AGRICULTURAL SECTOR STUDIES
PROJECT 660 070
1981-1984

Quarterly Report

KINSHASA, ZAIRE
January - March
1984

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CONTRACT N° A.R. 0070. C. 01039 - 00

PRAGMA TEAM

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INTRODUCTION

This is the tenth quarterly report of the Pragma team to the Zaireun Agricultural Sector Studies Project (USAID 660-070) covering the activities of project implementation from January 1 rst, 1984 to March 31, 1984.

The report is divided into two sections. The first section is a summary of the major activities of the Pragma team, some accomplishments of Zaireun project personnel and the principal problems and constraints encountered during the quarter. The second section consists of three individual quarterly report of the Pragma team members who are currently assisting the DOA's Planning & Studies Service.

Any comment from the reader will be most welcome.

Chan P. Nguyen

Acting Chief of Party

PRAGMA Team.

A. SUMMARY OF MAJOR EVENTS OF THE QUARTER

Among the other activities of the Zaire Agricultural Sector Studies Project in the first quarter of 1984, there were a number of events and changes relative to the personnel situation.

Mr. Edward Scott arrived in Zaire on January 23, 1984. The purpose of his visit was twofold:

1) to carry out a study on the various ways to:
   a) expand the market for the reports published by the Service d'Etudes et Planification ;
   b) increase the visibility and appreciation for the Service and its role within the agricultural sector in Zaire ;
   c) collect and analyze the opinion of the users of the service's publications to assist in determining the utility of the reports and identify ways of improving the publications ;
   d) clarify the information needs of the Service clientel in the areas of education, government planning, policy making, private enterprise, international donor organizations and agricultural development projects.

2) to assume the position of Acting Chief of Party of the Project Team.

Before leaving Zaire on February 10, 1984, Mr Scott submitted unofficially his report on information dissemination plan for the Planning and Studies Service to the USAID mission. Only after his return to the United States did he decide not to accept the long term position of Chief of Party.

I was requested by the President of the Pragma Corporation to be Acting Chief of Party until Pragma finds someone with the necessary qualifications to fill the position.

The AID Project Manager went on home leave at the end of February 1984.

On the Zairian side, six candidates, making for a total of nine in all, were interviewed to fill the opening positions (three or four) in the Service of Studies and Planning.

The commodity study on root crops was completed under the guidance and coordination of Georges Conde. The first draft of the commodity reports on tea and on cocoa have been completed.

The Shaba regional planning report was essentially completed this quarter. It was circulated among staff members for comments. It, along with the Bandundu regional planning report, await final approval and/or modification by the Director of the Studies and Planning Service before reproduction.

During this quarter, I took a trip to Bandundu with the joint USAID-DOA team. The purpose of this field trip was to collect data needed to design AID Project 102, and to assess the agricultural problems and potentials in this area in the context of possible USAID and international donor's assistance within the framework of regional agricultural development.

In the last three months the Pragma Team has met several times with the World Bank Team of the DOA's Technical Assistance Project. It has been decided that they will provide the necessary financial support for the Kasai-Occidental regional planning field trip. Continuing efforts will be made to coordinate the two projects' activities.

Mr. George Frazier, the Pragma Team member assigned to the Bureau of Informatique has been working closely with Mr. John Gold of the Bureau of Depouillement.

The whole Pragma Team has been working very closely with the DOA and USAID in preparing background documents for the American Presidential Task Force due to arrive sometime in July or August of this year.

B. SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ZAIRIAN PLANNING & STUDIES SERVICE STAFF

In addition to routine works, it should be noted that there is an increasing reliance upon the Planning & Studies Service's Zairian Staff by the top officials of the DOA.

