

**EVALUATION
of the
RESEARCH AND TRAINING NETWORK
of the
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

JUNE 1979

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I. SUMMARY

The International Agricultural Economics Seminar - Research Training Network project initially began as a program to serve the U.S. university agricultural economics community. It has now evolved into a program that brings together academicians, government officials, international donor agency employees, and development technicians from the U.S. and the LDCs to discuss major rural development problems and issues. It assists these individuals and their offices to identify alternative solutions to significant issues, to exchange information on methodologies and programs for development, and to enhance their expertise in the development field. In the past two years, 15 conferences have been held in five different countries involving 367 individuals. Publications resulting from these conferences have been distributed to over 11,500 individuals and organizations around the world.

The Evaluation Committee strongly recommends that the RTN be continued. The favorable response of past participants, the need for continuing dialogue among the groups participating in the program and the worldwide interest in the program as demonstrated by the breadth of the mailing list for its publications all argue for an extension of this project.

The Evaluation Committee believes that RTN can best serve the needs of the LDCs and AID by providing a program which encompasses the entire spectrum for rural development research and education to rural development policy and programs. The current trend towards increasing emphasis on the latter portion of this spectrum should be continued.

In order to achieve this goal the following recommendations are offered.

Continue to increase the relative number of seminars and workshops on subjects closely tied to the rural development programs of the LDCs and the assistance activities of AID.

Increase the number of conference participants from the less developed countries to roles and numbers equivalent to the developed country participants.

Increase the participation of AID personnel, particularly those working at the field level.

Make more effective use of the Program Committee as a source of ideas for conferences and for planning the program of RTN in at least two years in advance.

The primary weakness of the RTN is that it does not adequately serve the needs of Africa and Latin America. At the present time relatively few individuals in these areas receive RTN publications. In most years only a handful of individuals from Africa and Latin America participated in RTN conferences and few conferences have been held on those continents.

In order to overcome this deficiency it is recommended that:

the staff of RTN should be expanded in order to allow for location of staff in Africa and Latin America. Priority should be given to Africa. These individuals will have responsibility for establishing linkages with professionals in those areas in order to identify high priority subjects and qualified participants for RTN seminars and workshops.

The number of conferences held in Africa and Latin America should be increased while the number in the United States should be reduced.

The dissemination of the publications of the RTN could be substantially strengthened. At the present time, a number of months elapse between a seminar and the publication of the seminar report. These reports are typically summaries of conference proceedings and tend to be rather academic. The Committee makes the following recommendations to alleviate these problems.

Distribute selected papers presented at conferences in mimeographed form.

Encourage the authors of conference summaries to remain at the conference site one or two days after conclusion of the conference to prepare the conference report.

Initiate a new series of papers with a program and policy focus. Authors might be drawn from conference participants who are employees of LDC planning agencies, AID or other donors. This series, aimed at rural development planners, donor agency employees, and development technicians would summarize the conference's implications for their work. It might include discussions of policy, program, and project options for solving specific problems as well as discussions of current development issues and their implications for development planning and assistance.

II. INTRODUCTION

Since 1970, AID has funded a project titled International Agricultural Economics Seminar, Research-Training Network (RTN). Throughout its life, it has been contracted to the Agricultural Development Council (A/D/C). This report summarizes the results of an evaluation of this project carried out in accordance with a provision of the project paper requiring an in-depth evaluation every two years. The evaluation team consisted of:

Kurt Anschel - University of Kentucky (rapporteur)
Harold Jones - AID
Calvin Martin - AID
Lyle Schertz - U.S.D.A.

Mark Sorenson and Jim Schoettler assisted the team by tabulating and analyzing data provided by A/D/C, surveying a sample of participants, and drafting portions of this report. Ms. Kathy Boyd of DS/AGR/ESP participated in team meetings and provided information as requested by the team.

DS/AGR/ESP prepared a scope of work for the evaluation which is attached Annex VII. In broad summary, the issues to be considered are: (1) Are the recommendations of the 1977 evaluation team implemented and, if so, did they achieve the intended results? (2) To what degree have the seminars and workshops organized by A/D/C focused on emerging issues relevant to the LDCs, AID and other international donor agencies? (3) Have the seminar/workshop participants represented an appropriate balance of American university professors, employees of AID and other international donor and technical assistance agencies, and LDC civil servants and academicians.

In order to answer these and related questions, the committee undertook the following activities. It initially met on May 16, 1979 to further clarify the issues and to specify the data required to assess them. Mark Sorenson, Jim Schoettler, and Kurt Anschel carried out a survey of AID employees who had participated in one or more conference to determine their impressions of the value of the seminar program and summarized the data on conferences, conference participation, and the dissemination of information. The results of this effort are presented in the tables included in this report. On May 18, 1979 the team held a second meeting to review the results of the surveys and data analysis and to discuss the content of the team's report. A draft evaluation report was then prepared by Dr. Anschel with the assistance of Mr. Schoettler and Mr. Sorenson and circulated to the team on May 31. This report is the final revised evaluation report.

III. PURPOSES OF THE RESEARCH TRAINING NETWORK

One of the great strengths of this project has been its adaptability to changing needs and emphases. As A/D/C and DS/AGR/ESP perceived new needs and opportunities, the project activities were redirected to respond to them. As initiated, the project consisted of continuing intermittent seminars to discuss areas of agricultural economics research and teaching relevant to the less developed countries. Participation was drawn primarily from the U.S. academic community. The level of participation of LDC nationals and AID employees was low. It appears that the objective of the project was to strengthen American universities' capacity for agricultural economic research on the agricultural development of the less developed countries and to educate Americans and foreign students specializing in agricultural economic development.

Prior to completion of the first project period (1970-75) it was recognized that conditions had changed requiring modification of the focus of the project. It was realized that seminars and workshops could substantially benefit from the participation of scholars from Third World countries. As a result increasing numbers of scholars from the developing countries were invited to the conferences. The leadership of the program also recognized that the traditional research areas in agricultural economics are too narrow to permit the discussion of current issues in the field. As a result, A/D/C organized individual conferences on specific current policy issues and problems such as Women in Development, Survey Data Collection in Less Developed Countries as well as the formalized intermittent seminars on specific research and training areas. After 1974 the formalized conferences were discontinued in favor of those emphasizing policy and problem-related issues. This was reflected in the 1975 project paper.

The 1975 project paper specified the following purposes: To provide a mechanism and structure (seminars and workshops) whereby U.S. and LDC agricultural economists and other scientists can pool their knowledge on priority rural and agricultural development problems:

- a. to develop better information on the impact of alternative development strategies,
- b. to improve the methodology for analysis and evaluation of rural and agricultural development programs, and
- c. to develop new course materials for use in U.S. and LDC training programs.

These purposes reflect a redirection of the project which had already begun to take place. Instead of emphasizing agricultural economics research and education, the major focus became priority rural and

agricultural development problems and strategies. LDC and American scientists were specified as the participants and the need for participation of scientists other than agricultural economists was recognized. The project encompassed a broad array of subject matter from basic research to immediate agricultural and rural development policy issues involving LDC and American scientists from all the major disciplines.

In the four years since the 1975 project paper was approved, new needs have been identified and the project has again evolved. Review of conference subjects and participants demonstrates that increasing efforts have been placed on involving the practitioners of development: employees of AID, LDC governments, other international donor and technical assistance agencies although their participation was not specifically delineated in the project documentation. In the years 1977-79, 45 percent of the participants were employed by these agencies. This seems to reflect a recognition that the conferences on the issues and problems of development are made more meaningful by the participation of those who have had "firing line" experience in addition to academics. A/D/C has also organized two conferences in the past year in which the majority of the participants were development planners and ~~technicians~~ rather than scholars. Apparently A/D/C and DS/AGR have recognized the utility of bringing individuals with responsibilities for aid and technical assistance together in order to learn from each other and to address mutual issues and problems. This is a logical extension of the RTN project which we applaud.

A second major innovation of the past several years is an increasing number of conferences in which LDC scholars and practitioners are in the majority. Implicit in this innovation is recognition that the social sciences of the developing world have attained a substantial degree of maturity and there is now a sufficiently large body of experienced and skilled third world scientists, particularly in Asia and Latin America who no longer need to be nurtured and largely supplemented by foreign specialists. Of the five conferences planned for 1979, three will be held abroad with few Americans or European participants. Again A/D/C and DS/AGR have recognized a new reality and have responded appropriately.

IV. ACTIVITIES OF A/D/C - RTN, 1977-79

Since May 1977, 15 seminar and workshops and 11 planning sessions have been organized by A/D/C as part of the RTN program. A summary of these activities (excluding the planning seminars) is presented in Table 1. The 15 seminars and workshops brought together 376 individuals, including 61 from less developed countries (LDC). Seminars were held principally in the U.S. although four took place abroad: two in developed countries and two in LDCs (Columbia and Kenya). Topics covered varied widely, though a major focus of RTN during the current evaluation period (January 1977 to April 30, 1979) was on cooperatives.

