

MONTHLY REPORT - NOVEMBER 1984

CHAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
EXPERIENCE, INCORPORATED

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Coordinator

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I. Activities

A. Administrative and Institutional

Dr. Merritt Taylor, Agricultural Economist/Assistant Coordinator; and Mr. Joe David Lopez, Extension Advisor, arrived La Paz on 1 November and proceeded to Cochabamba on 3 November. After formal orientation, they proceeded with literature review and informal orientation. On November 27 - 29 they traveled to La Paz with Owens and Ríos to obtain injections, apply for visas, drivers licences, ID's etc, and to join the commissary.

IBTA/Chapare Director Francisco Zannier, Ing. Angel Cartagena and Ing. Armando Ferrufino traveled to Belén, Brasil to attend the annual meeting of Empresa Brasileira para Pesquisa Agropecuaria (EMBRAPA) for research in humid tropics. The meeting was from 12 - 16 November.

Experience, Incorporated personnel, in company with IBTA and SDTB officials, traveled to the Chapare on 23 - 24 November. Visits were made to the Chipiriri research station, the Automobile Club (staff house), a "posta sanitaria" under construction with SDTB funds, and Tablas Montes in microregion 1. We were unable to visit the La Jota research station because of high water.

Experience, Incorporated consultants Mondonedo and Alvarado are expected to arrive Bolivia on or about 7 January, 1985. Dr. Beiber will be renominated for the Cropping Systems/Agroforestry position.

USAID authorized purchase of furniture and appliances for EI personnel on 28 November. It was decided that AID will purchase directly from the suppliers and make separate funds available for the purchase of space heaters, carpets, water filters, lamps, garden hoses and other incidental authorized items.

USAID requested that EI contact the representatives of the Automobile Club in Cochabamba with a request that furniture not be removed from the premises in Villa Tunari. Appliances and any necessary additional furniture for Villa Tunari will be bought through a separate Purchase Order.

Dr. Merritt Taylor will be in charge of the Villa Tunari staff house. He discussed salary and duties with caretaker.

USAID agreed that the EI/Bolivia team should have some discretionary funds for local travel, communications and incidental expenses. EI/Washington was advised to request authorization for establishing a \$ 1000.00 revolving fund.

USAID loaned office furniture, a typewriter and household furniture to the project for interim use.

Pursuant to a conversation with Mr. David Cohen, Deputy Director, USAID/Bolivia, EI has requested that the Mission Security officer, Mr. Goldstein, Cochabamba and the Chapare to advise on security measurers.

Ms. Violand showed more than twenty houses to M. Taylor and J. Lopez. A rental contract has been signed for a house for the Lopez family. Ms. Violand, Lopez, Taylor and Owens spent considerable time examinig furniture and obtaining pro-formas invoices for USAID's consideration.

Offices for IBTA/EI were not obtained during November as the landlord was unable to evict his current tenant. We are searching for other suitable premises.

B. Technical

No technical activities were initiated during November for 1) lack of funds and 2) inability to travel to or communicate with the Chapare because of fuel shortages, blockades, impassable roads and lack of vehicles.

II. Issues and Solutions

Funds for IBTA/Chapare have not yet been liberated by GOB and USAID. The liberation of funds is expected in early December.

The combination of a national strike and political uncertainty has made it difficult for IBTA to initiate or even plan field activities. A misunderstanding with the IBTA Regional directorate surfaced during the latter part of the month. This needs to be resolved before IBTA/Chapare funds can be used for their intended purpose.

III. Work Planned for Next Reporting Period

IBTA plans to establish two working groups in December. One group will spend about two weeks in the Chapare, primarily to verify existing data on location of communities and demographic features. The second group will plan activities and produce the Work Plan for 1985.

Work planned for November (see October Monthly Report) will be carried over to December insofar as practical.

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