AGRICULTURAL SECTOR STUDIES
PROJECT 660 070
1981-1984

Quarterly Report

KINSHASA, ZAIRE

JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1982

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CONTRACT N° A R. 070. C. 001039 - 00

PRAGMA TEAM

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR STUDIES PROJECT 660-070

QUARTERLY REPORT

July 1 - September 30, 1982

Chan P Nguyen
Chief of Party
The Fragma Team.

INTRODUCTION

The following report covers the activities of the Pragma Team during the period from July 1,1982 until September 30,1982.

SUMMARY OF TEAM 'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The report on rice marketing has been published and is available for distribution. Copies have already been sent to USAID and to certain offices within the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The mini-computer training course given to the members of the Bureau of Computer , Division of Agricultural Statistics was completed this quarter. The Pragma Advisor at the Division of Agricultural Statistics (DAS) has been teaching the Zairean staff how to debug a program as well as process statistical data.

The publication of the Agricultural Situation Report is underway.

Dr Rifat Barokas, the Vice-President of the Pragma Corporation, visited the project in September. During his stay, he reviewed the progress of the project, wrote the workscope of the upcoming year for the team and proposed various extension programs to be included in the Project(a copy of his memorandum was sent to the USAID Kinshasa on September 23,1982).

Pragma team members continue to be ready available to assist the returning participants from Project 052. Dr Jack Thompson and his students have moved into the annex to the Division of Studies and Planning (DOSP). Cooperation with Dr Thompson has been excellent. Dr Barokas gave five quartz electronic watches for students to encourage them complete their thesis.

I gave the returning participants to access to documents in my office.

Regarding the relationship between DOSP and Regional Development Planning Directorate of Department of Plan(RDPD),several meetings have been held to discuss regional studies in the Shabe Region. The data obtained from these studies will be used in the preparation of agricultural plans.

A visit to Shaba by a Joint Department DOA&DOP Representatives is scheduled for the first of October.82.

The annex to the DOSP's building has been finished. The Building was inaugurated by Mr Walter Boehm, the Deputy Director of the USAID Mission - Kinshasa and Citoyen Lubala, the General Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. The opening ceremony was also attended by USAID officials, members of the DOSP and the DAS, and the foreign advisors to the DOA.

Currently, the annex is housing :

- the Bureau of Project (one office)
- the Bureau of Planning (four offices)
- the Bureau of Research (two offices).

ACTIVITIES

a) Routine activities

The Team has continued with its routines activities providing counseling and expertise for the Zairean staff under the framework of ON-THE-JOB-TRAINING.

Shortly after my return to Zaire, I took an observation tour at the Project of North Shaba (PNS) upon the request of Mr Peters, Head of ARD/USAID Kinshasa and Citoyen Musenga, Chief of Bureau of Studies. The purpose of this field trip was manifold :

- to visit the Project North Shaba (PNS)
- to assess the activities of this project
- to observe the agricultural production specially the production of Mais in the surrounding areas for the future formulation of agricultural production plans
- to attend the discussion concerning the redesign of the PNS(see details in the field trip report).

On August25,1982 Mr George Gondo, the Pragma Adviser to the Economic Analysis Bureau and Citoyen Afifi, also of this office were arranged to travel to Bas Zaire. They visited Tshela,Lukula and Mganga Ngungu to gather statistical data and prices of agricultural commodities such as bananas,potatoes and sugar cane.

b).Special activities

1. The visit of the USAID Mission Director

Mr Richard Podol, the new Director of USAID-Kinshasa, accompanied by Mr Robert Davin, the Project

070 Manager, Citoye Mubenga, the Zairean Coordinator of the Project 070 and myself, visited the DOSP and the DAS on August 10,1982. Each chief of bureau of the two divisions was introduced and asked to brief the activities, function,and role of his office.

2) The visit of Japanese Professors

On August 11,1982, I met two Japanese professors, Dr Keiichi Sakamoto, Kyoto University and Dr Yoshio Kawamura, Ryukoku University to discuss the problem of land use and agricultural development in Zaire.

3) The Reception of the Annex

The Annex to the DOSP building was designed on September 29,81. The construction began on February 11, 1982 and complted on August 20,1982. The reception ceremony was presided by Mr Walter Boehm,the Deputy Director of the USAID Kinshasa and Citoyen Lubala, the General Secretary for the DOA.

4) The TDY of Dr Rifat Barokas.

Dr Rifat Barokas, Executive Vice-President of the Pragma Corporation, arrived in Zaire on September 7,1982. The main purpose of his TDY was to :

- process the recruitment of an Economic Analyst.
- review documents and progress of Project 070 after one year of implementation,
- write workplans for the four long-term experts of the Pragma team for the second year of project life.
- assess the Pragma team 's need and recommend for the provision of logistic support.
- evaluate the impact of the Project 070 on the GOZ/DOA agriculturalpolicy.

Before leaving Dr Rifat Barokas wrote a memorendum to Mr Ross Wherry, the new Project 070 manager,then, he returned to the US on September 25,1982. Details can be seen in Dr Rifat Barokas 's Memorendum on September 23, 1982.