Table 1: A/D/C - RTN Location and Number of Seminars, and Number of Participants, July 1, 1975 - April 30, 1979

	July 1, 1975- April 30, 1979	July 1, 1975- April 30, 1977	May 1, 1977- April 30, 1979
Number of seminars	29	14	15
Location:			
United States	18	7	11
Latin America	3	2	1
Asia	5	4	1
England	2	1	1
Africa	1	0	1
North Africa- Middle East	0	0	0
Number of participants	764	388	376
LDC	197	136	61
DC	567	252	315

Source: Evaluation of the Research and Training Network of the Agricultural Development Council, June 1977.

Nevertheless, as Table 2 below illustrates, other subjects also received attention (See Annex I for seminar titles and location).

Table 2: RTN Seminar Subject Areas, 5/77 - 4/79

<u>Topic</u>	<u>No. of Seminar/Workshops</u>
Cooperatives	4
Agricultural Production	2
Food AID	2
Education	1
Irrigation	1
Land Reform	1
Marine Resources	1
Nutrition	1
Rural Development Research	1
Rural Finance	1

Two seminars will also be held in the next few months in the Philippines and India, "Communication Responsibilities of International Agricultural Research Centers" and "Adjustment Mechanism of Rural Labor Markets." Further major seminars are planned or in the planning stage for late 1979 on graduate education in agricultural economics, food aid, irrigation, the role of women in development.

Participants

The evaluation team reviewed the list of participants in the 15 seminars held between May 1, 1977 and April 30, 1979 and categorized the participants on the basis of employ and national origin (see Tables 3 and 4) In presenting this data it must be noted that some LDC nationals who participated on behalf of international agencies such as the World Bank based in developed countries were excluded. While this method was felt to be valid by the committee, it introduces a downward bias which partially explains the unfavorable comparison of these figures with those of earlier evaluation periods.

Table 3 shows that the characteristics of the participants are changing dramatically. Participation of representatives of LDC organizations and governments was low early in the period, but increased greatly in 1979. Participation by AID, other U.S. government agencies and international organizations increased significantly. Conversely, university participation was lower.

Table 3: Employers of RTN Conference Participants

Employers	July 1975-	May 1977-	Jan. 1978-	Jan. 1979-	May 1977-
	Apr. 1977	Dec. 1977	Dec. 1978	Apr. 1979	Apr. 1979
-----Percent-----					
University	50	62	31	15	43
U.S.	35	50	28	10	35
LDC	15	4	1.5	3	3
Other		8	1.5	2	5
International Organization	18	22	34	18	24
LDC Organization or Government	18	2	6	30	8
AID	7	10	17	13	13
Other U.S. Gov't	7	2	8	21	7
Other		2	2	3	3

Table 4: Participants in A/D/C RTN Seminars from Less Developed Countries, 1977-79

	1977 ^{1/}	1978	1979 ^{1/}	77-79
Total LDC participants	26	14	21	61
LDC participants as % of total	14	11	34	16
LDC participation by region:				
Africa	8	2	2	12
Asia	12	7	1	20
Latin America	4	4	18	26
Near East	2	1	0	3
Regional participants as % of total:				
Africa	4	2	3	3
Asia	7	5	2	5
Latin America	2	3	29	7
Near East	1	1	0	1

^{1/} Beginning May 1, 1977 through April 1979.

Source: Work material provided by A/D/C.

Participation of LDCs representatives declined significantly since the last evaluation period. In the previous period, LDC representatives made up 32 percent of the total number of participants. In comparison, the figure for the current period is 16 percent (61 individuals), though Table 4 shows that the trend has been reversed in the first half of 1979. The overall decline reflects in part the organization of three seminars in which LDC attendance was purposefully minimized. When these seminars are excluded, LDC participation is 21 percent of the total.

A total of thirty seven (37) AID personnel attended the RTN seminars and workshops during the current evaluation period. Three came from USAID missions (Kenya, Ethiopia and Indonesia), while 13 represented the Development Support Bureau (including 5 from DS/AGR/ESP). The majority (56.7%) however, came from the other bureaus of AID, including AID Regional Bureaus.

In addition to the AID personnel, there was significant participation by members of other government agencies. The majority of them came from the Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Dissemination of Conference Results

RTN publication for the current evaluation period included:

1. De Tray, D.N., Seminar Report No. 13, Household Studies.
2. Cummings Jr., R.W., Seminar Report No. 14, Minimum Information Systems for Agricultural Development in Low-Income Countries, September 1977.
3. Roumasset, J.A. Seminar Report No. 15, Risk and Uncertainty in Agricultural Development, October 1977.
4. Marshall, N., Seminar Report No. 16, The U.S. University Role in Education for Marine Resources Development in the LDCs, March 1978.
5. Adams, D.S., Kato, Y., Seminar Report No. 17, Research on Rural Finance: A Seminar Report, June 1978.
6. Coward Jr., E.W., Seminar Report No. 18, Research Methodology in the Study of Irrigation Organization: A Review of Approaches and Applications, December 1978.
7. Kearn, B., Weisblat, A.M., Seminar Report No. 19, Institutional Innovational Reform: The Ladejinsky Legacy, May 1979.
8. McGrath, M.J., University of Wisconsin Land Tenure Center, ed. Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development, January 1979. (Report on a project that included a series of workshops.)
9. Roumasset, J.A., Bousard, J.M., Singh, I., Risk, Uncertainty and Agricultural Development, SEARCA/ADC, April 1979.

Publications that are in manuscript form and will be available over the next two months are:

10. Implementation of United States Food Aid - Title III: Summary Report.

11. Moshier, A.T., Readings in Agricultural Administration.

In addition the University of Wisconsin Press will publish a volume based on the Ladejinsky Symposium.

To evaluate the effectiveness of A/D/C's dissemination effort, the evaluation committee staff sampled 3 percent (1/33) of the A/D/C mailing list of recipients. The staff then categorized the recipients according to the nature of the organization receiving the document or employing the recipient, the region in which the recipient is based and the disciplinary background of the recipient (if identifiable). Tables 5 and 6 show the results of this analysis. LDC organizations, governments and universities are by far the major recipients. Overall, LDC recipients totaled 41 percent of the mailing list. Among all recipients, 39 percent are located in Asia, 5 percent in Latin America, 4 percent in Africa and only 1 percent in the Near East/North African countries.

In terms of disciplinary background, agricultural and other economists represented 43 percent of the recipients. The social scientists followed with 32 percent and other agricultural scientists represented 17 percent.

Table 5: Institutional Affiliation of Individuals and Organizations Receiving A/D/C RTN Publications

Organizations	Individual Recipients		Institutional Recipients		Total	
	Percent of		Percent of		Percent of	
	Number	Total	Number	Total	Number	Total
AID	5	1.6	0	0	5	1.3
State Department	2	.6	0	0	2	.5
Other U.S. Government	2	.6	1	1.9	3	.8
U.S. Universities	69	22.5	9	17.3	78	21.7
LDC Universities	68	22.2	17	32.6	85	23.7
LDC Organizations and Governments	52	16.9	10	19.2	62	17.3
International and D.C. Organizations	34	11.1	9	17.3	43	12
Other D.C. Universities	20	6.5	6	11.5	26	7.2
Others	52	16.9	0	0	52	14.5
Total	306	100	52	100	358	100

Source: 3 percent sample of A/D/C mailing list.

Table 6: Regional and Disciplinary Distribution of Recipients of A/D/C RTN Publications

	Number	Percent of Total
Africa	15	4
Near East/North Africa	5	1
Asia	139	39
Latin America	18	5
United States	133	37
Other Developed Countries	48	13
Total	358	100
Agricultural Economics	28	18
Other Agriculture	27	17
Economics	40	25
Social Sciences	51	32
Related Technical Fields	13	8
Total	159	100

Source: 3 percent sample of A/D/C mailing list.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF 1977 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Evaluation Report of June 1977 included the following recommendations:

- . Expand LDC participation
- . Keep emphasis on economics but expand numbers of other scientists
- . Adopt a five-year planning horizon
- . Implement a small grants program
- . Invest heavily in Africa
- . Watch for opportunities to support Title XII activities.

The RTN has been partially successful in carrying out these recommendations. LDC participation declined during the period, but this year it is at 34% and will continue to expand with the upcoming seminars to be held in LDC areas.

The emphasis on economics has been maintained but the number of other scientists appears to have increased as recommended. The RTN has pursued problem areas in which the interaction of different specialists contributes to the solution. Participants were brought together from both social and production sciences.

The five year planning horizon has not yet been implemented as recommended. The small grants program has not been implemented by agreement between AID and the RTN. There have been some difficulties in increasing the programs involvement with Africa. Participation of African governments or organizations has been at about 3%. However, a seminar was held in Africa on African Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Development. Also, RTN has been working closely with the Africa Bureau and has defined the following area the Role of Rural Women in Development for future seminar activity. Further recommendations made in this report are expected to rectify this problem as well as increase LDC representation in the seminar.

This Evaluation Committee feels that opportunities to support Title XII have not come about during this period, although input has been provided in the reviewing and evaluation of graduate training in agricultural economics. Continued sensitivity to Title XII is recommended.

