PD-AAS-416
42794

# MONTHLY REPORT - NOVEMBER, 1985

# CHAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

EXPERTENCE, INCORPORATED

COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA


USAID CONTRACT NUMBER 511-0543-C-00-4214

USAID PROJECT NUMBER 511-0543



Compiled by:
Merritt J. Taylor, PhD.
Assistant Coordinator

CONTENTS


| | | Page |
|---|---|---|
| I. | ACTIVITIES | |
| | A. Administrative and Institutional | 1 |
| | B. Technical | |
| | 1. Meetings | 4 |
| | 2. Field Trips | 4 |
| | 3. Research | 5 |
| | 4. Training and Extension Activities | 6 |
| | 5. Crop Introduction and Collection | 8 |
| II. | ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS | 8 |
| III. | WORK PLANNED FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD | 9 |


---


Members of Experience, Incorporated Technical Assistance Team contributing to this report:

Gerald P.Owens
Alfredo Alvarado
John L. Bieber
Joe D. Lopez
Jose R. Mondoñedo
Merritt J. Taylor

# I. ACTIVITIES

## A. Administrative and Institutional

1. Mr. Robert Delemarre, Senior Vice-President of Experience, Incorporated, visited Bolivia from October 29th to 6 November. He held numerous meetings with EI team members, IBTA/Chapare, SDTB, Mr. Tim Bertotti and others on 1-4 November and departed for La Paz on 5 November. In La Paz, he met with USAID officials, including Project Manager John Fasullo and with Mr. Michael Snyder, USAID Regional Contracting Officer. He departed Bolivia on 6 November

2. All E.I. staff members met with Bob Delemarre, in personal interview, to discuss personal impressions of the project, review job descriptions, evaluate progress and assist in some recommended changes for the next period. Mr. Delemarre agreed to discuss with USAID some changes or amendments in the contracts which would include two outboard motors for river extension work, six motorcycles for the project, the possibility of having funds transferred directly to the E.I. account to expedite purchase of badly needed genetic materials and the possibility of bringing in another extension specialist for the project.

3. Dr. Taylor attended a meeting at SDTB with Bob Delemarre, Francisco Zannier, Oswaldo Antezana, Waldo Tejeria, Carlos Montano and Rafael Vera. Work accomplished by the personnel of the Chapare Regional Development Project was discussed with emphasis placed on that work accomplished by the IBTA/Chapare team. IBTA/Chapare was complimented as well as the E.I. technical assistance team. Strengths in the project were elaborated as well as the weeknesses that needed to be reenforced during the next working period. The possibility of expanding the project to include another extension agent and a livestock specialist and a forestry specialist was discussed. The meeting was extremely amiable and productive (2 Nov).

4. Mr. Timothy Bertotti, USAID Execitive Officer, visited Cochabamba in early November. Although his visit was primarily for the purpose of contract negociations on an artisan project, he was able to attend a weekly meeting of U.S. agencies at NAU and an EI team meeting. He interacted with IBTA/CHAPARE, SDTB and EI personnel. His visit was greatly appreciated.

5. E.I. staff meeting with Tim Bertotti, Mr. Bob Delemarre and Harry John O'Hare - the Labor Attache at the Embassy in La Paz (4 Nov).

6. Taylor and driver/mechanic Tejada checked out the two vehicles that have been turned over to the project for E.I. use by USAID. One is a Chevrolet Suburban with approximately 100,000 miles and several conditions that need repairs. The other vehicle is a Toyota Landcruiser 4-wheel drive vehicle. This vehicle is much newer than the Suburban and had already had been improved with new shocks and springs. Several repairs were noted and completed during the month.

7. Dr. Owens completed projections for revising the E.I. local budget, based on changes in plans and on the first year's experience.

8. E.I. staff meeting to discuss our needs and the difficulties expected for the next few months. Also discussed were the needs for increasing the productive output during the coming year. The team will continue to supply technical advice to IBTA personnel according to the needs of the project and its technicians (Nov 11).

9. Regular weekly meetings were held with the U.S. Consul, NAU staff and representatives from U.S. funded projets.

10. E.I. and IBTA/Chapare personnel cooperated with Sr. Trinidad Zamorra, USAID direct hire engineer, in making estimates of demographic and production parameters in the Chapare. These estimates are to be used in planning rural roads construction and maintenance activities in the Chapare.

