role for which it was initially conceived. Rather than being a source of suggestions for RTN activities and participants, it has taken on a more passive role of reviewing proposals emanating from A/D/C. We recognize that this is the result of group dynamics which can not always be controlled. Nevertheless, we recommend that the RTN Director make every effort to more fully utilize this resource. In order to facilitate their more active participation, we further recommend that the contractor develop two year rolling plans of work for RTN.

Finally, to insure that conference participants who are not presenting papers for the conference are prepared to fully participate in the proceedings, it is recommended that all papers to be discussed at the conference be sent to the participants well in advance of the conference and that RTN continue to require participants to prepare and submit a brief discussion paper of the issues to be discussed prior to attending the conference.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

RTN SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS
May 1, 1977 - March 30, 1979

- Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Development
London, England May 5-6, 1977
- African Cooperatives - Small Farmers and Development
Nairobi, Kenya May 9-10, 1977
- Rural Finance Research
San Diego, California July 28-August 1, 1977
- Nutrition Beyond Economics
Penn State University, University Park, PA October 3-4, 1977
- Ladejinsky Legacy
Kyoto, Japan October 10-12, 1977
- Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development
Washington, DC November 17, 1977
- Marine Resources Education
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI November 30-December 2, 1977
- Rural Development Research
Harvard Institute for International Development, Boston, MA
December 9-10, 1977
- Non-Degree Training
ADC, New York December 29, 1977
- Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development
Racine, WI April 24-26, 1978
- Research Methodology for the Study of Irrigation Organization
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
April 30-May 3, 1978
- Rural Production, Employment Problems and Sex Differentiation of Wage
Rates and Production Work Opportunities in Third World Countries
New Haven, CT July 10-11, 1978
- LDC Food Security: The International Response
Reston, VA August 10-11, 1978
- Implementation of U.S. Food Aid - Title III
Princeton, NJ January 15-16, 1979

Pre-Release Testing of Agricultural Technology
Cali, Colombia March 19-21, 1979

RTN PLANNING SESSIONS
May 1, 1977 - March 30, 1979

Research Methods in the Study of Irrigation Organization
ADC, New York May 23, 1977

Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development
ADC, New York May 25, 1977

Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development
Madison, Wisconsin June 23, 1977

Application of Household Time Allocation Studies to Policy Issues
New Delhi, India October 21-22, 1977

Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Development
Madison, Wisconsin October 31-November 2, 1977

Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development
ADC, New York January 13, 1978

Political Economy of Development
St. Paul, Minnesota May 4, 1978

International Communication of Information Based on Agricultural Research
CIMMYT, Mexico June 14-16, 1978

**Communication Responsibilities of the International Agricultural
Research Centers**
Aleppo, Syria October 30-31, 1978

Political Economy of Development
Washington, DC November 10, 1978

ANNEX II

RTN SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
May 1 - December 31, 1977

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Robert B. Abel Texas A&M University | Francoise Baulier Federation Nationale des Cooperatives de Consommateurs Billancourt, France |
| Dale W. Adams The Ohio State University | Eileen Berry Holden, Mass |
| Choong-Yong Ahn Chung-Ang University Seoul, Korea | Leonard Berry Holden, Mass |
| Graham Alder International Cooperative Alliance London, England | Joe Bivins Cambridge, MA |
| Mary B. Anderson Cambridge, MA | Michael Boehlje Iowa State University |
| Chris Andrew University of Florida | Trevor N. Bottomley International Cooperative Alliance London, England |
| David W. Angevine Volunteer Development Corps Washington, D.C. | F. J. A. Bouman Dept. of Agrarian Law of Non-Western Countries Wageningen, Netherlands |
| D. O. Arende Nairobi, Kenya | John Brake Michigan State University |
| John M. Armstrong University of Michigan | Louis B. Brown National Science Foundation Washington, D.C. |
| A. A. Bailey World Council of Credit Unions, Inc. Madison, WI | Francis X. Cameron University of Rhode Island |
| Chester Baker University of Illinois | Richard A. Cash HIID Cambridge, MA |
| Peter Barry Texas A&M University | Dennis L. Chinn Food Research Institute Stanford University |
| Clifton Barton AID, Washington, D.C. | |

