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QUARTERLY REPORT #2

January 1 - March 31, 1983

for the

Strengthening
African Agricultural Research Project

Contract No. AFR-0435-C-00-2084

Project No. 698-0435



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January 1 - March 31, 1983
of the
Strengthening African Agricultural Research Project

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SAAR QUARTERLY REPORT #2
January 1 - March 31, 1983

I. ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD

A. General

1. Devres/MUCIA relationship

Early in this quarter, Devres and MUCIA finalized and signed a subcontract which was reviewed by AID/AFR/RA and which adheres to the terms of the AID/Devres contract. Michigan State University (MSU) was identified by MUCIA as the lead institution for coordination and management purposes due to its well-established international capability.

Devres has been and continues to be in frequent telephone and mail communication with Devres/MSU liaison, Dr. Dale Harpstead. On several occasions, Dr. Harpstead has also come to Washington for strategy meetings and briefings.

MUCIA, through Michigan State University, now also has a half-time contract manager to deal with the financial and logistical aspects of the subcontract.

2. Revised Workplan for Task Implementation

Devres submitted a Revised Workplan to AID which reflected the then-current plans for production of the Zonal Program Documents, PIDs and PPs. To enhance African involvement in the consensual development of a zonal program document from which effective agricultural research programs and relevant project activities would flow, Devres and AID are presently considering a pre-inventory workshop and a post-inventory consultative meeting for both U.S. zones.

The Revised Workplan anticipates a greater level of effort by both Devres and MUCIA, especially in the inventory process.

Project completion is now expected in mid-1984 as a result of the late start in the Southern African Zone and a longer than planned time span between the reconnaissance and consultative meeting. The

need for additional time between these tasks is documented in the Sahel Reconnaissance Final Report and arose primarily because of the recommendation, concurred in by AID, that an African regional institution co-sponsor the consultative meeting.

3. Team Leader

Dr. Elmer Kiehl, former Dean of Agriculture at the University of Missouri and former BIFAD Director, has been approved by AID to replace Dr. C. Fred Bentley as Team Leader. Dr. Roland Poirier, whose resume was submitted in the original proposal for this project, is a fluent French-speaker and was approved by AID to assume the role of "stand-in" Team Leader in Francophone West Africa. In this role, Dr. Poirier will serve as the Team Leader for all field work in the Sahel, working under the direction of Dr. Kiehl and Mr. Johnson. The total number of days available in the contract for the position of Team Leader is not expected to be exceeded.

4. Deputy Team Leader

Devres has submitted for AID's consideration the names of seven experienced professionals for Deputy Team Leader in the Sahel. One candidate approved by AID was later withdrawn by Devres because of his lack of management experience and unrealistic salary expectations. Since the project began (when Devres learned that its prime candidate for Sahel Deputy, Dr. Sollod, could not participate because of a contingent prior commitment to another AID contract which materialized and its backup candidate, Mr. Poirier, could not take his place because of his wife's illness), Devres has contacted over 100 persons regarding potential candidates for this position. We have, of course, worked with MUCIA and its seven member universities to identify a candidate. We have also canvassed the public and private sector, contacting other universities in the U.S., contacting research institutes in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Africa, and soliciting names from Mr. Willis of CIDA, from AID and from CDA representative Raison in France.

Devres continues to recruit in earnest a candidate who can meet the following criteria:

- agricultural research expertise;
- French fluency;
- availability for intermittent work of 7½ months out of the next 12 months;

- excellent staff management capacity and experience;
- ability to write well in English;
- broad knowledge of AID's programs and projects;
- sensitivity to issues of ongoing diplomatic concern in the region;
- etc.

Frankly, Devres doubts that a candidate exists who can satisfy all these criteria at the level of excellence desired. We therefore have placed emphasis on finding someone with extensive agriculture experience (though not necessarily a technical agricultural researcher), excellent management capability, fluent French, and so forth down the list of criteria. Our basic logic is that extensive expertise in technical agriculture and agricultural research is available to us on a short-term basis via many professionals. Thus a person who is available, fluent in French, familiar with AID, experienced in managing large teams of professionals doing field work simultaneously in several countries, capable of writing well and of designing acceptable PIDs and PPs, able to relate harmoniously to important government officials and who also knows agriculture well could be readily supported by this plethora of specific technical research talent.

