

931-1254/92,  
PD-AAN-697  
ISN-32944

TRIP REPORT  
TITLE XII INTSORMIL (KSU-3) FARMING SYSTEMS

TRAVELER: Barry H. Michie, Principal Investigator

DATES OF TRAVEL: December 30, 1980 to June 21, 1981.

CONDENSED ITINERARY:

- Dec. 30 - Jan. 8      Manhattan to New Delhi. (2 days in New York and 5 days in London due to scheduling problems on airlines)
- Jan. 8 - 21          New Delhi. Discussions with American Institute of Indian Studies, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, coordinating visit to Udaipur.
- Jan. 21 - 25        Udaipur. Discussions with University of Udaipur.
- Jan. 25 - 30        Jaipur. Discussions at University of Rajasthan.
- Jan. 30 - Feb. 4    New Delhi. Discussions with American Institute of Indian Studies, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Planning Commission (GOI), AID/Delhi.
- Feb. 4 - 16         Hyderabad. Discussions with ICRISAT.
- Feb. 16 - 23        New Delhi. Discussions with American Institute of Indian Studies, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Planning Commission, AID/Delhi.
- Feb. 23 - March 1   Jaipur. Participation in conference on rural development sponsored by the American Cultural Center under the United States International Communications Agency (formerly USIS).
- March 1 - 11        New Delhi. Discussions with Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- March 11- 21        Jaipur. Discussions with University of Rajasthan.
- March 21 - June 3   Udaipur. Working on preliminary matters for project with University of Udaipur, establishing a field base.
- June 3 - 20         New Delhi. Discussions with Indian Council of Agricultural Research and obtaining final clearance for project from Government of India, AID/Delhi.
- June 20 - 21        New Delhi to Manhattan, one night stop in New York.

AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)  
Patancheru P.O., Andhra Pradesh 502 324 India.

Dr. J.C. Davies, Associate Director  
Dr. J.G. Ryan, Head Economics Program  
Dr. V.S. Doherty, Principal Social Anthropologist, Economics Program  
Dr. R.P. Singh, Economist  
Dr. F.R. Bidinger, Principal Physiologist, Cereals Program  
Dr. D.J. Andrews, Principal Plant Breeder (Millets)

American Institute of Indian Studies, D-176 Defence Colony, New Delhi 110 024 India.

Mr. P.R. Mehendiratta, Director

University of Udaipur, Udaipur, Rajasthan 313 001 India

Dr. R.M. Singh, Vice-Chancellor  
Dr. R.N. Singh, Director Research and Experiment Station  
Dr. H.N. Mehrotra, Director Extension Education  
Dr. K.N. Nag, Dean College of Technology and Agricultural Engineering  
Dr. B.S. Rathore, Head Department of Agricultural Economics  
Dr. H.G. Singh, Head Department of Agronomy  
Dr. O.P. Sharma, Department of Sociology

University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302 004 India

Dr. Iqbal Narain, Vice-Chancellor  
Mr. K.C. Pande, Department of Public Administration  
Mr. P.C. Mathur, Department of Political Science

Institute for Development Studies, 5-Jha-13 Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302 004

Dr. S.P. Varma, Director

Indian Council of Agricultural Research / Ministry of Agriculture, Krishi Bhavan,  
New Delhi 110 001 India

Dr. O.P. Gautam, Director ICAR  
Dr. L.M. Jeswani, Associate Director ICAR  
Mrs. R.V. Jha, Director International Cooperation, Department of Agricultural  
Research and Education

Planning Commission, Government of India, Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi 110 001 India

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Member Planning Commission

USAID/Delhi, American Embassy, West Building, New Delhi India

Dr. Richard Brown, Deputy Director  
Dr. Fletcher Riggs, Agricultural Officer  
Dr. Dean Peterson, Agriculture

American Cultural Center, United States International Communications Agency, New Delhi

Mrs. Donna Culpepper

Social Work Research Center, Tilonia Village, Ajmer District, Rajasthan, India

Mr. Bunker Roy, Director

Other

Dr. Brian Spooner, Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania

NARRATIVE:

1. International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

The reasons for visiting ICRISAT were to discuss ties between the KSU farming systems project and ICRISAT and to discuss the possibilities for a non-Indian alternative research site for the project. The bulk of the discussions were with the Economics Program personnel and with people in the Cereals Program.