VI. APPROPRIATENESS OF RTN SEMINARS AND WORKSHOP SUBJECTS

The seminars and workshops sponsored by RTN between May 1977 and April 1979 are listed in Annex I. The Committee's scope of work asked that it assess whether the RTN seminars focused on (a) the key problem areas of rural development, (b) on topics suggested by the Congressional Mandate, (c) anticipated major policy, program, training, and technical cooperation issues and (d) has been responsive to AID's needs in its field programs. The Evaluation Team was able to point to one or more seminars that addressed one or more of these criteria. Every seminar held in the past two years could be identified as fulfilling these criteria. Table 7 categorizes the seminars by subject and research, policy, and education emphasis.

Further insight into the value of the seminars is obtained by reviewing the results of a survey of participants conducted by the 1977 Evaluation Team. Of those responding, 85 percent indicated that attendance was a worthwhile use of their time and 77 percent indicated that their work had been influenced by their participation. Only 2 percent felt that the seminars should not be continued.

In order to assess the value of the seminar program to AID, the Evaluation Team attempted to contact and survey all AID employees who had participated in the seminars program during the past two years. Of the 32 who were not DS/AGR/ESP staff we were able to locate 11. The remainder were either abroad, had retired or did not respond to telephone calls. All ten who responded to the question indicated that attendance at the seminar was a worthwhile use of their time. Seven of nine respondents indicated that the seminars had influenced their work. Again, all seven who responded indicated that the seminars should be continued. The only real criticism of the seminar was that the LDC's were insufficiently represented. However, the organizers of the two seminar, which many of the respondents had attended explicitly and deliberately involved only a few individuals from the less developed countries.

The Evaluation Team finds that the subject matter areas of the RTN project are consistent with the objectives of the project and responsive to the needs of AID and LDCs. We specifically endorse the inclusion of seminars and workshops which are intended to facilitate resolution of programmatic and policy issues among donor and technical assistance agencies and to exchange information about what method and improve development methodologies. We also believe that the organization of workshops and seminars for LDC specialists is an important addition to the project. It will allow the individuals to remain current in the newest research and development ideas, allow them to exchange perspectives about research and policy approaches, and provide linkages between their countries, aid agencies and the American academic community. We recommend that the project paper revision explicitly recognize these functions of the project.

Table 7: RTN Workshops and Seminars Classified by Problem and Topical Areas

Problem Areas

Rural Institutions	6
Cooperatives (Policy)	(4)
Rural Finance (Research)	(1)
Land Reform and Tenure (Policy)	(1)
Rural Development	2
Rural Development (Research)	(1)
Rural Employment (Research)	(1)
Education and Training	2
Non Degree Education	(1)
Marine Resource Education	(1)
Nutrition, Food Security and Food Aid	3
Food Security (Policy)	(1)
Title III (Policy)	(1)
Nutrition (Research)	(1)
Rural Infrastructure	1
Irrigation (Research)	(1)
Production Agriculture	1
Pre-Release Testing (Research)	(1)

Topical Areas

Research	6
Policy and Problem Issues	7
Training and Education	2

Although conferences along the entire spectrum from those focussing on research issues to those that are very issue and problem oriented are appropriate to RTN, we recommend that the bulk of the seminars be closer to the issue end of the spectrum. A/D/C should continue to ensure that individuals with program and policy responsibilities and experience participate in the research related conferences. This will assist researchers to make their work more problem-focused as well as assist in the appropriate dissemination of their research results.

We recommend that RTN continue to increase its emphasis on workshops and seminars directly related to LDC, AID and other donor agency development programs and projects. These conferences should be designed to assist these agencies to design better programs and projects through the exchange of information about alternative approaches to solution of common problem and exposure to relevant research findings. Researchers will also benefit through better understanding of the programmatic issues and dissemination of results. Examples of relevant subjects include techniques of social analysis, impacts of rural road development and rural electrification, design of management system for irrigation works, linking agricultural research and education, implication of grain stabilization schemes for development planning in less developed countries, and agricultural extension techniques in less developed countries. Through review of development programs and discussion with appropriate individuals, additional subjects may be identified.

VII. SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

A review of the statistics on participation in the seminar reveals that the level of representation of less developed countries (LDCs) has declined below the level achieved during the previous evaluation period. Specifically, participation has fallen to 16 percent down from 32 percent in the previous period. Moreover, a majority of respondents in a survey of AID participants noted that they considered the level of LDC participation too low (see Annex VI). However, in 1979 it is already 34 percent and promises to go even higher.

Two factors partially account for the decline. The majority of seminars were held in the U.S. and other developed countries. Specifically, eleven out of the fifteen seminars held took place on the U.S. Two more were held in Japan and England. By contrast, six out of the fourteen seminars in the last evaluation period were located in LDCs.

Three conferences within current period did not involve LDC participants because the subject matter was deemed inappropriate for direct LDC input or insufficient time was available to locate appropriate individuals. This was particularly the case with the seminars, "LDC Food Security - The International Response" and "Implementation of U.S. Food Aid - Title III." The seminar dealt directly with U.S. policy issues and was intended to bring U.S. officials together to explore problems in implementing Title III. The discussion thus focused on U.S. policies and the participation of LDC nationals were considered inappropriate at the time. A follow-on seminar with LDC participation is planned.

It is expected that the level of LDC participation in the seminars will increase substantially in the next year. Already, LDC participation has risen from 10 percent in 1978 to 34 percent in the first half of 1979. In order to facilitate the attainment of a higher level, the Committee makes the following recommendations.

Locate more seminars in LDCs. In particular, international agricultural research centers should be contacted to explore the possibility of holding seminars at their facilities. Many of these institutions have excellent conference facilities located away from the distractions of major urban centers. Moreover, cost savings may be achieved and the centers may be willing to absorb a portion of the participants maintenance costs.

Initiate dialogue with LDC professional organization concerned with the problems of rural development. The members of their organizations should be notified of seminars and workshops and negotiations for joint sponsorship of RTN activities in LDCs could be undertaken with the organization's leadership.

If a seminar is to be held in the U.S., identify LDC nationals studying or teaching in the U.S. who would be able to provide useful input into seminars. Particular emphasis could be given to LDC doctoral candidates at the thesis-writing state.

During the current evaluation period, the RTN program succeeded in involving increased numbers of AID personnel in its activities. The evaluation committee's statistical review indicates that AID participation in the seminars and workshops has increased from 7% to almost 13% since the last evaluation. Of these, the majority came from offices and bureaus outside of the Development Support Bureau. Participation by USAID missions was at a low level with only three mission personnel attending.

To measure the impact of the RTN program on AID personnel, a group of former participants were interviewed by telephone by committee staff. The results are tabulated in Annex VI. Overall the reaction of the interviewers was positive. Of the eleven individuals contacted, an overwhelming majority indicated that they felt their work was influenced by the seminars and that the RTN program should be continued. A majority also described their participation as a worthwhile use of their time.

The evaluation committee recommends that efforts to increase AID participation be intensified.

Furthermore, particular attention should be given to the inclusion of staff from USAID missions and from AID Regional Bureaus. Their participation in roles other than just participant or observer is highly recommended.

No data on the professional experience of participants was available to the committee. However, a majority of the AID personnel interviewed indicated they felt the experience mix at the seminars was appropriate (see Table 8). The evaluation committee continues to support all efforts by the RTN Program Committee to increase the participation of young professionals. It also recommends that data on experience levels of participants be provided for use by future evaluation teams.

The Evaluation Team did not have access to data on the exact professions of the conference participants but drew information from their addresses provided by the A/D/C. Since university faculty tend to list their departmental address, a rough sensing of disciplinary mix is possible. It is the Team's impression that the numbers of non-economists, other social scientists and scientists from other fields, has increased very substantially. The team recommends that the A/D/C continue to utilize disciplines as appropriate to the substance of the conference.

VIII. DISSEMINATION OF RTN PUBLICATIONS

A/D/C seminar reports are distributed to 11,800 individuals and organizations. During the current evaluation period the lag between seminars/workshops and the publication of reports has been varied (see Table 8). The average time lag was 11.5 months.

The committee concluded that this time delay was too lengthy. While it is recognized that formal reports require time for preparation and publication under the current A/D/C format, the need to disseminate the conclusions of seminar/workshops must be given top priority. In the particular case of seminars concerned with issues of current importance (e.g. the recent Food Aid conference), swift distribution of results is vital if the seminar effort is to have any impact on the research and/or policymaking on the subject

In order to facilitate speedier dissemination the committee makes the following recommendations:

Utilize less expensive and time consuming methods for printing and distributing seminar and workshop documentation. Mimeographing for example, could provide a quick and simple method of disseminating material.

Issue interim reports - perhaps simply summaries of discussion notes and conclusions - immediately after a seminar/workshop adjourns. These would serve as useful references and guides for discussion until a formal report can be published.

Whenever practical, establish a firm deadline of no more than three months after a seminar/workshop ends for writing of the report. The rapidity with which seminar reports are published may be increased if those individuals who are selected to prepare conference reports are asked to extend their stay one or two days at the conclusion of the conference to draft their reports.

In order to facilitate the utilization of the seminar/workshop proceedings, by the development community, publish reports summarizing implications for development programming. Conference participants representing LDC development planning offices or international agencies could be asked to prepare these reports.

The team undertook a 3 percent random sample of the A/D/C mailing list in order to assess the extent of the distribution of RTN publications. The sample was categorized on the basis of the recipient's organizational membership, country of residence and disciplinary background (if identifiable). Additionally, because some recipients were organizations and not individuals, the organizational membership category was further disaggregated to reflect this distinction.

