

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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201-1155

TO : DS/PPU, Mr. Robert Simpson

DATE: February 1, 1978

FROM : DS/AGR, Leon F. Hesser *lfh*

SUBJECT: Funding for the V International Congress of Acarology Under Special Projects - Input

This is a request for Special Projects - Input funds to cover a \$9,000 grant to the Organizing Committee of the V International Congress of Acarology for partial funding support of subject Congress, (see attached request from the Committee). The Congress will be held at Michigan State University, August 6-12, 1978 and will bring together scientists from a large number of countries, including LDCs. The Committee has budgetted \$66,000 for Congress expenses of which \$9,000 would be supplied by AID to provide travel stipends for 30 invited LDC participants who would not be able to pay the costs of attendance themselves or to obtain the necessary funds from their own institutions. (The Committee originally requested \$20,000 from AID, \$6,000 from USDA, \$6,000 from NIH and \$4,000 from EPA, or a total of \$36,000 from the four Federal Agencies - see attached request. However, this Office is of the opinion that such support should be shared equally by the four agencies and therefore proposes to provide \$9,000. This approach has been discussed informally with Dr. Rodriguez, Secretary of the Organizing Committee and is acceptable to him.)

The majority of the participants, estimated to be 400, will pay their own expenses or be supported by their own organizations. The balance of the funds needed above the amount requested from AID is expected to be provided from Congress registration fees and contributions from other federal agencies and agribusiness firms.

1. Background:

Acarology, as a discipline, has experienced much interest and growth since World War II. Events dealing with warfare and army of occupation activities pointed up the health problems with chiggers, ticks and sarcoptic mites, for example, and post-war agriculture pointed up the importance of biological control of phytophagous mites when DDT caused mite outbreaks.



The economic damage caused by microscopic plant feeding mites and the plant diseases they transmit, is only now beginning to be fully appreciated in the developed countries. Such economic damage also occurs in the developing countries although its importance relative to damage caused by larger, more noticeable pests such as grasshoppers, caterpillars, and aphids is largely unrecognized in the LDCs.

Technological advances generally, and highly sophisticated instrumentation have provided the means for solving problems which heretofore remained unapproachable. Hence, such breakthroughs as the establishment of economic thresholds in pest management of agricultural mites and the isolation and identification of sex pheromones of certain ticks and spider mites represent notable progress in acarology, as does the development of tick/cell structure, opening doors for research in arboviruses. Technological changes are occurring rapidly and in light of the many facets of acarology that impinge on food production and storage, and in health and welfare of man and domestic animals, as examples, it is essential that the world community of acarology come together to exchange ideas and information.

The V International Congress comes after highly successful previous conferences. These were, in chronological order:

- I. Fort Collins, Colorado, 1963
- II. Sutton Bonington, England, 1967
- III. Prague, Czechoslovakia, 1971
- IV. Saalfelden, Austria, 1974

2. Purpose of the Proposed Congress:

The central purpose of the Congress is to provide a forum for scientific and practically-oriented discussions of current research and future research needs in the field of acarology. The Congress will be organized into the following major symposia:

1. Pest Management of Agricultural Mites
2. Stored Product Acarology
3. Pheromonal Communication in Acarines
4. Current Research on Disease Transmission by Acari
5. Physiology and Biochemistry of Acari

6. Recent Advances in Soil Mite Biology
7. Management of Acari of Medical and Veterinary Importance
8. Biology of the Spotted Fever Ticks
9. Biology of Two Spotted Spider Mites
10. A series of informal conferences and workshops on a variety of subjects in the field of acarology

3. Implementation:

The Organizing Committee and Executive Committee, working with the International Congress Committee have developed a highly significant program for the Congress. The Congress is sponsored by the Entomological Society of America and the Acarological Society of America as well as the International Congress Committee, an organization that envelops the worldwide community of acarologists.

The Conveners and Moderators for the Symposia and Informal Conferences/ Workshops were selected by virtue of being worldwide authorities in research areas closely related to the topics to be covered, and they have been responsible for the development of their respective sessions. Hence, these sessions will enable participants to exchange the most up-to-date information relevant to mite/tick involvement in production of agricultural crops, livestock and stored food products.

4. Involvement:

There are some 1,200 members in the (outdated) Directory of Acarologists of the World. An estimated 400 are expected to participate in the Congress. This figure is based on numbers at past Congresses and the fact that considerable interest is being generated in the scientific community of not only acarologists but entomologists as well.

A major objective of the Congress is to truly make it an International Congress. Towards this end, they would like to bring about 30 internationally recognized workers from developing countries who would not be able to make the financial sacrifice on their own, and whose institutions would not be able to send them.

USAID's will be notified of the Conference as soon as arrangements are firm and will be requested to communicate this information to interested officials and scientists in their host countries.

subistence and

The AID contribution to Congress costs will be used entirely for travel of LDC participants. Preference in travel support will be given to conferees from AID - involved developing countries.

5. Budgetary Provisions:

travel and

The AID contribution of \$9,000 will be for subsistence grants for 30 participants from developing countries at \$300 each (see attached Budget - Annex B).

6. Reporting:

The detailed proceedings will be published as expeditiously as possible and AID/DSB will be furnished with 3 copies without further charge.

7. Evaluation:

DS/AGR and other AID representatives will evaluate the Congress and prepare a PAR within 60 days of the conclusion of the Congress.

8. AID Attendance:

AID/DS/AGR and AID/DS/H should be represented, preferably by the malariologist of DS/H and by the project manager of the pest management projects in DS/AGR/CP.

APPROVED: *R. Simpson**

DISAPPROVED: _____

DATE: *2/2/78*

Enclosures:
Annex A & B

**AID attendance should of course be handled through AA/DS approval of travel budget.*