David Christianson
AID, Nairobi, Kenya

Paulo Cidade de Araujo
São Paulo, Brazil

Bruce Clemens
Allston, MA

John M. Cohen
Cornell University

David C. Cole
HIID
Cambridge, MA

Sir John G. Crawford
Canberra, Australia

E. Walter Coward, Jr.
Cornell University

James Cudney
National Rural Electric Coop.
Washington, D.C.

M. L. Dantwala
Indian Society of
Agricultural Economics
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Carmen Diana Deere
U. of Mass.

Ana Lauretta Diaz
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Rome, Italy

William Dobson
U. of Wisconsin

Gerald Donovan
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National Rural Electric Coop.
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Leon Evans
National Rural Electric Coop.
Washington, D.C.

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Yale University

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Michigan State Univ.

Cecelia Florencio
U. of Philippines

Rune Forsberg
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Phillips Foster
U. of Maryland

Allan A. Furman
AID, Washington

Stanley Gershoff
Tufts

Claudio Gonzalez-Vega
University of Costa Rica
San Jose, Costa Rica

Chennat Gopala Krishnan
University of Hawaii

George Guthrie
Penn State

Leonard Harman
Ontario, Canada

Bartlett Harvey
Agricultural Cooperative
Dev. International
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Tokyo, Japan

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Tokyo, Japan

Nicholas Herman
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Don Kanel
University of Wisconsin

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The Ohio State University

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Dan Nyanjom
International Cooperative Alliance
Moshi, Tanzania

Kazushi Ohkawa
International Development
Center of Japan

Bernard M. Olsen
No. Carolina State University

Tongroj Onchan
Kasetsart University
Bangkok, Thailand

Kwame Opoku-Owusu
Agricultural Development Bank
Legon, Ghana

Diana Opondo
International Cooperative Alliance
Moshi, Tanzania

Lord Oram
House of Lords
London, England

Keiki Owada
Agricultural Land Development
Public Corporation
Tokyo, Japan

Ferris S. Owen
The Cooperative League of the U.S.A.

Wadsworth Owen
University of Delaware

Richard Owens
Foundation for Cooperative Housing

Kenneth Parsons
University of Wisconsin

G. Parthasarathy
Andhra University
Waltair, India

R. James Peeler, Jr.
No. Carolina State University

A. L. Peirson
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole, MA

Dwight H. Perkins
Harvard University

Robert Picciotto
The World Bank
Washington, D.C.

J. D. Von Pishke
The World Bank
Washington, D.C.

Leo Polopolus
Michigan State University

Bill Rayman
Cooperative Resources Committee

James Reichert
The Cooperative League of the
U.S.A.

E. B. Rice
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ANNEX IV

JOINTLY FUNDED RTN CONFERENCES

| <u>Seminars & Workshops</u> | <u>Other Donor & Amount</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ladejinsky Legacy Seminar | World Bank \$20,000.00 |
| Marine Resources Education Workshop | University of Rhode Island \$4,000.00 |
| Rural Development Research Seminar | Harvard Institute for International Development partial funding |
| Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development Seminar | Johnson Foundation - Maintenance expense of participants, conference room, lodging, etc. |
| International Communication of Information Based on Ag. Research Planning Session | CIMMYT - Maintenance of participants |
| Rural Production Workshop | Ford Foundation Expense for participants |
| Communication Responsibilities of the International Ag. Research Centers | ICARD - Maintenance of participants |

ANNEX V

Questionnaire

Employees Name: _____

Office Symbols: _____

Phone Number: _____

This is _____ . I am participating in an evaluation of the Agricultural Development Council/Research Training Network for DS/AGR/ESP. The evaluation committee has decided to ask Agency employees who have participated in the program for their impressions and opinions of the project. Do you have about 10 minutes to talk right now?

