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TRIP REPORT  
TITLE XII INTSORMIL AND TITLE XII STRENGTHENING GRANT\*

TRAVELER: Barry H. Michie, Principal Investigator KSU Farming Systems Project

DATES OF TRAVEL: July 11 - August 13, 1980

CONDENSED ITINERARY:

- July 11 - 14 Manhattan to New Delhi with overnight stop in London.
- July 15 - 18 Hyderabad, India. Discussions with ICRISAT Economics Program.
- July 19 New Delhi. Discussions at American Institute of Indian Studies.
- July 20 - 26 Udaipur, Rajasthan. Discussions with University of Udaipur. Visits with Anthropological Survey of India, Udaipur, and Commissioner for Tribal Areas Development.
- July 27 - 30 Jaipur, Rajasthan. Visit with Vice-Chancellor, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, and collection of published reports and statistical abstracts from Government of Rajasthan. Day trip to site of prior rural research.
- July 31 -  
August 5 New Delhi. Discussion with USAID/Delhi. Collection of published reports and abstracts from Government of India Ministries, Reserve Bank, etc.
- August 6 New Delhi - Manila
- August 7 - 9 Munoz, Nueva Ecija. Discussions with Central Luzon State University
- August 10 Manila - San Francisco
- August 11 - 12 San Francisco
- August 13 Return to Manhattan

\* Travel supported by Title XII INTSORMIL funds from the KSU Farming Systems Project and the Title XII Farming Systems Stregthening Grant through the International Agricultural Programs Office, KSU.

AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

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

Dr. L.D. Swindale, Director  
Dr. J.S. Kanwar, Associate Director  
Dr. J.G. Ryan, Principal Economist, Economics Program  
Dr. M. von Oppen, Principal Economist, Economics Program  
Dr. V.S. Doherty, Principal Social Anthropologist, Economics Program  
Dr. R.P. Singh, Economist, Economics Program  
Dr. F.R. Bidinger, Principal Physiologist, Cereals Program  
Dr. R.J. Williams, Principal Pathologist, Cereals Program  
Dr. D.L. Oswalt, Principal Training Officer

Others met at ICRISAT

Dr. N.S. Jodha, ex-ICRISAT economist currently with IITA.  
Dr. Brian Spooner, Social Anthropologist, University of Pennsylvania

American Institute of Indian Studies, D-176 Defence Colony, New Delhi

Mr. Pradeep Mehendiratta, Director

University of Udaipur, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. R.N. Singh, Vice-Chancellor  
Dr. R.M. 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 Agricultural Economics  
Dr. S.P. Choudary, Agricultural Economics  
Dr. P.M. Sharma, Agricultural Economics  
Mr. P.K. Sharma, Agricultural Economics  
Dr. H.G. Singh, Head Agronomy  
Dr. S.S. Rathore, Agronomy  
Dr. Yashpal Singh, Dept. Soil and Water Conservation.  
Dr. D.K. Mathur, Dept. Farm Machinery and Power Engineering  
Dr. S.L. Doshi, Head Sociology  
Dr. O.P. Sharma, Sociology  
Dr. B.K. Lavania, Sociology

Anthropological Survey of India, 1 Old Fathepura Road, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. B.B. Goswami, Deputy Director  
Dr. R.S. Mann, Superintendent Anthropologist  
Mr. S.H.M. Rizvi  
Mrs. S.R. Rizvi

Tribal Areas Development Agency, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India

Mr. V.S. Verma, I.A.S., Commissioner

University of Rajasthan, Jaipur

Dr. Iqbal Narain, Vice-Chancellor

USAID/Delhi

Dr. Dean Peterson

Central Luzon State University, Philippines

Dr. Amado C. Campos, President  
 Dr. Filomena F. Campos, Director Research and Development Center  
 Dr. Rodolfo Undan, Project Coordinator for Agricultural Technology Research  
 Mrs. A.L. Ferrer, Asst. Project Coordinator for Rural Development Studies  
 Dr. W.H. Vincent, Agricultural Economist, KSU Propart  
 Dr. Carter Price, Agricultural Economist, KSU Propart