11. Taylor worked with Rosa Zegarra and Martha de Sarabia, two of the project secretaries, on use of the spread sheet program - Super Calc 3a.

12. John Fasullo, USAID Project Manager, visited Cochabamba on 7-8 Nov.

13. Patricia Violand assisted USAID contractors Trinidad Zamorra and Donald Calvert in finding housing in Cochabamba.

14. The quarterly report for July-Sept. was compiled in November.

15. Owens and Violand checked grounding of electrical appliances in E.I. homes. Some were unsafe. The electrician who had been contracted to ground appliances and make electrical connections for dryers was informed. He corrected the situation, completed his contract and

V

was paid.

16. Owens and Violand discovered on 19 Nov. that E.I. vehicles were not on the list for vechicles to be insured. A quote was obtained from Seguros Andinas and the vehicles were added to the list.

17. Ing. Francisco Zannier obtained promises of over $ 200,000 worth of vehicles, tractors and equipment from GOB. Much of this, including new audio-visual equipment and a ten ton truck, were obtained before the end of the month.

18. E.I. local hire employees were added to the USAID/Bolivia insurance plan as of 1 Decemeber, 1985.

19. One of the vehicles assigned to E.I. / Bolivia was stolen on 25 November. It was recovered the same day, minus battery, headlights, spare tire and other easily removed parts. The vehicle was back in operation within a week.

20. E.I. personnel began assisting IBTA/Chapare and SDTB in the preparation of the "Plan Operativo" for 1986. An extra computer operator will be hired so the report can be prepared before the 13 December deadline.

21. Dr. Alvarado traveled to the Chapare with Francisco Zannier and IBTA/National administration officials to evaluate project needs for the 1986 IBTA Budget.

23. Taylor took five and one half days sick leave. Bieber took three days sick leave.

24. Dr. Alvarado edited monthly and quarterly reports.

25. E.I. staff meeting to discuss the potential of increasing personal danger relative to governmnt activities in the Chapare. The team was ordred to remain out of the Chapare during the week (Nov 26).

26. Drs. Alvarado and Mondo\edo will be on R&R leave from December 13th to the second week in January, 1986. Dr. Bieber will be on R&R leave the last week of December and the first week of January.

B. Technical

1. Meetings

a. Lopez traveled with Leon Vallejos and Carlos Florido to meet with seven interested farmers from the Primero de Mayo Sindicato who were expressing desire for technical assistance. The results of the meeting

was the planning of a trip to visit the community meeting planned for November 20 (5 Nov).

b. Lopez met at Chipiriri Experiment station with experiment station personnel to set a date for and plan the next training program for IBTA personnel (Nov 6).

c. Lopez met at the Chipiriri Experiment Station with Jaime Claude and Antonio Vallejos to finalize preparation for the training to be held on November 18 to 22 for IBTA technicians. Responsibilities of implementing the training program were assigned.

d. Drs. Mondonedo and Alvarado participated in a workshop at La Jota Experiment Station on Alternative Technologies for Demonstrastion Farms, (Nov 6-8)

e. E. I. personnel participated in informal meetings with IBTA/Chapare counterparts to discuss research, extension, training and crop introduction activities.

2. Field Trips

a. Days spent in the Chapare by the E.I. team were: Alvarado - 10, Bieber - 8, Mondonedo -11, Taylor - 7, Lopez - 15.

b. Joe Lopez traveled to Gualberto Villarroel with extensionists Leon Vallejos and Carlos Florido. They planted a 900 square meter plot with four different levels of technology for rice.

c. Joe Lopez traveled to Puerto San Francisco with Carlos Florido and Leon Vallejos to:

(1) Evaluate the nursery and peach palm plantings at promotor Julio Calle's farm.

(2) Observe promotor Guellermo's cardomon nursery seedbed, which was growing very well.