Currently, the Minister and the Vice-Minister has requested that the Service's staff become more involved in major decision making and activities of the Department of Agriculture. These include:

- the analysis of two FAO Projects: (a) "Consolidation de l'Effort Agronomique à l'Ecole National d'Agriculture de Yangambi" , (b) Recherche Agronomique à Yangambi ;
- the identification of UNDP Project (préparation des terme de référence des projets UNDP/HCR dans les régions du Haut-Zaïre, Bas-Zaïre et Shaba) ;

- the identification of the Project "Italo-Zaïrois" (préparation des termes de référence du project Italien à Kahemba, Kapanga et Kazumba) ;
- the analysis of two World Bank's projects: (a) the National Seed Multiplication Program and (b) the Kabinda (Kasai-Oriental) and Lulua (Kasai-Occidental) Agricultural Development Project ;
- the analysis for privatization of GOZ's Kaniama-Kasese project (Shaba region) ;
- the estimation of food needs in the near future (1985-1990) ;
- the preparation of the National Livestock Development Strategy ;
- the analysis of projects MIRENA (North Kivu) and MOBA (Shaba) ;
- the analysis of projects: "Implantation des Sucreries Artisanales dans les Pays de la Communauté Economique des Pays des Grands Lacs (CEPGL)" and Project "Marmicher et Piscicole de Kinshasa" within the framework of IRAT (Institut des Recherches Agronomiques Tropicales et des Cultures Vivrières) ;
- the analysis of Project: Rural Development Integrated in the BEFALE area (Equateur region) etc...

C. MAIN PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED

Although steady progress is being made toward the objectives of the project, a number of problems and constraints are also being encountered. While some of these problems are of a temporary nature or have relatively easy solutions, others are [illegible] difficult.

- The field work for the regional planning studies has not yet been finished due to the lack of necessary funding.

The World Bank Project promised to provide the necessary financial support to send a team of five men to Yaoundé to collect data. They have yet to appropriate the necessary funds.

- It is worth noting that the mobilization of personnel by the top officials of the Department of Agriculture presents a problem for the three offices of the Division of Agricultural Services and Planning as nearly its entire staff is being used for other studies and analysis. This leads to an interruption of regularly scheduled work plans.

The problems with procurement of the new micro-computer system have been partially resolved. The necessary electrical system has been installed and the first micro-computer order has been placed. By the end of the next quarter, it is expected that the whole system will be installed. Meanwhile, it should be remembered that having only one terminal available (i.e. the existing system) hampers the training program scheduled, as five people need access to the machine.

Another problem during this quarter was the lack of a permanent chief of party. It is strongly urged that Prugen and USAID take appropriate action to speed up the arrival of the new Chief of Party and Project Office Advisor as soon as possible.

In summary, a number of significant problems and constraint remain. Nonetheless progress is being made toward the the accomplishment of project objectives and there is reason to believe that many of the events of the past quarter will tend to significantly accelerate that progress.

Best Available Document

INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEMBERS QUARTERLY REPORT

PRAGMA Team to USAID PROJECT 070
Studies and Program Service
Department of Agriculture
Republic of Zaire

NAME: George Frazier

POSITION: Computer Bureau Advisor

PERIOD COVERED: January 1 to March 31, 1984

I. STATUS OF ACTIVITIES

The 1980 Pre-recensement: Under the direction of Cit. Kabongo, T. this work was continued during most of the first quarter. In the middle of March, it was recognized by Cit. Mingiedi that further activity on this project would be of little long-term value. He first asked that all activity be terminated which he then modified with a request to complete the work as it presently stands, culminating with a final report covering the activities under this project. It is expected that this project will be completely terminated early in April. With its termination, additional training and development time will be available on the computer.

The Gestion du Personnel Project made slow but steady progress during the quarter. Unfortunately, Cit. Kabongo, B. still demonstrates little ability with respect to understanding of the personnel system, or the concepts of system analyses and programming. Depending upon the availability of computer time it is expected that the system will be completed by the end of April. Data entry was started during March and the final reports are being programmed and tested.

The Agricultural Data Bank Project efforts continued under the direction of Cit. Bula Bula. During the last half of March, preliminary test data was entered and further programming for the system was developed and tested. Considerable time was spent with Mr. John Gold regarding the development of procedures inter-relating the Bureau Depouillement activities with the Bureau Informatique regarding the establishment and maintenance of data series for the Data Bank.

During the first quarter the necessary paper work for the purchase of the computer hardware and software was completed. The preparation work for the installation of the equipment was commenced during the month of March. The electrical power system was completed with the exception of the installation of the UPS which will be installed as soon as received. The improvement of security for the Division was commenced. It is expected that this work will be completed prior to the end of April.

Again is must be reported that the preparation of the Master Policy and Procedures Manual, and the Systems and Procedures Manual and the Data Bank Systems Manual were not completed. This was primarily because the typewriter situation was not corrected until March 15th. The Data Bank Systems Manual was additionally delayed because of unavailability of sufficient computer for developing and testing the system prior to entering the procedures in the manual.