PERSONNEL

1) Pragma Personnel

Mr Earl Kulp, the Economic Analyst of the Pragma Team, was informed that his contract will not be renewed. He is expected,therefore, to leave the DAS on October 15,1982.

Mr Curt Reintsma was hired on August 27,1982 to fullfill a dual role as an Advisor to the Bureau of Projects and as the Chief of Party of the Pragma Team. He is hopefully to arrive in Kinshasa on October 7,1982 as planned.

In the meantime, Dr George Frasier, a computer specialist, was engaged by the Pragma Corporation to temporarily assist the DAS, His short-term assignment will begin at the DAS sometime in the first week of November 1982.

b) USAID & DOA Personnel.

In addition to the change of personnel of the Pragma Team, there has been some changes in the personnel of the USAID Mission and of the GOZ/DOA.

- Mr Ross Wherry has been chosen to be the Project Manager of Project 070 by the USAID Mission.

- Citoyen Nubenga Makendi is expected to be nominated as Director of Planning and Studies Services.

- Citoyen Singa, one of my old friend at the Bureau of Economic Analysis will be the Chief of the Planning and Strategy Division.

It is expected that within the DOA there will be a general shifting of the technical staff to different offices sometimes during the month of October 82.

PROBLEMS

The letter that the USAID Mission sent to the Pragma Corporation had a very demoralizing effect on the whole Pragma Team in Zaire.The Pragma Corporation, after having received the letter warning a possible termination of the contract,tried to meet the deadlines given by making contacts with hundreds of experts to select qualified candidates for filling the vacant positions. Among them, Mr Curt Reintsma was chosen as the advisor of the Bureau of Projects as well as the new Chief of Party.

When the personnel problemwas solved, the gas shortage took place. This crisis created a great deal of transportation problems for the personnel of the DOSP and the DAS. Obviously this has resulted in the irregular attendance of personnel which in turn effected the work performance.

In the end of this quarter, another problem has been arising and preoccupying all Zairean staff: the so-called " la mise en place " . Everyone in the DOSP and the DAS is waiting to see where he or she will be placed.This general placement has a temporarily negative effect on the job performance and hampered the implementation of project consequently.

CONCLUSION

The recent recommendation of Dr Rifat Barokas made after his carreful assessment of team 's activities and project progress should be extremely valuable and useful in redirecting the project 070 and improving the future implementation of project as well as team 's performance. I need not to make any more recommendation. I only would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Peters , Dr Thompson and their wifes who always gave me a great support and precious encouragments during my assignment as a Chief of Party. Thanks are due to many Zairean counterparts and USAID officials for their courtesies and cooperation : to Citoyen Mubenga (Project 070 Coordinator) and Dr Rifat Barokas for their strong support and backstopping of the team; to Ms Lorraine Thompson for her valuable assistance; and to Richard Handler and wife for their friendship.

October 1982
Kinshasa,Zaire.

QUARTERLY REPORT
FOR THE AGRO-ECONOMIST, GEORGES CONDE
(July 1---- September 31)

INTRODUCTION

This report covers the activities accomplished between July 1st and September 31. These activities include:

- the sectoral studies;
- the field training for the Zairean staff members of the Bureau of Economic Analysis;
- the collecting of agricultural data for the sectoral studies; an
- the assisting of the students currently working on their theses.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Following the field trip to Shaba--one of the major corn producing areas in Zaire--the report on the production and marketing of maïs was typed and given to Dr. Rifat Barokas, the Pragma Vice-President and Citoyen Mubenga Mukandi, the Head of the DOSP, for comments and criticisms. The Team leader for the Pragma Team has yet to arrive in Zaire. When he does he will be given a copy to read as well. As soon as all concerned have finished with their comments the study will be finalized and published.

As a result of the field trip to Shaba, it was discovered that the figures on the importation of maïs given by the OFIDA were grossly exaggerated. These numbers were corrected in the above study.

I am presently working on a study on sugar cane production. In order to verify the information received from various companies here in Kinshasa, a field trip was made to Kwilu Ngongo in Bas Zaire. Additionally, a questionnaire was sent to Kilibu, a sugar refinery in the region of Kivu. The questionnaires that were sent out have

not yet been returned. It has been noted that the figures that the National Economy gives out on sugar cane production and marketing are contradictory to those given by OFIDA. It is hoped that all the information on sugar cane production will be had in order to finish this report by the end of October.

There is a report on beans and a report on tubular food crops (e.g. sweet potatoes, potatoes, etc.) now in process. It has proven very difficult to obtain statistical information on the production and marketing of such food crops as sweet potatoes and potatoes. In theory, the report on beans should have been finished this quarter. Unfortunately, Citoyen Afiri, who is responsible for it, has not been working in a steady manner.

