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PD-AAD 3120-61

March 19, 1971

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John S. Balis, Chief, AG/ID

U-307 Report
Contract No. AID/nesa-303, International
Rice Research Institute



2 copies

RICE RESEARCH

I. Heading

- A. Name of Contractor: International Rice Research Institute
- B. Number of Contract: AID/nesa-303
- B. Project Title & Number: Rice Research Improvement
386-11-110-379
- D. Period Covered by Report: July 1, 1970 to December 31, 1970
- E. Cooperating Government Institution: Indian Council of
Agricultural Research
- F. Contract Representative: John S. Balis, Chief
Agriculture Inputs Division
Office of Agricultural Development
- G. Person Preparing Report: John S. Balis

II. Evaluation of Contractor's Performance

A. Understanding of Objectives:

The contractor continues to effectively pursue the contract objectives of improving rice research programs and capabilities. In addition and beyond contractual obligations, the contractor is exploring the opportunities for building effective "linkages" for rapid transmission of research information to the farmer level.

B. Short-term Goals:

The AICRIP program has now developed a sound base of operation and routine of investigation. Regular improvements are being made in both quantity and quality of experimental programs. This progress is summarized in the attached charts.

C. Progress Toward Achievement of Goals and Objectives:

The major achievements for the period June 1, 1970 to December 31, 1970 are:

1. Headquarters land and building - The architect's preliminary plans for the headquarters facilities have been accepted. Final construction plans are being prepared.
2. Equipment - The GOI continued to scrutinize the equipment requirements of AICRIP. No action on purchase of equipment from the non-project loan funds was obtained during this period. The GOI had before it a revised equipment list submitted after transfer of the equipment from the Regional Pulse Improvement Project.
3. Workshops - AICRIP is rescheduling the Workshop program to improve its effectiveness in relation to the research operations sequence of the cooperating scientists. The next Workshop is scheduled for February 1971. This will permit complete review of Rabi 1970 data and preliminary review of Kharif 1970 data as well as permit joint planning of minor adjustments in the research program for Kharif 1971 as suggested by the research reviews.
4. Agricultural Engineering Position - The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has requested an Agricultural Engineering specialist under this contract. The contractor has recruited a fine candidate in Mr. Ernest Nunn and the interview trip was made in November. Efforts are being made to expedite Mr. Nunn's clearance in order to fill this position.
5. Consultants - The contractor has received approval for two from the list of eight consultants from the staff of IRRI to assist the project as appropriate for the disciplines involved.
6. Participants - During the period 4 participants departed for programs of study at IRRI on the Rice Stem Borer and for the Rice Production Course.

D. Difficulties Hindering Achievement of Objectives:

1. Senior Staff - The AICRIP headquarters has not received GOI sanction for an adequate senior staff. At this stage ICAR appreciates that this represents a weakness in establishing a strong coordinated program and is investigating the budget and other implications of correcting this deficiency. The contractor has discreetly focussed attention on this problem without aggravating the possible tensions that could develop between AICRIP and the Central Rice Research Institute. The cautious approach of ICAR is

also appropriate in this effort to secure an improved rice research program without precipitating unnecessary competition. It is hoped these efforts will proceed with sufficient timeliness as to not seriously restrict the development of the AICRIP headquarters.

2. Equipment - The continued delays in GOI consideration of a revised equipment list is an increasingly serious matter. This is of particular concern as AICRIP attempts to improve field conditions at the headquarters and at cooperating research institutions as a vital step in minimizing experimental variations. The arrival of the agricultural engineer will make this a major problem.

3. Seed Multiplication and Extension - Rapid acceptance of newly released varieties requires adequate seed and know-how at the farmer level. AICRIP is now considering action to improve "linkages" with the National Seeds Corporation and the extension services. Cooperating scientists are also considering revisions in the test sequence with simultaneous district trials and seed multiplication programs to maximize within reasonable limits and risks the rate of expanding acreage. Strengthening these informal relationships or "linkages" is an important element in improving the spread effect of this project and the contractor is devoting considerable attention to this matter.

*Linkages
to NSC &
extension Dept.
through
new variety*

E. Contractor Staff:

The contractor staff have distinguished themselves as effective rice scientists and are successfully developing a coordinated all-India program of rice research. The addition of the agricultural engineering position will broaden the base for assisting cooperating scientists. During this period the Entomology position was vacated and a potential replacement was located. A highly qualified Indian Entomologist employed under the contract is continuing research in this area with a minimum of disruption.

