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MONTHLY REPORT - JULY, 1985:

CHAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

EXPERIENCE INCORPORATED

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CHAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

EXPERIENCE INCORPORATED

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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 regular meetings with heads of US agencies to discuss the security situation, development activities, coca control and other items of mutual interest.
3. A fourth of July picnic and patriotic ceremonies were held at the American Cooperative School for US. Citizens and their guests. EI personnel were active in the planning and execution of this event.
4. Joe Lopez, EI Extension Specialist, returned from R&R leave on 22 July.
5. Drs. Taylor and Owens assisted the Project Manager in reporting the IBTA/Chapare research budget as requested by AID/Washington.
6. An inventory system for EI furniture, appliances and household items was designed in July.
7. The EI Quarterly Report for April, May, June was written in July; and the Monthly Report for May 1985 was revised and redistributed.
8. The Training Report by EI consultant Thomas Gardiner (English version), was finalized in late July, for distribution in early August.
9. EI, IBTA/Chapare and SDTB personnel discussed and

made preliminary plans for the production of extension radio programs and the use of video recordings to improve the skills of IBTA/Chapare and EI trainers.

10. Joe Lopez and counterpart Franklin Lastra attended a seminar entitled "Problematicas de la Coca" on July 25, 26 and 27. They presented a talk on the role of IBTA/Chapare in the Chapare Integrated Development Project. Other institutions in attendance were SDTB, CORDECO, MACA, DERECHO and The Universidad Mayor de San Simon.
11. Dr. Taylor continued to oversee the operation of the EI Staff House in Villa Tunari. He purchased items for normal maintenance requirements.
12. Owens filed an incident report on a bullet fired through the window of the study in his home.
13. EI personnel held a meeting on 9 July to discuss the effects of lack of logistical support on Project progress.
A later meeting with the Project Manager emphasized progress to date. The major concern was to preserve the momentum which has been generated in the first six months of project life.
14. EI personnel were recalled from the Chapare on 25 July after consultation with the U.S. Police Advisor and the USAID Project Manager. Chapare farmers had threatened unspecified measures if GOB did not rescind Supreme Decree 20811 dealing with coca and other dangerous substance. EI personnel returned to the Chapare in a few days.
15. EI requested office furniture from USAID/La Paz. Until this month, EI had expected this sort of support from IBTA/Chapare. However, IBTA/Chapare request for office furniture and equipment was scaled down to the point where they cannot provide EI requirements.
16. IBTA/Chapare and EI personnel met with MR. Jeffry Biggs, the new Deputy Chief of Mission, when he visited Cochabamba on 26 - 27 July.
17. Dr. Owens traveled to La Paz at the end of July to take care of various administrative matters.

He returned overland in a new Ford van, one of three project vehicles provided by USAID in July.

18. Numerous administrative meetings were held by EI personnel during July, in addition to the meetings with heads of U.S. Agencies. These included staff meetings with IBTA/Chapare, EI team meetings, meetings with the Project Manager and other USAID officials and with D.E.A.

B. TECHNICAL

1. Meetings

- a) Dr. Alvarado met with Ing. Enrique Jaldin on July 9 to discuss the possibilities of using local raw material as fertilizer in the Chapare.
- b) Dr. Mondonedo held meetings with IBTA/Chapare technicians and EI team members to discuss research and extension activities.
- c) Dr. Taylor met with Ing. Mario Candia, Ing. Enrique Jaldin and Dr. Carlos Montano of SDTB to discuss cost of production estimates for crops and cropping systems in the Chapare. The information is necessary for evaluation of loan applications.
- d) Dr. Taylor and representatives of MINPLAN, SNAC and SDTB met with the Swiss Economics Mission to present an overview of AID funded development efforts in the Chapare. The Swiss Mission is evaluating funding potential in this area.
- e) Owens met with IBTA/Chapare Director General on the subject of home gardens in the Chapare.
- f) Dr. Taylor met with Sr. Julio Calle, president of Sindicato 9 de Abril, to discuss development plans for Puerto San Francisco.

- g) EI personnel met with IBTA/Chapare, USAID and SDTB personnel on 25 July to discuss the IBTA/Chapare "Plan Operativo" and various administrative matters. A follow-up meeting was scheduled for 19 August.

2. Field Trips

Drs. Bieber and Alvarado visited Pairumani research station to purchase bean seed.

Dr. Mondonedo was in La Paz on 29-30 July.