II. UNPLANNED ACTIVITIES

The major unplanned activity was a request by US/AID that I spend upto 10 percent of my time working with the US/AID controllers Office assisting in training on their Apple II+ Computer. I have committed one afternoon per week to this task. I was further asked by US/AID-ARD, Loch McCabe, to spend some time with him regarding the application of BASE II. The TDY of Ed Scott, Acting Team Leader further impacted my time. Graham Zele, TDY US/AID asked to discuss availability of Apple computers in Kinshasa for his project.

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III. COMMENTS AND SPECIAL PROBLEMS

The considerable delays incurred in the ordering and delivery of the computer hardware and software have seriously delayed the accomplishments under my work scope. In addition the uncertainty regarding the continuation of the Project leave serious doubts regarding the completion of my work scope by the present end-of-contract of July 6, 1984. If my activities cease as of July 6, 1984 it is highly doubtful that sufficient time will be available for adequate training on the new equipment and the completion of the development, installation and training for the Agricultural Statistics Data Bank. Further, it is unlikely that there will be time to develop and prepare a report on a proposed long-term plan for the Division of Statistics. It is important that my work scope be reviewed early in the next quarter relative to these problems.

IV. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER

Definitive plans for the next quarter cannot be made at this time given the uncertainties regarding the re-planning of my work scope mentioned above. The present activities for:

- the completion and termination of the Pre-Recensement
- Gestion du Personnel will be completed and operational for the Bureau Informatique
- The Agricultural Statistics Data Bank development will proceed with a continuation of identification and entry of new data series.

The continued development and preparation of the Master Policy and Procedures manual, and the Systems and Procedures Manual for the Agricultural Statistics Data Bank will continue insofar as possible given the final decision regarding priorities.

It is expected that the first shipment of computer hardware will arrive in April with installation and commencement of training on the new equipment contingent upon the expeditious arrival of the appropriate software.

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INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEMBERS QUARTERLY REPORT

PRAGMA Team to USAID PROJECT 070
Studies and Program Service
Department of Agriculture
Republic of Zaire

NAME : Georges Condé

POSITION: Advisor to the Economic Analysis Bureau

PERIOD COVERED: January 1, 1984 to March 31, 1984.

I. STATUS OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE QUARTER

The major objectives of the Economic Analysis Bureau (EAB) for this quarter were to prepare and finalize the reports on the following crops:

- root
- tea
- cacao.

The second draft of the root report was finished and given to the other Pragma Team members and Citoyen Singa for comments. It is currently being reviewed by Citoyen Mubenga.

The first draft of the cacao report by Citoyen Afifi and the tea report by Citoyen Mbuyi have been finished. They are currently circulating among the other members of the staff of the EAB for comments and suggestions of improvement. Based upon these comments and suggestions, both reports will be rewritten in a final form to submit for political approval.

II. UNPUBLISHED ACTIVITIES DURING THE QUARTER

1) Over half the BAB staff is involved in writing the Haut-Zaire regional planning report (MPUTU, AMPI, NGIMBA).

2) The preparation of the report on rubber is being carried out by myself and Citoyen Budiadia. This includes visiting various concerned agro-industries here in Kinshasa (e.g. Scibe Zaïre, Busira-Lomami, cultures zaïroises, etc...).

3) A study on cotton is being carried out by Citoyen Bokisila.

4) I assisted a number of visitors with information:
   a) Mr. Frank Lebeau of Project 091
   b) Mr. Ashraf for Project 091
   c) Mr. Raets of the Institut Supérieur de Technologie Médicale
   d) Mr. Cassignard of CODAIK
   e) Citoyen Kanku from BAT
   f) Agricultural students doing a study on coffe.

5) I critiqued a report on banana done by Prof. De Langhe of FAO at the author's request.

6) Citoyen Yombo Mayola and I critiqued the HPI's annual report at the request of the Director of the Service d'Etudes.

7) Assisted Mr. Edward Scott with his study on the various possibilities available for selling the reports published by the Service d'Etudes.

8) Assisted in the preparation of a report on an estimation of food crop production in 1984 at the request of USAID.