F. Contractor's Relationships:

The contractor's relationships continue to improve as the program becomes better established and its productivity becomes more apparent. The current careful search for improved "linkages" is generally appreciated as a timely and appropriate move by the contractor on behalf of improving the application of rice research findings. While there continues to be some tension between AICRIP and the Central Rice Research Institute this has diminished to the level of stimulating competition.

The regular increase in number of trials and quality of research indicates the improving cooperation between AICRIP and the rice research personnel of India; essentially the results of the contractor's efforts. The deputation of rice scientists from the State Departments and research centers for associate assignments at the AICRIP headquarters is further evidence of high-level recognition of the contractor's contributions.

G. Training Programs:

The contractor is persistent in efforts to improve the programming of participants and the quality of training programs offered. More success can be reported in improving the training programs than in improving the selection process.

H. Commodity:

No problems have been reported with the handling of approved procurement.

I. Cooperating Country Evaluation:

As repeatedly noted above the evaluation by Indian Government officials and scientists received high marks.

J. Contractor Reports:

Timely and thorough written reports are submitted by the contractor at the close of each crop season. In the interim there are frequent consultations by the contractor staff with USAID in Delhi and also visits by the Contract Representative to the project headquarters.

K. Additional Comments:

None.

Clearances: AG/PA: (in draft)
 AG: (in draft)
 DP/P: (in draft)

AG/ID: JSBalis:sll:3/19/1971

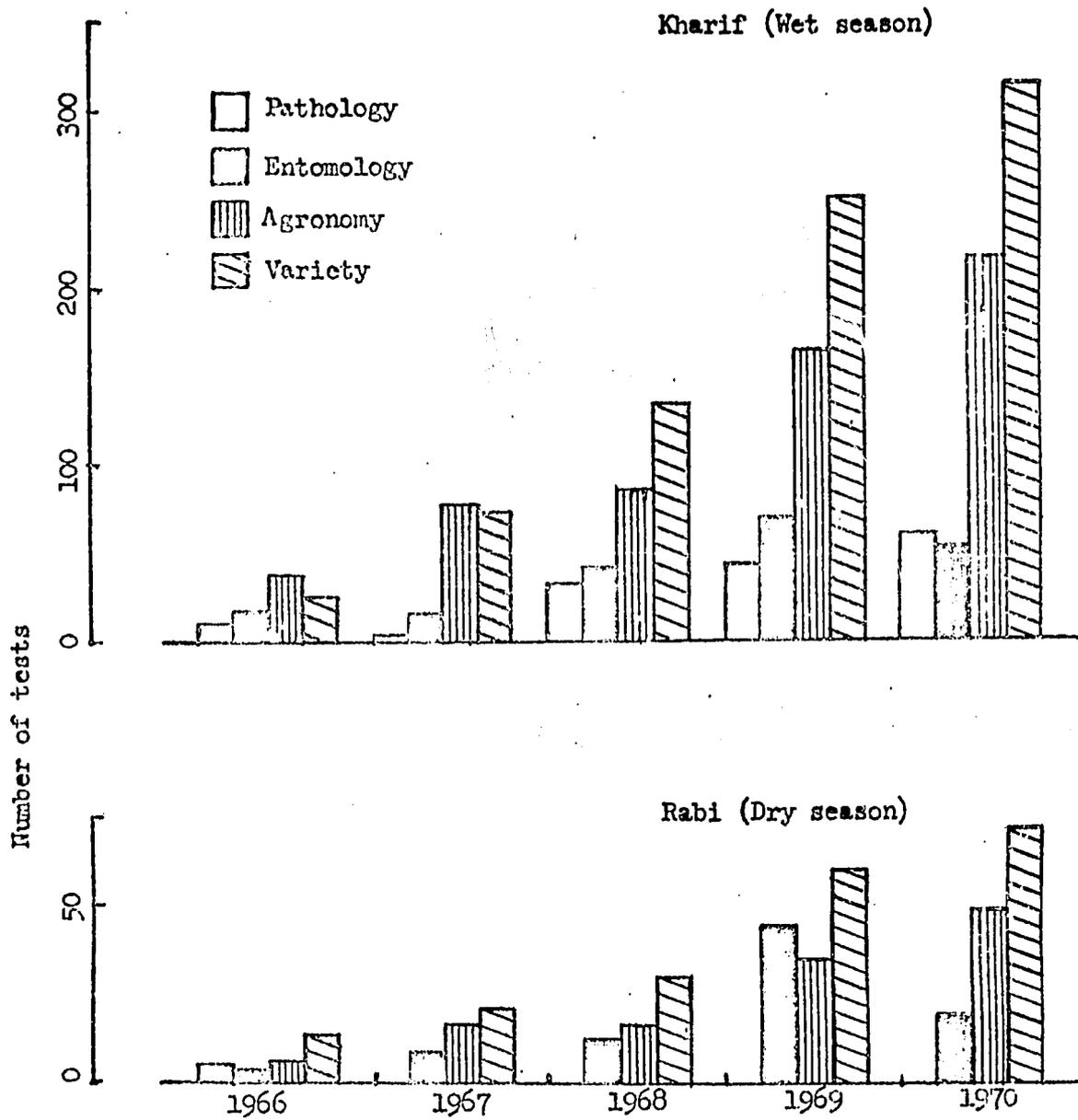


Fig. 1 Progress of AICRIP testing program.