Table 8: A/D/C RTN Seminars/Workshops Reports -
May 1, 1977 - April 30, 1979

<u>Name and Date of Seminar/Workshop</u>	<u>Report Published</u>	<u>Lag</u>
Household Studies Workshop August 3-7, 1976	May 1977	10 mos.
Minimum Information Systems for Ag. Development in Low Income Countries December 6-9, 1976	September 1977	10 mos.
Risk and Uncertainty in Ag Development March 9-13, 1976	October 1977	19 mos.
Marine Resources Development November 30 - December 2, 1977	March 1978	4 mos.
Rural Finance Research July 28 - August 1, 1977	June 1978	11 mos.
Research Methodology for the Study of Irrigation Organization April 30 - May 3, 1978	December 1978	8 mos.
Ladejinsky Legacy October 10-12, 1977	April 1979	19 mos.

The results of the statistical breakdown were presented in Tables 5 and 6. The committee finds the mix of disciplines to be appropriate but continue to support all efforts to further increase the number and varieties of non-economics disciplines represented among recipients. In terms of organizational membership it is noted that while the number of LDC recipients was high, the strong bias in favor of Asian recipients indicates that an appropriate mix in this category has yet to be attained. Therefore, the committee recommends that measures be taken to improve the flow of seminar/workshop documentation to non-Asia parts of the less developed world. In particular, attention should be given to developing better contact with Africa and other areas where the information is greatly needed.

IX. ADMINISTRATION

Throughout the history of the RTN project, the staff has consisted of a director and an administrative assistant (currently Dr. Abraham Weisblatt and Ms. Mary Alice Price respectively). Yet the focus of the project has continually broadened. The staff is now responsible for organizing seminars of widely diverse subjects for participants over a broad range of disciplines, institutional affiliations and locations. This has extended the demands on the director beyond the point where he can provide the detailed administrative and intellectual leadership necessary to maintaining a high quality program.

The 1977 Evaluation Team recognized the problem of understaffing of this project and recommended that one additional staff member be funded. This Team also recommends the expansion of the RTN staff. Furthermore it is recommended that these staff be located abroad where they would have responsibility for organizing seminars and workshops and disseminating their results as well as identifying subjects and participants for conferences to be held in other regions. More specifically these staff members would establish close working relationships with professionals employed in LDC government offices and universities, AID missions and other technical and economic assistance agencies in order to identify useful conferences and potential participants. As a first priority a staff member should be located in Africa, in some central easily accessible location such as Nairobi or Abidjan. A second priority is the location of an individual in Latin America. Because A/D/C already has extensive linkages in Asia, placement of staff in that region is not deemed necessary.

The committee is aware that the cost of the above recommendation is beyond the budgetary resources of DS/AGR. Moreover, because of recent budgetary cuts incurred by DS/AGR/ESP the funding for the entire project is in some question. However, because some of the activities funded by this project serve the needs of PPC and IIA, it is recommended that joint funding of this project be explored with those Bureaus. Similarly, elements of this project appear to fall within the proposed program of the Institute for Scientific and Technological Cooperation. Once that Institute is in operation, partial funding of the project by that agency should also be explored.

In order to provide continuing feedback on the effectiveness of this project, it is recommended that a questionnaire be distributed to seminar and workshop participants to obtain their assessment of the value of the seminar they attended. This would provide the contractor with a better understanding of the effectiveness of the program and would facilitate future evaluations. By including the questionnaire with the expense claims materials, a very high return rate could be obtained.

The Evaluation Team agrees with the 1977 Evaluation Team that a small research giants program would be a valuable adjunct to this project and recommends its initiation. The team recognizes that this decision is subject to considerations beyond the scope of the evaluation.

Although valid in concept, the Program Committee has not achieved the role for which it was initially conceived. Rather than being a source of suggestions for RTN activities and participants, it has taken on a more passive role of reviewing proposals emanating from A/D/C. We recognize that this is the result of group dynamics which can not always be controlled. Nevertheless, we recommend that the RTN Director make every effort to more fully utilize this resource. In order to facilitate their more active participation, we further recommend that the contractor develop two year rolling plans of work for RTN.

Finally, to insure that conference participants who are not presenting papers for the conference are prepared to fully participate in the proceedings, it is recommended that all papers to be discussed at the conference be sent to the participants well in advance of the conference and that RTN continue to require participants to prepare and submit a brief discussion paper of the issues to be discussed prior to attending the conference.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

RTN SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS
 May 1, 1977 - March 30, 1979

Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Development
 London, England May 5-6, 1977

African Cooperatives - Small Farmers and Development
 Nairobi, Kenya May 9-10, 1977

Rural Finance Research
 San Diego, California July 28-August 1, 1977

Nutrition Beyond Economics
 Penn State University, University Park, PA October 3-4, 1977

Ladejinsky Legacy
 Kyoto, Japan October 10-12, 1977

Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development
 Washington, DC November 17, 1977

Marine Resources Education
 University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI November 30-December 2, 1977

Rural Development Research
 Harvard Institute for International Development, Boston, MA
 December 9-10, 1977

Non-Degree Training
 ADC, New York December 29, 1977

Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development
 Racine, WI April 24-26, 1978

Research Methodology for the Study of Irrigation Organization
 Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
 April 30-May 3, 1978

Rural Production, Employment Problems and Sex Differentiation of Wage
 Rates and Production Work Opportunities in Third World Countries
 New Haven, CT July 10-11, 1978

LDC Food Security: The International Response
 Reston, VA August 10-11, 1978

Implementation of U.S. Food Aid - Title III
 Princeton, NJ January 15-16, 1979

Pre-Release Testing of Agricultural Technology
Cali, Colombia March 19-21, 1979

RTN PLANNING SESSIONS
May 1, 1977 - March 30, 1979

Research Methods in the Study of Irrigation Organization
ADC, New York May 23, 1977

Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development
ADC, New York May 25, 1977

Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development
Madison, Wisconsin June 23, 1977

Application of Household Time Allocation Studies to Policy Issues
New Delhi, India October 21-22, 1977

Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Development
Madison, Wisconsin October 31-November 2, 1977

Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development
ADC, New York January 13, 1978

Political Economy of Development
St. Paul, Minnesota May 4, 1978

International Communication of Information Based on Agricultural Research
CIMMYT, Mexico June 14-16, 1978

**Communication Responsibilities of the International Agricultural
Research Centers**
Aleppo, Syria October 30-31, 1978

Political Economy of Development
Washington, DC November 10, 1978

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ANNEX IV

JOINTLY FUNDED RTN CONFERENCES

<u>Seminars & Workshops</u>	<u>Other Donor & Amount</u>
Ladejinsky Legacy Seminar	World Bank \$20,000.00
Marine Resources Education Workshop	University of Rhode Island \$4,000.00
Rural Development Research Seminar	Harvard Institute for International Development partial funding
Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development Seminar	Johnson Foundation - Maintenance expense of participants, conference room, lodging, etc.
International Communication of Information Based on Ag. Research Planning Session	CIMMYT - Maintenance of participants
Rural Production Workshop	Ford Foundation Expense for participants
Communication Responsibilities of the International Ag. Research Centers	ICARD - Maintenance of participants

ANNEX V
Questionnaire

Employees Name: _____

Office Symbols: _____

Phone Number: _____

This is _____ . I am participating in an evaluation of the Agricultural Development Council/Research Training Network for DS/AGR/ESP. The evaluation committee has decided to ask Agency employees who have participated in the program for their impressions and opinions of the project. Do you have about 10 minutes to talk right now?

- 1 When did you last participate in an Agricultural Development Council Research and Training Network Seminar? Month _____ Year _____
- 2 What was your role at the meeting? Observer, participant, discussion leader, presenter of a paper or other?
- 3 What was the topic or title of the seminar?

- 4 In your opinion, was attendance at the seminar a worthwhile use of your time? Yes _____ No _____
- 5 IF YES ABOVE: What did you get out of it? _____

- 6 IF NO ABOVE: Why not? _____

- 7 Did the seminar contain an appropriate mix of participants with respect to age? Yes _____ No _____
- 8 IF NO ABOVE: What age distribution would have been better? _____

- 9 Did the seminar have an appropriate mix of participants with regard to disciplines? Yes _____ No _____
10. IF NO ABOVE: How was the mix inappropriate? _____

11. Did the seminar have an appropriate mix of participants with regard to less developed and more developed countries? Yes _____ No _____
12. IF NO ABOVE: What should the mix have been? _____

13. Has your work been influenced by your participation in the seminar? Yes _____ No _____
14. IF YES ABOVE: How? _____

15. IF NO ABOVE: Why not? _____

16. Do you believe that the seminars should be continued? Yes _____ No _____
17. Should the seminars be improved to better meet AID's needs? If so, how?

18. Are there any seminar topics that you would like to propose?

19. What other comments or suggestions do you have about this seminar?

20. May we quote you in the evaluation report? Yes _____ No _____

Thank you very much.