9) Prepared a report for the Director of the Service d'Etudes on the various possibilities of investing in production units of non-centrifugal sugar.

10) Attended a meeting on an evaluation of food crop production in 1983.

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11) Attended several different meetings called by Pragma, USAID and DCA.

12) During this period, Citoyen Afifi went on a field trip to Shaba for the Kaniama Kasese Projects, and Citoyen Bokisila was requested by Project C9o to go to Bandundu.

III. COMMENTS AND SPECIAL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

1) There continues to be a lack of motivation and poor attendance by certain BAE staff members.

2) The regional planning studies have disrupted the regularly scheduled activities of this Office.

3) Citoyenne Mputu, the Chief of Bureau was nominated as Conseiller to the Minister of States Cabinet. She is, now, very rarely to be found in the office.

IV. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER

Prepare and/or finalize the commodity reports on the marketing and production of:

- Cacao
- Tea
- Manioc
- Rubber.

4)

INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEMBERS QUARTERLY REPORT

PRAGMA Team to USAID PROJECT 070
Service of Planning and Studies
Department of Agriculture
Republic of Zaire

NAME: Chan Phuc Nguyen

POSITION: Planning Bureau Advisor

PERIOD COVERED: January 1 to March 31, 1984.

I. STATUS OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THIS QUARTER (January 1 to March)
(see section IV of previous report)

The finalization of the Shaba report was done. The report was first aproved by Citoyen Singa, Strategy and Planning Division Chief on February 20, 1984. Then it was circulated among the other foreign experts working in the Planning and Studies Service for comment (Mr Houdet, World Bank Team ; Mr De Vuyst and Mr Annoot, Belgium Cooperation Mission). The report was finally submitted Citoyen Mubenga, Planning & Studies Service Director and Mr Ross Merry, USAID-ARD Project Manager for political approval on March 1, 1984.

The assistance to returning participants has proceeded as scheduled:

- Citoyen Kalombo has completed the dreft of chapters V, VI of his thesis. He has arranged to visit the Veterinary School in Lubumbashi, Shaba to collect some necessary data for the thesis study. I believe that the thesis will be completed in the next quarter.

- Citoyen Matesso has also completed the draft of chapters IV, V and VI but the review might take longer than I expected because of the paucity of data and the inacuracy of information. It is expected that his thesis will be finished next quarter.

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The dispatch of the Kasai-Occidental Regional Study team was unfortunately delayed because of no available funds. Hopefully the team will be sent into the field in the next quarter.

A joint USAID-DOA team financed by USAID-DEO, composed of four members: Mrs Elizabeth Reid (DEO) team leader, Mr Rudy Griego (ARD), Citoyen Mpia, Rural Development Bureau Chief (DOA) and myself visited the Kwilu sub-region area in Bandundu from February 12, 1984 to February 19, 1984. The purpose of this trip was twofold: (a) to collect agricultural data to design the USAID Project 102 and (b) to assess the agricultural problems and potentials in this area in the context of possible USAID and international donors' assistance within the framework of regional agriculture development. I, myself, took this opportunity to evaluate the impact of the price policy on food production.

I was acting COP of the Pragma team until Mr Ed. Scott took over the position on Monday, January 23, 1984. However Mr Scott refused to be COP and left Zaire definitely on February 10, 1984.

I was requested again by Dr Jacque Defaye, President of the Pragma Corporation to be acting Chief of Party until a new COP can be hired. It should be noted that my expatriate status will have a severe impact on my job accomplishment and the workplan.

II. UNPLANNED ACTIVITIES DURING THIS QUARTER (January 1 to March 31, 84)

Attended several meetings which were held to discuss the workplan and the coordination of activities between the World Bank Team, Pragma Team and Planning and Studies Service staff.