- 1 When did you last participate in an Agricultural Development Council Research and Training Network Seminar? Month _____ Year _____
- 2 What was your role at the meeting? Observer, participant, discussion leader, presenter of a paper or other?
- 3 What was the topic or title of the seminar?

- 4 In your opinion, was attendance at the seminar a worthwhile use of your time? Yes _____ No _____
- 5 IF YES ABOVE: What did you get out of it? _____

- 6 IF NO ABOVE: Why not? _____

- 7 Did the seminar contain an appropriate mix of participants with respect to age? Yes _____ No _____
- 8 IF NO ABOVE: What age distribution would have been better? _____

- 9 Did the seminar have an appropriate mix of participants with regard to disciplines? Yes _____ No _____
- 10 IF NO ABOVE: How was the mix inappropriate? _____

11 Did the seminar have an appropriate mix of participants with regard to less developed and more developed countries? Yes _____ No _____

12 IF NO ABOVE: What should the mix have been? _____

13 Has your work been influenced by your participation in the seminar? Yes _____ No _____

14 IF YES ABOVE: How? _____

15 IF NO ABOVE: Why not? _____

16 Do you believe that the seminars should be continued? Yes _____ No _____

17 Could the seminars be improved to better meet AID's needs? If so, how?

18 Are there any seminar topics that you would like to propose?

19 What other comments or suggestions do you have about this seminar?

20 May we quote you in the evaluation report? Yes _____ No _____

Thank you very much.

ANNEX VI

AID PARTICIPANT INTERVIEW RESPONSES

1. What was your role at the meeting?

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| observer: | 3 |
| participant: | 6 |
| discussion leader: | 0 |
| presenter of paper: | 0 |
| organizer: | 2 |

2. In your opinion, was attendance at the seminar a worthwhile use of your time?

| | |
|--------------|----|
| yes: | 10 |
| no: | 0 |
| no response: | 1 |

3. Did the seminar contain an appropriate mix of participants with regard to professional experience?

| | |
|--------------|---|
| yes: | 7 |
| no: | 2 |
| no response: | 2 |

4. Did the seminar have an appropriate mix of participants with respect to disciplines?

| | |
|--------------|---|
| yes: | 8 |
| no: | 1 |
| no response: | 2 |

5. Did the seminar have an appropriate mix of participants with regard to less developed and more developed countries?

| | |
|--------------|---|
| yes: | 3 |
| no: | 6 |
| no response: | 2 |

6. Has your work been influenced by your participation in the seminar?

| | |
|--------------|---|
| yes: | 7 |
| no: | 2 |
| no response: | 2 |

7. Do you believe the seminars should be continued?

| | |
|--------------|---|
| yes: | 7 |
| no: | 0 |
| no response: | 4 |

ANNEX VII

TEAM PROJECT EVALUATION
SCOPE OF WORK

- A. Project Title: International Agricultural Economics Seminar Program
- Project Number: 931-0887
- B. Name of Contractor: A/D/C
- Contract Number: AID/csd 2813
- C. Purpose and Rationale for Team Evaluation:
- To review progress made since the last team evaluation (6/77) with particular emphasis on whether the seminar program is continuing to make a significant contribution to the discussion and dissemination of information and research on rural development in LDCs.
- Evaluate the extent to which recommended changes outlined in the last evaluations have been implemented and suggest additional modifications, if any, needed to effect recommendations.
- Measure progress in achieving results as outlined in the project proposal including an assessment of assumptions and review of measures of verification for project goal and purpose to determine if they are operate and relevant. Recommend changes if necessary.
- Determine extent to which seminar program has been responsive to development needs and has enhanced the capacity of LDC and U.S. policymakers and academicians to address the problems of rural development.
- Assess the responsiveness of the seminar program to AID's needs in its field programs, particularly in the areas of problem identification, project design, enhancement of understanding of practical development problems and increased awareness of field technicians on the development state-of-the arts.

