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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

DATE: September 19, 1960

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Lyle Weiss, Engineering AdvisorSUBJECT: Mid-term evaluation of Integrated Rural Development Project
of Institut Medical Evangelique Loko (IMELOKO) Project 660-0082

TO: USAID/KINSEASA

The construction activities for this project includes:

I. Medical

A - Construction of nurses and nutrition trainee dormitory - this facility is about 40% complete (Aug. 80) and construction practices are satisfactory.

B - Construction of airstrips at 4 remote extension primary care centers - these sites were not visited, however two airstrips constructed by the PVO were visited and used, therefore I can conclude that the PVO has the necessary know-how.

II. Agricultural

A - Construction of agricultural utility building - this building is complete and was dedicated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on 27 Aug. The quality of construction of this building is satisfactory and USAID/Kinshasa can accept building as being complete and meeting the requirements of project paper.

B - Construction of three dormitories for agricultural trainees - these dormitories were constructed as one long building using traditional construction, this is deemed adequate as the dormitories are located some distance from the mission, the agricultural training site and farming plots for trainees.

C - Other or Unplanned Construction includes: dipping tank for tick control at the corral.

1. Dipping tank for tick control on cows
2. Fish ponds.

Recommendations

The implementation and execution of construction activities are proceeding according to planned schedule and quality is satisfactory. No major changes or interruptions are foreseen or recommended.

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EVALUATION - AGRICULTURAL COMPONENTS

Title: IMELOKO Rural Development

Project No.: 660-082 Location: IMELOKO Collectivity and Zone of Businga
Bado-Lite Subregion, Equator Province, Zaire

Mission: USAID/Kinshasa Mid-Term Evaluation (Regular)

Period Covered: June, 1978 through August, 1980

Summary:

Project implementation schedule has been delayed due to factors over which the project management had no control. These have included late release of funds both U. S. and GOZ, currency devaluation and exchange, high rate of anaplasmosis in existing cattle herd (animal traction), confusion and lack of organization at cooperating training institution (small equipment and tool program). Thus, the EOP conditions are not pertinent to this evaluation. Progress relative to the Schedule of Implementation documents delays in staffing of agricultural positions (see annex to this report).

1. Agricultural Training and Extension. Temporary mud and thatch construction dormitories for 9 trainees and 1 unit dedicated to classroom use are complete and in use. The first trainee group of 2 agronomist and 8 agricultural trainees has completed the first 6 months of the 9-month training course. Training in vegetable crops, field crops, and industrial crops will be completed by year end, with a fish culture module to be added later. Start-up of the village extension crop production is foreseen for early 1981 based on these graduates. Variety trials and seed multiplication for adapted cowpeas are in 3rd year and bulk quantities are available for introduction. Similarly, a small lot of winged bean (*Psophocarpus tetragonolobus*) from California has been increased to quantities for introduction. Introduction of these crops will be part of the village extension program.
2. Animal Traction. The original herd of 60 crossbred animals was found to have a high incidence of anaplasmosis (a non-venereal rickettsia blood parasite) which immediately imposed two serious constraints on reproduction and distribution of animals for traction. Normal herd increase was impossible and distribution of infected or unhealthy animals was unthinkable. In 1979, 50 cows were lost to the disease and no calves were born. With the recent arrival of an animal traction

trained Peace Corps veterinarian, the herd is being culled of diseased animals and healthy animals will be purchased for breeding stock. In early August, ten bulls were purchased for breaking and training. The first "pilot traction training" group had just begun during the evaluation visit, and a rubber-tired oxcart for training was under construction. The cattle specialist, recently arrived is working with the veterinarian on the traction program, as well as some initiation small animal projects.

3. Small Tools Production. The 2 Zairois carpenters for small tool training at CEDECO in Kerpese were hired during the first project year. Due to personnel changes and lack of organization^{at CEDECO}, they were not accepted until June, 1990, but are expected to complete training by year-end. The shop building which will house the small tools production unit is complete except for the roofing over of the small tools area and the installation of machine tools and equipment. The AID project carpenter/builder is in charge of the program.
4. Construction. In addition to the shop building, the agricultural building, 9 x 18 meters, of concrete, with space for a butchery/diagnostic area/soil test area; seed handling and processing space; and, a large warehouse and work floor was inaugurated during the evaluation team visit. Adjacent to this building, the 10x20 meter drying floor is under construction with the laterite block perimeter almost complete and the subfloor aggregate in place. Surface will be poured concrete. IMELOKO has a portable sawmill of the type supplied by Karawa and is producing construction timber from its forested area.
5. A long-term agronomist is enroute IMELOKO and an agricultural consultant is currently at the Kikwit fish culture center for a short course. According to the AID Project Director, approximately 60 farmers in the IMELOKO area have begun fish culture activities.

In spite of the delays, this project is well managed and is now at the take-off point, and merits and extension of time for use of pipeline funds and serious consideration for a follow-on effort. In my opinion, the community relations are superior and the prospects for successful village extension training in crop production and improved technology are excellent.

Methodology.

The principal techniques for data collection and evaluation of progress consisted of on-site field observations and interviews with project staff. The project has not reached the stage of outreach of the agricultural programs to the target populations so that objective/^{data}evaluation would be premature.

Base line Data.

In most cases the EOP conditions indicating progress toward project purpose can be measured by counting at the appropriate time, since most pertain to outputs which did not exist pre-project. The exception is that the fish and rice farming training program. There are already a number of fish ponds in operation in the area. It is not clear from the statement in the penultimate paragraph of page 3 of the PP who conducted the trials mentioned, or whether this was part of the pre-project operation.

Special Comments.

As mentioned in the analogous section in the Karawa evaluation, this rural development is part of a larger complex of a very nifty symbiotic situation with Karawa. In the case of IMELOKO, the strength lies in the agricultural expertise which can complement smaller efforts at Karawa and eventually, perhaps, lead to an extension of similar agricultural into a pre-conditioned area such that around Karawa.

One aspect which should be carefully monitored is that small tool segment of the project. With the uncertainties concerning directions to be taken by CEDECO, some adjustment in objectives or expanded support to IMELOKO may become advisable.