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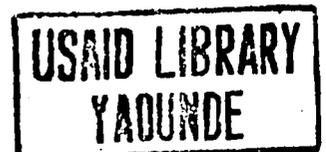
PROGRESS REPORT - CAMEROON  
(NOVEMBER 1, 1983 - JUNE 1, 1984)

SMALL FARMER LIVESTOCK PROJECT (HPI-IRZ-USAID)

Project No. 631-0015

Grant No. REDSO/WA 80-199

June 1, 1984



## HPI PROGRESS REPORT (NOVEMBER 1, 1983-JUNE 1, 1984)

A much better understanding and working relationship was developed between IRZ (DGRST) and HPI in November, 1983. Following a meeting of top officials of USAID, DGRST and HPI in Yaounde in October, a meeting was held at the local level in Bamenda between USAID, IRZ (Animal Research Institute) and MINEPIA (Ministry of Animal Industries and Fisheries). At this meeting it was again agreed that the HPI job descriptions and the project agreement would not be altered. Plans were made for better communication between IRZ, MINEPIA and HPI. Many misunderstandings were aired and clarified. Additional discussions and another meeting were held between the Provincial Delegate of MINEPIA, the Chief of Center IRZ (Bambui) and HPI Chief of Party to develop further plans for training farmers and working more closely together. It was agreed that detailed plans for cooperative work would be developed and that cooperative routine training at the village level for potential rabbit farmers would resume in late January or early February. It was also agreed that certain MINEPIA field staff would be trained in rabbit husbandry.

As a result of these meetings and agreements, an improvement in working relationships between the three parties occurred.

### Dairy Program

At Bambui, several mechanical repairs and improvements were made on the milk processing plant. These have continued to work satisfactorily to date. A milk consumer survey was designed and administered during late January and early February. A cross section of seven stores were selected as the samples of the total 18 stores selling project pasteurized milk in 1/2 liter plastic cartons. Store managers were unanimous in expressing general satisfaction with the product. All managers think they can sell more milk if it is made available. All store managers expressed an interest in selling yogurt if available and many expressed interest in selling fresh butter, cheese and ice cream. The survey also showed that the majority of milk customers were Cameroonian. A study of the cost of collecting, processing and marketing pasteurized milk was also conducted. Collection costs were found to be approximately 70 CFA/liter at the current farmer milk volume. Every effort will be made to expand production per farmer during the coming year.

A farmer milk production measurement program is now being conducted. Milk production per cow is being measured by an HPI person on each farm at least one per day per month.

Many of the dairy farmers who made grass silage during the rainy season began feeding it in late December. The silage making proved to be highly successful. It is expected that all dairy farmers will make silage this summer. Farmer training "on farms" will continue to emphasize tick control, silage making, improved pastures, nutrition, breeding and other dairy management needs. Most farmers are continuing to expand their bracharia grass, Guatemala grass and

desmodium legume pastures. The Bamenda Dairy Cooperative Society continues to mature and will soon have official government status.

The dairy farmer record keeping system begun two years ago is now bearing fruit. Mortality and fertility records indicate that the overall performance of the cross breeds (Jersey x White Fulani beef cow; Holstein x Red Fulani beef cow) has been far superior to that of the Holsteins and the Jerseys.

Not only does dairy farmer data indicate that crossbreed cows should be the future dairy cow for Cameroon, but more and more data from IRZ at Bambui and Wakwa seem to indicate this. Much more data is needed by IRZ. With this in mind, and also the need for many more crossbreed heifers by dairy farmers, IRZ-HPI have designed an "on-farm" research project to increase crossbreed numbers and to compare further the performance of crossbreeds with that of pure Holsteins and Jerseys. Artificial insemination is being used on local beef cows with Jersey and Holstein semen from superior sires in the USA. A course in artificial insemination was taught at Bambui in February to train IRZ technicians plus three herdsmen (one from each of the three institutions who are furnishing the beef cow herds).

A similar A.I. training course was conducted at the Wakwa Station with the assistance of the two consulting veterinarians.

In the above "on farm" experiment, three hundred cows are being used. Three herds of 100 cows each are being artificially bred beginning in early June. The cooperating institutions are the Baptist Mission at Mbingo, the Mbenguie Catholic Monastery and the Presbyterian Rural Training Center at Bambili. HPI provided the necessary training in A.I., the equipment for the A.I. (nitrogen and nitrogen tanks for semen storage, semen from USA, insemination guns, gloves, etc.), and will also furnish assistance and follow-up during the breeding season. IRZ is assisting with the A.I. training course and with insemination, as well as furnishing facilities for weighing the cows and calves. This program should produce approximately 75 to 100 heifer calves. In addition, IRZ will be breeding a number of their beef cows to produce crossbred heifers and the dairy farmers will also be increasing crossbreed numbers in their own crossbreeding programs.