I met with Dr. Davies, Associate Director, and discussed INTSORMIL's participation in the upcoming Sorghum in the 80's Conference. He stated that ICRISAT is most interested in INTSORMIL's funding of travel for participants from Latin America and North America.

In the Cereals Program I met with Dr. Fran Bidinger and Dr. Dave Andrews. I was filled in by Dr. Bidinger on his research on low fertility response of sorghum since my last visit; his research has implications for the KSU farming systems project. Dr. Andrews was particularly keen to see the KSU project underway particularly since ICRISAT has yet to establish an off-station research site in a millet growing area. Dr. Andrews also pointed out the difficulty of yield improvement under rainfed conditions.

Discussions in the Economics Program were extremely useful with Dr. Jim Ryan, Head, Dr. Victor Doherty, anthropologist, and Dr. R.P. Singh, economist. Discussions included scope and methods of micro-level research. They are very interested in the project as it will collect data on lines their Village Level Studies program is doing. The use of ICRISAT as a resource base was again stressed.

I also presented a seminar on the KSU farming systems project, emphasizing the role of social science working with agricultural sciences in tackling problems of farmers. A number of agricultural scientists were in attendance and the discussion was particularly useful.

Alternative research sites were discussed only generally since by the time I arrived at ICRISAT, the chances for obtaining clearance for the project with Government of India were extremely positive.

I am currently exploring contractual arrangements with ICRISAT for channeling funds to India for running the project. This development is subsequent to my return to KSU.

2. American Institute of Indian Studies

Mr. P.R. Mehendiratta is the person contacted at this institution. Mr. Mehendiratta is extremely knowledgeable about obtaining research clearances and knows all the nuances, ins and outs with Government of India. Discussions with him were invaluable

a procedural matters for the clearance process.

Mr. Mehendiratta was the one who pointed out the difference between "collaboration" and "affiliation" as they are defined and operationalized by Government of India. This is a difference requiring elaboration as INTSORMIL appears to use the term "collaboration" in a generic sense whereas Government of India uses it in a very specific sense. Between the two senses there is room to maneuver, particularly given the current impasse for INTSORMIL due to Government of India's requirement for all "collaborative" research to be agreed upon under the Joint Indo-US Subcommittee on Agriculture. To date sorghum and millet are not research topics brought under the Subcommittee umbrella.

Collaboration in the Indian sense means that a formal contractual agreement is made with an Indian institution that allows foreign funding to flow to that institution for running the project. It also implies financial and/or other obligations/liabilities on the part of Government of India and the collaborating Indian institution. These are things that currently bother Government of India due to foreign exchange and budgetary problems. There is also the feeling on the part of Government of India that they are often left to pick up the pieces when collaborative projects fall apart. Also, most if not all collaborative projects require approval from the Cabinet level in Government - a rather time consuming and tedious process, particularly when projects are small.

Affiliation, on the other hand, does not involve contractual arrangements or giving funding to an Indian institution. Approval is given by Government of India - from the Ministry level - for a foreign project to work and cooperate with an Indian institution. Although the project can reimburse the affiliating Indian institution for expenses incurred according to that institution's rules and regulations, foreign project funds cannot be held, monitored, or administered by the Indian institution. In terms of the current impasse for INTSORMIL on "collaborative" research in India, Government of India approval on an "affiliation" basis does not fall under the purview of the Joint Indo-US Subcommittee. Accordingly, a project can be considered at any time on its own merits. The only problem with this type of arrangement is in channeling INTSORMIL funds to a project approved on an affiliation basis. There are two possibilities for doing this. One, setting up a project account in India out of which the project meets research expenses. Two, making a contractual agreement with a non-Indian government institution in India as, for instance, through an international, US private, or US governmental institution.

