

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF BOLIVIA'S NUTRITION PROJECT

Period: April 1-30, 1978

1. Activities developed during this period

1.1. The project concerning the establishment of the National Feeding and Nutrition Institute was presented to the Planning and Coordination Office, and other authorities of this entity.

The reaction of the Minister was excellent, who from the very beginning, approved the project and offered the following suggestions:

- 1.1.1. Presentation of the project to the following Ministries with the purpose of obtaining their comments and suggestions: Health, Agriculture, Treasury and Industry, and Commerce. (by the 15th of May).
- 1.1.2. Presentation of the project to the President of the country and his entire cabinet, during the first two weeks of May.
- 1.1.3. Consider within the financial stragedy of the Institute, funding with regular funds from the Treasury and study with the Ministers mentioned in 1.1.1., the possible implication for salt taxes. The Minister presented his congratulations to GTAN for the project and gave it a high priority consideration. He judged its functions and structure as - very good. Concerning the financial needs of INAN, he recommended thinking in a more

ambitious way.

1.2. With the technical support of Dr. Franz Pardo Tellez, short-term consultant, the following activities were carried out which encouraged the nourishment gap studies, income levels and food production plan, and prevalence of protein-caloric malnutrition.

1.2.1. Revision of the calories and nutrition table recommended for the population of Bolivia.

1.2.2. Work out the protocol for a study that will determine the weight and size patterns for the average Bolivian.

The previous activities were considered essential in order to estimate and measure the nutritional needs and the prevalence of malnutrition. These activities were performed with the cooperation of the personnel from the Department of Public Health Nutrition Division, completing in this way, the personnel training in the light of new scientific knowledge on this subject. The documents containing these activities are being copied by the projects secretarial team. Copies will be sent to NTF sometime this month.

1.3. With the help of Dr. Franz Pardo Tellez and Cesar Amorin, short-term consultants, the study designs for the Dairy System and nutrition gap, income levels and food production were established. These designs will end in the first two weeks of May.

- 1.4. The President of the Feeding and Nutrition Committee and GTAN Chief were escorted to the Department of Sucre, capital of Chuquisaca, in order to discuss the building of a Department Coordination Office for Feeding and Nutrition. The results of this mission was as follows:
 - 1.4.1. The Development Group and the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Education, and Commerce and Industry departmental offices, approved the establishment of the feeding and nutrition program coordination office.
 - 1.4.2. The Development Group will give their support to the office and to some of the program's financial resources. They will also choose the candidate who will perform the planning and nutrition course organized by GTAN for departmental coordinators.
 - 1.4.3. The Planning and Coordination Office will work out an agreement project between the Development Group and the Ministry concerning the development of this program, which is subject to approval by the Development Group Board of Directors, during the month of May. It should be emphasized that this is the initiation of the structural process for the nutrition regional and/or department offices included in this project.
- 1.5. The nutrition education advising team, Dr. Jean Wight, Dr. Jorge H. Jimenez and Thomas Cooke, completed their mission. The reports of these consultants are attached,

which we think should be studied by the mission, since the budget presented is much higher than the project's actual economic resources.

GTAN had first chosen Cochabamba for the pilot test. Nevertheless, because of technical reasons, available resources, lower expenses and coordination with AID Montero Rural Health project, the possibility of this test being done in the Department of Santa Cruz, has been considered. It is expected that the future activities concerning this component of the project will be determined more specifically during the month of May.

2. Problems encountered and solutions during this period

2.1. The training of the personnel who performed the study on prevalence of protein-caloric malnutrition was not carried out because of the fact that the braquail tapes never arrived.

Nevertheless, the study covering the production aspects of two demonstration units will begin in May. There will be another re-training in July which will solve this problem, and the information on nutritional status among one to five year-olds through the braquail tapes, will be taken in other demonstration units included in this study.

2.2. The problem of office materials and stationary for the NFF group continues due to the lack of definition in the NFF/AID contract concerning this matter. According to AID/Bolivia's administrative offices, this is the Government's responsibility. Nevertheless, the latter is always late

in providing materials, therefore, reducing the efficiency of the report's performance and other of the projects correspondence. In order to solve the problem I have presented to Ms. Nancy L. Ruther a list of our needs for one year. Ms. Ruther will negotiate a change in the GOB/AID agreement with the purpose of obtaining the funds. This fact reduces the budget sheet for local expenses related to the studies involved in the project which is not appropriate. It is recommended that in the future NTF/AID contracts, special attention should be given to these matters, which are of great importance to the progress of the project. Ms. Nancy L. Ruther's permanent concern for finding a solution to this problem, should be taken into consideration.

3. Activities for the next month

- 3.1. Presentation of the INAN project to the President of Bolivia and his Ministers.
- 3.2. Formulation of the education programs for the Departments coordinator's group.
- 3.3. Completion of the designs for the nutrition assistance studies, dairy system, prevalence of anemias, control of salt iodation and nutrition gap.
- 3.4. Visit to Tarija, Potosí, Pando, Oruro, Santa Cruz and Beni Departments, to discuss with the authorities the arrangements of the nutrition offices and the appointment of the Departments coordinators.

Note: The large number of existing activities, and the difficulty in performing them, since there is only one consultant, should be emphasized. High priorities should be given when choosing a second consultant.