Made several contacts with international and local experts to discuss agricultural problems. Among the new visitors we can list some:

Name	Topic discussion	Date
Mr Caussignard, Cabinet de Marketing Monpellier, French.	Agricultural Marketing	Jan. 3, 1984
Slaoui Moctafa FIDA, French.	Agricultural Credit	Jan. 17,1984
Dr Praets, ISTEM Nutrition Section University of Kinshasa	Nutrition	Jan. 17,1984
Dr May,	Nutrition	Jan. 19,1984.
Dr Rocheteau, ISNAR	Agricultural Research	February 7, 84.
Dr Vallaeys, ISNAR	Agricultural Research	-
Dr Lebeau, ISNAR	Agricultural Research	-
Mr Richelieu Department of Plan	Economic Planning	February 28, 84.
Mr Malik Ashraf IITA	Farming Research System	February 29, 84.
Citoyen Kanku British American Tobacco Corporation (Bat)	Agricultural Production	March 15, 1984
Mr Galley, USDA International Training Program	Long Run Academic Training Program	March 15, 1984

Organized team meetings to discuss project activities, to assist the new Chief of Party in familiarizing himself with the Project and to explore the possibility of selling of Service's reports to subscribers and private sector.

Organized a small meeting for 16 staff members of Planning and Studies Service to exchange views with Mr Galley, USDA, on future training programs.

Examined the written test and interviewed 6 candidates at the Agricultural Engineer level to fill the vacant positions at the Planning and Studies Service.

Assisted the GOZ/DOA officials to prepare a short-term training proposal.

In addition to the routine work at the Agricultural Planning Bureau, personal expertise was also provided to: (a) identify the Projet-Zairois project in three regions (Kasai, Shaba and Kivu), (b) prepare the forecasting of food needs in coming years (1985-90), and (c) design the livestock production in the Shaba region.

Attended the meeting which was held between USAID-ARD officials and DOA's Planning & Studies Service staff to prepare the ground for the possible arrival of the US Presidential Task Force. The topics of discussion were concentrated in five main areas which significantly effect agricultural production in Zaire: (1) policy, strategy and production incentives, (2) financial assistance, (3) agricultural research and seed multiplication, (4) manpower and training, and (5) private investment in Zaire agriculture.

Prepared recommendations for agricultural development policy dialogue at the request of the head of USAID-ARD.

III. CONSTRAINTS AND SPECIAL PROBLEMS

Problems

- the lack of project counterpart fund has seriously affected project implementation: field trip have been delayed, office supplies are inadequate, thesis research has been postponed etc...

- the long absence of a Chief of Party requires that I devote a lot of time to administrative matters and to using the project bureau while I am extremely busy with my routine work at the Agricultural Planning bureau and assisting two USAID participants to complete their thesis.

Comments:

- Citoyen Imaine has been returning to work regularly in my office after two years of preoccupation with P.M.K.O.'s activities. This is a positive sign.

- Another encouragement is the contribution of the Pragma team to improve marketing and pricing policy is now bearing fruit. In 1981, I carefully studied the World Bank document on pricing policy and its recommendations to the GOZ/DOA. I wrote then, with the assistance of Ms Lorraine Thompson, a paper concerning the marketing and pricing policy guideline to sent to GOZ/DOA officials. Mr Georges Condé and I were invited by the GOZ/DOA to attend several meeting to debate agricultural price policy. We successfully wrote down in the GOZ/DOA proposal to the GOZ's Executive Council to totally liberalize food crop prices. In May 1982, a GOZ decree was publicly announced to apply "price liberalization" in the whole country of Zaire Republic. We have been following the implementation of the new pricing policy. Some pocket resistance to this measure has been recognized (the case of the Governors of Shaba and Kasai-West and a small number of "Collectivités" chiefs who are the village chiefs but also the small traders and speculators). Overall, the farmers and grain growers are overwhelmingly supportive of this new policy. Based upon recent interviews with farmers in some regions, we strongly believe that rural farmers's income has increased up to 25 percent and that this policy may boost the 10 percent increased production on almost basic food crops.

Although it is still to early to conclude the total impact of the new pricing policy, it has been shown that a positive effect has taken place which no one can deny. The rural farmers whom we met in the field sincerely stated that if there had been no devaluation their life would be much better but if even with devaluation they are feeling much happier in selling their agricultural products than before (under price control).

IV. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT QUARTER (April 1, 1984 to June 30, 1984).

- Visit the Kasai-Oriental region to identify the suitable areas for future agricultural development.
- Finalize two thesis of Citoyen Kalombo and Intesso concerning "Manpower Development and Utilization for the Zairian Department of Agriculture" and "An Economic Evaluation of the Utilization of Chemical Fertilizers in Bas-Zaire" respectively.
- Prepare quarterly and annual report.
- Leave for vacation.