(3) Leave 80 kiligrams of Bluebonnet rice seed with promotor Guellermo to listribute to contact farmers.

d. Joe Lopez traveled to Jatun Pampa with extensionist German Inturias to deliver and help plant 110 cardomon plants on promotor Augusto Espinosa's land. They selected the poorest and steepest piece of land for the planting. This is to demonstrate how good

4

agricultural practices can potentially produce good yields on poor unproductive land. They also observed his cardomon seedbeds which are growing well.

e. Joe Lopez traveled with Javier Guevara and Leandro Chirinos to three communities in their work area. They took 250 citrus plants and planted them at four different sites with the assistance of the two promotors from that area. They observed a cardamon seedbed planted by one of the promotors. The seed had not germinated. Farmers in the area were very interested in the planting of non-traditional crops like cardomon and macadamia.

f. Joe Lopez traveled to Nueva Canaan, with Daniel Sanchez, to plant a rice plot using four different levels of technology. The farmers had not prepared the land, so Daniel drove the tractor and plowed the land. Planting will be done the following week after the land has been disced.

g. Dr. Owens and Francisco Zannier made a field trip to IBTA experiment stations at San Benito and Torilapa on 20 Nov.

3. Research

a. Dr. Bieber weighed and dried cowpeas from three trials at La Jota.

b. Statistical analyses were completed for bean and cowpea yields in the cassava systems trial, the legume variety trial, and the cowpea variety trial.

c. Corn from the cassava systems trial at La Jota was dried and weighed.

d. Dr. Bieber discussed plans for setting up a corn herbicide study with Eduardo Ayala.

e. Dr. Bieber sent one kilogram each of 5 cultivars of cowpeas to the Alto Beni for multiplication, along with thirteen small packages of cowpea varieties, for observation.

f. Drs. Alvarado and Mondonedo helped Ing. Daniel Sanchez plan and begin a paddy rice experiment. They leveled the land for puddling the rice.

g. Alvarado, Mondonedo and Sergio Torrico fertilized the yuca/bean experiment at Chipiriri. They also weeded

the plot with Jaime Claure and Felix Saavedra.

h. Alvarado asssisted in inoculating beans in the yuca/bean experiment at Chipiriri with Rhizobea provided by Ing. Antonio Vallejos. The job was performed with the collaboration of Felix Zaavedra and Antonio Torrico.

i. The Brachiaria liming experiment was seeded by Ing.Antonio Torrico at Chipiriri.

j. Alvarado, Mondonedo and Daniel Sanchez applied lime and zinc to the paddy rice fields to overcome nutrient deficiencies and to help dispersion of the clay for puddling.

k. Drs. Alvarado and Mondonedo fertilized the peach palms and other fruit trees at La Jota Experiment Station.

l. Dr. Mondonedo continued monitoring various on-going research projects at La Jota and Chipiriri Stations.

m. Dr. Mondonedo worked with Juan Lenis in preparation of plans for the multiplication of introduced cultivars of Colocasia at the La Jota Station.

n. Joe Lopez worked with Daniel Sanchez in planting a 1000 square meter rice plot at La Jota. Seven similar plots are to be planted in the different micro regions of the Chapare. Data will be collected on yields. Estimates of costs of production will be made at the different levels of technology.

o. Dr. Owens worked with IBTA/Chapare, E.I. and SDTB personnel in estimating demand for seeds and seedlings to end of project.

p. Dr. Taylor operated a large tractor to push tree trunks, limbs and stumps from a freshly cleared and burned field into a depression so that a research plot could be planted at the Chipiriri Experiment Station.

4. Training and Extension Activities

a. Joe Lopez worked on the objectives and plans for the animal production training program to be held November 18 - 22 with the Chipiriri personnel (12 November).

b. E.I. personnel and IBTA counterparts collaborated in the preparation and transplanting of mandarin grafts at a promoter's farm in Gualberto Villarroel.

c. Dr. Mondonedo worked at technical backstopping at the seedbeds and nurseries of promoter's farms at Puerto San Francisco.

d. Joe Lopoz and Merritt Taylor assisted in a training program on small and large animal husbandry and extension held at the Chipiriri Experiment Station from November 18 to 22, for ten extensionists and two researchers. Everybody was generally pleased with the training which gave the LBTA personnel good preparation for the Promotor's Training Program, to be held in December on large and small animal husbandry.

e. Taylor and Lopez assisted Chipiriri personnel in preparing lesson plans and visual aids for lectures at the first animal husbandry training program.

c. Taylor participated in the practical application demonstrations that followed the classroom presentations for the livestock training program. Some of the demonstrations were:

