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CHAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

EXPERIENCE, INCORPORATED

COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA

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I. ACTIVITIES

A. ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL

1. Dr. Owens met with Jack Muench and Vicente Molinas of AID/USDA Forestry Support Program. (4 March)

2. A standby generator was installed at the staff house facility in Villa Tunari.

3. Carlos Tejada to La Paz to transmit passports for foreign resident census. (6-7 March)

4. Dr. Owens attended coordination and information meetings with leaders of U.S. funded projects. (6,11 March)

5. Dr. Owens met with Karen Rogers, USAID intern, to discuss project activities.

6. All CI personnel contributed to and edited the 1985 Annual Report.

7. Dr. Taylor worked with Ing. Jorge Aldunate on compiling a revised machinery list for presentation to the Director of IBTA/Chapare. (16-18 March)

8. Drs. Alvarado and Taylor traveled to Paraiso with Ings. Felix Saavedra, Fernando Rodriguez and Wilfredo Ramirez to inspect the property that the Colonization Agency is considering transfering to IBTA/Chapare.

9. Drs. Mondoñedo, Bieber, Owens, Alvarado and Taylor, met with USAID Policy Advisor Mr. Sheppard from Washington and Steve Miller, Oswaldo Antezana, Carlos Montaño, and Fred Adams in the Chapare. (19 March)

10. Drs. Alvarado and Bieber visited CIFEM to gather information on local-made agricultural equipment adapted to the Chapare.

11. Dr. Alvarado edited the Spanish version of the January and February Monthly Reports.

12. Dr. Alvarado met with Ings. Waldo Telleria, Enrique Jaldin and Francisco Zannier to plan a joint activity with the San Benito Experiment Station whereby IBTA/Chapare would assist in upgrading soil laboratory facilities and the San Benito personnel would analyze soil samples from the Chapare. A trip was also made to the San Benito facility to confirm the possibilities with Station personnel.

13. Joe Lopez reviewed training materials from 1985 with the communicators. They plan to document the materials into training folders for permanent files.

14. Days in the Chapare:

Alvarado - 15, Bieber - 18, Lopez - 18, MondoMedo - 15, Owens - 8, Taylor - 18.

B. TECHNICAL

1. Research

a) Drs. Bieber and Owens set up an experiment to test insecticide properties of "Paraiso" tree. Results were negative. (10 March)

b) Dr. Taylor worked with Daniel Sanchez on development of a simple questionnaire for obtaining cost of production data from farmers in the Chapare.

c) Dr. MondoMedo monitored research projects on off-season production of pineapples, grafting in citrus and others.

d) Dr. MondoMedo planned with counterparts on the initiation of reseach proposals on sunscald of pineapples and field management of banana plantations.

e) Dr. Alvarado assisted Ings. Fernando Rodriguez, Juan Lenis, Cesar Bedia and Teofilo Villarroel clean the introduced roots and tuber plots at La Jota.

f) Drs. Bieber and Alvarado and Ings. Fernando Rodriguez and Juan Lenis planted cowpeas and beans at ITAC for a herbicide residual trial. They also doubled the corn plants for the final stage of maturation.

g) Dr. Alvarado cleaned the banana and peach palm experiments.

h) Dr. Taylor worked with Raul Hinojosa and Luis Guillen in planting a cardamom demonstration - multiplication plot at Chipiriri.

i) Dr. Bieber took counts on bean and cowpea germination and analyzed yield data from the cassava systems trial.

j) Dr. Taylor assisted Ings. Gerardo Rodriguez and Cleto Prado weed the Kudzu plantings in the systems plot at Chipiriri. (15 March)

2. Training and Extension

a. Joe Lopez worked with Ings. Franklin Lastra and Cesar Urgarte in planning and assisted in coordinating the training program for extension agents held March 3-6. He worked with Ings. Franklin Lastra, Rolando Escobar, Cesar Urgarte, Fanglio Gonzales and Jorge Aldunate in planning the training program for 25 promotors held 17-25 March.

b. Two training sessions were held during the month of March. The first one was for IBTA/Chapare technicians and the second was for farmer-promotors.

