

PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY (PES) - PART I

Report Symbol U-447

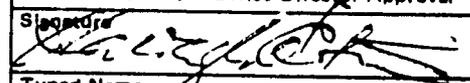
1. PROJECT TITLE RURAL DEPARTMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT	2. PROJECT NUMBER <u>683-0205</u> <u>683-0205</u>	3. MISSION/AID/W OFFICE USAID/NIGER
	4. EVALUATION NUMBER (Enter the number maintained by the reporting unit e.g., Country or AID/W Administrative Code, Fiscal Year, Serial No. beginning with No. 1 each FY) <u>683-79-01</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR EVALUATION <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL EVALUATION		

5. KEY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DATES			6. ESTIMATED PROJECT FUNDING A. Total \$ <u>7,000,000</u> B. U.S. \$ <u>4,698,000</u>	7. PERIOD COVERED BY EVALUATION From (month/yr.) <u>Jan, 1978</u> To (month/yr.) <u>Jan, 1979</u>	
A. First PRO-AG or Equivalent FY <u>77</u>	B. Final Obligation Expected FY <u>80</u>	C. Final Input Delivery FY <u>81</u>		Date of Evaluation Review <u>Feb, 12-23, 1979</u>	

8. ACTION DECISIONS APPROVED BY MISSION OR AID/W OFFICE DIRECTOR

A. List decisions and/or unresolved issues; cite those items needing further study. (NOTE: Mission decisions which anticipate AID/W or regional office action should specify type of document, e.g., airgram, SPAR, PIO, which will present detailed request.)	B. NAME OF OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION	C. DATE ACTION TO BE COMPLETED
1. GON acceptance of a modified planning cycle which allows sufficient time to thoroughly prepare for the next agricultural season is required.	Proj. Mgt. Unit	Aug. 1, 1979
2. More information on GON's plans for the short and long term implementation of its ag. inputs subsidy program is required.	Proj. Mgt. Unit	Oct. 30, 1979

9. INVENTORY OF DOCUMENTS TO BE REVISED PER ABOVE DECISIONS			10. ALTERNATIVE DECISIONS ON FUTURE OF PROJECT	
<p style="text-align: center;">NONE</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Project Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation Plan e.g., CPI Network <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Plan <input type="checkbox"/> PIO/T _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Logical Framework <input type="checkbox"/> PIO/C <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Project Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> PIO/P _____			A. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continue Project Without Change B. <input type="checkbox"/> Change Project Design and/or <input type="checkbox"/> Change Implementation Plan C. <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue Project	

11. PROJECT OFFICER AND HOST COUNTRY OR OTHER RANKING PARTICIPANTS (NAME APPROPRIATE (Names and Titles))		12. Mission/AID/W Office Director Approval	
1. Mark Wentling, Project Officer		Signature 	
2. Saley Moussa, GON Project Director		Typed Name <u>Harvey Gutman</u>	
		Date _____	

small irrigation scheme component can be implemented. No activity was required in 1978 for the drafting of a comprehensive development plan.

18. PURPOSE :

According to the project paper the purpose is : "To increase food production, to raise rural incomes and to improve rural standards of living."

As noted in 17 above, 56 % of EOP output targets have already been attained. In eleven of the sixteen remaining target variables, some progress has been made, but not enough to indicate whether the EOP's condition can realistically be attained in these areas ; the progress rate on the remaining four targets (tapioc mills, minor irrigation schemes, fish ponds and comprehensive area plan activities) was clearly insufficient to realistically expect their attainment by the end of project. Consequently, the set of EOP's conditions described in the project paper remain appropriate except, possibly, in those areas concerned by these four target areas.

19. GOAL/SUP-GOAL :

The project goal is to "start a process of rural development". Essential to this goal is the development of a rural delivery system and a rural organization capable of mobilizing local energies and initiatives for self-sustaining development. The achievement of many EOP targets indicates that considerable progress has been made toward the realization of this goal.

20. BENEFICIARIES :

The direct project beneficiaries are the 6,000 farm families (approx. 36,000 people) living in the 210 villages in which the project plans to work during this first, three year phase. The indirect beneficiaries are the remaining 54,000 farm families (approx. 304,000 people) living in the remaining 500 villages of the project zone who will benefit to some extent from the spread effect of the innovations introduced by the project. The primary benefit will be a substantial increases in the production of millet and cowpeas, - the major food staples.

21. UNPLANNED EFFECTS :

There have not been any measurable, unplanned effects or completely unexpected results of significant proportions.

LESSONS LEARNED :

Due to the desire of the GON to undertake this IRD project in as many villages as possible, the project is - in terms of scale, area covered and number of activities - a very ambitious undertaking and, as such, extremely complex and difficult to manage. In the future, if at all possible, projects of this nature should be initiated in small, priority areas - and expansion should not be considered until implementation is going well in these pilot areas. Also the agricultural extension components of such projects should not commence until the economic and technical soundness of the innovations to be introduced has been proven under the actual farm conditions which exist in the project zone.

A five year second phase is being planned for this project to reinforce the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities undertaken during this first phase. Particular emphasis will be given to increasing the growth rate of agricultural production. This concentration on agricultural production is necessary to the long term success of an IRD project of this nature in that a self-supporting agricultural system is required to make the project self-sustaining.

The project management team expressed the thought that for future evaluation it would be helpful if one or more of the evaluators possessed actual, practical experience with the implementation of a similar project(s) in West Africa.

23. SPECIAL COMMENTS OR REMARKS :

In regard to the agriculture inputs problem, one significant planning implication was revealed during the evaluation. Apparently the quantity of inputs procured by the GON depends directly upon funds available to support its current policy of subsidizing 55 % the cost of inputs sold to the farmer. Thus the number of participating farmers which can acquire inputs is limited according to the amount that GON is able to budget for subsidies. If the project is to make planning decisions concerning the level of its intervention and the number of farms it can reach, more precise knowledge is required about the GON's short and long term agricultural input subsidy plans.

USAID/Niger would like to mention here that it believes that the implementation of this project could be enhanced if there was greater coordination with the Niger Cereals Project (683-201) and with the similar IRD "productivity" projects that the GON and other donors are implementing throughout Niger's cultivated zone.

Attached is a copy of the report (22 pages) which synthesizes the major findings presented in the reports of the four individual evaluators.