(1) Spraying of external parasites on cattle
(2) Milking of buffalo
(3) Cheese making
(4) Sterilization of drinking water for chickens
(5) Handling and injecting cattle and buffalo for parasites and vaccinations
(6) Casting or (throwing down) cattle and/or buffalo, with a minimum of injury
(7) Handling, holding, and injecting pigs of all sizes
(8) Castrating small pigs through the abdomen, using sutures
(9) Confinement and handling of small animals, such as rabbits, guinea pigs, chickens, ducks, geese, sheep, pigs, guinea fowl. An operation was performed on a tumer on the throat of a rabbit by Juan Altamirano.

d. Taylor assisted in the planning and the visual aid preparation for the cattle production section presented by Franklin Lastra (milk and beef).

e. Drs. Alvarado, Mondonedo and Bieber participated in a systems workshop at La Jota.

f. Lopez and Bieber assisted Leon Vallejos and Carlos Florido in planting tangerine trees.

g. Bieber and Lopez visited four farms in the Puerto San Francisco area to observe coffee and cardomon seedlings.

5. Crop Introduction and Collection

a. Alvarado, Mondonedo and Taylor assisted Felix Saavedra and Carlos Florido in collecting wild plants that had characteristics similar to the cardomon plant, to be planted and studied at La Jota.

b. Alvarado, Mondonedo, Max Rojas and Alicia Landibar transplanted all the black pepper seedlings at La Jota into plastic bags.

c. Cardomon transplanting into plastic bags was initiated at the La Jota Experiment Station.

d. Dr. Mondonedo collected and planted avocado and mango seeds to serve as rootstock for grafts of introduced cultivars.

e. Dr. Mondonedo worked at technical backstopping in the maintenence of seedbeds and nurseries of introduced species and cultivars of crops at the La Jota Experiment Station.

f. Dr. Mondonedo finalized and submitted the following project proposals:

1) Proyecto de Introduccion de Frutales Tropicales en Chapare

2) Sub-Proyecto de Introduccion de Palma de Coco en el Chapare

II. ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

A. Problems have been encountered in supplying gasoline for the E.I. Team's vehicles in the Chapare. There is a need to coordinate this with the IBTA administration to assure adequate provision for fuel.

B. A critical bottleneck on activities in the Chapare is the shortage of trained labor. Wage levels for IBTA laborers are presently less than one third the average paid to farm workers in the Chapare. There is a need to reevaluate the wage scale at the lower levels to provide competitive wages and thus maintain trained laborers at both experiement stations.

C. Planning activities required for next year's financing are delaying plantings at the experiment stations and probably

will result in reduced production of corn and other crops in research plots. The use of computer discs to record the major portions of the "Plan Operativo" should provide an adequate base for an early and timely presentation for the 1987 Plan Operativo.

D. A plant production nursery needs to be started at La Jota and Chipiriri as soon as possible. Plants will be needed for the expansion of the extension program.

E. Farmers in general are asking for planting seed of non-traditional crops such as cardomon, macadamia and coconut. They obviously think that cash crops are needed to increase their income potential and feel that non-traditional crops might be the answer.

## III. WORK PLANNED FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

A. IBTA/Chapare and E.I. will continue monitoring on-going research projects and the establishment of new ones.

B. The team will follow-up on the introduction and establishment of tropical fruit crops and industrial crops collections at the La Jota Station.

C. Dr. Bieber will write research reports on the legume variety trial, the cowpea variety trial, the Rhizobium trials and partial results of the cassava systems trial in cooperation with Juan Lenis.

D. Dr. Bieber will assist Eduardo Ayala in planting a corn - herbicide trial in which the carry-over effect on cowpeas is also to be measured.

E. Dr. Bieber will observe cowpeas interplanted in citrus for weed control and assist Juan Lenis in the collection of sweet potato cultivars.

F. Taylor, Alvarado Mondonedo, Lopez and Owens will assist with the completion of the 1986 Plan Operativo.

G. Lopez will assist in coordinating the two training programs for promotors on (Dec. 2-6) and (Dec 9-13) and the farmers' training program on (Dec 16-18)

H. Lopez will assist the extension teams in ongoing activities on the unit demonstration module sites and in community nurseries.