Dr. Alvarado was in Santa Cruz from 29-31 July attempting to obtain seed and other genetic material; and advising a graduate student doing research in that area. He also spent three days in La Paz (16-18 July) visiting offices of CUMAT, GEOBOL and USAID to obtain information on the feasibility of using Bolivian raw material as fertilizer in the Chapare.

Joe Lopez, while on Rand R, spent one day at New Mexico State University to obtain extension material and seeds. He spent four days in Costa Rica where he obtained an impressive quantity of seed and other genetic material. He also arranged for shipment of additional seed to Cochabamba after the coming harvest.

3. Research

All EI technical personnel were active in the Chapare during July. The following research activities were carried out by IBTA/Chapare and EI personnel:

- Fertilizer treatments on cacao, banana and pineapple - La Jota.
- Effects of zinc in Yuca
- Monitoring of research on banana multiplication and propagation of citrus by grafting and budding.
- Monitoring and cleaning of various ongoing experiments with cowpea, corn, yuca, beans and peanuts.

Large quantities of bean and corn have been planted at La Jota for seed multiplication.

Some vanilla and acerola plants, introduced some years ago but later abandoned, were found at the La Jota experiment station. Efforts were made to reclaim these plants for observation and multiplication. A few sections of recently acquired ginger were planted, and the propagation of newly acquired material from Costa Rica was initiated. This includes macadamia, black pepper, papaya, vainilla, yuca and others.

Clearing and cleaning of research and production plots was continued during July. Cacao plantations were pruned and cleaned in preparation for phytosanitary treatment for "escoba de bruja", a serious fungus disease of this crop.

4. Extension and Training

Plans were made for a seminar on "Soil and Land Clasification Systems" for IBTA personnel. The seminar is to be given by Dr. Alvarado with help from CUMAT, and will be open to other technicians in the Cochabamba ares.

Dr. Taylor and others worked with the Canadian Institute of Technology in monitoring bean and cowpea trials, and in designing curriculum for training in extension techniques.

A meeting was held with farmers of the Senda "B" community where the IBTA/Chapare approach was explained. As a result, we expect two promotors to be selected for training in August.

Credit

5. Ing. Juan Altamirano, Joe Lopez and Merritt Taylor participated in a meeting at Senda "B" where two representatives of the Banco de Cochabamba explained procedures for loan applications. IBTA/Chapare will, according to current plans, assist farmers in determining costs of production and in filling out the application forms.

EI remains skeptical about current plans for a credit program in the Chapare.

II. ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

Lack of transportation remained the major problem in July. Two EI scientist used their personal vehicles for travel to the Chapare while others hitchhiked or used public transportation. Even so, travel within the Chapare was restricted. The training program had to be delayed again.

This problem may finally be resolved in August.

At end of July, IBTA/Chapare had received three vehicles from USAID. We are informed that ten pickup trucks for IBTA/Chapare are now in Chile, and should be available to the project in August.

In addition, a micro-bus purchased for the project is undergoing maintenance and body work in Cochabamba.

Lack of water and electricity at Chipiriri experiment station has caused extreme inconvenience for the past two months. Parts for the electric generator were located in La Paz in late July and repairs should be effected in early August.

Morale of IBTA/Chapare personnel, which has been astonishingly high considering the circumstances, was greatly improved by a significant increase in bonos paid from loan funds.

III. WORK PLANNED FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

Ongoing activities in research, extension, training, rehabilitation, production and introduction of new genetic material will be continued.

Research trials will be maintained and monitored, and data will be analysed as it becomes available.

Fields and nurseries for seed and plant production will be maintained. Harvesting and distribution to farmers will be carried out as appropriate.

IBTA/Chapare and EI personnel will continue to plant new genetic material as it arrives. Evaluation for suitability for the Chapare will be an ongoing activity all during project life.

IBTA/Chapare will continue to assist farmers in the development of established demonstration farms and community nurseries.

Clearing and cleaning of experiment stations and nurseries will continue. This activity can be accelerated with the arrival of tractors and other equipment.

Rehabilitation of internal roads, buildings and other facilities should begin in August.

Training for IBTA/Chapare technicians and paratechnicians (promoters), delayed since July, will recommence in August.

A formal exposition of the theory, objectives and realities of demonstration farms and the systems approach to agricultural development will be prepared in August.

Additional experiments and trials involving banana, yuca and pineapple will be initiated in August.

Additional review of the Project Paper and an examination of development goals and strategy will be conducted in August.