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CHIAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

EXPERIENCE, INCORPORATED

COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA

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## I. ACTIVITIES

### A. Administrative and Institutional

1. The entire E.I. team met with John Fasullo concerning project progress and USAID expectations (2 Oct).
2. A meeting was held with representatives from IBTA/Chapare, USAID, ACDI, SDTB and E.I. where an Action Checklist Status Report was presented by Francisco Zannier. Also included was discussion of seed procurement and an evaluation by the SDTB (2 Oct).
3. Owens and Violand received household items and appliances for all E.I. homes, (refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers) under supervision of USAID Executive Officer, Tim Bertotti. Electricians were contracted for installation of dryers and grounding of all appliances (8 Oct).
4. The short wave radios being utilized by the E.I. team were repaired, but are still not working at optimum quality.
5. Dr. Owens attended regular weekly meetings of heads of U.S. funded projects.
6. Owens, Alvarado, Bieber, Lopez, Mondonedo and Taylor met with USAID Executive Officer, Tim Bertotti, his wife and Alberto Bleichner in the Chapare, as they were touring the La Jota Experiment Station and later at the Bolivian Auto Club Facilities, in Villa Tunari. The La Jota Station was presented by the Director of IBTA Chapare, -Francisco Zannier, the Director of La Jota-, Jorge Aldunate and several of the Station technical personnel (8 Oct).
7. Dr. Owens wrote an employee evaluation and discussed the evaluation with each of the E.I. technicians.
8. John Fasullo helped obtain gamma globulin from the U.S. Embassy, in La Paz, for the E.I. team, in response to a request prompted by an outbreak of Hepatitis in Cochabamba.
9. Owens, Alvarado, Mondonedo and Taylor participated in a meeting with a commission which included representatives from the Bolivian Police, the House of Deputies, the U.S. Embassy, the Bolivian Cabinet, Chapare farm leaders, USAID, SDTB, and IBTA as the commission received a very brief tour of some of the work areas of SDTB and the La Jota Experiment Station. The group assembled at the Cochabamba airport and traveled in caravan to - Jatun Pampa, 14 de September, the Cesarzuma bridge works, Senda "B" - Nueva Canaan and the La Jota Experiment Station (16 Oct).

10. E.I. Staff meeting to discuss project activities (21 Oct).
11. Dr. Owens traveled to La Paz on administrative matters and returned overland with a used Toyota Land Cruiser provided by USAID, for the E.I. team. Also, brought to Cochabamba, by an IBTA driver, was a used Chevrolet Suburban to be used by the E.I. team (22-23 Oct).
12. Stoves, refrigerators and freezers arrived for IBTA/Chapare. The freezers were electric and cannot be used in the Chapare, which has no electrical power.
13. The IBTA/Chapare watchman, Freddy Teran was stabbed and seriously injured during an attempted robbery of the Cochabamba office (22 Oct).
14. A ceremony was held at the IBTA/Chapare office to mark the arrival of ten Ford pickups for extension and research work in the Chapare (25 Oct)
15. All E.I. staff members, the ACDI representative, the U.S. Consul and two of the contractors from Servicios Tecnicos met with Ambassador Rowell and Richard Gelbard, at the Hotel Cochabamba for an informal briefing and discussion (26 Oct).
16. Dr. Owens reported to USAID the amounts of time spent in the Chapare by the E.I. team since January 1, 1985.
17. IBTA/Chapare and USAID approved R and R plans for Alvarado, Bieber and Mondonedo.
18. Mr. Bob Delemarre, Senior Vice President of E.I., arrived at La Paz for a one week home office visit on 29 October. He traveled to Cochabamba on 30 October to meet with E.I., IBTA/Chapare and other project personnel.
19. All E.I. staff members met with Bob Delemarre in the Chapare, at the Bolivian Automobile Club facility. This meeting was a joint one with Francisco Zannier of IBTA/Chapare and Oswaldo Antezana attending. The topic of discussion was the general impression of the technicians on the work accomplished so far and our outlook for the next year (30 Oct).
20. All E.I. staff members met with Bob Delemarre, in Cochabamba for personal interviews to discuss individual problems and expectations and to provide insight on the Chapare Regional Development Project

21. Dr. Alvarado edited and translated E.I. monthly reports, quarterly reports and the final draft of the Thomas Gardiner Report.