During this time period one field trip was made into the interior. Citoyen Afifi and I went to Bas Zaire to collect data for the studies on bananas, potatoes and sugar cane.[1]

With each field trip, the Bureau of Economic Analyiss has been diligent in gathering information that may be useful to participants of Project 052. Thus far information on vegetable production was given to Citoyen Mukuna Bentsh for his thesis on vegetable production in Zaire; information on peanut marketing was given to Citoyen Bokisila and Dr. Jack Thompson (Citoyen Bokisila is doing his thesis on Peanut marketing and production); information on cotton production and marketing was given to Citoyen Kateba to verify the data that he had already gathered for his thesis; data on transportation costs for corn was delivered to Citoyen Mukandila

Citoyen Luamba, another member of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, is currently working on a study on coffee production in Zaire. He was given a list of sources of where he may find information for this study.

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[1] See trip report attached for more detailed information

SECONDARY ACTIVITIES

The major secondary activities in which I was involved this quarter were:

1. collecting data at the National Economy and OFIDA;
2. assisting certain members of the Department of Rural Development in gathering agricultural statistics and in determining and clearly stating certain problems concerning the marketing of agricultural produces in Zaire(this information was to be used in a seminar in Geneva during the month of September);
3. giving the data already collected on corn production and marketing to FAO;
4. discussing corn and rice production with Mr. Stern from USAID, Abidjan on July 27, 1982.

Citoyen Lumbala requested that a copy of the rice report be sent to him in order to deliver certain pertinent data to FAO.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

1. A major problem has been the lack of qualified personnel in the Bureau of Economic Analysis who are capable of undertaking various studies.
2. The personnel who are present come irregularly and late.
3. Logistical support, especially concerning getting material typed, has been poor.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There should be a system set up in which the arrival and departure of the personnel in the office can be carefully supervised. Weekly activity reports should be required of all personnel.

EARL KULP

Kinshasa, Zaïre

QUARTERLY REPORT

This report covers the period from the writing of the annual report, August 15, to October 15.

Major data-collection activities encountered serious delays, primarily for financial reasons. The $1,000,000 transfer for the census bounced at the Department of Finance for lack of funds. The Division of Statistics might still have gone ahead with the census. However, it did not start ordering bicycles until September. Procurement for the census started way too late. I had urged them to start it in July. The delays were partly due to the financial delays and partly due to preoccupation with regional seminars, which to my mind are a waste of time. The GOZ cadre like them because of the per diem they collect, and USAID has carefully fostered the notion that training, like Motherhood, is invariably good.

If USAID and the project team believe in planning on the basis of data, the Project will have to take the agricultural census firmly in hand, budget sufficient counterpart for it and insist on no dilettante training diversions.

The farm management survey likewise died on the vine for lack of counterpart funds to pay for missions and for the monthly prices for the enquêteurs. A critical part of the main cropping season has been passed with no supervisory missions. Enquêteurs have probably run out of forms. They have heard nothing from the project. It is very doubtful that much useful data will be collected this year.

As a result, this project will be without data for its eighth straight year, preceded a capability for serious planning. The project has lost its chance to do serious planning in 1984, to plan for something better than marginal changes in neolithic agriculture. Only if USAID takes full responsibility for data collection in 1984, will it have decent data in 1985. Project 070 is now scheduled to end at the point where, at best, it will just be getting started working with adequate data.

The monthly price bulletin ran into a snag of conflicting views on how it should be collected, by mail or by radio. I left that problem to my successor to resolve, as it is not on any critical path.

In data processing, our first problem is the lack of response from Lorton, who has not delivered elements that were clearly his responsibility. The most important is the statistics package compatible with our data base. Now that he is off in Egypt, it may be too late. I would recommend a vigorous effort to get such a package. It should be noted, however, that the project will not have a data base for another year, in all probability.

Kabongo F. continued his competent work on the loose ends of the census data input, virtually perfecting the program. He also started the first data ana-

sis program. All this work is in dBase.

I spent much, perhaps most, of my time during this last quarter, showing the Department the diverse and highly useful potential applications of the computer. This is important, as it had originally been conceived solely as a tool for statistical analysis. In particular, I perfected and prepared through instructions for Mdl-Prj-1, guidance on which should be appended. This Visicalc template facilitates conception, design, and analysis of alternatives of the type of project which is at the heart of current Department of Agriculture activities: the food production campaign based on distribution of improved seed. I tried to train one GOZ cadre, Mawampanga, in the use of the program, but he was pulled off to work on something else.

This program can be of major immediate use for analysis and planning, but only with the full interest and support of the team.

One thing that use of the program has demonstrated so far is the potential attractiveness of this basic type of project to the private sector. It can be financed almost entirely by private investment, offering an attractive return on capital. The government need only pick up the cost of road repair.

We gave the Secretary General of the Department a demonstration of the computer. His response was a request for the most intensive possible use of it. At his request I prepared a comprehensive plan for computerization of the Department, not only planning and statistics but also administrative applications; the plan is appended.[1]

I would recommend that USAID give serious consideration to assistance in this area, not only for planning but for administrative applications, in view of 1) the one-year delay in data collection needed for serious planning, and 2) the additional assistance in planning being provided by the World Bank.

[1] Appendix was not attached