### 3. University of Udaipur

Discussions with the University of Udaipur were based on the groundwork established during my last visit in July-August, 1980. Dr. R.M. Singh, Director of Research, is very supportive of the project as are the heads and personnel of the various departments. Reiterating what was reported from the last trip, one could not ask for a better research situation.

A point to be reemphasized is that the University of Udaipur is not interested in equipment or funds. All they want is a solid piece of research in which they can participate and data that will feed into and complement their own research. In terms of "collaboration" versus "affiliation", they were all too willing to go ahead on the affiliation option since such an arrangement does not affect their interests or participation in the project in any way.

Since we were ultimately successful in getting Government of India approval for the project on an affiliation basis, the University of Udaipur is ready to go to work at once. We have chosen Sikar District in northern Rajasthan as the area for research on the criteria of climate, soils, cropping pattern, and university infrastructure already in place in that district. We have also worked on proformae and questionnaires with input from the departments involved. In essence, all the preliminary work is out of the way prior to hiring and training field staff and beginning actual field work. Now the only problem left is getting funding to India to support research.

#### 4. University of Rajasthan

Discussions at University of Rajasthan were primarily with colleagues with whom I have worked before. Dr. Iqbal Narain, the Vice-Chancellor, was very preoccupied with a series of strikes and most interaction was with Mr. K.C. Pande and Mr. P.C. Mathur. These two have had extensive experience working with issues of development and with survey research in rural areas. They are currently beginning work on a series of studies on the effects of the Rajasthan Canal Project in western Rajasthan. Discussions were particularly useful in terms of finding out current Indian concerns with development, the research climate, and for structuring, wording, and translating questionnaires into local language.

#### 5. Institute for Development Studies

Professor S.P. Varma, Director, was kind enough to meet and discuss with me both the KSU project and the institution's programs. Professor Varma is the retired Head of the Political Science Department at University of Rajasthan and is just getting the Institute off the ground. The institute's purpose is to encourage and support research, primarily in the social sciences, on development and developmentally related topics. Members and participants of the Institute are leading academics from universities in Rajasthan, Delhi, and other regions. Professor Varma is particularly interested in the KSU project and would like to follow what happens. This institute is a good contact point for keeping in touch with local development concerns.

#### 6. Indian Council of Agricultural Research / Planning Commission (GOI)

My initial contact with officials at the Central level in Government of India was with Dr. L.M. Jeswani, Associate Director of ICAR. I queried him on the possibilities for getting the KSU project approved by GOI. He was familiar with INTSORMIL and Title XII and said there was no direct way GOI could clear the project as all collaborative projects must come under the Joint Indo-US Subcommittee on Agriculture umbrella. Since the subject area of sorghum/millet was not agreed upon by the Subcommittee, the KSU project could not be taken up for consideration by ICAR on a collaborative basis.

Dr. Jeswani, however, did state some interesting points. He suggested that if I were really interested in working in India under INTSORMIL that this subject area should be strongly recommended for inclusion on the agenda of the next Subcommittee meeting. He also suggested that as an alternative, the project enter into collaborative relations with ICRISAT - since it is non-Indian - and work in India; in that case ICRISAT might be able to work out an agreement with Udaipur for conducting research. The message he gave was that while sorghum/millet are not top priority items, ICAR is not disinterested in such research, that the main sticking point is not research topics per se but the administrative arrangements through which they operate. The tenor of his comments were that the Indian research establishment is healthy and doing a competent job and that ICAR is not in a position of playing second fiddle to anyone.

My next contact with Government of India was with Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, former Director of ICAR and current Member of the Planning Commission. Invited to his home, I had a very fruitful and interesting discussion with him. He is very supportive of this kind of research and has been challenging social scientists for years to get involved in applied work from the beginning of a project, rather than writing critical post-mortems. He was of the opinion that I could get the project cleared by GOI on an affiliation rather than a collaborative basis (see under #2 American Institute of Indian Studies, above) and put me in contact with a Mrs. R.V. Jha at ICAR.