ANNEX VI

AID PARTICIPANT INTERVIEW RESPONSES

1. What was your role at the meeting?

observer:	3
participant:	6
discussion leader:	0
presenter of paper:	0
organizer:	2

2. In your opinion, was attendance at the seminar a worthwhile less of your time?

yes:	10
no:	0
no response:	1

3. Did the seminar contain an appropriate mix of participants with regard to professional experience?

yes:	7
no:	2
no response:	2

4. Did the seminar have an appropriate mix of participants with respect to disciplines?

yes:	8
no:	1
no response:	2

5. Did the seminar have an appropriate mix of participants with regard to less developed and more developed countries?

yes:	3
no:	6
no response:	2

6. Has your work been influenced by your participation in the seminar?

yes:	7
no:	2
no response:	2

7. Do you believe the seminars should be continued?

yes:	7
no:	0
no response:	4

ANNEX VII

TEAM PROJECT EVALUATION
SCOPE OF WORK

A. Project Title: International Agricultural Economics Seminar Program

Project Number: 931-0887

B. Name of Contractor: A/D/C

Contract Number: AID/csd 2813

C. Purpose and Rationale for Team Evaluation:

To review progress made since the last team evaluation (6/77) with particular emphasis on whether the seminar program is continuing to make a significant contribution to the discussion and dissemination of information and research on rural development in LDCs.

Evaluate the extent to which recommended changes outlined in the last evaluations have been implemented and suggest additional modifications, if any, needed to effect recommendations.

Measure progress in achieving results as outlined in the project proposal including an assessment of assumptions and review of measures of verification for project goal and purpose to determine if they are operate and relevant. Recommend changes if necessary.

Determine extent to which seminar program has been responsive to development needs and has enhanced the capacity of LDC and U.S. policymakers and academicians to address the problems of rural development.

Assess the responsiveness of the seminar program to AID's needs in its field programs, particularly in the areas of problem identification, project design, enhancement of understanding of practical development problems and increased awareness of field technicians on the development state-of-the arts.

D. Composition of Team:

Dr. Kurt Ansel	Ph.D., Agricultural Economics, with experience in human resource development, education and institution building.
Mr. Harold Jones	AFR/DR/ARD, Agriculturalist with experience in international agricultural development particularly in selected areas of Africa.
Mr. Calvin Martin	ASIA/TR, Agriculturalist with country experience in Afghanistan, Iran, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.
Dr. Lyle Schertz	Ph.D. economist with research and administrative experience in international development, USDA.

Kathy Boyd, DS/AGR/ESP, will participate in review as project liaison.

E. Summary:

In 1970, the International Committee of the American Agricultural Economics Association requested AID to support a seminar workshop activity in the field of international agricultural development. AID responded by contracting with the Agricultural Development Council (A/D/C) to organize a "Research and Training Network" (RTN). RTN, also known as the International Agricultural Economics Seminars Program, is designed to increase the effectiveness of rural and agricultural development programs and policies of LDCs, AID and other technical assistance agencies through promoting the exchange of basic information and methodology needed to develop, implement and evaluate programs and policies. This is accomplished through the use of seminar and workshop activities involving both U.S. and LDC scientists and development specialists. Since AID funding began in 1970, over 1,500 different individuals have participated in the program. Approximately 100 seminars were held during the 1970-78 period. The seminars have covered a wide variety of topics from agricultural sector analysis to the role of women in economic development. Since 1975, greater emphasis has been given to subject matter related to rural development. Evaluations of RTN were performed in 1974, 1977 and 1978. In

each case, the evaluation teams recommended the continuation of the program with a strengthening of its activities to include greater dissemination of the results of RTN sponsored workshops and seminars. Recently, DS/AGR/ESP submitted a proposal that AID funding for the RTN program be extended.

F. Dates and Place of Evaluation:

May 16-18, 1979, Washington, D.C.

G. Previous Team Evaluation:

Regular Annual Evaluation - September 1978

Full Team Evaluation - June 1977

H. Problems and Issues to be Addressed:

1. Were the recommendations of the previous review implemented? Were they effective? What, if any, additional modifications are needed in the activities to execute the recommendations?
2. Have the seminar activities focused on the key problem areas of rural development? Has A/D/C - RTN anticipated major policy, program, training and technical cooperation issues? To what extent have seminar activities given adequate attention to the topics suggested by AID's Congressional mandate (i.e. the rural poor, the role of women, environmental issues and social development)?
3. Are the objectives of the seminar program as implemented by the A/D/C consistent with AID's immediate needs?
4. Has the seminar program been responsive to AID's needs in its field programs? Has the program been helpful in problem identification and project design? Has it provided data which has enhanced the understanding of practical development problems? Has the program led to increased awareness on the part of field development technicians and policy makers in the state of knowledge arts and resources?
5. What efforts have been made to increase the dissemination of the results of the seminars? Do the recipients of these results include a representative number of LDC and U.S. researchers, professionals and decision-makers in the international development field?
6. Have the seminar participants been actively involved in research design, implementation or evaluation of rural development projects and have they been stimulated to greater and more relevant activities through participation in the seminars? Have AID technicians and policy makers participated in the

seminars? Have a significant number of LDC practitioners also participated? To what extent is feedback on the seminars solicited from these individuals?

7. Should RTN be complemented with a small grants program as recommended in previous evaluations? Will the extra burden of administering such a program have any adverse effects on the administrative capability of A/D/C to continue the present level of RTN activities?
8. Have attempts been made to identify ways to coordinate seminar activities with those of the Title XII program?

I. List of Documents to be Reviewed:

1. Project paper
2. Previous team or regular evaluation reports
3. Annual reports
4. Progress reports

J. Agenda for the Review:

1. Review of documentation concerning the International Agricultural Economics Seminar Program (A/D/C - RTN) - May 16-18, 1979
 - (a) Current status of seminar program;
 - (b) Current status of information dissemination process;
 - (c) Structure of topic selection process; and
 - (d) Current status of seminar program linkages with Title XII program.
2. Discussion of program's future outlook
 - (a) Recommendations for program's future direction and activities; and
 - (b) Anticipated topics.

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**EVALUATION
of the
RESEARCH AND TRAINING NETWORK
of the
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

JUNE 1979

I. SUMMARY

The International Agricultural Economics Seminar - Research Training Network project initially began as a program to serve the U.S. university agricultural economics community. It has now evolved into a program that brings together academicians, government officials, international donor agency employees, and development technicians from the U.S. and the LDCs to discuss major rural development problems and issues. It assists these individuals and their offices to identify alternative solutions to significant issues, to exchange information on methodologies and programs for development, and to enhance their expertise in the development field. In the past two years, 15 conferences have been held in five different countries involving 367 individuals. Publications resulting from these conferences have been distributed to over 11,500 individuals and organizations around the world.

The Evaluation Committee strongly recommends that the RTN be continued. The favorable response of past participants, the need for continuing dialogue among the groups participating in the program and the worldwide interest in the program as demonstrated by the breadth of the mailing list for its publications all argue for an extension of this project.

The Evaluation Committee believes that RTN can best serve the needs of the LDCs and AID by providing a program which encompasses the entire spectrum for rural development research and education to rural development policy and programs. The current trend towards increasing emphasis on the latter portion of this spectrum should be continued.

In order to achieve this goal the following recommendations are offered.

Continue to increase the relative number of seminars and workshops on subjects closely tied to the rural development programs of the LDCs and the assistance activities of AID.

Increase the number of conference participants from the less developed countries to roles and numbers equivalent to the DC participants.

Increase the participation of AID personnel, particularly those working at the field level.

Make more effective use of the Program Committee as a source of ideas for conferences and for planning the program of RTN in at least two years in advance.

The primary weakness of the RTN is that it does not adequately serve the needs of Africa and Latin America. At the present time relatively few individuals in these areas receive RTN publications. In most years only a handful of individuals from Africa and Latin America participated in RTN conferences and few conferences have been held on those continents.

In order to overcome this deficiency it is recommended that:

the staff of RTN be expanded in order to allow for location of staff in Africa and Latin America. Priority should be given to Africa. These individuals will have responsibility for establishing linkages with professionals in those areas in order to identify high priority subjects and qualified participants for RTN seminars and workshops.

The number of conferences held in Africa and Latin America should be increased while reducing the number in the United States

The dissemination of the publications of the RTN could be substantially strengthened. At the present time, a number of months elapse between a seminar and the publication of the seminar report.

These reports are typically summaries of conference proceedings and tend to be rather academic. The Committee makes the following recommendations to alleviate these problems.

Distribute selected papers presented at conferences in mimeographed form.

Encourage the authors of conference summaries to remain at the conference site one or two days after conclusion of the conference to prepare the conference report.

Initiate a new series of papers with a program and policy focus. Authors might be drawn from conference participants who are employees of LDC planning agencies, AID or other donors. This series, aimed at rural development planners, donor agency employees, and development technicians would summarize the conference's implications for their work. It might include discussions of policy, program, and project options for solving specific problems as well as discussions of current development issues and their implications for development planning and assistance.

II. INTRODUCTION

Since 1970, AID has funded a project titled International Agricultural Economics Seminar, Research-Training Network (RTN). Throughout its life, it has been contracted to the Agricultural Development Council (A/D/C). This report summarizes the results of an evaluation of this project carried out in accordance with a provision of the project paper requiring an in-depth evaluation every two years. The evaluation team consisted of:

Kurt Anschel - University of Kentucky (rapporteur)
 Harold Jones - AID
 Calvin Martin - AID
 Lyle Schertz - U.S.D.A.

