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TRIP REPORT

SUDAN

by

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and
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Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Sudan Trip Report

March 17 - March 30, 1983

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The trip divides into three segments:

- (1) Khartoum, March 17-21 visits with USAID, WSARP, and faculty Department of Rural Economy, Shambat Agricultural Institute.
- (2) El Obeid and Kadugli, March 22-27, including visits to the Kordofan Regional Ministry of Agriculture and to several villages.
- (3) Khartoum, March 28-30 for visits again with USAID, WSARP and with the Mechanized Farming Corporation, and several individuals.

The first phase of the trip was mainly to explore the interest of USAID, Khartoum and WSARP officials in the general research objectives focusing on extension and mechanized farming. In this our arrival was quite fortuitous in that both organizations were seeking ideas and orientations to develop extension. We were an immediate catalyst, prompting James Beebe to set down ideas for a USAID effort to coordinate with us, the Kordofan Regional Ministry, and WSARP which were endorsed or ratified in a meeting with Keith Sherper Dep. Director, USAID Khartoum, Agricultural Office staff, and us on March 30.

These general ideas (indicated in greater detail below) were endorsed by Dr. Dafalla A. Dafalla, Director of WSARP and Dr. James Riley, Senior Advisor to the ARC.

As might be expected, neither USAID nor WSARP, is greatly interested in our proposed study of mechanized farming as it is outside their main mission. But both thought it was a good complement to work by Reeves and

Frankenberger on traditional farming systems.

Our visit to the Department of Rural Economy was primarily to contact Awadalla Saeed who has worked in and studied extension and Dr. Bryan DiSilva who is planning microeconomic study of household consumption in two or three of the Reeves-Frankenberger villages. Also met Anna Farah, Shambat Educational Institute who is planning dissertation research on the role of women in agriculture in the el-Obeid area.

Phase two aimed to explore interest of the Regional Ministry of Agriculture, especially Dr. el-Tag Fadlalla and Abu el-Gasim, Extension Specialist, in the novel ideas developed with USAID (although we were careful not to tip USAID's hand) and, of course, to get their ideas about what would be useful in the way of research information. As it turned out, Dr. el-Tag is rather more interested in a study of extension while Abu el-Gasim is more interested in studying communication networks among farmers.

We found Dr. el-Tag also quite interested in the possibility of FSR in the mechanized farming sector. Bakhit Musa, who has been recently appointed to provide oversight of the undemarcated schemes in South Kordofan was helpful with information about the schemes. The largest area of undemarcated mechanized farming is around Abbyssia.

We visited the villages of Um Ramad, El Karta, Kazgeil, and El Geifil. Meeting local people, and drinking tea and karkadee.

I checked on the farming systems study Neil Patrick is doing in 15 villages around Kadugli. It is an adaptation of the Reeves-Frankenberger approach. Found him quite interested in pushing an extension linkage and studies supportive of extension.

While I was in Kadugli, and Reeves in el-Obeid, the USAID team (James Beebe, Terry Hardt, and Allan Reed, Sudan Project Officer in Washington)

visited Dr. el-Tag and other Ministry of Agriculture officials to explore interest in ideas for an innovative extension project sponsored by USAID.

Phase three had two principal objectives, (1) determine the MFC, under Dr. Tawfig Hashim, interest in our doing a study of mechanized farming in the Habila area, which would largely determine whether our study was located there or in the less accessible Abbyssia area, and (2) finalize plans and steps with USAID and WSARP.

Despite little advance notice or preparation, we were quickly accepted by Dr. Tawfig and Dr. Mahmoud A. Mahmoud (senior agronomist), who responded favorably to the Reeves-Frankenberger reports, and to the idea of a study focusing on management and labor problems in the Habila area. Local area coordinator would be Badr el-Din abder-Rahman, Regional Manager, MFC at Dilling. We also gathered a quantity of materials about the MFC and its new five-year program. It is probable that our next FSR work will be in this area.

At USAID, we agreed to give serious consideration to the following research objectives relating to extension:

- (1) Existing organizational structure and manpower, including incentive and authority structures, personnel evaluation, attitudes about extension work, type of training, etc.
- (2) Educational and training programs and capabilities for extension at the University of Khartoum and Shambat Agricultural Institute.
- (3) Communication networks for types of innovations among farmers at the village level.
- (4) Pattern of acceptance of recent farm innovations, characteristics of adopters.

- (5) Quasi-experiments, using existing resources in the Kordofan Regional Ministry of Agriculture, and Tereke Berhe, to develop extension type events and evaluate information flows.

While all this is probably more than we can handle with the planned resources, much can be done. We agreed to try to produce a preliminary research plan by mid-June and a final plan by mid-fall. We plan to be located in El-Obeid in January 1984.

Meanwhile, USAID is proceeding to have a PID sent out by mid-May to begin establishing an innovative extension program for the western region. By diverting some moneys from existing projects start-up can be made late this year.

Submitted

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