5. CDA

Devres has been actively communicating its progress on project activities to the other CDA donors. Notably, donors were invited to participate in the Southern African Reconnaissance and have received copies of draft material prepared for the Sahel consultations. Devres participated in planning for visits to other donors by AID.

As recommended by the Sahel Reconnaissance Team, AID has developed an explanatory brochure on CDA which Devres has translated into French and Portuguese for distribution in the field by project staff.

6. Project administration and records

A tracking system for project expenditures on a task and sub-task basis has been developed and a revised project budget projection is underway.

Annex 1 of this report is the current Projected Execution Schedule for all tasks of the SAAR Project.

Invoices 5 through 11 have been submitted, and payment has been received for Invoices 3 through 9.

B. Sahelian Zone

1. Task 1--Reconnaissance

A final draft of the Sahel Reconnaissance Report was submitted to AID for review. AID's suggestions are now incorporated into the Final Report. The Executive Summary was reviewed by AID and INSAH and subsequently translated into French, reproduced, and submitted to AID/Washington for distribution to the field.

2. Task 2--Consultations

Devres and AID have previously discussed the probable need for a second consultative meeting after completion of the inventory and a draft outline of the Zonal Program Document. The principal purpose of a second meeting would be to achieve maximum input from Africans in the development of the zonal program. Current thinking is to split the Task 2 Consultations into 2 phases: (1) a pre-inventory workshop to establish agricultural research priorities and evolve an inventory checklist, and (2) a post-inventory consultative meeting to get consensus on the zonal program substance.

a. Timing

The Workshop may take place as early as late May 1983 at a selected Sahel location -- the same time as was planned for the first consultative meeting.

b. Sponsorship

Devres' Project Director, William Johnson, visited the Sahel Institute (INSAH) in February and secured a draft Memorandum of Understanding committing that institution to co-sponsorship of the Consultations in the Sahel and delineating its role and responsibilities. As INSAH has an administrative link to CILSS, INSAH representative Jean Pare traveled to CILSS headquarters in Ouagadougou to discuss this arrangement and secure approval from the Government of Upper Volta to hold the Conference in that country.

c. Materials for participants

Three discussion papers have been prepared, with assistance from MUCIA and Mr. Jeff Hill, for the workshop as follows:

- (1) Priority Program Areas for Agricultural Research
- (2) Improving the Effectiveness of Agricultural Research
- (3) Information Collection and Analysis

These have been submitted to AID for review. Mr. Hill devoted most of his four-week period to a careful review of literature concerning research inventory methodologies.

A fourth discussion paper entitled, Developing a Zonal Program for the Sahelian Zone has been prepared and presented to AID for discussion within AID and subsequently among donors. The principal purpose of the paper is to determine what is desired in a "Zonal Program Document" by AID and other CDA donors.

C. Southern African Zone

1. Task 1--Reconnaissance

From the beginning of the SAAR project, AID has put substantial effort into establishing a quality working relationship with SADCC supportive of the CDA agricultural research initiative. Through joint AID-Devres communication with SADCC, commencement of the Southern African Reconnaissance was able to begin in mid-February.

a. Team selection

Drs. Omer J. Kelley and Joseph M. Menyonga of Devres and Dr. Jay W. Artis of MUCIA comprised the reconnaissance team. Although MUCIA was supposed to provide the African consultant under the terms of the subcontract, it was decided that Dr. Menyonga should visit Southern Africa considering his understanding of CDA and previous experience with the SAAR project. Deputy Team Leader Kelley functioned as Team Leader for the reconnaissance since it was decided by Devres that Dr. Bentley's remaining time on the project should be used to consolidate his work in the Sahel rather than to begin a new effort in Southern Africa.