Mark Sorenson and Jim Schoettler assisted the team by tabulating and analyzing data provided by A/D/C, surveying a sample of participants, and drafting portions of this report. Ms. Kathy Boyd of DS/AGR/ESP participated in team meetings and provided information as requested by the team.

DS/AGR/ESP prepared a scope of work for the evaluation which is attached in ANNEX VI. In broad summary, the issues to be considered are: (1) Were the recommendations of the 1977 evaluation team implemented and, if so, did they achieve the intended results? (2) To what degree have the seminars and workshops organized by A/D/C focused on emerging issues relevant to the LDCs, AID and other international donor agencies; and (3) Have the seminar/workshop participants represented an appropriate balance of American university professors, employees of AID and other international donor and technical assistance agencies, and LDC civil servants and academicians.

In order to answer these and related questions, the committee undertook the following activities. It initially met on May 16, 1979 to further clarify the issues and to specify the data required to assess them. Mark Sorenson, Jim Schoettler, and Kurt Anschel carried out a survey of AID employees who had participated in one or more conference to determine their impressions of the value of the seminar program and the data on conferences, conference participation, and the dissemination of information was summarized. The results of this effort are presented in the tables included in this report. On May 18, 1979 the team held a second meeting to review the results of the surveys and data analysis and to discuss the content of the team's report. A draft evaluation report was then prepared by Dr. Anschel with the assistance of Mr. Schoettler and Mr. Sorenson and circulated to the team on May 31. The report is the final revised evaluation report.

III. PURPOSES OF THE RESEARCH TRAINING NETWORK

One of the great strengths of this project has been its adaptability to changing needs and emphases. As A/D/C and DS/AGR/ESP perceived new needs and opportunities, the project activities were redirected to respond to them. As initiated, the project consisted of continuing intermittent seminars to discuss areas of agricultural economics research and teaching relevant to the less developed countries. Participation was drawn primarily from the U.S. academic community. The level of participation of LDC nationals and AID employees was low. It appears that the objective of the project was to strengthen American universities' capacity for agricultural economic research on the agricultural development of the less developed countries and to educate Americans and foreign students specializing in agricultural economic development.

Prior to completion of the first project period (1970-75) it was recognized that conditions had changed requiring modification of the focus of the project. It was realized that seminars and workshops could substantially benefit from the participation of scholars from Third World countries. As a result increasing numbers of scholars from the developing countries were invited to the conferences. The leadership of the program also recognized that the traditional research areas in agricultural economics are too narrow to permit the discussion of current issues in the field. As a result, A/D/C organized individual conferences on specific current policy issues and problems such as Women in Development, Survey Data Collection in Less Developed Countries as well as the formalized intermittent seminars on specific research and training areas. After 1974 the formalized conferences were discontinued in favor of those emphasizing policy and problem-related issues. This was reflected in the 1975 project paper.

The 1975 project paper specified the following purposes: To provide a mechanism and structure (seminars and workshops) whereby U.S. and DC agricultural economists and other scientists can pool their knowledge on priority rural and agricultural development problems:

- a. to develop better information on the impact of alternative development strategies,
- b. to improve the methodology for analysis and evaluation of rural and agricultural development programs, and
- c. to develop new course materials for use in U.S. and LDC training programs.

These purposes reflect a redirection of the project which had already begun to take place ~~in its prior initiation~~. Instead of emphasizing agricultural economics research and education, the major focus became

priority rural and agricultural development problems and strategies. LDC and American scientists were specified as the participants and the need for participation of scientists other than agricultural economists was recognized. The project encompassed a broad array of subject matter from basic research to immediate agricultural and rural development policy issues involving LDC and American scientists from all the major disciplines.

In the four years since the 1975 project paper was approved, new needs have been identified and the project has again evolved. Review of conference subjects and participants demonstrates that increasing efforts have been placed on involving the practitioners of development: employees of AID, LDC governments, other international donor and technical assistance agencies although their participation was not specifically delineated in the project documentation. In the years 1977-78, 45 percent of the participants were employed by these agencies. This seems to reflect a recognition that the conferences on the issues and problems of development are made more meaningful by the participation of those who have had "firing line" experience in addition to academics. A/D/C has also organized two conferences in the past year in which the majority of the participants were development planners and technicians rather than scholars. Apparently A/D/C and DS/AGR have recognized the utility of bringing individuals with responsibilities for aid and technical assistance together in order to learn from each other and to address mutual issues and problems. This is a logical extension of the RTN project which we applaud.

A second major innovation of the past several years is an increasing number of conferences in which LDC scholars and practitioners are in the majority. Implicit in this innovation is recognition that the social sciences of the developing world have attained a substantial degree of maturity and there is now a sufficiently large body of experienced and skilled third world scientists, particularly in Asia and Latin America who no longer need to be nurtured and largely supplemented by foreign specialists. Of the five conferences planned for 1979, three will be held abroad with few Americans or European participants. Again A/D/C and DS/AGR have recognized a new reality and have responded appropriately.

MISSING PAGE

NO. 6

Nevertheless, as Table 2 below illustrates, other subjects also received attention (See Annex I for seminar titles and location)

Table 2: RTN Seminar Subject Areas, 5/77 - 4/79

<u>Topic</u>	<u>No. of Seminar/Workshops</u>
Cooperatives	4
Agricultural Production	2
Food AID	2
Education	1
Irrigation	1
Land Reform	1
Marine Resources	1
Nutrition	1
Rural Development Research	1
Rural Finance	1

Two seminars will also be held in the next few months in the Philippines and India, "Communication Responsibilities of International Agricultural Research Centers" and "Adjustment Mechanism of Rural Labor Markets." Further major seminars are planned or in the planning stage for late 1979 on graduate education in agricultural economics, food aid, irrigation, the role of women in development.

Participants

The evaluation team reviewed the list of participants in the 15 seminars held between May 1, 1977 and April 30, 1979 and categorized the participants on the basis of employ and national origin (see Tables 3 and 4). In presenting this data it must be noted that some LDC nationals who participated on behalf of international agencies such as the World Bank based in developed countries were excluded. While this method was felt to be valid by the committee, it introduces a downward bias which partially explains the unfavorable comparison of these figures with those of earlier evaluation periods.

Table 3 shows that the characteristics of the participants are changing diametrically. Participation of representatives of LDC organizations and governments was low early in the period, but did increase greatly in 1979. AID, other U.S. government agencies and international organizations increased significantly. Conversely, university participation was lower.

Table 3: Employers of RTN Conference Participants

Employers	July 1975-	May 1977-	Jan. 1978-	Jan. 1979-	May 1977-
	Apr. 1977	Dec. 1977	Dec. 1978	Apr. 1979	Apr. 1979
-----Percent-----					
University	50	62	31	15	43
U.S.	35	50	28	10	35
LDC	>15	4	1.5	3	3
Other		8	1.5	2	5
International Organization	18	22	34	18	24
LDC Organization or Government	18	2	6	30	8
AID	7	10	17	13	13
Other U.S. Gov't	7	2	8	21	7
Other		2	2	3	3

Table 4: Participants in A/D/C RTN Seminars from Less Developed Countries, 1977-79

	1977 ^{1/}	1978	1979 ^{1/}	77-79
Total LDC participants	26	14	21	61
LDC participants as % of total	14.2	10.6	34	16.2
LDC participation by region:				
Africa	8	2	2	12
Asia	12	7	1	20
Latin America	4	4	18	26
Near East	2	1	0	3
Regional participants as % of total:				
Africa	4	2	3	3
Asia	7	5	2	5.3
Latin America	2	3	29	6.9
Near East	1	1	0	7

^{1/} Beginning May 1, 1977 through April 1979.

Source: Work material provided by A/D/C.

Participation of LDCs representatives declined significantly since the last evaluation period. In the previous period, LDC representatives made up 35 percent of the total number of participants. In comparison, the figure for the current period is 16 percent (61 individuals), though Table 4 shows that the trend has been revised in the first half of 1979. The overall decline reflects in part the organization of three seminars in which LDC attendance was purposefully minimized. When these seminars are excluded, LDC participation is 21 percent of the total.

A total of thirty seven (37) AID personnel attended the RTN seminars and workshops during the current evaluation period. Three came from USAID missions (Kenya, Ethiopia and Indonesia), while 13 represented the Development Support Bureau (including 5 from DS/AGR/ESP). The majority (56.7%) however, came from the other bureaus of AID, including AID Regional Bureaus.