## B. Technical

### 1. Meetings

- a. Taylor met with farmers from Senda B, extensionist Juan Altamirano and Steve Wiles to establish a prioritized plan for a meeting with the heads of CORDECO. They discussed problems and needs for the farmers if they are to renovate their tea plantations and begin steady production of green tea leaves for processing at the CORDECO processing plant at Nueva Canaan (Oct 1).
- b. Dr. Taylor participated in a meeting with three farmer sindicato representatives from Senda B, the President of CORDECO, the manager of the Nueva Canaan tea processing plant, the Chinese technical advisor (Jorge Chu), and extensionist Juan Altamirano. The farmers had a good plan of attack to explain their needs for an increase of green tea prices. The President of CORDECO cut them off, after a few minutes, when he said that CORDECO had done an estimate of the costs of production and had come up with a cost of \$b 194,000 per kilo of green tea. He stated that CORDECO personnel had discussed the needs of the farmers and the present marketing situation and had come to the decision that CORDECO would offer the farmers a price, at the plant, of between \$b 400,000 and \$b 500,000 per kilo of green tea, with this amount to be paid to the farmer within ten days after the tea is received at the plant. The previous price had been \$b 70,000 per green kilo. This offer stopped any potential arguments and the farmers agreed to pass the offer to their communities and reply within one week as to the acceptance or rejection of the offer (Oct 1).

- c. Dr. Tylor met with two of the field representatives of the Banco de Cochabamba, at the bank, and with the Chimore extensionist Juan Altamirano. The bank people indicated they were working with the very restrictive bank regulations concerning loans to farmers. The only way loans could be made to farmers that didn't meet the basic loan requirements would be if USAID provided a written statement indicating a recognition of the loans as "high-risk". This would indicate a willingness by the U.S. to accept the possibility that the repayment rate might be at lower than acceptable levels. (Oct 1)
- d. Drs. Mondonedo and Taylor met, at Villa Tunari, with local veterinarian Hector Mongravejo to discuss the possibility of collaborative efforts concerning training and animal production in the Chapare.

## 2. Field Trips

- a. Days spent in the Chapare by E.I. team members were:  
Owens - 5, Alvarado - 19, Bieber - 20, Lopez - 21,  
Mondonedo - 19, Taylor - 19.
- b. Gerry Owens, Joe Lopez, Merritt Taylor, Bob Delemarre, Francisco Zannier and Oswaldo Antezana traveled to :
  - 1). The Ciudad de los Ninos orphanage to observe work done by a new promotor and to observe plantings of peach palm, cardamon and pasture grass.
  - 2). Puerto San Francisco to meet and interview a promotor to gain insight on the program's successes and weaknesses through the experiences of a participant.
  - 3). Puerto San Francisco to observe types of work done and plant systems involved in the oldest Unit Production Demonstration Module.

### 3. Research

- a. Drs. Alvarado, Mondonedo, Taylor and several Chipiriri personnel prepared the land and the materials for a yuca/bean trial for evaluations of the effect of lime and additions of zinc. The plot was staked out, with lime uniformly spread over half the experimental hectarage. Lime levels were 0 and 500 kg per hectare. Bags of different levels of Zinc Sulfate were weighed and placed in random areas for evaluation of effects of zinc on yuca and bean growth and production. Zinc levels were at 0, 10, 20 and 30 kg per hectare.
- b. Taylor shelled black beans harvested from the extension plots at the community of Chipiriri.
- c. Alvarado, Mondonedo, Taylor, Max and Alicia Rojas harvested the beans from the yuca/bean with zinc experiment. Yields in grams per 25 square meters were: 770, 565 817 and 706 where zinc was applied at the rate o 0, 5, 10, and 15 kg per hectare, respectively. Apparantly the beans did not respond to aplications of zinc.
- d. Taylor worked two days with Juan Altamirano and Geraldo Rodriguez in evaluating the effort and tools needed to renovate abandoned and semi abandoned tea plantations. This is in preparation of the fields for reentry in the production of green leaves for processing at the Senda B processing plant. Two different levels of plant growth were evaluated using traditional hand tools and motorized power trimmers.
- e. Dr. Mondonedo continued monitoring research projects in progress at both the La Jota and Chipiriri Experiment Stations
- f. Dr. Bieber and Juan Lenis harvested cowpeas three times from the cassava systems trial and the legume variety trails
- g. Lopez, Taylor, Geraldo Rodriguez and the nursery attendant, Don Victor loaded and transferred approximately 340 peach palm trees from the Villa Tunari nursery to the Chipiriri Experiment Station.
- h. Dr. Bieber threshed and weighed beans from the cassava systems trial and the legume variety trial. Also threshed were the pods from the first two cowpea harvests.

