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END OF TOUR REPORT

Name: Raymond V. Olson

Position: Chief of Party
Provost for Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine

Country of Assignment: Nigeria

Contract Employer: Kansas State University

Project Activity: Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine
Ahmadu Bello University
Project 620-11-110-743 and f 20-11-110-817

Contract Numbers: AID/afr-830 and AID/afr-707

Tour Began: September 20 1972

Tour Ended: October 5, 1974

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END OF TOUR REPORT

Raymond V. Olson

Chief of Party and Provost for Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine
Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria Nigeria
Kansas State University-USAID Contracts AID/afr-830 and 707

I. Introduction

The writer was the first Chief of Party for this project in 1964-65. This has provided an opportunity to see the progress that has been made in the 10-year period 1964-1974. The very rapid development that has occurred throughout Ahmadu Bello University and in the Agriculture-Veterinary complex has been most heartening.

Detailed semi-annual reports were prepared for each of the two contracts constituting the Kansas State University project. These eight reports outline in detail the activities and accomplishments during the two years covered by this tour. Therefore, this report will give only a broad general summary of the period concerned.

The writer was nominated and assigned to serve as Chief of Party for the two USAID contracts AID/afr-830 and AID/afr-707. However, soon after his arrival the then Provost for Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine resigned his position and the Vice Chancellor of the university asked the writer to serve as the Provost. Approximately half of the writer's time was therefore devoted to the Chief of Party duties and half to being Provost. This arrangement was approved by USAID and the position of Provost has been added to the staffing pattern for Contract AID/afr-707 which is continuing.

II. Project Objectives

Major objectives of the KSU project during the two years covered by this report were as follows:

1. To provide personnel for designated Ahmadu Bello University staff positions.
2. To assist in bringing about further development and improvement of teaching programs in the Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine.
3. To assist in increasing and improving agricultural and veterinary research as well as service and out-reach programs.
4. To assist in the expansion and development of non-degree teaching programs in the Division of Agriculture and Livestock Services Training.
5. To develop extension programs in livestock management, irrigation and agricultural engineering within the Extension Research Liaison Service.
6. To promote the training of Nigerians for staffing of the above units of Ahmadu Bello University.
7. To bring about an orderly phase-out of contractor assistance to most areas of the agriculture segment of A.B.U.
8. To take over from USAID those services previously provided to the contract by the USAID office in Zaria.

II.

III. Major Project Activities and Accomplishments.

All contract technicians except the Administrative Assistant filled established Ahmadu Bello University positions. Nine served as heads of departments, one as Dean of Veterinary Medicine, one as Director of DALST and one as Provost for Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine.

The maximum number of contract technicians at post during the life of the project (24) occurred at the beginning of the period. However, staff numbers decreased to a total of 20 by July, 1973 as some positions in agriculture were discontinued. A further decrease of 9 occurred at the end of June, 1974 when the agriculture contract (830) phased out. One new position, that of Head of the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine, was added to the veterinary program in June, 1974. Also, the positions of Provost for Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine and Head of Department of Animal Science were continued under contract AIF/afr-707. There were, therefore, 12 regular staff positions, all of which were filled at the end of the tour.

Largely as a result of operation of the ABU School of Basic Studies, Availability of qualified students is no longer a limiting factor in regulating university student numbers in either agriculture or veterinary medicine. Enrollments are now limited by physical facilities in both faculties. Since there has been no apparent progress toward the letting of contracts for buildings under the USAID loan, this situation is likely to continue well into the future. Both faculties have small temporary buildings under construction which it is hoped will be completed soon, but these only will provide accommodations for present staff and students already accepted. The admission of new students for the 1974-75 academic year will be limited to 60 for each of the two faculties.

Training of Nigerian staff members proceeded well during the period. Twelve agriculture and 10 veterinary medicine staff members were sent to the U.S. for participant training while 20 agriculture and 10 veterinary medicine participants returned. All returned participants were assigned appropriate duties by ABU. Many have worked closely with contract staff members since their return. Trained Nigerians are being given increasing responsibilities and are contributing to major policy decisions. The departure of new participants, as well as Nigerianization of staff positions, was delayed by one year when the National Youth Service Corps was established in 1973. All university graduates must serve one year in the N.Y.S.C. before accepting employment.

Discussions with USAID officials led to an increase from 21 to 33 in the number of participants to be trained in veterinary medicine during the life of the project.

The teaching of option courses in the Faculty of Agriculture was initiated in 1973. Graduates in 1974 had specialized in one of the four options. Beginning with the 1973-74 session, Faculty of Agriculture staff members took over from the Faculty of Science the teaching of botany, zoology and chemistry to first-year students in agriculture. They also began teaching zoology to veterinary students.

