

QUARTERLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 1984

CHAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

EXPERIENCE, INCORPORATED

CONTRACT NUMBER            511-0543-C-00-4214

PROJECT NUMBER            511-0543

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CHAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT - PROJECT

EXPERIENCE, INCORPORATED

I. Activities

A. Administrative and Institutional

Messers Robert Delamare and Gerald Owens of Experience, Incorporated arrived in Bolivia on 3 September, 1984 to initiate EI activities in the Chapare Regional Development Project. Owens remained as Coordinator and was joined by Joe Lopez and Merritt Taylor on 1 November 1984. Ms. Patricia Violand was hired by EI as administrative assistant to the team. At years end, the arrival of three more EI consultants had been confirmed for arrival by 14 January, 1985. This will complete the long-term staffing.

Dr. Gerald P. Owens - Coordinator

Dr. Merritt Taylor - Agr. Economist/Assistant Coordinator

Mr. Joe David Lopez - Agricultural Extension

Dr. Alfredo Alvarado - Soils Management

Dr. John Bieber - Cropping Systems/Agroforestry

Dr. José Mondonedo - Tropical Horticulture

Owens worked with IBTA/Chapare Director General , Francisco Zannier and others in the development of budgets for third quarter 1984, the year 1985 by quarter, and for years 1986, 1987 and 1988. Budgets were submitted to USAID/BOLIVIA and to the Government of Bolivia.

A great deal of time was spent by Ms. Violand and EI consultants in searching for housing on behalf of USAID. In addition, pro-forma invoices were obtained for furniture and appliances for the EI Team. These were submitted to USAID/Bolivia for procurement. Violand, Zannier and Owens also searched in vain for a suitable office to house IBTA/Chapare - EI in Cochabamba.

USAID signed a rental contract with the Automobile Club of Bolivia for premises in Villa Tunari to be used as a staff house in the Chapare. It has not yet been occupied.

Officially, IBTA/Chapare initiated activities on 15 September 1984 with the confirmation of Ing. Francisco Zannier as Director General.

IBTA/Chapare employed an Administrative officer and an agricultural technician in December, which brings total strength up to 41, broken down as follows:

- 1 Director General
- 1 Administrative Officer
- 13 Technicians
- 2 Secretaries
- 2 Tractor drivers
- 2 Chauffers

1 Mechanic  
2 Warehousemen  
2 Cooks  
2 Domestic  
13 Laborers

IBTA personnel were paid in December. This included salaries and allowances for September, October, November and December, 1984.

Three IBTA/Chapare officials attended research review meetings in Brasil from 12 - 16 November. The meetings were sponsored by IICA and EMBRAPA, and covered agricultural and livestock research in the Amazon Basin.

Several officials from SDTB, IBTA/Chapare and EI made one week trip to the Yungas and Alto Beni in October for the purpose of orientation, coordination and obtaining genetic material for the Chapare.

Although numerous trips were made by IBTA/Chapare officials and EI personnel to the Chapare, they were mostly of short duration and administrative in nature.

#### B. Technical

Employees of IBTA/Chapare, SDTB, EI and others attended a two day USAID sponsored Land Use Seminar in December. The seminar, presented by Douglas Pool and Juan Carlos Quiroga, dealt with optimum land use in the various microregions of the Chapare and included suggestions for future investigations.

Plans were made and efforts initiated for a more thorough study of cropping systems in the Chapare. This will go hand-in-hand with extension efforts, initially in areas where IBTA/Chapare has been invited by farmer organizations. A training plan for IBTA/Chapare technicians, para technicians and farmers is being drawn up.

Clean-up and repair of experiment stations was begun in December. Orders were placed for vehicles (through USAID), and pro-formas were requested for tractors, implements, equipment, office furniture, research material, etc. Repair of some ex-PRODES Machinery was effected.

Contact was made with several farmer groups, during the four-month period, mostly on the initiative of the farmers themselves.

## II. Problems

The major problem facing IBTA/Chapare - EI in this reporting period was lack of funds. Neither IBTA/Chapare nor EI/Bolivia had any money until December. Many other problems, each serious in itself, were encountered, but all were secondary to lack of funds.

- Shortage of vehicles, machinery and equipment
- Poor roads
- Campesino unrest in the Chapare and road blockades
- National strikes and demonstrations
- Lack of housing, furniture and appliances for EI staff
- No suitable office for IBTA/Chapare - EI in Cochabamba.

IBTA/Chapare has received an initial distribution of funds from both USAID and GOB. EI now has a \$ 1000 revolving fund for in-country transportation, communications and office supplies. The political/social climate is relatively calm at year end, although the economic situation remains grim.

We are confident that work can begin, as planned, in January 1985. In fact, a good deal of work was done in the Chapare last December.

### III. Work Planned for Next Quarter

The Work Plan, Activities Schedule and Budget for 1985 will be detailed, discussed and submitted to USAID. Systems investigations will be continued as we move into new areas by invitation. Recommendations as to systems modification, new technology, etc through extension will follow as soon as possible. IBTA/Chapare will adopt a campaign to cover the project area more systematically as soon as the social/political unrest calms.

Selection of cooperating farmers establishment of demonstration farms, hiring and training of para-technicians, training for IBTA/Chapare technicians and other activities will proceed as rapidly as the availability of funds-equipment, socio-political climate and staffing permit.

Clean-up and rehabilitation of experiment stations and nurseries, which have been somewhat neglected for two years, will be a major activity in early 1985. Also, procurement and repair of vehicles, machinery and equipment will be a prior ity activity.

### IV. Recommendations

Due to the current inflationary trends and the use of official exchange rates in IBTA budgets, the funds anticipated will not suffice for salaries and items to be purchased for Bolivian pesos. USAID should peg the budget to the US dollar or make other adjustments which will eliminate the fiscal uncertainty facing the project.