

SUMMARY OF PROJECT APPRAISAL REPORT

Country - Laos

Project - Agriculture Development - Agriculture Extension

Project Number - 439-11-190-065-4

Date of PAR - 1/28/69

U.S. Obligation Span - FY 1964 - FY 1976

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Progress

1. Overall performance and effectiveness in achieving project targets has been satisfactory. (P 1A) Presently there are 177 Extension field agents assigned to 48 RLG development areas in 14 provinces. The agents reach an estimated one third of the farmers located in their development areas. (P 3)
2. Increased demand for fertilizer by Lac farmer. (P 7A)
3. The RLG voluntarily shifted the FY 1968 funding of 53 agents from USAID to national funding. (P 3)
4. There is a concerted RLG effort to upgrade personnel effectiveness and "pin point" educational progress to specific needs. (P 8)
5. A significant trend is the coordination and utilization of extension personnel by other government directorates and services. (P 8)
6. Farmers are becoming aware of production costs and are concerned with marketing outlets, grain storage and labor needs. (P 1A)

Problems

1. Agents' effectiveness is sharply curtailed by the security situation. (P 3)
2. RLG field agents reporting is not satisfactory. (P 7)
3. End use commodity accounting documentation by RLG is unsatisfactory. (P7A)
4. Lack of agriculture census data hinders long range program planning. (P8A)
5. Government fiscal procedures cause delays in salary payment of nationally funded agents. Salary pay scales are low. (P 8A)
6. Vehicle maintenance is inadequate and hinders program implementation. (P8A)
7. Progress is poor with regard to middle management and field administration. (P 1A)

PAR Recommendations

1. Applied research is needed in crop harvesting, drying and marketing but this will be initiated at Mission level and will be done in country. (P 4)
2. Many IVS field personnel lack technical experience in rice production. A proposal is under consideration to give intensive training at the National RLG Research Center. (P 7)

Lessons Learned

1. Short out-of-country observation tours have been eliminated in FY 1969 and in-country training has been increased as experience has indicated greater returns at less expense from in-country training. (P 3A)
2. On-the-job practical training of Extension personnel is a pre-requisite to sending participants out of country for specialized training. (P 4)

3. The on-the-job training in rice production at Salakham has clearly demonstrated that people with low levels of educational background when put into organized, keyed training programs can benefit. (P 4)
4. The Missions' Common Use Supply System (from which such items as scales, wire, tools, paint, building supplies, etc. are obtained) has eliminated the long delays in procuring commodities. (P 7A)

AID/W Follow-up

None