A M.Sc. degree program in crop protection was initiated in 1973. In addition to 4 full-time M.Sc. students, 14 graduate students are enrolled part-time for M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in various fields of agriculture.

The University Senate has approved plans to lengthen the B.Sc. degree program in agriculture from 9 to 11 terms beginning with the 1974 student intake. The two additional terms will be during the long vacations (summers) and will consist of practical farm training on the university farm. A new curriculum in agricultural engineering

III.

will begin in October, 1974. The curriculum has been planned in cooperation with the Faculty of Engineering which will teach many of the courses.

In addition to their administrative duties, contract staff members in the Faculty of Agriculture-I.A.R. participated in research programs, guided other staff members in their research, and served as advisors to Ph.D. candidates.

Due at least in part to past activities in agricultural economics carried out under this project, the Ford Foundation has agreed to sponsor continuing support to that department through contractual arrangements with Kansas State University. This will include salary topping for Dr. David Norman, Head of Department and Dr. Henry Hays, both of whom were formerly KSU contract staff members. Additional technical staff and staff training will also be provided.

A new department, Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine, was created and started operating July 1, 1973. The Department of Animal Science, formerly in agriculture, became a joint department of the two faculties. Curricular changes in veterinary medicine included rearrangements to offer all course work in the first 4 years and make the fifth year all clinical work. Requirements for M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree in veterinary medicine were revised and approved by ABU.

Two returned veterinary participants who had taken Ph.D. course work in the U.S. completed their dissertations and received their Ph.D. degrees from Ahmadu Bello University. Research activities increased significantly with the return of veterinary participants and the allocation of N 45,000 from the university research fund to staff members.

A continuing education program in veterinary medicine was begun with two educational programs one at ABU and the other at the University of Ibadan. Service programs of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine were expanded and include rabies diagnosis, a poultry disease diagnostic service, ambulatory clinic and field veterinary services and consultation with state veterinary officers.

Enrollment in certificate and diploma courses in the schools of the Division of Agriculture and Livestock Services Training more than doubled rising to 1043 students. Instruction was started in the new Bakura school for irrigation agronomy and substantial progress was made in development of physical facilities at the new school. Admission requirements and procedures were revised and improved and curriculum improvements were implemented. New certificate courses in irrigation agronomy, experimental agriculture, horticulture and poultry husbandry were initiated together with new 2-year diploma courses in general agriculture and agricultural mechanics.

Curricular improvements, staff training, and improvements in livestock and cropping programs were initiated at the Kabba School of Agriculture and the Livestock Services Training Center in Kaduna. Also at LSTC a range management diploma course was started, range management teaching aids were developed and guidance was given to returned participants with range management training. At the Samaru School of Agriculture, the certificate program in farm mechanics was improved and a book of lesson plans prepared. A diploma course in farm mechanics was also initiated.

IV.

Effective extension programs were conducted in irrigation, livestock production and agricultural engineering by contract staff members assigned to the Extension Research Liaison Service. In each case, there was an opportunity for some time to be spent with a Nigerian counterpart who will continue the programs.

A Phase-out Transition Report for contract AID/afr-830 was prepared in December, 1973 indicating the expected status of the project at phase-out and actions to be taken during the last six months of the project. The indicated plans were carried out resulting in a relatively smooth transfer of duties to other ABU personnel.

Contract support services (housing improvement and maintenance, radio operation, household equipment and vehicle maintenance) were taken over by the project when the USAID office in Zaria closed in December, 1972. This was done without the employment of additional U.S. or local staff. Operation of these services has proceeded in a satisfactory manner.

The number of vehicles operated by the project, including vehicles for the contract technician in Lagos and those used for support activities at Zaria, was reduced to 12 July 1 when Contract 830 was terminated. The number of drivers employed was reduced to 8.

IV. Activities as Provost for Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine

The Provost serves as an assistant to the Vice Chancellor and plays an overall coordinating role for the Agricultural Veterinary complex consisting of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Agriculture, Division of Agriculture and Livestock Training, Extension-Research Liaison Service and Institute for Agricultural Research.

A significant contribution is made by the Provost to the over-all operations of the University through his membership on 14 major university policy bodies. These include the University Council, Governing Boards of I.A.R. and UNIST and the principal university policy committees. Within the Agricultural-Veterinary Complex coordination is accomplished through consultations and through the Provost's Advisory Committee composed of heads of the various administrative units concerned.

A principal concern is the recruitment and selection of candidates for unfilled staff positions. Since several administrative units desire personnel with similar training, and some positions are joint appointments, it is important that the review of applications be coordinated. Selection committees with membership of heads of the units concerned were formed. Recommendations for appointments are made by these committees to the University Appointments and Promotions Committee.

