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MONTHLY REPORT - JUNE, 1985

CHAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
EXPERIENCE, INCORPORATED

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CHAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT 511-0543

EXPERIENCE, INCORPORATED

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EXPERIENCE, INCORPORATED

I. ACTIVITIES

A. Administrative and Institutional

1. All EI personnel wrote monthly activity reports accompanied by Weekly Progress Reports and Time Sheets.
2. Drs. Owens and Taylor attended weekly meetings with heads of U.S. agencies to discuss the security situation, development, coca control and other items of mutual interest. A fourth of July gathering for U.S. citizens and their guests was planned as suggested by Ambassador Corr.
3. Experience, Incorporated requested USAID approval to increase the salary of the EI administrative assistant in accordance with new USAID guidelines - June 4.
4. Numerous meetings were attended by Dr. Owens including meetings with the IBTA/Chapare Director General Francisco Zannier and the two Experiment Stations directors Jorge Aldunate and Franklin Lastra, the IBTA/National Chiefs of Research and Planning, Dr. Carlos Montano Director of SDTB, acting USAID Project Manager Oswaldo Antezana.
5. Various administrative activities were carried out by Dr. Owens, including reporting and verifying receipt of carpet order, checking Alvarado's water system and editing the training consultant report.
6. Individual EI work plans were submitted to USAID on June 19.
7. Dr. Owens assisted in the preparation of the IBTA/Chapare budget request.
8. Drs. Owens and Taylor traveled to La Paz at the end of the month to meet with USAID Project Manager John Fasullo and to take care of administrative chores.
9. The Taylor family arrived in Cochabamba at 1850 hours, 27 June.
10. Joe Lopez, the EI Extension Specialist, went on R&R leave on 22 June and expects to return on or about July 17.

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11. Drs. Owens and Taylor met with Francisco Zannier to discuss apparent and perceived problems on June 1. Problems affecting the project that were discussed were:
 - a) Salary bonuses continue to be low due to a loss on exchange when passed through Central Bank (the difference between official and parallel rates of exchange).
 - b) USAID Logistical support re: vehicles and purchases of materials have not developed into tangible results.
 - c) The per diem rate received by IBTA/Chapare employees is based on the USAID scale. Some regional discrepancies in rates occur between that of USAID and that of the IBTA national organization. For instance, the IBTA per diem rate when in the Yungas is higher than that of USAID. The IBTA/Chapare technicians feel they should be receiving a higher scale.
12. EI staff meeting to discuss the deaths of two farmers and injury of several others near the community of Eterrasama during a confrontation with the UMOPAR anti narcotic forces (Leopardos). Of major considerations were the impacts and implications toward the Integrated Development Project and the foreign technical assistance.
13. The entire EI technical team assisted IBTA/Chapare in updating the Plan Operativo for submission to USAID.
14. Lopez and Taylor assisted IBTA/Chapare technicians in development of cost estimates for the development of the initial stages of the demonstration farms and the farmer training programs.
15. Lopez assisted extension agents in development of cost estimates of the 1985 extension programs.
16. The EI Staff reviewed their respective roles as described in the Project paper for evaluation and editing of previously written individual work plans for 1985.
17. Taylor arranged for authorization of gasoline transfer from the SNC area in Villa Tunari to the Auto Club of Bolivia Staff House facility.

18. Owens, Taylor and Violand worked on development of assigned tasks concerning the Independence Day Celebration in Cochabamba.
19. Dr. Bieber was in the Chapare 15 June to 21 June and 25 June to 30 June. Dr. Taylor was in La Paz 25 June to 27 June. Dr. Owens was in La Paz 25 June to 28 June. Dr. Alvarado was in the Chapare 25 June to 27 June. Dr. Mondonedo was in the Chapare 24 June to 25 June.
20. Dr. Alvarado assisted the La Jota Experiment Station Director, Jorge Aldunate, in preparing the itinerary for his trip to Costa Rica and Colombia to gather seed stock and variety introduction materials.

B. Technical Activities

1. Meetings

- a) Dr. Alvarado attended two meetings at the SDTB with Ing. Francisco Zannier related to the situation and perspectives in the Chapare.
- b) Dr. Alvarado attended a seminar at the Universidad Mayor de San Simon with IBTA personnel. The participation assisted in orienting the University in developing a new curriculum for the Faculty of Agronomy.

2. Field Trips

- a) Dr. Alvarado traveled to the ongoing experiments in the Chapare to check on progress.
- b) Dr. Mondonedo and Dr. Alvarado traveled to Chapare June 24 - 27th to provide technical backstopping to SDTB technicians on the evaluation of farms in Nueva Caanan, Chimore in relation to loan projects on agricultural industries for the area. During the trip they also provided technical assistance to IBTA counterparts at La Jota Experiment Station on research projects.

- c) Dr. Bieber traveled to Chapare from 16 June to 18 June to the community of Tocopilla at Rio 24 and Puerto San Francisco to set up a nursery and make observations. On 21 June beans were planted at Chimore and 30 June tomato seed beds were observed at colonia Nueva Caanan.

