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MONTHLY REPORT - FEBRUARY 1985

CHAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
EXPERIENCE, INCORPORATED

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

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Chapare Regional Development Project 511-0453

Experience, Incorporated

I. Activities

A. Administrative and Institutional

11 February IBTA/Chapare - EI officially and physically moved to new office at 1280 Bartolomé de las Casas, telephone number 4-0187.

EI Staff meeting to plan Immunization trip to La Paz.

IBTA/Chapare Chiefs and Dr. Merritt Taylor jointly worked on bid from local Ford dealer for two Bronco II's and two pickups to fill in immediate needs until the complete order of vehicles arrives from US.

The entire EI team and their families traveled to La Paz on February 25 to update inoculations.

Drs. Alvarado, Bieber and Mondoñedo were in the Chapare 2/3 - 2/8 and 2/27 - 3/1. Bieber and Mondoñedo, Lopez and Taylor were in Chapare 2/13 - 2/16. Lopez and Taylor were in the Chapare 2/2 - 2/9 and 2/23 - 2/24. Gerald Owens was in the Chapare on 8 February with John Fasullo.

Dr. Owens and Joe Lopez prepared a job description for short-term training advisor.

Dr. Owens obtained passes for the EI personnel and John Fasullo for the Chapare from the regional military authority (Colonel Fernandez).

Plans were discussed for the credit program in the Chapare. FENACRE, the proper agency, is not prepared for this activity in 1985. SDTB favors arrangement through a private bank.

Dr. Owens photographed training materials for SDTB.

The EI revolving fund was rectified on 11 Feb.

School fee structure was determined for Cochabamba Cooperative School and transmitted to EI/Washington.

Dr. Owens and Francisco Zannier discussed needs for IBTA/Chapare ware house in Cochabamba.

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Landlord signed lease for Mondoñedo house on 12 Feb.

An EI staff meeting with John Fasullo was held on Feb 21.

A formal request was submitted for reimbursement from USAID/BOLIVIA for Villa Tunari staff house expenses.

Dr. Owens worked with IBTA chiefs on salary schedules.

Francisco Zannier, Pepe Díaz and Dr. Owens worked on updating the IBTA/Chapare budget.

Dr. Owens was in La Paz Feb 25 - 27 for various administrative responsibilities.

John Fasullo visited Feb 20 - 21. Items discussed with E.I. were IBTA vehicles, project progress and curriculum requirements for a proposed CATIE training program. A preferred time for this training was requested for April 1985 with alternative dates also suggested.

Dr. Taylor assisted in development of a pre application form for farmers desining credit from the bank of Cochabamba.

Several new technical personnel were hired to the IBTA/Chapare staff.

Six people were added to the Chipiriri experiment Station Staff. They were Luis Guillen, Carlos Florido, Javier Guevara, José Trujillo, Guillermo Zarate and Leonardo Chirinor. These additions raise the total personnel number at Chipiriri to 28.

Six people also were added to the La Jota, Experiment Station staff. They were José Inturias, Lutgardo Zurita, Gustavo Espinoza, Miguel Marzana, Alicia Landivar, Jorge Aldunate. The total number of La Jota personnel at the end of February were 32 people.

B. Technical

1. Meetings

Various meetings were held with Farmer Sindicatos where the development program was described and nominations were solicited for pre service training of Para technicians, to work with the extension agents in the Farmer's respective communities, to be held at the end of February. Nominations were also solicited for farmers to participate in the first farmer training course in nursery development, to be held in March. Meetings were held with the communities of Jatun Pampa, 9 de Abril, Puerto San Francisco, Eterrasama, Isibcro and Rio 24.

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A meeting was held at the Secretariate to identify and discuss responsibilities of IBTA/Chapare in reference to the credit portion of the overall development program. In attendance were John Fasullo - USAID, Joe Lopez - EI, Francisco Zannier - IBTA, Jorge Aldurate - IBTA, Oswaldo Antezana - USAID, Waldo Tellería - SDTB, Mario Candia - SDTB, Antonio Torrico - SDTB and Steve Wiles - ACDI. IBTA/Chapare stated that it would provide the technical assistance for the credit program in areas where programs have been initiated. One criteria for farmers that seek credit is that DIRECO has to certify that the farmer is involved in the coca control program.

2. Field Trips

Two field trips were completed during February.

- a. The first was to the Bubusama Federation where the inauguration of the federation nursery and community meeting site was held. Approximately one hectare of virgen forest land had been cleared and initial construction of the community center had begun. Approximately 50 farmers attended. Participating IBTA personnel were Franklin Lastra, Leon Vallejos and Juan Rocha. EI personnel were John Bieber, Joe Lopez, José Mondoñedo and Merritt Taylor. During the 7 1/2 hour canoe trip two farms were visited between Bubusama and Puerto San Francisco. Both were planted in diverse cultivars including rice, maize, yuca, ground nuts, plantains, bananas, papaya and coca.
- b. The second field trip was to the community of 9 de Abril across the river from Puerto San Francisco. The farm of the Sindicato President was visited and evaluated as a potential demonstration farm. Due to the close proximity of the farm to Puerto San Francisco it was deemed to be an ideal location to influence several different communities.

3. Investigation

Initial evaluation of traditional farming systems was began.

Several research project proposals were written by IBTA and EI personnel.

4. Training activities

- a. Extension agent/researcher's In-Service Training Program (Feb 4 - 8). Five full days were utilized for upgrading professional skills of the personnel from the Chipiriri and La Jota Experiment Stations. Emphasis was placed on extension methodology, non formal training skills, practical applications of technical agricultural subjects and appropriate technology training techniques to be used in training paratechnicians and farmer trainees in 1985.

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II. Issues and Solutions

Lack of transportation continues to be a limiting factor for 100% implementation of the Project.

An issue adversely effecting implementation is the untimely payment of IBTA personnel salaries and bonuses.

On Feb. 6 the rural police entered the Chapare. IBTA and EI were not advised of this move until after the fact. Dr. Owens talked to USAID and US Embassy officials. They said they were not advised in advance either, but would take steps to avoid this problem in the future.

Dr. Owens discussed recent EI/IBTA publicity with USAID/Bolivia by telephone. John Fasullo agreed to contact USIS to stop publication of names and photographs.

III. Work Planned for Next Reporting Period

Two training programs are planned for March. The first one for pre-service training of 18 para technicians at La Jota experiment Station from March 4 - 8. Emphasis to be placed on extension methodology, non formal training skills, practical applications of technical agricultural subjects and appropriate technology training techniques to be used in training farmer trainees in 1985.

The second is for farmer training in nursery development and maintenance. Twenty farmers will be trained, ten at each experiment station. These farmer will be responsible for the Sindicato nurseries in the various micro regions.

Selection at 18 demonstration farms will be finalized. Initial planning of the demonstration farms will take place.

Field visits and meetings with farmers will continue wherever and whenever the IBTA/EI team are invited by Sindicatos and communities.

A committee composed of representative from IBTA, SDTB and EI will be formed to evaluate research project proposals and to make recomendations to Francisco Zannier the IBTA/Chapare director.

Work will be initiated to organize the San Benito Laboratory facilities for soil and foliar tissue analysis.

Samples and analysis of soils on all demonstration farms will be taken and analyzed to note the nutrient status of farms. These analyses will provide a base for fertilizer recommendations for recommended crops.