Special efforts were made to recruit qualified persons to fill heads of department positions which were vacated by KSU personnel as contract 830 terminated. Outstanding individuals from India with department head experience have accepted 2-year contracts to head the Departments of Agronomy and Agricultural Engineering. An offer will be made soon to a third Indian national for headship of the Department of Soil Science. Dr. D. W. Norman has received a leave of absence from KSU and will continue as Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics as an ABU employee with Ford Foundation assistance.

Efforts were made to insure that a proposed national institute for animal production research would be located at ABU and be integrated with present livestock research and teaching programs. A proposal for establishment of such an institute was included in the ABU development plan request for the 1975-80 quinquennium. A small start in this direction is being made by establishment of a position of Deputy Director (Animal Products) in the Institute for Agricultural Research in the 1974-75 budget.

The Provost serves as chairman of the University Farm Policy Board. A long-term plan for use of the farm was developed. A request has been made to the University Development Committee for approval of ₦ 83,000 for 1974-75 for construction of needed facilities.

As a result of requests from ministry officials of the six northern states a central artificial insemination unit is being established to serve state and federal A.I. programs. Development of the unit is being financed by a ₦ 350,000 allocation of funds to ABU by the Interim Common Services Agency of the six northern states. The unit will be a section within the Department of Animal Science and is administered directly under the Provost's office. A Steering Committee with representation from state and federal agencies has been formed to advise the unit and provide coordination of A.I. activities. Applications are being received for a Director of the unit. Equipment orders have been prepared. A consulting architect has been appointed and is working with a small committee in designing required buildings.

A plan was developed to centralize Faculty of Agriculture and School of Agriculture poultry teaching and poultry research at the School of Agriculture. A working committee is developing plans and a request for funds for new facilities.

V. Recommendations

A. Project Operation

1. A tentative phase-out date of June 30, 1977 has been set for this project. While tremendous progress will have been made in developing Nigerian staff members by that date, there will not be Nigerians available who have the required experience to be appointed as heads of departments. Consequently, expatriates, probably of diverse nationalities and academic backgrounds, will be employed for these positions unless some type of technical assistance is continued. It is suggested that USAID consider limited continued assistance to provide leadership staff for the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. This could be done by an extension of the present contract or by some type of topping-up program.
2. There is no longer a separate position for a Chief of Party for this project. One of the staff members, all of whom occupy full-time ABU positions, must serve also as Chief of Party. Since this is the case, the writer feels it is imperative that a U.S. administrative assistant continue to be provided under the contract.

VI.

3. Demands for graduates are growing with the rapidly developing economy of Nigeria, but enrollments in both the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and the Faculty of Agriculture are limited by the building space now available. No requests were made for new buildings for these faculties in the next 5-year development plan because it was assumed construction of buildings under AID loan 620-H-017 would commence in 1973 or 1974. USAID should do all it can to expedite the letting of a contract for construction of these buildings.
4. The participant training program in veterinary medicine, whereby Ph.D. course work is taken in the U.S. and dissertation research is conducted at ABU, is being hampered seriously by lack of equipment with which to do research. It was anticipated that funds would be made available under the USAID loan for early purchase of this equipment. Because of the expected availability of loan funds, USAID cancelled commodity funds budgeted under contract 707 for fiscal years 1973 and 1974 (the firm budget for the contract allowed \$74,107 in FY 1973 and \$36,503 in FY 1974). It is now evident that no loan funds will be available for equipment since bids for the buildings alone exceeded the amount of the loan. As a matter of urgency, USAID should restore funds to the contract for purchase of critically needed scientific equipment so that the participant training plan may be completed.

B Provost Activities

1. Continued emphasis will need to be placed on recruitment and selection of candidates for positions in the Agriculture-Veterinary Complex.
2. Continued efforts should be made to strengthen livestock research and work toward development of a livestock research institute, in cooperation with the Federal government of Nigeria, as an integrated part of the Agricultural-Veterinary Complex of ABU.
3. University farm development will require additional attention.
4. Definitive plans must be made soon in regard to securing buildings for the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Faculty of Agriculture-Livestock.
5. Attention must be given to development of the artificial insemination unit and coordinated poultry teaching and research.
6. All that is possible should be done to foster integration and cooperation among the various units making up the Agricultural-Veterinary Complex of ABU.

VII.

VI. Acknowledgements

The writer wishes to express his sincere gratitude for the excellent cooperation received from officials of Ahmadu Bello University, the USAID Mission, the Kansas State University administration, the International Agricultural Programs Office of Kansas State University, and the KSU-AID contract team members without whom the progress indicated in this report would have been impossible