b. AID/Washington participation

Vernon Johnson, AID contractor, met the team in Harare and participated in visits to Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania and Malawi. Mr. John Slattery, Project Officer, traveled to Southern Africa in mid-March, joining the team for visits to Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

c. Other CDA donor participation

Through the CDA liaison office and Embassy in Paris, and with the assistance of Norman Schoonover, arrangements to involve French and Italian field representatives in the Southern Africa reconnaissance task were facilitated.

d. Level of effort

For billing purposes, Dr. Kelley's time is charged to the Deputy Team Leader position and is not expected to exceed the days allotted to the task. MUCIA simply substituted Dr. Artis for the African consultant it was to have provided full-time. Devres provided Dr. Menyonga as the African consultant at more days than were available under the original plan for the Team Leader, but at a significantly lower daily rate.

e. Team briefing

A schedule of briefings for the Southern African reconnaissance team was arranged by Devres in collaboration with AID. This schedule was provided in earlier communications.

f. Field travel

The team is presently in the field, scheduled to return in mid-April. Feedback indicates AID Missions and host governments were well prepared for this round of visits. Devres is not aware of any unique travel difficulties experienced or itinerary changes at this time.

g. SADCC meeting

Dr. Joseph Menyonga, at AID's request, participated in discussions of CDA/SAAR with members of SADCC countries in Gaborone, Botswana from February 21 to 23, 1983.

II. PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER (APRIL 1 - JULY 1, 1983)

A. General

1. Team Leader

Team Leader Elmer Kiehl and part-time Team Leader Roland Poirier are expected to travel to Washington several times in the upcoming quarter for planning purposes and for participation in various project activities. Near-term, Devres proposes to have these two members of the staff come to Washington in early April to finalize the workshop discussion papers and to participate in the reconnaissance team's debriefing upon its return from Southern Africa.

2. Sahel Deputy

AID has turned down Devres' most recently submitted nominee for Sahel Deputy Team Leader. Devres has now extended the scope of its previous search in France for a candidate to fill this important position. French CDA representative Jean Pierre Raison has agreed to approach several French scientists and potentially set up some interviews with them for William Johnson who will be in Europe in early April en route from Devres to Southern Africa.

Devres will recommend that any candidate finally approved by AID revisit the Sahelian countries, possibly in the company of a CILSS representative.

3. Travel Coordinator/Secretary

The contract allows for a full-time Travel Coordinator/Secretary. To date, approximately 0.6 FTE of Devres' secretaries' time has been charged to this position, but a much greater level of effort will undoubtedly be required as the complicated consultative and inventory tasks are undertaken. It is probable that Devres will hire someone full-time for this position; however, we will continue to utilize other of our secretarial resources for surges in SAAR activities as they arise.

4. Other CDA donors

Devres is prepared to participate in CDA meetings upon request. At AID's suggestion, we are in the process of carrying out discussions with the other CDA donor countries to encourage their further participation in our efforts and our more extensive involvement in their SAAR activities.

5. Budget

Devres will submit to AID a status report on the budget which will present, by line item, expenditures to date. We will indicate costs which have been lower than anticipated and those which have been higher than or additional to those in the original budget. A revised budget will also be prepared for the remainder of the project and submitted to AID for review.

B. Sahelian Zone

1. Task 2--Consultations

a. Timing and materials

The pre-Inventory Workshop described earlier in this report will be scheduled with INSAH as early as possible, but continuing arrangements currently await AID approval of final versions of the discussion papers. These will then be translated into French and sent to INSAH for distribution with invitations to participants.

b. Duration

The consultative Workshop will probably span three full days.

c. Participants

- (1) One African from each Sahelian country, probably the countries' CILSS representative;
- (2) Deputy Team Leader;
- (3) Team Leader Roland Poirier;
- (4) Devres' Conference Coordinator;
- (5) One or two technical persons from MUCIA;
- (6) AID/Washington and Mission personnel as appropriate; and
- (7) Possibly several local representatives of other CDA donors.