In the first training program held 3-6 March at Chipiriri: Dr. Bieber gave presentations on beans and cowpeas and modern inputs for corn (assisted by Ing, Eduardo Ayala). Dr. Alvarado presented benefits of using fertilizers in the Chapare and how to build terraces or countour farming. Dr. Mondoñedo gave talks on citrus and banana production and demonstrated the use of the bamboo/plastic hose level for contour planting. Dr. Taylor presented a cost of production evaluation of rice with emphasis on cultural practices.

He was assisted by Ing. Leandro Chirinos and the participating technicians. Joe Lopez presented the agronomic characteristics of cardomom, worked with Alfredo Alvarado and Jose Mondoñedo on soil conservation practices in the Chapare and worked with Ings. Rolando Escobar and Leandro Chirinos on the analysis of a few critical components in IBTA/Chapare's extension program. All teachers and participants walked into the hills to practice countour and gradient work and to plant cardomom on a cooperating farmer's hillside farm.

In the second training program, held 17-21 March at La Jota for farmer/promotors: Dr. Alvarado presented material on essential nutrients (N, P, K & Ca) and their practical application with Joe Lopez, Cesar Urgarte, Fernando Rodriguez and Teofilo Villarroel. He also gave a presentation on soil sampling. Dr. Bieber lectured on corn production and took two groups of farmers to ITAC to demonstrate corn response to herbicide weed control and an association of cowpeas and sweet protatoes. Dr. Mondoñedo demonstrated and supervised practice of horticultural techniques such as budding and pruning. Dr. Taylor assisted the presentations given by Ings. Jose Camacho, Luis Guillen, Juan Altamirano and Raul Hinojosa on tropical plant diseases and their control. Joe Lopez worked with Rolando Escobar, German Inturias, Teofilo Villarroel, Cesar Urgarte, Juan Altamirano and Wilfredo Ramirez on a presentation on extension principles and a second presentation on the introduction to method demonstrations. He worked with Cesar Urgarte, Rolando Escobar and Leon Vallejos on a presentation on non-formal education techniques and worked with the promotors in the preperation of their method demonstration.

c. Drs. Alvarado, Mondoñedo and Owens, Ings Angel Cartagena and German Inturias, attended the initial contact with communities at Herayito and Jatun Pampa to plan future Unit Production Demonstration Modules.

d. Dr. Alvarado assisted Ing. Fernando Rodriguez prepare for class instruction at ITAC.

e. Dr. Alvarado prepared a paper on soil management in the Chapare Region.

f. Dr. Mondoñedo prepared a technical brochure on the bamboo/plastic hose level for contour farming.

g. Dr. Taylor assisted Juan Altamirano inspect' and foliar fertilize a communty nursery (coffee) in Senda D. Contacts were also made with two farmers desiring assistance in developing a farming plan that would aid in acquiring credit from the banks. Another farmer was contacted concerning technical advice for his swine growing operation.

h. Dr. Taylor traveled with Ing. Felix Saavedra to meet with the association of 21 farmers that are growing brachiaria desmodiam grass for seed and pasture. Recommendations were made for better management of the pastures and a date set for meeting with the farmers to jointly vaccinate the cattle against rabies and other tropical diseases.

i. Dr. Mondoñedo prepared handouts for farmers on production and utilization of the non-traditional vegetable yard long beans (Vigna sesquipidales) and edible long gound (Lagenaria leucantha).

j. Dr. Mondoñedo produced and distributed (through the extension agents) to some farmers, seeds of the non traditional vegetables (Vigna and Lagenaria), together with the corresponding handouts.

k. Joe Lopez worked with Cesar Urgarte, Emiglio Gonzales, Rolando Escobar and Jorge Aldunate in coordinating the training program for promotors held on 17-21 March.