In addition to the AID personnel, there was significant participation by members of other government agencies. The majority of them came from the Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Dissemination of Conference Results

RTN publication for the current evaluation period included:

1. De Tray, D.N., Seminar Report No. 13, Household Studies.
2. Cummings Jr., R.W., Seminar Report No. 14, Minimum Information Systems for Agricultural Development in Low-Income Countries, September 1977
3. Roumasset, J.A., Seminar Report No. 15, Risk and Uncertainty in Agricultural Development, October 1977.
4. Marshall, N., Seminar Report No. 16, The U.S. University Role in Education for Marine Resources Development in the LDCs, March 1978.
5. Adams, D.S., Kato, Y., Seminar Report No. 17, Research on Rural Finance: A Seminar Report, June 1978.
6. Coward Jr., E.W., Seminar Report No. 18, Research Methodology in the Study of Irrigation Organization: A Review of Approaches and Applications, December 1978.
7. Kears, B., Weisblat, A.M., Seminar Report No. 19, Institutional Innovations! Reform: The Ladejinsky Legacy, May 1979.
8. McGrath, M.J., University of Wisconsin Land Tenure Center, ed. Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development, January 1979. (Report on a project that included a series of workshops.)
9. Roumasset, J.A., Boussard, J.M., Singh, I., Risk, Uncertainty and Agricultural Development, SEARCA/ADC, April 1979.

Publications that are in manuscript form and will be available over the next two months are:

10. Implementation of United States Food Aid - Title III: Summary Report.
11. Mosher, A.T., Readings in Agricultural Administration.

In addition the University of Wisconsin Press will publish a volume based on the Ledejinsky Symposium.

To evaluate the effectiveness of A/D/C's dissemination effort, the evaluation committee staff sampled 5 percent (1/33) of the A/D/C mailing list of recipients. The staff then categorized the recipients according to the nature of the organization receiving the document or employer, the recipient, the region in which the recipient is based and the disciplinary background of the recipient (if identifiable). Tables 5 and 6 show the results of this analysis. LDC organizations, governments and universities are by far the major recipients. Overall, LDC recipients totaled 41 percent of the mailing list. Among all recipients, 39 percent are located in Asia, 5 percent in Latin America, 4 percent in Africa and only 1 percent in the Near East/North African countries.

In terms of disciplinary background, agricultural and other economists represented 43 percent of the recipients. The social scientists followed with 32 percent and other agricultural scientists represented 17 percent.

The RTN Program Committee, which meets at least twice a year reviews proposed seminars and workshops. Its members include 3 representatives from AID, representatives from the American Agricultural Economics Association, and the International Agricultural Economic Association and an LDC representative. The Committee is chaired by the RTN director. (A list of Program Committee members as of November 1978 is provided in Annex III.)

VI. IMPLEMENTATION OF 1977 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Evaluation Report of June 1977 included the following recommendations:

- . Expand LDC participation
- . Keep emphasis on economics but expand numbers of other scientists
- . Adopt a five-year planning horizon
- . Implement a small grants program
- . Invest heavily in Africa
- . Watch for opportunities to support Title XII activities.

The RTN has been partially successful in carrying out these recommendations. LDC participation declined during the period, but this year it is at 34% and will continue to expand with the upcoming seminars to be held in LDC areas.

The emphasis on economics has been maintained but the number of other scientists appears to have increased as recommended. The RTN has pursued problem areas in which the interaction of difficult specialists contributes to the solution. Participants were brought together from both social and production sciences.

The five year planning horizon has not yet been implemented as recommended. The small grants program has not been implemented by agreement between AID and the RTN. There have been some difficulties in increasing the programs involvement with Africa. Participation of African governments or organizations has been at about 3%. However, a seminar was held in Africa on African Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Development. Also, RTN has been working closely with the Africa Bureau and has defined the following area the Role of Rural Women in Development for future seminar activity. Further recommendations made in this report are expected to rectify this problem as well as increase LDC representation in the seminar.

This Evaluation Committee feels that opportunities to support Title XII have not come about during this period, although input has been provided in the reviewing and evaluation of graduate training in agricultural economics. Continued sensitivity to Title XII is recommended.

V. APPROPRIATENESS OF RTN SEMINARS AND WORKSHOP SUBJECTS

The seminars and workshops sponsored by RTN between May 1977 and April 1979 are listed in Annex I. The Committee's scope of work asked that it assess whether the RTN seminars focused on (a) the key problem areas of rural development, (b) on topics suggested by the Congressional Mandate, (c) anticipated major policy, program, training, and technical cooperation issues and (d) has been responsive to AID's needs in its field programs. The Evaluation Team was able to point to one or more seminars that addressed one or more of these criteria. Every seminar held in the past two years could be identified as fulfilling these criteria. Table 7 categorizes the seminars by subject and research, policy, and education emphasis.

Further insight into the value of the seminars is obtained by reviewing the results of a survey of participants conducted by the 1977 Evaluation Team. Of those responding, 85 percent indicated that attendance was a worthwhile use of their time and 77 percent indicated that their work had been influenced by their participation. Only 2 percent felt that the seminars should not be continued.

In order to assess the value of the seminar program to AID, the Evaluation Team attempted to contact and survey all AID employees who had participated in the seminars program during the past two years. Of the 32 who were not DS/AGR/ESP staff we were able to locate 11. The remainder were either abroad, had retired or did not respond to telephone calls. All ten who responded to the question indicated that attendance at the seminar was a worthwhile use of their time. Seven of nine respondents indicated that the seminars had influenced their work. Again, all seven who responded indicated that the seminars should be continued. The only real criticism of the seminar was that the LDC's were insufficiently represented. However, the organizers of the two seminar, which many of the respondents had attended explicitly and deliberately involved only a few individuals from the less developed countries.

The Evaluation Team finds that the subject matter areas of the RTN project are consistent with the objectives of the project and responsive to the needs of AID and LDCs. We specifically endorse the inclusion of seminars and workshops which are intended to facilitate resolution of programmatic and policy issues among donor and technical assistance agencies and to exchange information about what method and improve development methodologies. We also believe that the organization of workshops and seminars for LDC specialists is an important addition to the project. It will allow the individuals to remain current in the newest research and development ideas, allow them to exchange perspectives about research and policy approaches, and provide linkages between their countries, aid agencies and the American academic community. We recommend that the project paper revision explicitly recognize these functions of the project.

**Table 7: RTN Workshops and Seminars Classified by
Problem and Topical Areas**

Problem Areas	
Rural Institutions	6
Cooperatives (Policy)	(4)
Rural Finance (Research)	(1)
Land Reform and Tenure (Policy)	(1)
Rural Development	2
Rural Development (Research)	(1)
Rural Employment (Research)	(1)
Education and Training	2
Non Degree Education	(1)
Marine Resource Education	(1)
Nutrition, Food Security and Food Aid	3
Food Security (Policy)	(1)
Title III (Policy)	(1)
Nutrition (Research)	(1)
Rural Infrastructure	1
Irrigation (Research)	(1)
Production Agriculture	1
Pre-Release Testing (Research)	(1)
Topical Areas	
Research	6
Policy and Problem Issues	7
Training and Education	2

Although conferences along the entire spectrum from those focussing on research issues to those that are very issue and problem oriented are appropriate to RTN, we recommend that the bulk of the seminars be closer to the issue end of the spectrum. A/D/C should continue to ensure that individuals with program and policy responsibilities and experience participate in the research related conferences. This will assist researchers to make their work more problem-focused as well as assist in the appropriate dissemination of their research results.

We recommend that RTN continue to increase its emphasis on workshops and seminars directly related to LDC, AID and other donor agency development programs and projects. These conferences should be designed to assist these agencies to design better programs and projects through the exchange of information about alternative approaches to solution of common problem and exposure to relevant research findings. Researchers will also benefit through better understanding of the programmatic issues and dissemination of results. Examples of relevant subjects include techniques of social analysis, impacts of rural road development and rural electrification, design of management system for irrigation works, linking agricultural research and education, implication of grain stabilization schemes, development planning in less developed countries, and agricultural extensive techniques in less developed countries. Through review of development programs and discussion with appropriate individuals, additional subjects may be identified.

VII. SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

A review of the statistics on participation in the seminar reveals that the level of representation of less developed countries (LDCs) has declined below the level achieved during the previous evaluation period. Specifically, participation has fallen to 16 percent down from 32 percent in the previous period. Moreover, a majority of respondents in a survey of AID participants noted that they considered the level of LDC participation too low (see Table B). However, in 1979 it is already 34 percent and promises to go even higher.

Two factors partially account for the decline. The majority of seminars were held in the U.S. and other developed countries. Specifically, eleven out of the fifteen seminars held took place on the U.S. Two more were held in Japan and England. By contrast, six out of the fourteen seminars in the last evaluation period were located in LDCs.

Three conferences within current period did not involve LDC participants because the subject matter was deemed inappropriate for direct LDC input or insufficient time was available to locate appropriate individuals. This was particularly the case with the seminars, "LDC Food Security - The International Response" and "Implementation of U.S. Food Aid - Title III." The seminar dealt directly with U.S. policy issues and was intended to bring U.S. officials together to explore problems in implementing Title III. The discussion thus focused on U.S. policies and the participation of LDC nationals were considered inappropriate at the time. A follow-on seminar with LDC participation is planned.

It is expected that the level of LDC participation in the seminars will increase substantially in the next year. Already, LDC participation has risen from 10 percent in 1978 to 34 percent in the first half of 1979. In order to facilitate the attainment of a higher level, the Committee makes the following recommendations.

Locate more seminars in LDCs. In particular, international agricultural research centers should be contacted to explore the possibility of holding seminars at their facilities. Many of these institutions have excellent conference facilities located away from the distractions of major urban centers. Moreover, cost savings may be achieved and the centers may be willing to absorb a portion of the participants maintenance costs.

