

## INSTITUTO UNIVERSITARIO DE TRAS-OS-MONTES E ALTO DOURO

MONTHLY REPORT - IUTAD; AID; PURDUE  
July 1982, J.L. Altrichs.

July was a fast month. I spent more hours consulting with the faculty in more areas of the university than at any time since I have been here. Part of this was research oriented and part was relative to study leaves since so many are going to the Netherlands and the USA this year. Our big success was in getting Alberto Cardoso ready to leave. In six weeks we got him from scores of 56, 70, and 40 in the three part English test to a 91, 92, 70.

Our visitors included Professor Michael Collins from Wisconsin in forages and animal nutrition, and Professor John Sanders from Evora on economics and research priorities. Sanders gave an excellent talk to our people about how to evaluate ones research especially as to its usefulness and effectiveness on the farm. He also visited with the staffs in economics and soils. He spent one day in the field visiting the region. I also helped host Dr Herbert Albrecht from Germany who will be the chief-of-party for a German program to be headquartered in Evora. This program involves supporting a number of major research projects in agriculture for UE, IUTAD; ISA and the national agronomic research group. I also attended several planning meetings for regional projects to be supported by World Bank.

We harvested several greenhouse and field studies. Small grain yields were reduced in the "terra quente" by the intense late winter and early spring drought. Grain yields responded to modest amounts of nitrogen but were depressed by larger amounts. However, straw yields responded greatly to added nitrogen even up to very high rates.

We spent one day in Porto and finally found the necessary material to make a digestion block for rapid digestion of large numbers of samples. We have constructed the first units and are perfecting our methods now so that we can get started on our big backlog of plant analysis.

Rui Vale and I did some sampling of grape leaf tissue last week. He is interested in boron problems and João Coutinho is interested in Ca, Mg, Al and acidity problems which makes a good combination to tackle our vineyard nutrition problems.

The progress report on acidity work which I promised for July has been all drafted now but is not yet typed and edited into final form. Maybe it will get finished in August if there are enough people here.

The biggest event this month is my wife's success with succini and butternut squash with our Vila Saca former friends. Neither of these squash is commonly grown here but their plants have grown well and they like the overbearing nature of the succini and her method of baking it.

The first box of back issues of the Journal of Forestry arrived as a gift from Professor Jim Golson and other Purdue faculty. I know that our forestry staff will appreciate having this in the library.

We are still hoping that some way will be worked out to continue Professor Foley's appointment here some additional months so that he will not have to leave next month in the midst of some of our project program.

J. Altrichs