D. Composition of Team:

- Dr. Kurt Ansel
Ph.D., Agricultural Economics, with experience in human resource development, education and institution building.
- Mr. Harold Jones
AFR/DR/ARD, Agriculturalist with experience in international agricultural development particularly in selected areas of Africa.
- Mr. Calvin Martin
ASIA/TR, Agriculturalist with country experience in Afghanistan, Iran, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.
- Dr. Lyle Schertz
Ph.D. economist with research and administrative experience in international development, USDA.

Kathy Boyd, DS/AGR/ESP, will participate in review as project liaison.

E. Summary:

In 1970, the International Committee of the American Agricultural Economics Association requested AID to support a seminar workshop activity in the field of international agricultural development. AID responded by contracting with the Agricultural Development Council (A/D/C) to organize a "Research and Training Network" (RTN). RTN, also known as the International Agricultural Economics Seminars Program, is designed to increase the effectiveness of rural and agricultural development programs and policies of LDCs, AID and other technical assistance agencies through promoting the exchange of basic information and methodology needed to develop, implement and evaluate programs and policies. This is accomplished through the use of seminar and workshop activities involving both U.S. and LDC scientists and development specialists. Since AID funding began in 1970, over 1,500 different individuals have participated in the program. Approximately 100 seminars were held during the 1970-78 period. The seminars have covered a wide variety of topics from agricultural sector analysis to the role of women in economic development. Since 1975, greater emphasis has been given to subject matter related to rural development. Evaluations of RTN were performed in 1974, 1977 and 1978. In

each case, the evaluation teams recommended the continuation of the program with a strengthening of its activities to include greater dissemination of the results of RTN sponsored workshops and seminars. Recently, DS/AGR/ESP submitted a proposal that AID funding for the RTN program be extended.

F. Dates and Place of Evaluation:

May 16-18, 1979, Washington, D.C.

G. Previous Team Evaluation:

Regular Annual Evaluation - September 1978

Full Team Evaluation - June 1977

H. Problems and Issues to be Addressed:

1. Were the recommendations of the previous review implemented? Were they effective? What, if any, additional modifications are needed in the activities to execute the recommendations?
2. Have the seminar activities focused on the key problem areas of rural development? Has A/D/C - RTN anticipated major policy, program, training and technical cooperation issues? To what extent have seminar activities given adequate attention to the topics suggested by AID's Congressional mandate (i.e. the rural poor, the role of women, environmental issues and social development)?
3. Are the objectives of the seminar program as implemented by the A/D/C consistent with AID's immediate needs?
4. Has the seminar program been responsive to AID's needs in its field programs? Has the program been helpful in problem identification and project design? Has it provided data which has enhanced the understanding of practical development problems? Has the program led to increased awareness on the part of field development technicians and policy makers in the state of knowledge arts and resources?
5. What efforts have been made to increase the dissemination of the results of the seminars? Do the recipients of these results include a representative number of LDC and U.S. researchers, professionals and decision-makers in the international development field?
6. Have the seminar participants been actively involved in research design, implementation or evaluation of rural development projects and have they been stimulated to greater and more relevant activities through participation in the seminars? Have AID technicians and policy makers participated in the

seminars? Have a significant number of LDC practitioners also participated? To what extent is feedback on the seminars solicited from these individuals?

7. Should RTN be complemented with a small grants program as recommended in previous evaluations? Will the extra burden of administering such a program have any adverse effects on the administrative capability of A/D/C to continue the present level of RTN activities?
8. Have attempts been made to identify ways to coordinate seminar activities with those of the Title XII program?