Initiate dialogue with LDC professional organization concerned with the problems of rural development. The members of their organizations should be notified of seminars and workshops and negotiations for joint sponsorship of RTN activities in LDCs could be undertaken with the organization's leadership.

If a seminar is to be held in the U.S., identify LDC nationals studying or teaching in the U.S. who would be able to provide useful input into seminars. Particular emphasis could be given to LDC doctoral candidates at the thesis-writing state.

During the current evaluation period, the RTN program succeeded in involving increased numbers of personnel in its activities. The evaluation committee's statistical review indicates that AID participation in the seminars and workshops has increased from 7% to almost 13% since the last evaluation. Of these, the majority came from offices and bureaus outside of the Development Support Bureau. Participation by USAID missions was at a low level with only three mission personnel attending.

To measure the impact of the RTN program on AID personnel, a group of former participants were interviewed by telephone by committee staff. The results are tabulated in Annex VII. Overall the reaction of the interviewees was positive. Of the eleven individuals contacted, an overwhelming majority indicated that they felt their work was influenced by the seminars and that the RTN program should be continued. A majority also described their participation as a worthwhile use of their time.

The evaluation committee recommends that efforts to increase AID participation be intensified.

Furthermore, particular attention should be given to the inclusion of staff from USAID missions and from AID Regional Bureaus. Their participation in roles other than just participant or observer is highly recommended.

Further data on the professional experience of participants was available to the committee. However, a majority of the AID personnel interviewed indicated they felt the experience mix at the seminars was appropriate (see Table 8). The evaluation committee continues to support all efforts by the RTN Program Committee to increase the participation of young professionals. It also recommends that data on experience levels of participants be provided for use by future evaluation teams.

The Evaluation Team did not have access to data on the exact professions of the conference participants but drew information from their addresses provided by the A/D/C. Since university faculty tend to list their departmental address, a rough sensing of disciplinary mix is possible. It is the Team's impression that the numbers of non-economists, other social scientists and scientists from other fields has increased very substantially. The team recommends that the A/D/C continue to utilize disciplines as appropriate to the substance of the conference.

Table 8: A/D/C RTN Seminars/Workshops Reports -
May 1, 1977 - April 30, 1979

<u>Name and Date of Seminar/Workshop</u>	<u>Report Published</u>	<u>Lag</u>
Household Studies Workshop August 3-7, 1976	May 1977	10 mos.
Minimum Information Systems for Ag. Development in Low Income Countries December 6-9, 1976	September 1977	10 mos.
Risk and Uncertainty in Ag. Development March 9-13, 1976	October 1977	19 mos.
Marine Resources Development November 30 - December 2, 1977	March 1978	4 mos.
Rural Finance Research July 28 - August 1, 1977	June 1978	11 mos.
Research Methodology for the Study of Irrigation Organization April 30 - May 3, 1978	December 1978	8 mos.
Ladejinsky Legacy October 10-12, 1977	April 1979	19 mos.

VIII. DISSEMINATION OF RTN PUBLICATIONS

A/D/C seminar reports are distributed to 11,800 individuals and organizations. During the current evaluation period the lag between seminars/workshops and the publication of reports has been varied (see Table 8). The average time lag was 11.5 months.

The committee concluded that this time delay was too lengthy. While it is recognized that formal reports require time for preparation and publication under the current A/D/C format, the need to disseminate the conclusions of seminar/workshops must be given top priority. In the particular case of seminars concerned with issues of current importance (e.g. the recent Food Aid conference), swift distribution of results is vital if the seminar effort is to have any impact on the research and/or policymaking on the subject.

In order to facilitate speedier dissemination the committee makes the following recommendations:

Utilize less expensive and time consuming methods for printing and distributing seminar and workshop documentation. Mimeographing for example, could provide a quick and simple method of disseminating material.

Issue interim reports - perhaps simply summaries of discussion notes and conclusions - immediately after a seminar/workshop adjourns. These would serve as useful references and guides for discussion until a formal report can be published.

Whenever practical, establish a firm deadline of no more than three months after a seminar/workshop ends for writing of the report. The rapidity with which seminar reports are published may be increased if those individuals who are selected to prepare conference reports are asked to extend their stay one or two days at the conclusion of the conference to draft their reports.

In order to facilitate the utilization of the seminar/workshop proceedings, by the development community, publish reports summarizing implications for development programming. Conference participants representing LDC development planning offices or international agencies could be asked to prepare these reports.

The team undertook a 3 percent random sample of the A/D/C mailing list in order to assess the extent of the distribution of RTN publications. The sample was categorized on the basis of the recipient's organizational membership, country of residence and disciplinary background (if identifiable). Additionally, because some recipients were organizations and not individuals, the organizational membership category was further disaggregated to reflect this distinction.

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The Evaluation Team agrees with the 1977 Evaluation Team that a small research giants program would be a valuable adjunct to this project and recommends its initiation. The team recognizes that this decision is subject to considerations beyond the scope of the evaluation.

Although valid in concept, the Program Committee has not achieved the role for which it was initially conceived. Rather than being a source of suggestions for RTN activities and participants, it has taken on a more passive role of reviewing proposals emanating from A/D/C. We recognize that this is the result of group dynamics which can not always be controlled. Nevertheless, we recommend that the RTN Director make every effort to more fully utilize this resource. In order to facilitate their more active participation, we further recommend that the contractor develop two year rolling plans of work for RTN.

Finally, to insure that conference participants who are not presenting papers for the conference are prepared to fully participate in the proceedings, it is recommended that all papers to be discussed at the conference be sent to the participants well in advance of the conference and that RTN require participants to prepare and submit a brief discussion paper of the issues to be discussed prior to attending the conference.

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ANNEX I

RTN SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS
May 1, 1977 - March 30, 1979

- Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Development**
London, England May 5-6, 1977
- African Cooperatives - Small Farmers and Development**
Nairobi, Kenya May 9-10, 1977
- Rural Finance Research**
San Diego, California July 28-August 1, 1977
- Nutrition Beyond Economics**
Penn State University, University Park, PA October 3-4, 1977
- Ladejinsky Legacy**
Kyoto, Japan October 10-12, 1977
- Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development**
Washington, DC November 17, 1977
- Marine "Resources Education**
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI November 30-December 2, 1977
- Rural Development Research**
Harvard Institute for International Development, Boston, MA
December 9-10, 1977
- Non-Degree Training**
ADC, New York December 29, 1977
- Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development**
Racine, WI April 24-26, 1978
- Research Methodology for the Study of Irrigation Organization**
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
April 30-May 3, 1978
- Rural Production, Employment Problems and Sex Differentiation of Wage Rates and Production Work Opportunities in Third World Countries**
New Haven, CT July 10-11, 1978
- LDC Food Security: The International Response**
Reston, VA August 10-11, 1978
- Implementation of U.S. Food Aid - Title III**
Princeton, NJ January 15-16, 1979

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January 1 - December 31, 1978

Dawson Ahalt
USDA
Washington, D.C.

Rais Uddin Ahmed
International Food Policy Research
Institute
Washington, D.C.

Graham Alder
International Cooperative Alliance
London, England

Raymond L. Anderson
Colorado State University

David Angevine
Volunteer Development Corps
Washington, D.C.

A. A. Bailey
World Council of Credit Union
Madison, Wisc.

Jeff Baron
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

John W. Bennett
Washington University

David Bigman
International Monetary Fund
Washington, D.C.

Nancy Birdsall
Yale University

Brian Boulier
Princeton University

Do Sup Chung
Kansas State University

Edward J. Clay
A/D/C Associate, United Kingdom

E. Walter Coward, Jr.
Cornell University

Peter Dorner
University of Wisconsin

John Duewel
USAID, Indonesia

Uldarico (Rex) B. Dumdum, Jr.
Suny-Binghamton
Binghamton, NY

K. William Easter
University of Minnesota

Jack Edmondson
FCH International, Inc.
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Robert Evenson
Yale University

Allie C. Felder, Jr.
Cooperative League Fund
Washington, D.C.

Rune Forsberg
International Cooperative Alliance
London, England

David Freeman
Colorado State University

Adrienne Germain
Ford Foundation
New York, NY

Richard Gilmore
Overseas Development Council
Washington, D.C.

Louis Goreux
International Monetary Fund
Washington, D.C.

Armed A. Goueli
The Ford Foundation
Garden City, Cairo, Egypt

Smith Greig
AID/Dept. of State
Washington, D.C.

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ANNEX IV

JOINTLY FUNDED RTN CONFERENCES

<u>Seminars & Workshops</u>	<u>Other Donor & Amount</u>
Ladejinsky Legacy Seminar	World Bank \$20,000.00
Marine Resources Education Workshop	University of Rhode Island \$4,000.00
Rural Development Research Seminar	Harvard Institute Internal Development partial funding
Cooperatives, Small Farmers and Rural Development Seminar	Johnson Foundation - Maintenance expense of participants, conference room, lodging, etc.
International Communication of Information Based on Ag. Research Planning Session	CIPRYT - Maintenance of participants
Rural Production Workshop	Ford Foundation Expense for participants
Communication Responsibilities of the International Ag. Research Centers	ICARD - Maintenance of participants