3. Research

- a) Dr. Mondonedo assisted counterparts in the initiation of the preliminary observation plots on the multiplication of banana planting materials and continued discussion on possible research activities on horticultural crops for the Chapare.
- b) Dr. Bieber selected sites and planted Yuca systems, beans and cowpeas. Beans and cowpeas were also broadcast in citrus after paraquat spraying. A bean variety demonstration was planted at the Canadian Institute in Chimore.
- c) Lopez and Taylor worked with IBTA/Chapare personnel on development of demonstration farm research plots as an integral part of demonstration farms.
- d) Dr. Alvarado prepared and supervised a basal application of 59 Kg of 18 - 46 - 0 formula fertilizer on two yuca experiments.
- e) Drs. Alvarado and Mondonedo inspected about 15 farms in the Villa Nueva Caanan area to evaluate the land use potential for the SDTB initial stages of development of a credit program for the area.
- f) Soil samples taken from the demonstration farms were submitted to the soil laboratory of the Universidad Mayor de San Simon.
- g) A need for a cheap source of fertilizer was identified in the Chapare. CIAT has agreed to assist in a research program whereby local rock phosphate would be shipped to Alabama to be treated, then returned for use in experimental plots.

- h) A need for utilizing lime has been identified in the Chapare. Apparently there is a source of dolomite near Cristal Mayo. The SDTB has encouraged Dr. Alvarado to investigate the site and write a proposal describing a potential mining operation and development of the mineral for agricultural use.
- i) Bananas respond dramatically to potassium application. Plans are being formulated for a search in the altiplano for sources of KCL or K_2SO_4 which could be exchanged for bananas or plantains. At present, the fruit hauling trucks are returning to the Chapare empty. This exchange could potentially reduce cost to both producers and consumers.

4. Training Activities

- a) Dr. Mondonedo gave a 1½ hour talk and slide presentation to students at the Universidad Mayor de San Simon, on "Horticultural Crops for the Humid Tropics".
- b) Dr. Mondonedo prepared crop calendars for citrus and corn for the Chapare in preparation for a training program scheduled for June but postponed to August.
- c) Lopez and Taylor worked with IBTA/Chapare personnel on development of cost estimates for all training activities for 1985. These included:
 - (1) Demonstration farms
 - (2) Training of Promotores
 - (3) Training of farmer cooperators
 - (4) Field days
 - (5) Information services and mass communications.

- d) Dr. Mondonedo prepared an initial draft of brochures for preparation and care of seeds bed and nurseries for horticultural crops for the Chapare.
- e) Dr. Taylor developed a lecture on "The Economic Aspects of Agricultural Production in the Tropics" for presentation at the Universidad Mayor de San Simon. The lecture was postponed until August.
- f) Dr. Alvarado spent time with several IBTA personnel advising them on long-term training possibilities outside Bolivia. He also was asked to participate as co-advisor on Master's thesis research for Armando Ferrufino who is presently studying at CATIE in Turrialba, Costa Rica.
- g) Dr. Alvarado coordinated with responsible professors at Universidad Mayor de San Simon for guest lectureships of EI personnel.

II. ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

- A. Lack of vehicles continued to be one of the major factors limiting effective work in the Chapare. The present vehicles are rapidly deteriorating and have insufficient capacity to transport all personnel on a timely basis.
- B. Two farmers were killed and several injured in a confrontation with the UMOPAR forces (Leopardos) near Etarasama. This community is about eight kilometers from the Chipiriri Experiment Station.
- C. Strikes and road blocks by two different campesino groups limited entrance and egress to and from the Chapare during the month of June. A national strike and establishment of road blocks were initiated at 0000 hours June 3 and persisted until June 13. During the strike there were several incidences of confrontations between farmers and authorities and private individuals. An UMOPAR jeep was attacked with several of it's occupants injured and the jeep burned. Rumors of potential attacks on the DIRECO, SDTB and IBTA/Chapare offices forced the closing of the offices with personnel working at home.

Many IBTA/Chapare employees were blocked in the Experiment Stations and were without food for a short while. When finally allowed to depart the Chapare, some had to walk the 45 kilometers from a road block at Colomi to Cochabamba. This type of problem is expected to persist, at least sporadically, until after the elections which are scheduled for 14 July.

- D. Logistic and Financial support to IBTA/Chapare has not been forthcoming as planned and requested. This has caused extreme inconvenience and actually curtailed some planned activities.. Experience, Inc. has also suffered from lack of logistic support.
- E. Fertilizer trials were postponed due to the fertilizer dissolving before personnel were available to spray it.
- F. The drug control forces were withdrawn from the Chapare leaving a vacuum in several areas of law enforcement.
- G. New Supreme Decree number 20-8-11 provides 60 days for an agency to establish historical zones of coca production and develop a means of providing effective production controls.
- H. No official evacuation plan has been established for U.S. citizens residing in Cochabamba. The personnel from EI and Servicios Tecnicos have begun to work on an effective plan.

III. WORK PLANNED FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

- A. Trips to Chapare to provide technical backstopping to counterparts on research and extension activities.
- B. Visits to demonstration farms to plan for research and extension activities and to further develop and maintain the ongoing crops.
- C. Continue discussions and consultancies with counterparts on future possible research activities.
- D. Dr. Mondonedo will continue research involving multiplication of bananas planting materials.

- E. Dr. Alvarado will initiate three new experiments involving potassium, zinc and lime. He will also continue searching for possible local fertilizer sources.
- F. Dr. Bieber will plant yuca and corn in the systems trial and cowpeas in a variety test and maintain existing experimental plots.
- G. Dr. Taylor will attempt to develop the cooperative working arrangement with SDTB personnel actively working on cost of production estimates for the Chapare.