I. List of Documents to be Reviewed:

1. Project paper
2. Previous team or regular evaluation reports
3. Annual reports
4. Progress reports

J. Agenda for the Review:

1. Review of documentation concerning the International Agricultural Economics Seminar Program (A/D/C - RTN) - May 16-18, 1979
 - (a) Current status of seminar program;
 - (b) Current status of information dissemination process;
 - (c) Structure of topic selection process; and
 - (d) Current status of seminar program linkages with Title XII program.
2. Discussion of program's future outlook
 - (a) Recommendations for program's future direction and activities; and
 - (b) Anticipated topics.

ANNEXES

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Auditor General

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THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. INC.

A.I.D.
Reference Center
Room 1656 NS

Audit Report Number 77-36
Issue Date December 30, 1976

Area Auditor General, Washington
Agency for International Development
Washington, DC. 20523

THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

Contract No. AID/csd-2813
Grant No. AID/asia-598

SCOPE

The Defense Contract Audit Agency's audit of Contract No. AID/csd-2813 and Grant No. AID/asia-598 covered the period January 1, 1975 through December 31, 1975, and included a review of pertinent records and procedures at the Contractor's office in New York, New York.

The primary purpose of the examination was to determine the propriety of expenditures incurred by the Contractor under the terms of the contract/grant as well as the degree of compliance with established standards and principles.

A summary of contract/grant data is shown below:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONTRACT/GRANT NUMBER : | AID/csd-2813 | AID/asia-598 |
| CONTRACT/GRANT CEILING: | \$1,491,000 | \$1,160,000 |
| EXPIRATION DATE : | June 29, 1977 | June 30, 1977 |
| PROJECT NUMBER : | 931-11-140-887 | 298-15-110-021 |
| PROJECT TITLE : | International Agricultural Economic Seminars | Agriculture Development Council |
| AUDIT PERIOD : | 1/1/75 to 12/31/75 | 1/1/75 to 12/31/75 |
| TYPE OF AUDIT : | Interim | Interim |

The status of contract/grant funds is shown on Exhibit A.

CONTRACT/GRANT PURPOSE

Contract No. AID/csd-2813

The purpose of the contract is to improve the conceptual and informational basis for agricultural policy determination, production, and marketing management in developing countries.

Grant No. AID/asia-598

The purpose of the grant is to select and support Asian social scientists for fellowships to study at U.S. universities. Fields of study include agricultural economics, rural sociology, and other social sciences applicable to rural development.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Contract Cost

As shown on Exhibit B, costs claimed and reimbursed during the period totalling \$164,446 have been audited. As a result, the Contractor is entitled to an additional \$1,496 in overhead costs for CY 1975 (Exhibit A). In July 1976, however, the Contractor was reimbursed \$2,224 in overhead costs for CY 1975 resulting in a net overpayment of \$728 (Exhibit B).

Recommendation No. 1

SER/CM settle the overhead costs in line with the findings presented in Exhibits A and B.

Grant Cost

As shown on Exhibit C, costs incurred during the period totalling \$264,699 have been audited. No exceptions taken.

Contractor/Grantee Performance

Information available in AID/W indicates that performance is considered satisfactory.

EXHIBIT A

THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

Status of Contract/Grant Funds
As of September 30, 1976

| | <u>Contract No. AID/csd-2813</u> | <u>Grant No. AID/asia-598</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Contract/Grant Ceiling | \$1,491,000 | \$1,160,000 |
| Amount Reimbursed: | | |
| Costs Audited - | | |
| Prior Audit | \$602,354 | \$670,772 |
| Current Audit | 165,942 | 264,699 |
| Unaudited Costs | 112,942 | - |
| Subtotal | <u>\$881,238</u> <u>881,238</u> | <u>\$935,471</u> <u>935,471</u> |
| Unreimbursed Costs | - | 25,471 |
| Amount Questioned | 728 | - |
| Total Reimbursed | <u>\$881,966</u> | <u>\$910,000</u> |
| Contract/Grant Balance Remaining | <u>\$ 609,762</u> | <u>\$ 224,529</u> |

THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.
Contract No. AID/csd-2813

Summary of Costs Claimed and Audit Adjustments
For the Period January 1, 1975 to December 31, 1975

| | Costs Audited 12/31/74 | Current Period | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | | Costs Claimed | Audit Adjustments |
| Salaries and Wages | \$132,696 | \$ 39,816 <u>2/</u> | \$ - |
| Fringe Benefits | 34,234 | 13,823 | - |
| Travel and Transportation | 35,869 | 6,185 | - |
| Per Diem | 4,425 | - | - |
| Participants | 206,437 | 43,684 | - |
| Other Direct Costs | 47,753 | 26,745 | - |
| Subcontract | 16,000 | - | - |
| Subtotal - Direct Costs | <u>\$477,414</u> | <u>\$130,253</u> | <u>\$ -</u> |
| Overhead | 124,940 | 34,193 | 1,496 <u>1/</u> |
| Total | <u>\$602,354</u> | <u>\$164,446</u> | <u>\$1,496</u> |

Explanatory Notes:

1/ Adjustment based on negotiated overhead rate for calendar year 1975.

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| DIRECT COSTS ACCEPTED | \$130,253 | |
| NEGOTIATED OVERHEAD RATE | <u>27.4%</u> | |
| OVERHEAD ALLOWED | | \$35,689 |
| OVERHEAD REIMBURSED | | 34,193 |
| DUE CONTRACTOR | | <u>\$ 1,496</u> ✓ |

In July 1976 Contractor was paid \$2,224 additional overhead for calendar year 1975. Contractor therefore owes AID \$728.

| | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|
| Additional overhead paid to Contractor | \$2,224 |
| Correct additional overhead | 1,496 |
| Due AID | <u>\$ 728</u> |

Explanatory Notes (Cont'd):

- 2/ Salaries and wages billed consist of amounts paid to program director and his secretary in accordance with FSR-1. A full-time director and a secretary were specifically called for under the contract terms. Although no costs were disapproved, the following information is provided for your further determination as to acceptability of the method used by the contractor to determine direct labor costs.
- a. No time sheets or daily job record is maintained by the two employees working on subject contract.
 - b. The contractor allocates approximately 80% of the program director's salary to the contract based upon an estimated percentage of time incurred for subject contract. The director's secretary charges 100% of her time to subject contract.

EXHIBIT C

THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.
Grant No. AID/asia-598

Summary of Costs Incurred
For the Period January 1, 1975 to December 31, 1975

| | <u>Costs Audited 12/31/74</u> | <u>Costs Incurred Current Period</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Maintenance | \$381,437 | \$154,228 |
| Insurance | 6,731 | 3,568 |
| Books | 13,656 | 6,541 |
| Field Trips | 15,586 | 567 |
| Travel | 52,806 | 23,951 |
| Tuition and Fees | 124,497 | 53,997 |
| Contingencies | 7,353 | 1,850 |
| Freight Shipments | 7,600 | 2,250 |
| Relocation | 4,700 | 1,600 |
| Thesis | 6,591 | 2,665 |
| Economic Institute | 18,906 | 6,342 |
| House Country Research | 30,909 | 7,140 |
| Total | <u>\$670,772</u> | <u>\$264,699</u> |

THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

Contract No. AID/csd-2813

Grant No. AID/asia-598

DISTRIBUTION OF AUDIT REPORT

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|----|
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| Assistant Administrator/ASIA | 5 |
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| SER/FM/RSD | 2 |
| Support Division, CM/SD/SUP | 3 |
| Inspector General of Foreign Assistance/State | 1 |
| AG/IIS | 1 |
| AG/OAS | 1 |
| AG/OC/PP | 1 |
| AG/OC/PE | 1 |
| DCAA, New York Branch Office | 1 |
| AAG/W | 10 |