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QUARTERLY REPORT

JANUARY - MARCH 1985

CHAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
EXPERIENCE, INCORPORATED

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11

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EXPERIENCE, INCORPORATED

I. Activities

A. Administrative and Institutional

The Experience, Incorporated staff of six Long Term Consultants was completed in January as planned (See first Quarterly Report, September - December, 1984).

IBTA/Chapare added thirty seven employees during the quarter which puts their current strength at seventy eight, as follows:

Director General	1
Veteranarian	1
Technicians (Res. and Ext.)	34
Administrative officer	1
Administrative assistants	2
Secretaries	3
Tractor drivers	2
Chouffers	3
Mechanics	2
Mechanics Assistants	2
Warehousemen	2
Cooks	2
Domestics	3
Guard	1
Laborers	19

Dr. Merritt Taylor attended a series of high level meetings on narcotics matters and development strategy held in La Paz in January.

Household furniture and appliances for EI staff were ordered by USAID in January. EI/Bolivia submitted requests for additional household items, carpets and drapes in January; and for appliances and other items for the Staff House in Villa Tunari.

IBTA/Chapare and Experience, Incorporated moved from temporary quarters at SDTB to their Cochabamba liaison office at 1280 Bartolomé de las Casas on 11 February.

IBTA/Chapare, USAID and EI made preliminary plans for a special two-week training program at CATIE in Turrialba, Costa Rica. Target date for training is April, 1985.

EI obtained a direct telephone line in March (49951) and established radio contact with the Staff House in Villa Tunari using equipment borrowed from the Automobile Club of Cochabamba.

Experience, Incorporated personnel spent 40 to 50 percent of their time in the Chapare during the current quarter. It is anticipated that they will spend a larger proportion of their time in the Chapare when transportation becomes available and when the staff house is complete with appliances and other necessary items.

IBTA/Chapare and EI held numerous meetings with SDTB and other development agencies such as CORDECO, GTZ, DIRECO, the Canadian Mission, IICA and CIAT. Many meetings were also held with private parties and voluntary agencies who are interested in developing various projects in the Chapare.

Most of the month of March was devoted to preparing the IBTA/Chapare budget request for April, May, June; and revising the global budget for life of the project. Considerable monies were transferred from the peso account to the dollar account to prevent further erosion of IBTA finances by inflation. (See recommendation in first quarterly report).

EI/Washington confirmed the availability of short-term training consultant Thomas Gardiner, to arrive Cochabamba in April as requested by IBTA/Chapare - EI.

#### B. Technical

IBTA/Chapare successfully launched its campaign to gain the confidence of Chapare farmers. Favorable publicity and SDTB activities in the Chapare prompted numerous farmer groups to contact IBTA. In many instances, this contact resulted in invitations for IBTA/Chapare technicians to visit farming communities. For security reasons, IBTA/Chapare has confined its activities to areas where we have been invited. This has resulted in a reasonable geographic coverage of the project area (five of the nine microregions) and complete utilization of IBTA transportation and personnel resources.

Communities visited by IBTA/Chapare - EI personnel include:

Jatum Pampa  
Puerto San Francisco  
Eterasama  
Isiboro  
Sinahota  
Rio 24  
Bubusama  
23 da Agosto

Arrangements were initiated for the establishment of demonstration farms in Bubusama, Jatum Pampa, Puerto San Francisco. The possibility of demonstration farms was discussed for Alto Paraiso, Nueva Canaan, Isiboro, Eterasama and 23 de Agosto. The Canadian Institute has requested IBTA/Chapare assistance for establishing and operating an institutional farm.

Nineteen paratechnicians (promotores) were selected and trained at the La Jota experiment station. Twenty farmers attended training sessions at La Jota and Chipiriri. Initial contacts have been made with Sindicato leaders with a view to involving them directly in an advisory commission, which will provide guidance for agricultural development efforts in the Chapare.

Systems investigations are being conducted in areas where IBTA/Chapare is active. Plans for demonstration farms are being formulated. Compilations of promising interventions and technologies for specific areas are in progress.

IBTA/Chapare - EI personnel spent considerable time during the quarter in drafting and reviewing research proposals.