USAID/Manila

Dr. R.J. Edwards, Head of Mission

NARRATIVE:

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

The principal purpose for visiting ICRISAT was to discuss ties between the KSU - University of Udaipur collaborative farming systems project and ICRISAT. The bulk of the discussions were with the Economics Program, particularly with regard to their village level studies research, with other discussions with personnel in the Cereals Program.

I was cordially received by Dr. Leslie Swindale and Dr. J.S. Kanwar, Director and Associate Director, Research, respectively, who expressed interest in the collaborative project and extended the promise of any help and information ICRISAT might provide. They, as others, strongly suggested the project use ICRISAT as a resource through informal ties rather than formal collaboration.

In the Cereals Program I met with Dr. Fran Bidinger, Principal Physiologist, and Dr. Rob Williams, Principal Pathologist. Dr. Bidinger took me out to some of his test plots and we also held discussions in his lab. His research on crop improvement under low fertility conditions is of special interest to the farming systems project since the project will be dealing with small and marginal farmers who have limited involvement in commercial networks through which fertilizer is available. Similarly, Dr. William's research on developing disease resistant lines is of interest on the same lines.

In the Economics Program I had extremely useful discussions with Dr. Jim Ryan, Head of the Economics Program, Dr. R.P. Singh, newly joined agricultural economist working on the village level studies research, and Dr. Victor Doherty, principal social anthropologist. Discussions included scope and methods of micro-level

socio-economic research. Currently they are working in six villages in different regions of India (not including Rajasthan) and are very interested in this project as it will generate data from another region which would complement their existing program. They are interested in data sharing which would be of benefit to both of us. We also discussed how socio-economic research and village level studies can feed into technical research on crop and technology development. They had several examples, eg. post-harvest plowing and of course mixed cropping, practices of farmers that have suggested lines of enquiry for the technical staff. Dr. Ryan extended full cooperation with the project in so far as his program can act as a resource.

While at ICRISAT I also had the good fortune to again meeting Dr. N.S. Jodha who was on home leave from his position with the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) - posted in Tanzania - and who was previously with ICRISAT's Economics Program. He is extremely knowledgeable about Indian socio-economic conditions, approaches for conducting research in rural areas, in particular with regard to Rajasthan. He had been particularly helpful in guiding me toward the University of Udaipur during my previous visit with him. Our discussions this time were particularly useful in filling me in on current matters.

Also while at ICRISAT I met Dr. Brian Spooner, social anthropologist from University of Pennsylvania, who is working on a United Nations sponsored training project with the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur, Rajasthan, for developing social science competence in the area of agricultural development. His project is in the formulative stage but promises to be one with which the farming systems project might keep in contact.

## 2. American Institute of Indian Studies

The American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) is one of the major agencies sponsoring and administering American social science and humanities scholars in India. Mr. Pradeep Mehendiratta, Director AIIS, is extremely knowledgeable about getting government clearances and the Indian climate for research and foreign researchers. I had a very long discussion with him about the project and he strongly suggested that the project go slow and cautiously with regard to Government of India. He also gave good advice with regard to entering collaborative relations with University of Udaipur, particularly not to make promises (equipment and support) which we cannot keep, (actually not a problem in my discussions with Udaipur, see below). Mr. Mehendiratta had been extremely helpful in 1972-73 when I had a fellowship from AIIS, and once again his counsel and advice was appreciated.