Mrs. Jha, Director of International Cooperation, Dept. of Agricultural Research and Education in the Ministry of Agriculture, was of the same opinion as Dr. Swaminathan. I submitted the project proposal through her for affiliation with University of Udaipur and within three weeks ICAR had approved the project and sent it on to other ministries for their clearance procedures. Before ICAR gave approval I met briefly with Dr. O.P. Gautam, Director ICAR, who wanted to find out more about me aside from some informational questions regarding the project.

From Mrs. Jha I received the final letter of clearance for the project on June 18th.

#### 7. USAID/Delhi

Initial contacts with the Delhi mission were with Dr. Richard Brown, Deputy Head, who was extremely supportive and encouraging. He likes the project and would like to see it underway, viewing it as a small one with potential high gains. He believes the project and others like it, i.e. in the vein of Title XII, are consistent with what the Delhi mission is trying to do: work through Indian institutions who execute projects.

After Dr. Brown, I met with Dr. Fletcher Riggs. He was also supportive and encouraging and found no reason why I should not go ahead and try to obtain Government of India clearance on an affiliation basis. He encouraged me to talk with ICAR and was interested in knowing what the results of those discussions were. The only provision he warned me about was not to do anything that would rebound on the local mission. This was fulfilled and essentially the Delhi mission played no part in nor became involved in the clearance procedure.

With regard to INTSORMIL and other Title XII programs, Dr. Riggs is taking the outcome of the Joint Indo-US Subcommittee on Agriculture meetings last Fall as definitive until such time as these topics are raised again either by ICAR or within the Subcommittee. In essence Dr. Riggs offered me moral support in my efforts as he felt that there was little the local mission could do to help.

On the day I received the letter of final clearance, June 18th, I had lunch with Brown, Riggs, and Dr. Dean Peterson. I filled them in on the obtaining of the clearance and gave Riggs a copy of the letter. Congratulations and encouragement were expressed and we discussed what role the local mission might play in the project.

#### 8. American Cultural Center / United States International Communications Agency

During my stay in New Delhi I was contacted by Mrs. Donna Culpepper of the American Cultural Center to participate in a Rural Development Workshop to be held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The several days of the conference were useful for the discussion and the contacts it afforded. Participants included many university people from throughout India, social workers, members of the Rajasthan and Indian

Governments.

#### 9. Social Work Research Center

Included in the Rural Development Workshop organized by USICA was a day trip to the Social Work Research Center located at Tilonia Village in Ajmer District, Rajasthan. Mr. Bunker Roy is the founder of the center and has been operating there and in several village sites for about five years. The center's programs work through volunteers and has programs in cottage industry, health, village level mechanics, and agriculture. With financial backing from Indian and international sources, the center is attempting to raise living standards and to create sources of livelihood in partnership with the rural poor who participate.

This brief visit was useful for a number of reasons. Being an ex-volunteer who worked in that same general area, I was interested to see how an Indian voluntary agency approached many of the same problems I will face on this project at the local level. Second, I was interested in finding out how successful they were in effecting the livelihood chances of people, particularly in agriculture. However, their agricultural program is not well developed and their main emphasis is on providing services. Third, the center is located not too far away from the project site in Sikar District.

#### 10. Other

While in New Delhi I had the opportunity to get to know better and discuss common research interests with Dr. Brian Spooner from the University of Pennsylvania. He is working on a project with the United Nations University to improve the social science component of the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) located in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The intent is to bring the social sciences together with the technical sciences to be more effective in dealing with applied problems in desert development. Since the KSU farming systems project intends to work in Sikar District - which shades off into arid areas - there are complementarities between the two projects not only in geographic and technical areas but also in terms of approach.

#### OBSERVATIONS:

The objective of obtaining Government of India approval for the project has been achieved. Once it was discovered how to do this, there was no problem from the time of submittal of the proposal to final clearance. Everyone in India - from Government of India, University of Udaipur, ICRISAT, and AID/Delhi - were helpful and supportive. Given this climate and working relationship, the chances for running a successful project are very high.

Subsequent to my return to KSU with Government of India approval, we have run into the problem of channeling funds to the project in India. Since a contractual arrangement with the University of Udaipur is precluded under the affiliation arrangement we have to find an alternative way. This is being explored at the moment.