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MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Contract No. AID 492-1466,

Food and Nutrition Project No. 492-0252

September 1 - October 1, 1978
Manila, Philippines

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. John A. Dwyer
Contract No. 492-1466
1 September - 1 October, 1978

SUMMARY

During the month of September I was involved in assisting the National Nutrition Council (NNC) consultants in completing a final draft of the proposed Food and Nutrition Outreach Project Paper (492-0320) for submission, review and comment by the Mission Project Review Committee (PRC) in mid-October. In addition, the project paper is being reviewed by cooperating Government of the Philippines (GOP) agencies and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) staff. I worked very closely with my NNC project consultant counterpart in determining the appropriate types of municipal-based food production and activities to be included in the project paper.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Although my major involvement during the month was in the finalization of the Food and Nutrition Outreach Project Paper, I represented the Mission, along with my NNC counterpart, in discussions with representatives of the National Food and Agriculture Council (NFAC), the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and the University of the Philippines, Los Baños (UPLB) concerning the preparation of a vegetable seed production Project Implementation Document (PID) which would provide support to on-going Philippine Nutrition Program (PNP) activities, especially home/school gardening interventions. As a result of a series of meetings and planning sessions involving representatives of the NNC, NFAC, UPLB, BPI and the Mission Nutrition and Agriculture Divisions held during March through August, a management decision was made that the vegetable seed production project would best be handled by the Office of Agriculture/USAID/Philippines in coordination with the NFAC, BPI, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Associated Colleges of Agriculture of the Philippines (ACAP). The involvement of the NNC and Office of Human Resources Development/Nutrition will be supportive in nature during the project design stages to insure that the benefits/beneficiaries of the project will include those of rural households

with malnourished members. The NNC and NFAC, as well as the Mission, assign a high priority to this type project since it will hopefully establish a workable linkage between the on-going and proposed food and nutrition action programs in the country.

The last part of September was spent in discussions with my NNC counterparts relative to the proposed Barangay Nutrition and Health Scholars (BNHS) Project included in the Food and Nutrition Outreach PP. The functions, tasks and responsibilities of the outreach workers (BNHS) were defined in relation to overall PNP goals and targets. The involvement of the BNHSs in pilot municipal food production and assistance projects was encouraged, especially the role of the BNHS as a change agent involved in encouraging rural households to engage in targeted home food production activities which provide supplemental food to at-risk household members. The BNHS component of the Food and Nutrition Outreach Project is viewed as an important venue for integrating food and nutrition interventions with planned or on-going agricultural, health, population, educational and regional development programs to insure a more complete provision of basic social services to the rural Filipino poor.

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