## 3. University of Udaipur, Rajasthan

The visit and discussions with the University of Udaipur were very fruitful. I was cordially received by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. R.N. Singh, who got up from his sick bed to meet me and who was ill throughout my stay. The Vice-Chancellor turned me over to Dr. R.M. Singh, Director of Research and the Experiment Station, who coordinated and attended the meetings with various departmental heads and other faculty members. Dr. R.M. Singh was very supportive and interested in the project and suggested various ways to me and to department heads as to how the different faculties would have a part in the project. We, along with Dr. B.S. Rathore.

Head Department of Agricultural Economics, and Dr. H.N. Mehrotra, Director Extension Education, chalked out a field research design including cost estimates. This was done with the understanding by all that the project is subject to final approval and arrangements at higher levels, i.e. whenever USAID and Government of India can make their administrative and financial agreements. Once these higher level matters are sorted out we can begin work almost immediately.

In general I was impressed with the competence and self-confidence with which people approached the discussions. The main desire, articulated by Dr. R.M. Singh, was for the requisite financial, administrative, and personnel support to get research underway and accomplished. The main things they want to get out of it is a solid piece of research in which they participate, generating a data base and results complementing their own programs. They are also interested in the training aspect of the project. They are totally disinterested in equipment or other considerations that might come through such a project.

My discussions with Dr. H.N. Mehrotra, Director Extension Education, were very informative. The approach he is pushing in his program is working with small and marginal farmers - since he says that by now the larger ones can take care of themselves - and working out problems at the field level directly or by feeding problems back to the experiment station for research. This is somewhat of a departure from past approaches which solely tried to get farmers to accept a package of practices developed on the research farm. One example he cited is the problem of acceptability of line sowing in mixed cropping in unirrigated farming. This is not a problem for larger farmers, but this recommendation has not been taken up by small farmers very much since they do not have the necessary equipment or access to it for sowing in this manner. This has been fed into agricultural engineering where some research is being done on improvement of traditional bullock drawn implements. He is also pushing an integrated approach, involving not only cereal crops but also horticulture, seedling nurseries for own use and for sale, for supplemental income. This approach to agricultural problems is essentially a farming systems one, and Dr. Mehrotra was very sympathetic in his views on the project.

In my discussions with Agronomy, Dr. H.G. Singh, Head of Department, strongly suggested the project focus only on millet and dryland agriculture. In the department is one faculty member, Dr. S.S. Rathore, who is working on dryland research. He would be an excellent counterpart for the project as this would facilitate his own research as well as benefit the project.

Dr. B.S. Rathore, Head Department of Agricultural Economics, was particularly helpful. His department has been engaged for several years in micro-level studies on cost of production and other surveys of the agricultural picture in Rajasthan. He was helpful in matters of concept and design of village level studies. Discussions with other members of his department, Dr. S.P. Choudary, Dr. P.M. Sharma, and Mr. K.P. Sharma, were useful in this regard also. The problems of small and marginal farmers is a major area of interest for the department and Dr. S.S. Acharya - who is joining the department at the main campus after several years at the Jobner branch campus - has devoted several years to such studies as well as spending time working with Government of Rajasthan on the Antodhya Program (uplift of the poorest). Dr. Acharya would be an excellent contact for this project; unfortunately he had not joined at the time of my visit but I had met and had a productive talk with him a year and a half ago.

In the College of Technology and Agricultural Engineering I met with Dean K.N. Nag who expressed interest in the project and cooperation. He introduced me to Dr. D.K. Mathur, Department of Farm Machinery and Power Engineering, and Dr. Yashpal Singh, Department of Soil and Water Conservation. These two showed me around the college and reacquainted me with their research program. In Dr. Mathur's department he showed me some of the improved bullock drawn implements, eg. two line seed-cum-fertilizer drill, they are working on. The department will have a faculty member, Dr. R.K. Aeron, working on small implements but unfortunately he had not yet joined but was expected a few days after my departure. Dr. Singh showed me the research being conducted on range and water management, combining controlled grazing, contour ditching, and reforestation.

