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TO · AID/Washington TOAID A- 17

ATTENTION: John Balis, LA/DR

DATE SENT 19 April 78

FROM · USAID/SAN JOSE
E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT · Summary Report on Appropriate Technology Approaches

REFERENCE ·

1. The Mission currently is involved in two projects with appropriate technology components. We are also presently evaluating other projects proposals with various degrees of appropriate technologies in them.

2. One small Special Development Fund project which began in January 1978 is directed exclusively at the development of appropriate technologies. It is managed by the Peace Corps and entails the design and demonstration of appropriate technology solutions to problems identified by participating community groups and volunteers. The potential users of the technology participate in the planning, development and construction stages. Projects use local resources, renewable and decentralized sources of energy and are of a small scale. The participating community groups contribute at least half of the resources and the Special Development Fund donates the balance. The grant from AID amounts to $2,500 and expires in September 1979. To date, there has been only one sub-project undertaken: the construction of 3 solar dryers for cacao (see enclosed plans). Each drier has a capacity of 250 lbs. of dry weight with the ability to dry this volume of cacao in 4 days. It is too early to report on the performance of the driers, however the Mission will provide the information as it develops.

3. The other on-going project is AITEC's Integral Rural Development OPG. It is assisting small and medium size farmers with limited financial resources, and as a consequence, has promoted activities which are low capital requirements and labor intensive. AITEC has utilized an integrated approach that incorporates bottom-up planning (i.e., local groups intimately involved in the formation of priorities and the definition of projects); coordinated institutional participation at

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the local, regional and national levels; training of participants on a project by project basis; provision of the necessary infrastructure to successfully carry out each sub-project; identification and acquisition of the necessary markets and institutionalization of the sub-projects at the producers level (i.e., organizing the small farmers in profitable units).

4. More specifically, this project has developed subcomponents such as the creation of a nursery for the production of fruit and lumber trees. In its first year of operations the nursery achieved a capacity of 10,000 fruit trees and 60,000 hard-wood trees. The construction of the nursery demanded 250 full labor days and created the need for a full-time attendant plus 200 labor days of occasional work. Once it begins operating at full-capacity it should produce approximately 150,000 trees for lumber. This output should generate between ¢65,000 to ¢75,000 of sales priced at cost. These trees are being sold at cost as an incentive to farmers to re-forest the area which has been damaged by extensive deforestation.

5. Another sub-project has been the successfull introduction in the area of the use of hay and sorghum to feed cattle. The traditional practice in the region had been to let cattle graze on natural pasture. This is not efficient for the cattle -- leads to tremendous variability in weight -- and also often contributes to erosion on steep hillsides. The projected total output in the short-run is 300 tons of sorghum from 3 hectares. This will generate approximately 50 days of full-time work per hectare per year, the equivalent of 400 days of work. This is a marked improvement over the total of 53 days of work demanded by the same number of hectares used as pasture. Most of the labor utilized in this activity comes from underutilized capacity, hence increasing productivity at very low or no additional cost.

6. The project has also helped five small farmers begin to plant peppers on 3 hectares. The irrigation of these plots is being done with the use of simple gas pumps extracting water from nearby streams. The planting and preparation of the plots have generated demand for additional labor inputs. The labor content in the production of sweet peppers is estimated at 232 days of full-time labor per hectare per year. By the end of this year there is a projected planting of 10 hectares with approximately 2,320 days of full-time labor. As with the sorghum and hay this added output comes from the use of underutilized labor capacity, applying very small quantities of capital.

7. For the near future the Mission is evaluating and/or processing various projects and OPGs which have appropriate technology sub-components. These projects are the Urban Development Loan, Science & Technology, Agricultural Sector II Loan, FUCODES OPG, and Regional Development/Secondary Cities Loan. The Mission will report on these as they develop.

Enclosure: a/s sent LH 4/28/78

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