l. Joe Lopez worked with Cesar Urgarte and Franklin Lastra on planning the training session for farmers on small and large animal production and husbandry to be held in April at Chipiriri Experiment Station.

m. Joe Lopez traveled with Rolando Escobar to Gualberto Villarroel and Jatun Pampa to gather data from the UDP's.

n. Joe Lopez, Alfredo Alvarado and Franklin Lastra traveled to San Miguel to give technical assistance to a farmer that has one hectare of tomatoes.

o. Gerry Owens and Joe Lopez traveled to Gualberto Villarroel to video film the harvesting of rice on the UDP of the promotor Francisco Rivas' farm.

3. Introduction of New Plant Material

a. Joe Lopez worked with Cesar Diaz and Rolando Escobar in applying insecticide and fungicide to cacao, mangosteen, vanilla and cinnamon at the Villa Tunari nursery. Note: Approximately 2000 plants of cacao out of 2500 seed planted are doing well. All of the mangosteen, cinnamon and vanilla brought from Costa Rica survived and are growing well.

b. Dr. Mondoñedo monitored work in seed beds, nurseries and field plantings of introduced genetic materials and was the technical advisor on the planting in seed beds/nurseries of the coconut seeds from Ecuador.

c. Dr. Mondoñedo worked with Ing. Max Rojas in grafting some mangos from Santa Cruz and planted seven cuttings of a tropical fruit Spondias purpurea, also introduced from Santa Cruz.

d. Dr. Mondoñedo planted five seedlings of the cucurbit Chayote (Sechium edule) at La Jota and Villa Tunari. He also transfered from the nursery to the field, some roots and tuber crops (yams, taro and maranta) at La Jota Station.

e. Joe Lopez worked with Cesar Diaz in planning and executing the planting of macademia at La Jota Experiment Station.

f. Joe Lopez worked with Jose Mondoñedo and Cesar Mealla in planning a program for the introductoin of spices into the Chapare and carried out the management of cultivars at La Jota and the Villa Tunari nurseries.

4. Production and multiplication of crops

a. Dr. Taylor assisted Ings. Luis Guillen and Raul Hinojosa in land preparation, transplanting and fertilization of 315 cardamom hills between the rubber trees at Chipiriri Experiment Station (14 March).

b. Dr. Taylor assisted Luis Guillen and Raul Hinojosa in transplanting coffee seedlings from the seed bed to plastic bags at Chipiriri Experiment Station. (15 March).

c. Dr. Bieber sprayed the cowpea multiplication plots at La Jota with insecticides and weeded with directed applications of herbicide,

d. Dr. Bieber planted sweet potato plots at ITAC with Ing. Juan Lenis and at Gualberto Villarroel with Joe Lopez. A corn plot was also planted at Gualberto Villarroel. Sweet potato and yuca plots were sprayed with directed herbicides.

II. ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

A. Labor shortage at the two Experiment Stations continues to be a major factor in limiting effective research work and multiplication of needed seeds.

B. The shade/cover of the seed bed/nursery at La Jota needs to have the rotting palm leaves replaced with plastic screen materials.

C. Housing, both facilities and adequate number beds are a limiting factor to having large groups of farmers or technicians for training at both of the experiment stations.

D. The PI technical assistance team is drastically limited in their ability to assist the IBTA/Chapare technicians due to insufficient vehicles which would allow individual work effort instead of group assistance.

III. WORK PLANNED FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

A. Follow up on ongoing research projects and initiation of research project proposals on pineapples.

B. Technical backstopping in the introduction of new genetic materials.

C. Technical backstopping in production and multiplication of seed and root stock.

D. Technical backstopping on extension activities.

E. Preparation of technical bulletin on non-traditional crops.

F. Follow up on work with macadamia, cacao, spices and other introductions.

G. Joe Lopez will travel with Gerardo Rodriguez to the Beni to negotiate training of Chapare farmers and to purchase 8000 cacao seed to be taken immediately to the Chapare for planting at La Jota and in community nurseries.