Discussions with the Department of Sociology were productive. Dr. S.L. Doshi, Head of the Department, Dr. O.P. Sharma, and Dr. B.K. Lavania, expressed great interest in the project, promising support where possible from the faculty, and for getting some of their graduates involved in the field staff. They were also extremely helpful in discussing questions of research and sampling design. They do have an interest and curriculum program in rural sociology and were most eager to have an involvement in an interdisciplinary project - which was a bit of a surprise to the technical scientists.

In summary, discussions at University of Udaipur went extremely well. There are many people who support the project and would be good people to have working with it. The University also has excellent relations with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); Dr. R.M. Singh was a classmate with the the Director and the Vice-Chancellor was the Director's professor. Dr. R.M. Singh will work the project out on paper to make it acceptable to ICAR in that it must not duplicate what the University is already doing. I did suggest that they not approach ICAR until the meeting in mid-September of the Joint Indo-US Subcommittee on Agriculture, at which time some of the approval and administrative matters creating the delay in beginning work will hopefully be worked out.

#### 4. Anthropological Survey of India, Udaipur

The purpose of this visit was to find out what sorts of research projects Indian anthropologists are working on in the Udaipur region. I met with Dr. B.B. Goswami, Deputy Director, Dr. R.S. Mann, Superintendent Anthropologist, and Mr. and Mrs. Rizvi - among others - on their staff. Basically the Survey is engaged in tribal research. Most of the studies are descriptive ethnographies although a few have a problem focus to them, eg. tribal women laborers in urban areas. Although a few persons have an interest in economic development and agriculture there is not much going on in these areas. In terms of complementarities with the project, there are few if any. Furthermore, foreign research on tribals is extremely sensitive with Government of India.

#### 5. Tribal Areas Development Agency, Udaipur

Mr. V.S. Verma, Commissioner for Tribal Areas Development, is an old friend who has served in various positions in the Rajasthan and Central administrations. His advice and counsel on questions of rural development were sought as well as those on the role and pitfalls of expatriate research. His purview takes in tribal

areas in Southern Rajasthan, hilly tracts with predominately maize cultivation. Due to these factors there is little way in which the farming systems project can fit into his program, given the cropping pattern and the fact that these are tribal areas.

#### 6. University of Rajasthan, Jaipur

The University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, is the university through which I had affiliation for my dissertation research in 1972-73. Dr. Iqbal Narain, previously Head of Political Science and currently Vice-Chancellor, is an old friend whom I contacted to discuss the project and find out the current climate for foreign sponsored research. Our discussions were informative in that there is no particular problems in this regard in the state of Rajasthan.

#### 7. USAID/Delhi

In New Delhi I met with Dr. Dean Peterson in order to fill him in on my discussions with University of Udaipur and the project. He was very interested in the project. He also queried me about consultative work on an irrigation project for Rajasthan. With regard to the INTSORMIL project he had little more to add to what we already know about the current state of negotiations. He did not know what relation USAID/Delhi might have with the project nor how the mission is going to approach Government of India, although he felt the mission should get a bit more aggressive in pushing for clearances.

#### 8. Central Luzon State University, Philippines (CLSU)

Central Luzon State University and Kansas State University have a collaborative project sponsored by USAID entitled the Integrated Agricultural Production Marketing Project. The Technological Package Project (TPP) under this is conducting research on production, processing, and marketing of crops either in cropping packages or in combination with livestock, poultry, and fish. The emphasis is on developing technological packages and effective methodologies and approaches for their adoption.

The reason for visiting the project was to see what complementarities in design and approach there may be with the Rajasthan farming systems project. Obviously the cropping and production patterns are quite different from India but I was particularly keen on finding out how they feed knowledge gained from micro-level studies and field testing of technologies back into the research process.