2. Task 3--Inventory

Devres is in the process of assembling the staff necessary to conduct a three-month inventory spanning June through September. Sudan may have to be done separately later in the year as the rainy season begins shortly and renders its roads impassable.

For the three-month duration of this task, Devres proposes to employ the services of five Americans in addition to the supervisorial services of the Team Leader, Deputy Team Leader and possibly a MUCIA representative. Each of these five additional staff members would focus his or her efforts on only two of the Sahelian countries. Exceptionally, the Sudan would require the full attention of one staff member whereas The Gambia and Cape Verde together would probably only require 1½ months of one person's time.

Each of these Americans would probably work with two or three African research assistants and be provided the necessary administrative support.

C. Southern African Zone

1. Task 1--Reconnaissance

The Southern Africa Reconnaissance Team is scheduled to return to Washington on or about April 10, 1983 and will participate in a debriefing with AID. The Final Report will have been written in the field and reviewed in Harare by William Johnson, John Slattery of AFR/RA, and USAID/Zimbabwe personnel.

2. SADCC Technical Committee meeting participation

At SADCC's next Technical Committee meeting, members have agreed to review the Southern Africa Reconnaissance Report and discuss plans for the Consultations and Inventory. AID and Devres have been invited to participate and Devres intends to dispatch Dr. Kelley to the meeting scheduled for late April.

3. Task 2--Consultations

The timing, structure and substance are to be discussed at the SADCC Technical Committee meeting.

III. PENDING ISSUES

A. General

1. Other Zone Activities

To date, there has been little discernable activity by other donors in the CDA agricultural research initiative, and therefore no participation by Devres in other zones. AID visits currently being scheduled and Devres' planned visits to other CDA member countries will provide some information and need to be approved by AID.

There may be a Consultative Meeting in the East Africa Zone, convened by the Canadians, but the timing remains to be confirmed.

2. Budget

As a result of requirements documented in this report and elsewhere, completion of this project is currently expected sometime in mid-1984. Numerous activities have been redefined with AID's approval to enhance the success of the project, but these additions were not included in the project budget. Devres will prepare appropriate documentation of rationale for activities such as those described below and submit for AID's consideration a revised budget for the project on or about June 1, 1983.

a. Level of effort

It has become clear in discussions with AID that the Inventory task for each zone will require a substantially greater effort than originally planned if it is to be of the quality necessary to meet the purpose of our overall SAAR activities.

b. Sahel Consultations

William Johnson travelled to Bamako in February to discuss the substance and format of the Consultative Meeting with INSAH officials and to enlist co-sponsorship by that institution. Mr. Jean Pare subsequently travelled between Bamako and Ouagadougou.

c. Southern African Reconnaissance

William Johnson has departed for Zimbabwe to participate in developing the team's report.

d. Overhead rate

In that the volume of Devres' expenditures under SAAR has been much lower to date than anticipated when the contract was signed, Devres has recently received AID approval to increase its overhead rate to the ceiling allowed under the contract. (As the volume of work under this SAAR contract and our other contracts increases, it is likely that our overhead rate will fall to a point below the ceiling rate by the end of the contract.)

B. Sahelian Zone

1. Sahel Deputy

Devres is still seeking concurrence on the Sahel Deputy. Candidates recently submitted to AID for consideration were rejected by the Technical Review Committee. We will continue to devote substantial additional contract resources and Devres non-contract management time to identifying a person acceptable to AID.

2. Per diem

INSAH and CILSS have insisted that participants to a consultative meeting receive their Sahel-wide per diem rates, inclusive of travel time. These rates are, however, documentably lower than those of AID.

3. Workshop and Inventory

Plans for and timing of the Workshop and Inventory need to be finalized. Devres will also seek AID's concurrence on a final version of the Workshop Discussion Papers.

4. The Sudan

Due to the rainy season, the Inventory in the Sudan will probably be conducted apart from that in the rest of the Sahel. Devres proposes to submit the Sudan component of the Inventory Report separately and to integrate its elements into the Zonal Program when available.