- i. Dr. Bieber harvested beans from the variety observation plots, cowpeas from the variety observation plots and corn from the cassava systems trial.
- j. Alvarado, Lopez, Mondonedo, Taylor and several of the Chipiriri personnel began planting a demonstration plot at the Chipiriri Experiment Station with the initial plantings of peach palm (tembe), to be intercropped with annuals.
- k. Alvarado, Mondonedo, Max Rojas, Alicia Rojas and Taylor evaluated two banana plantations near La Jota and planned joint research extension demonstration plots utilizing a comparison of several production techniques with the traditional methods. To be evaluated were the effects of cleaning, thinning, spacing and fertilizing.
- l. Taylor worked with Rafael Vera, of the SDTB, on determining if a particular statistical software package was compatible with the Apple IIc computer. Without using extra data, it seems to work.
- m. Taylor worked with the ACDI and E.I. secretaries on the spreadsheet program, determining its uses and limitations.
- n. Dr Alvarado applied micro nutrients to the peach palm trees growing at the La Jota Experiment Station. This was an effort to prevent the premature dropping of fruits from the trees.
- o. Felix Saavedra and Dr. Alvarado jointly planned an experiment evaluating the effect of sulfur levels on *Desmodium valifolium*. The experiment will be planted in the first week of November.
- p. Dr. Bieber assisted in training the vines of winged beans in the observation plots.
- q. Drs. Alvarado and Mondonedo assisted Saavedra, Vallejos and Claire plan a pasture liming experiment for the Chipiriri Experiment Station. The seed to be used is *Brachiaria* spp. The levels of lime to be evaluated are 0, 500, 1000 and 1500 kg per hectare. The lime was added to the ground on October 10. The seeding of the *Brachiaria* was delayed due to a breakdown of the tractor.

- r. Mondonedo, Alvarado, Max Rojas and Alicia Rojas transplanted black pepper from seedbeds into black plastic bags at La Jota Experiment Station.
- s. Drs. Alvarado and Mondonedo worked with Daniel Sanchez in planning a low land or wet paddy rice experiment for the La Jota Experiment Station. The land will be prepared in the first week in November.
- t. Owens and Lopez worked on a cost of production survey instrument (1 Oct).
- u. Dr. Owens wrote programs for analysis of data for IBTA/Chapare experiments.

#### 4. Training and Extension Activities

- a. Jorge Aldunate, Enrique Jaldin, Gerald Owens, Francisco Zannier, Jose Mondonedo and Alfredo Alvarado worked with Dr. Rolain Paul, from CATIE, on his visit to Bolivia, to evaluate the requirements and costs for an agro forestry training program to be held for IBTA personnel. Bolivia and CATIE in Costa Rica were the alternative sites given consideration. A rough draft report, including estimated costs, was written by Dr. Paul before he departed Bolivia. The final draft was completed by Dr. Alvarado. A decision before 15 November was required by CATIE to be able to program the instructors and facilities.
- b. Dr. Taylor met with Chipiriri staff to establish the logistics for the training program scheduled for 7 October (1 Oct).
- c. Taylor and Lopez met with the extension agents assigned to the Puerto San Francisco area, Leon Vallejos and Carlos Florido, to plan an extension trip into the river areas of the Chipiriri River and to the Bubuzama nursery area.

- d. Taylor, Alvarado, Mondonedo, Bieber and Lopez participated in the Second Promotor Training Programs, held simultaneously at the La Jota and Chipiriri Experiment Stations beginning on Monday, October 7 and lasting until Friday, October 11th. The training curriculum consisted of Extension and technical agricultural practices such as grafting, pruning, seedbed preparation and herbicide and insecticide application. At Chipiriri, twenty three promotors were present and at La Jota, another twenty seven attended. The training program was a success thanks to the excellent training given by the IBTA personnel. The number of promotor-farmers that participated was an indication of the good extension work being implemented in the different microregions by the IBTA extension teams.
- e. Alvarado, Taylor, Mondonedo, Bieber and Lopez assisted in the farmer training programs held simultaneously at the Chipiriri Experiment Station and the La Jota Experiment Station, from Wednesday, 23 October to Friday, 25 October. Training included all phases of nursery preparation and management. At Chipiriri, five farmers and one promotor attended and at La Jota, twelve farmers and six promotors were present for the program. It was rewarding to see the active participation of the promotors as they all assisted in giving various presentations. The promotors did extremely well which is a reflection of the fine training that is being carried out by the IBTA personnel.
- f. Lopez and Taylor planted cardamon and peach palm plants at the Ciudad de los Ninos farm on the road to San Miguel, with the promotora Ursula Anders and three of the older orphan boys. (30, Oct)
- g. Joe Lopez and Merritt Taylor took rice seeds to the Chipiriri Experiment Station, for distribution by the extension agents.
- h. Lopez and Taylor visited a new cooperating farmer's plantings in Villa General Roman, with Carlos Florido, and Leon Vallejos. Plans were made for additional plantings the following week (31 Oct).
- i. Lopez and Taylor made contact with a potential farmer cooperador who has a restaurant on the road toward Villa Tunari from Villa General Roman (31 Oct).

