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MONTHLY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 1984

CHAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

EXPERIENCE. INCORPORATED

CONTRACT NUMBER: 511-0543-C-00-4214

PROJECT NUMBER: 511-0543

Gerald P. Owens Ph.D.  
Coordinator

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Chapare Regional Development Project 511-0453

Experience, Incorporated

I. Activities

A. Administrative and Institutional

Mr. Robert Delamare, Senior Vice-President of Experience, Incorporated; and Dr. Gerald P. Owens, Coordinator for the Chapare Regional Development Project, arrived La Paz on September 3, 1984.

During the ensuing ten days, discussions were held with USAID/Bolivia and officials of development related organizations in Cochabamba. A two day orientation trip was made to the Chapare in company of Dr. Carlos Montaña, head of S.D.T.B.; Francisco Zannier, head of IBTA/Chapare; John Fasullo, USAID project manager; and others. During this trip, Dr. Montaña delivered a number of checks to Chapare municipalities and organizations as the first installment of S.D.T.B. community development efforts.

Mr. Delamare returned to the U.S. on September 13. Dr. Owens remained in Cochabamba, primarily to work with IBTA personnel in the development of budget requests and work plans for the fourth quarter, 1984. Considerable time was spent in looking for housing for expatriate advisors in company of Mr. Alberto Bleichner of USAID/Bolivia General Services Office. The premises of the Automobile Club of Bolivia in Villa Tunari were inspected and negotiations were initiated with the Club Directorate for rental of this property to serve as a staff house in the Chapare.

Dr. Owens held informal discussions with S.D.T.B. personnel with regard to related development efforts such as agroindustrial development, infrastructure and credit.

B. Technical

No technical efforts have yet been initiated by IBTA. Ongoing efforts are primarily aimed at maintaining facilities and genetic stock taken over from PRODES.

II. Issues and Solutions

Funds for IBTA/Chapare have not been liberated by GOB and AID as of the end of September. Although planning and maintenance efforts are ongoing, expanded research and extension activities are not possible without funding. Adequate start-up funds are expected from both sources in early October.

Experience Incorporated has not been able to provide consultants according to the time schedule requested by AID, due to delays in signing the contract and desertion of candidates for personal reasons. The headquarters office is seeking alternate candidates and contact will be made in Bolivia with a possible candidate for the cropping systems consultant. Experience Incorporated is willing to send short-term consultants immediately if USAID/Bolivia so desires.

Work Planned for Next Reporting Period

It is essential that IBTA/Chapare gain the confidence of agriculturalists and leaders in the project area. This will be difficult because of the stigma of PRODES and because of the indirect connection with enforcement efforts. (On the positive side the distributions of S.D.T.B. funds for community improvement have attracted favorable attention in the project area).

Although IBTA/Chapare plans to initiate several activities as soon as funds are available, the major thrust will be two-pronged:

- Clean, repair and rehabilitate experiment stations and nurseries.
- Immediate distribution of available genetic material (pineapple, citrus, pijibaye) and technical assistance to selected farmers.

Additional activities will include initiation of systems investigations, selection of cooperating farmers and identification of staff for training.