I was cordially received by President Amado C. Campos. Concurrent with my visit, Dr. R.J. Edwards, Head of the USAID mission to the Philippines and several of his staff (see below), were also there and we were treated to a presentation of the university's development programs by the staff of the Research and Development Center. We were also taken around the campus by Dr. Filomena F. Campos, Director Research and Development Center, and shown the model farm combining fish, paddy, and poultry/hog production exploiting their ecological complementarities. We were also shown the bio-gas experiments at the poultry unit, as well as the various units of the Research and Development Center.

I also visited the Rural Development Studies and Agricultural Technology Research units of RDC and had talks with various staff members. In Rural Development Studies I had several hours of discussion with Mrs. A.L. Ferrer, Asst. Project Coordinator, concerning the role of social science research in agricultural development and how the sociological component of their unit fits into the technological research of the center. The main emphasis of her unit is demographic and sociological studies of rural communities with an eye to how best to get farmers and communities to accept the technical packages generated from on-station research. In terms of research on the social or institutional impact of change there is relatively little being done that suggests parameters within which technical research might be conducted.

In the Agricultural Technology Research unit I met with Dr. Rodolfo Undan, Coordinator, and Dr. Warren Vincent and Dr. Carter Price, KSU Proparts on the collaborative USAID sponsored project. The bulk of discussions were with Dr. Vincent. We discussed the research underway on marketing - organizing producers and marketers to better facilitate marketing logistics and trying assure stable levels of supply to the market and remunerative prices to producers. This is a great problem due to a poor system of feeder roads and the hold by merchants on both marketing and production credit.

In the course of discussions during the stay I discovered that there is very little input into the research program at the university directly from farmers or from a systematic study of how and why farmers conduct their operations the way they do - particularly the small and marginal farmers. Whatever formal input farmers have is through those with contacts with ministers, civil servants, and politicians at the national level that mandates research priorities from the top down to the university. There is of course an ad hoc input from farmer-cooperators in the field testing of technical packages but these tend to be the more aggressive ones who come forward to participate in programs. There is also the assumption that the farmers to be targeted for participation are those with the requisite resources to be self-sustaining, in effect those who are better off to begin with. There is also very little concern with questions of economic distribution of benefits, rural employment, or displacement of people from the agricultural sector. These problems are assumed to take care of themselves under the assumption that the "trickle down" from aggregate growth will solve them. In terms of the farming systems project envisioned in Rajasthan, India, there is very little that complements the approach to be used there. However, in terms of basic research on-station the investigation of the complementarities between crops, fish, poultry/livestock in small scale agriculture was very suggestive and enlightening.

## 9. USAID/Manila

While at CLSU I was fortunate to have met and have had a discussion with Dr. R.J. Edwards, the new Head of the USAID mission to the Philippines. We briefly discussed Title XII CRSP programs in general. His remarks were informative in that he represents some of the opposition views to Title XII. He feels that the missions should be solely responsible for proposing programs since he feels they know best what the needs of host countries are. Strengthening grants to universities are fine but universities cannot assess development priorities or mount effective research programs overseas.

OBSERVATIONS:

With regard to the Title XII farming systems project in collaboration with the University of Udaipur, there is a great level of interest and support for the project from the Indian side at the local level. A good level of mutual understanding and expectations has been worked out and there is no reason why the project cannot get underway as soon as the arrangements vis-a-vis USAID/Delhi and ICAR or Government of India are worked out. It would be extremely helpful if those concerned might decide what relation the Delhi mission will have with this project and also decide how they are going to approach ICAR. It would also be helpful if these things are decided and worked out within the next month or two since the project is already well into its second fiscal year without being able to begin research. It is hoped that the meeting in mid-September of the Joint Indo-US Subcommittee on Agriculture can work these things out.

With regard to the visit to Central Luzon State University and the KSU collaborative project, it is very difficult to get an indepth feel for the project or the university programs within a few days. This is exacerbated by the fact that the Philippines is not a country with which I am familiar. It was instructive to see agricultural research being conducted in a different setting and also to learn the different concerns and approaches used. I did find the visit worthwhile. •