- j. Dr. Bieber and Joe Lopez assisted extension teams with the planting of six Unit Production Demonstration Modules of peach palm associated with either banana or pasture. These plots contained anywhere from 25 to 85 peach palm plants each. In addition, one promotor distributed 200 peach palm plants to members of his community. The peach palm plants were planted for fruit production rather than for palm heart. Most farmers indicate a preference for fruit production with very little interest in palm heart production.
- k. The extension teams were busy, this month, in harvesting and recording data on the many bean plots (approximately 35) that were planted in the various microregions. Yield estimates ranged from 16 to 44 quintales per hectare. Almost all of the bean plots were planted in association with either annuals or perennial crops. The farmers were very receptive to this cultivar and several tons of seed will be needed next year to supply farmer requests for seed.
- l. The extension teams harvested several maize plots. The number of plots and yield estimates were not yet recorded for this reporting period. Most of the maize plots were associated with either annuals or perennials. An approved maize variety was used in each Unit Demopnstration Module.
- m. Joe Lopez traveled with extension teams to check progress in the community nurseries and follow up with technical activities, if needed.
- n. Lopez assisted IBTA personnel in charge of the nurseries for non traditional crops in weeding, transplanting and controlling insect and disease problems.
- o. IBTA personnel and Joe Lopez collaborated in designing and coordinating training programs for farmers and promotors.
- p. Four 900 square meter plots for demonstration of four rice production technologies were selected for planting in November.

## 5. Crop Introduction and Collection

- a. Mondonedo, Taylor, Alvarado, Max Rojas and Alicia Rojas collaborated in the collection of vanilla plants from random growth of an old clump on dead trees. Vine cuttings were planted in plastic bags and placed in the enclosed nursery at La Jota. (There are a total of 63 rooting vine cuttings).
- b. Dr. Mondonedo transplanted ginger planting materials from the plastic bags into seven hills in the field at La Jota.
- c. With counterpart Javier Guevara, Dr. Mondonedo "found a species of wild cardomon" at the Chipiriri Experiment Station. Materials were obtained for planting at both Chipiriri and La Jota.
- d. Mondonedo, Alvarado, Max Rojas and Alicia Rojas transplanted black pepper seedlings from seedbeds to individual plastic bags at La Jota.
- e. Dr. Mondonedo made five marcots of Carambold trees at the Chipiriri Experiment Station.
- f. Dr. Mondonedo prepared a project proposal on the introduction of coconut varieties and hybrids into the Chapare.
- g. Dr. Mondonedo wrote to various institutions and individuals for sources of planting materials of tropical fruits and industrial crops.

## II. ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

- A. Transportation for the E.I. team and the IBTA technicians has been partially remedied with the transfer to E.I. of two used vehicles (a Chevrolet Suburban and a Toyota Landcruiser) from USAID and from another project. The vehicles need extensive repair and maintenance. Also, aiding in alleviating the transportation problems was the arrival of several new Ford pickups for the IBTA technicians.
- B. Several of the farmers that were scheduled to come to the farmer's training program, failed to show up with the excuse that the community leaders had been fighting with the government and with the rural road agency Servicio de Caminos and had ordered them not to participate in any government program until the difference was settled. Three farmers came on their own, not as representatives from their communities.

- C. Lack of materials for use by the IBTA technicians in research and extension activities is causing a reduction in progress. For instance, new plant material introduction has been limited to species found in the Chapare or personally brought to Bolivia by E.I. technicians. Extension efforts are reduced by the lack of generators, cameras and projectors for aggressive communication of ideas.

### III. WORKED PLANNED FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

- A. Participate in the Livestock Training Program of small and large animals for Technicians at the Chipiriri Experiment Station.
- B. Assist several of the extension agents in their plantings on the various demo farms and on the community properties.
- C. Dr. Bieber will assist in planning and planting a corn-herbicide study, at La Jota with Eduardo Ayala.
- D. Dr. Bieber will assist Juan Lenis in a sweet potato variety survey, in the Chapare.
- E. Process and store cowpea seed.
- F. Provide cowpea seed for multiplication of seeds in the Alto Beni.
- G. Assist in a cowpea ground cover demonstration at ITAC.
- H. Thresh and analyze data from cowpea trials.
- I. Assist extension teams in planting four rice plots containing four different technologies.
- J. Assist extension teams in planting citrus in two Unit Demonstration Modules.
- K. Assist IBTA personnel in charge of non traditional crops in maintaining the nurseries and in transplanting cardomon plants from seedbeds to plastic bags.
- L. Work with the research teams and travel with extension teams to the different Farm Demonstration Sites and assist them in their activities. Since November and December are planting months, much time will be spent in the fields planting new experiments and demonstration plot .
- M. Continue monitoring ongoing research projects and the establishment of new research projects.
- N. Follow up on the introduction/establishment of tropical fruits and industrial crops collection at the experimnt stations in the Chapare.