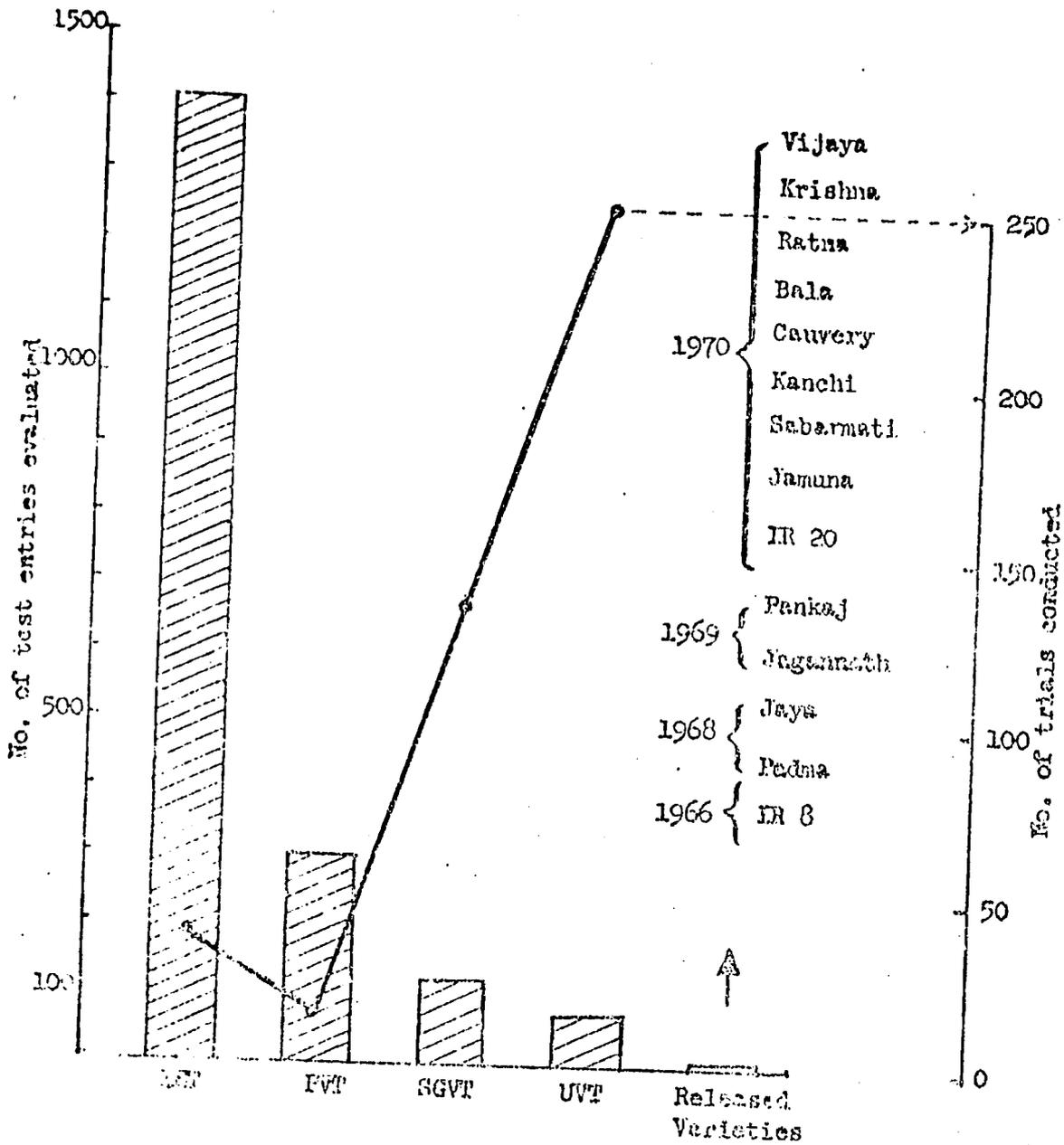


Fig. 2 Number of AICRIP variety tests conducted in various stages of tests, 1966-1970.