Research proposals have been submitted in the following categories:

1. Fruit trees and horticultural crops (citrus, banana, coffee, cacao, pineapple, papaya)
2. Roots and tubers (yuca, waluza, cocoyams)
3. Small grains (rice, corn, dried beans)
4. Forestry
5. Forages (legumes and grasses)
6. Livestock (large and small animals)
7. Introduction of improved genetic material (coconut, pijevalle or tembe, tubers, macadamia, spices)

A field day for Chapare farmers was held at Chipiriri and La Jota experiment stations in January.

Study and analysis of the USAID project paper was the objective of meetings involving IBTA and EI personnel. A more formal seminar on this subject with input from USAID officials is anticipated later in 1985.

The IBTA/Chapare training plan for 1985, formulated in December 1984 and January 1985, was rigorously followed during the quarter. All IBTA/Chapare technicians attended an organized course during the first and second weeks of February. Nineteen promotores were trained in a one week session in early March and twenty farmers were trained March 20 - 22. See EI Monthly Reports for objectives and details of training.

Six additional training courses have been programmed for the second, third and fourth quarters: two additional sessions each for technicians, promotores and farmers.

A short-term training specialist is scheduled to arrive in April to assist in further defining the training program for the life-of-project, development of curriculum and training aid, and organization of the overall training program.

One IBTA technician was sent for long-term training in Costa Rica and another is programmed for long-term training in Japan beginning in April.

EI and IBTA technicians developed professional contacts with the University of San Simon (Cochabamba) regarding cooperative research projects in the Chapare by graduate students, and a cooperative study of the feasibility of developing rock phosphate deposits.

Plans are underway for collection and evaluation of new genetic material for the Chapare. Monies have been budgeted and trips are planned to research establishments in Central and South America to arrange acquisitions.

## II. Problems

The major problem facing IBTA/Chapare and EI during the first quarter of 1985 was inadequate transportation. None of the project vehicles have arrived and we have tried to make do with the few old, poorly maintained vehicles inherited from IBTA/Regional. Lack of machinery and implements hampered efforts to clean and rehabilitate experiment station and nursery lands.

Although EI has radio contact between Villa Tunari and Cochabamba, lack of communications within the project area and between the Chapare and Cochabamba has hampered development efforts.

EI and IBTA/Chapare have not received advance notice of any of the Military operations mounted against narcotraficantes in the project area. This has resulted in some tense moments for our personnel. Operations of this sort should be coordinated with both SDTB and IBTA/Chapare in an effort to avoid personal harm to development workers. This problem has been discussed at higher levels.

IBTA continues to face a shortage of funds because of delays in receipt of funds from GOB and USAID. This is due to various problems, including delays in requesting funds and delays in anticipation of official devaluation. Beginning in the second quarter of 1985, peso funds will be requisitioned well in advance on a monthly basis to guard against devaluation.

Low salary scales and delays in payment of salaries have damaged morale in IBTA/Chapare.

As of the end of first quarter 1985, Experience, Incorporated personnel have not received household furniture or appliances except for certain items on loan from USAID. This has caused expensive and unnecessary stays in hotels for three families, and is detrimental to morale.

SDTB, IBTA/Chapare and EI are aware of efforts in the U.S. Congress to suspend assistance to Bolivia. This climate of uncertainty is not conducive to forward planning or to morale in general.

### III. Work Planned for Next Quarter

IBTA/Chapare will continue activities as planned. With better funding and vehicles, field activities such as establishment of and assistance to demonstration farms can be increased.

The training plan will be refined and continued as planned.

Cleaning and rehabilitation of experiment stations and nurseries, which is behind schedule, can be accomplished with the arrival of tractors, implements and funds for labor.

Construction and repair of buildings will be initiated with the help of USAID architects; with funds from the direct (dollar) account of the IBTA/Chapare budget.

Various research projects will be initiated and Systematic introduction of improved genetic material will commence in the second quarter of 1985.

IBTA/Chapare will continue to cooperate with other development organizations such as SDTB, CORDECO, etc.

### IV. Recommendations

USAID should give higher priority to procurement for the Chapare Regional Development Project. The project began officially more than 1 1/2 years ago, and IBTA/Chapare has been active for more than six month's - - still with no project vehicles.