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PARAGUAY

MINIFUNDIA CROP INTENSIFICATION

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

January 1—March 31, 1982

USAID-CREDICOOP-MASI

Work Performed Under Contract IAC-0118-C-00-1026-00

May 1, 1982

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CONTRACT - PARAGUAY 526 - 0118 MINIFUNDIA CROP INTENSIFICATION

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January - March, 1982

I. INTRODUCTION

During this quarter, the major project activities were performed by Dr. Francisco Jordán, the Horticulturist, and Ing. Fulgencio José Vivas, the Irrigation Specialist. Mr. Vivas arrived in Paraguay on March 31, and he will remain in the country for six weeks.

CREDICOOP appointed Ing. Agr. José Dubini as Administrator for the Minifundia Project.

The Department of Technical Assistance has, at present, various agricultural engineers, including Ing. José Dubini, Carlos Villalba, Gilberto González, Jaime Ayala, Juan Estigarribia and Eduardo Zappi, the latter being a Peace Corps volunteer.

We believe that the quality and quantity of the Paraguayan personnel in the project has improved significantly. On the other hand, the audiovisual specialists who were supposed to arrive January 15, were unable to come during this quarter. The Domestic Marketing Specialist is due to arrive on April 26.

To this date, MASI has sent 11 technicians to Paraguay, which makes a total of 22 months and 12 days (see table).

Work has been done to revise the project plan, which includes a modification of the technical assistance. A copy of this change is included in its tentative form. This modification consists primarily of the replacement of various short term specialists, namely the Marketing and Food Processing Specialists, by one long term Marketing Specialist for 12-18 months. Originally, the project specified this type of personnel and length of stay.

The reports written by all of MASI technicians have been received by CREDICOOP.

#### II. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Weekly meetings continue between the AID-CREDICOOP-MASI-SEAG-IAN-Peace Corps personnel.

Monday meetings with the SEAG-SENASE-IAN personnel were practically eliminated.

Three meetings were held with Dr. Roberto Castro, AID official from Washington, and other personnel from AID, CREDICOOP, and SEAG, during which the overall MASI situation

was discussed, as well as the situation with the Minifundia project and new focuses of the project.

Several meetings were held during the quarter with Ing. Luis Alvarez, Director of Research of M.A.G. as well as with several members of I.A.N., in order to discuss budget problems. Meetings were also held with the CREDICOOP officials.

Dr. Miguel Angel Rivarola evaluated the Minifundia Project. An evaluation of the CREDICOOP system was also carried out, but none of the results of these evaluations has yet been discussed.

### III. HORTICULTURAL REPORT

The trials at I.A.N. are still receiving much attention.

During the quarter there were three pineapple trials, and the land has also been prepared for strawberry trials.

Several meetings have been held with personnel in the horticultural/fruit growing section.

Experimental trials have been prepared and budgets have been accepted for the first six months of 1982.

Field trials of banana and pineapple are developing satisfactorily.

Assistance was provided in making a video tape on land preparation. Later on emphasis will be placed on soil preparation for the production of tomato and strawberry which will be planted next quarter (April-May).

#### Banana

Visits were made to the three cooperatives devoted to banana cultivation, and during those visits a small workshop on the proper care and handling of banana was drawn up and given. This was prepared in video, exclusively from photographs obtained for this purpose. The plantations were visited and recommendations were made.

The crops are doing well, especially in Loreto and production is expected during the month of May. A good crop is expected if no climatic problems occur like last year.

The booklets on the "raleo" (yield thin bunches) of banana and also on banana fertilization were revised.

Technical sheets on the pruning of male flowers and staking were prepared. A guide on the collection of data to be followed in the banana trials (varieties and fertilization) was also produced.

### Pineapple

Three experimental trials were planted at I.A.N. on the final selection of the Abacaxi pineapple, density of planting and fertilization; the latter are of the Smooth Cayenne variety.

These trials in random and factorial blocks were planted in the first week of January.

Six visits were made to the Concepción, Arroyos and Esteros, Valenzuela and Piribebuy areas, to observe the planting of the Abacaxi in the field. Several plants which had different shapes of fruits—conic, cylindrical and barrel shaped—were selected.

These plant slips were planted at I.A.N. in the final phase of selection of the Abacaxi pineapple.

Around 100,000 old Smooth Cayennes were obtained for cuttings ("esqueje") and it is hoped that the newly propagated plants will be ready by December.

### Strawberry

Efforts were concentrated on the preparation of six strawberry

trials, three of which (variety, irrigation and fertilization) were planted at I.A.N. and the other three on a private farm under an agreement with CREDICOOP.

The Escuela Agromecánica and the Swiss Mission are cooperating in a drip irrigation trial.

CREDICOOP program of strawberry planting for 1982 had to be postponed due to problems associated with nurseries.

During this quarter, the horticulturist spent several days visiting the nurseries to observe the plantings. Horticultural, entomological and pathological evaluations were made in different nurseries.

All of these trials—banana, tomato and pineapple—are supervised directly by the horticulturist.

#### Tomato

Three experiments were designed to be carried out at I.A.N. They are: drip irrigation, fertilization and staking, and desuckering. Due to a lack of space at I.A.N., the other experiments cannot be implemented unless arrangements can be made with a private farmer.

Courses on land preparation were offered to those interested in cultivating tomato, and field trips will be made to other tomato projects.

MASI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Year month	1 9 8 2												1 9 3 3												Total man- months
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Chief-of-Party/ Horticulturist																									24
Irrigation				—														—							4
Frost Control							—											—							2
Audiovisual			—																						1
Soils							—																		1
Refrigeration							—	—																	3
Marketing																									16
Project Preparation												—													0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>52</b>

Total according to the contract  
 Total used  
 Total projected 82/83  
 Other total (remaining)

76 man-months  
 20 man-months  
 52 man-months  
 4 man-months