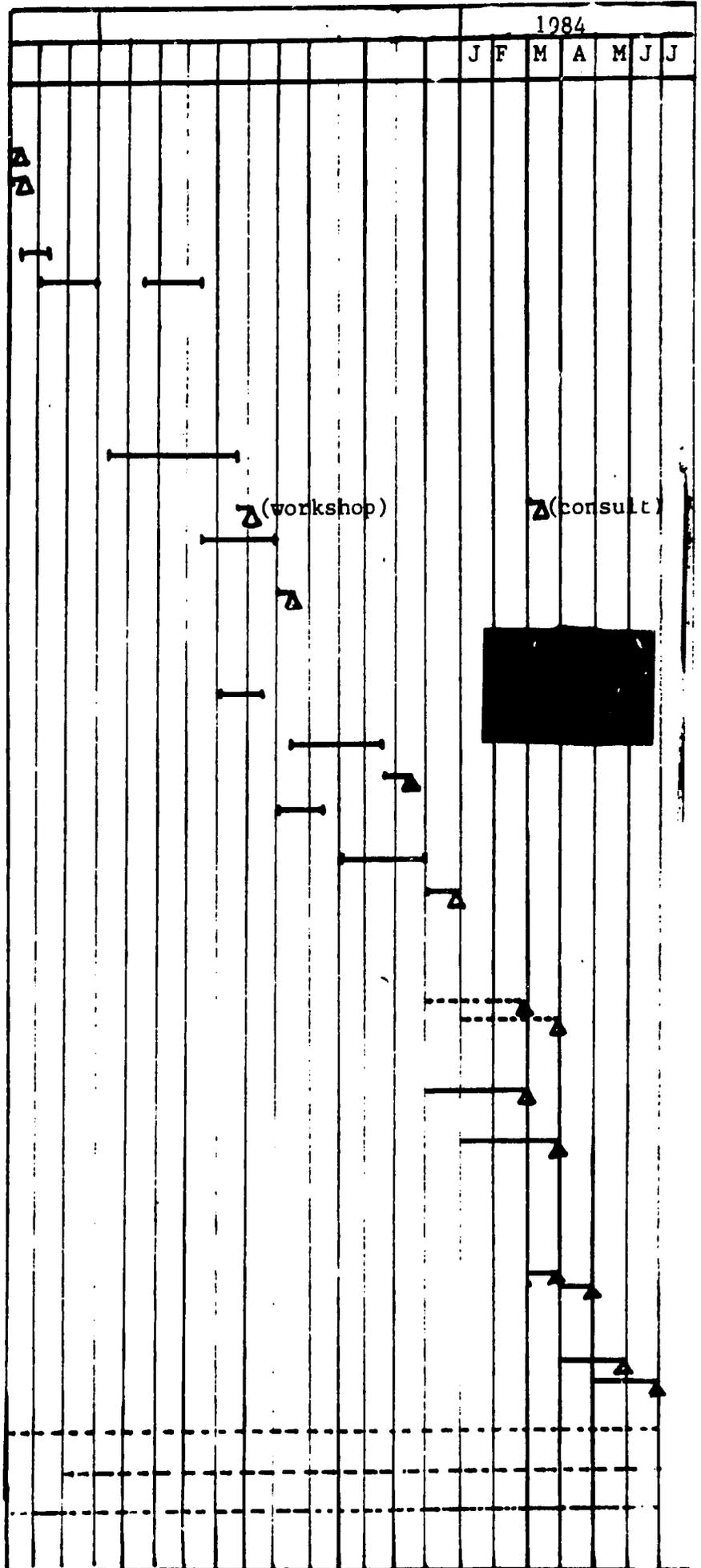
C. Southern African Zone

Generally, plans for and timing of the Consultative Meeting and Inventory must be determined collaboratively with AID and SADCC.

ANNEX I

Projected Execution Schedule

ANNEX 1: Projected Execution Schedule



Task No. in RFP

Project Implementation Steps

1982 1983



Figure 3: Execution Schedule for Detailed Project Activities

— continuous activities

--- discontinuous activities

△ written report

Best Available Document

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