In addition to the above activities, much effort will be made during the coming months to interest Fulani cattlemen in the potential of crossbreeds for increased milk production. This may have special significance in the Wum area, where Fulani women milk beef cows and sell the milk to the Wum cheese manufacturing plant. We think the Fulani leaders will be interested because preliminary data indicates that the Fulani crossbred cow will produce six to ten times as much milk as the pure Fulani beef cow.

Good progress has been made in pasture improvement at the Bambui station. A small demonstration pasture planted a year ago to Desmodium and Bracharia have done well. Currently 25 hectares are being renovated in the same manner. Forage nutrient analysis and yields will be monitored throughout the rainy season. Last year's

silage program was another success. Currently good quality silage continues to be fed even though the cows are already grazing good pastures. Improved animal health and better milk yields are apparent. New bunker type silos were constructed last July and more high quality maize silage was stored than ever before. Nutritional analysis of the maize silage indicated 6.4% C.P., 33.9% C.F. and 35% D.M. with excellent palatability. Additional feeding troughs were built so cows could have easy access to silage.

Other management improvements at Bambui were made with the full cooperation of the Chief of Station and Chief of Center. These improvements are reflected in better herd performance. The changes include the separation of the total herd into one milking herd, two dry herds with breeding age heifers and a weaning herd. Extra bulls were moved to the upper grazing area. Herd culling was tightened up. Seven unproductive cows were slaughtered and four more were set aside to be used for an artificial insemination training course which was taught in March 1984.

#### Swine Program

The outlook for swine production in Cameroon has changed markedly during recent months. This is due to lifting of the ban on movement of live hogs on public roads brought about by African Swine Fever. This eighteen month quarantine has resulted in a strong pent-up demand for swine to replenish herds wiped out in the Southwest and Western Provinces by AFS. In addition, there has been a continuing demand for pigs in the Northwest Province by small farmers especially in the Bamenda area. The IRZ-Mankon Station is accepting the challenge and taking proper steps to supply the needed animals during the coming months. During the April Distribution Committee Meeting 183 hogs were approved for distribution to farmers immediately. An Iowa hog farmer and his wife spent three months (January, February and March) working with the Station Swine Section staff to assist in swine production management training. Special emphasis was given to farrowing, feeding, breeding, health care and records. The swine consultant made the following comment in the conclusion of his report: "As far as the future of swine production at the Mankon Station is concerned, it can be good and serve as a strong, positive factor in the future production of Cameroon."

#### IRZ Management Decisions Concerning the Mankon Station

A number of management decisions by IRZ concerning the Mankon Station must be mentioned because of the detrimental effects they have had on programs during the past nine months. During July and August, 1983 three senior staff members were transferred from Mankon to other assignments -- two to graduate school and one to Yaounde to become Assistant Director of IRZ. This removed the experienced Chief of Station; the Senior Veterinarian and Assistant Chief of Station; and one highly qualified Ph. D. poultry researcher. Then in recent months the one well-trained milk goat technician and two experienced sheep technicians were transferred. These transfers have had negative effects on programs at Mankon, especially the sheep and goat programs and poultry program.

The HPI Small Animal Advisor responsible for the sheep and goat program finished his three year contract and left in late November. A replacement was found and recommended by HPI Little Rock and HPI Chief of Party, but refused by IRZ. The search continues, but no one found to date. When the IRZ milk goat technician was transferred no one knowledgeable in milk goat husbandry was left on the station.

Thirty bucks died during April and May due to mismanagement. The poultry laying percentage and hatchability percentage has dropped to substandard levels. Very few hatching eggs or day old chicks were distributed during the past nine months.

#### The Rabbit Program

Many rabbit research protocols were conducted at the Mankon Station during the reporting period.

There continues to be keen interest in rabbit production in the rural villages in the Northwest Province. Many small farmers are demonstrating to neighbors how much meat one doe rabbit can produce in a year which increases demand for farmer training and rabbit distribution. Presently the demand for training is very high. More than 250 people have been trained in rabbit production during the past twelve months. We are presently working with 300 small rabbit farmers. Most of the rabbits needed by the new small farmer rabbit growers have come from other farmers. However, in April IRZ approved 90 rabbits for distribution. Farmer training and extension work continues in cooperation with MINEPIA.

Rabbits are proving to be one of the very best animal enterprises for small farmers. Very little "start up" and operating capital is needed. Local materials can be used for constructing cages and the primary feed is grass, legumes and farm by-products. No serious diseases seem to be present. Two or three does and a buck can produce as much meat in a year as one cow.

#### The Mankon Library

The library at IRZ Mankon is now functioning and is receiving considerable use by IRZ staff and visiting students. It is probably the finest scientific agricultural library in the Northwest.

The agricultural science textbooks, reference books, scientific journals, periodicals and pamphlets were given to IRZ by U.S. Land Grant University and USDA libraries and individual scientists. The materials were received in an HPI shipment in the summer of 1983. There are about 300 fine books including 50 on veterinary medicine. All materials have been labeled with Dewey Decimal numbers, an accession book started and shelf list slips made. The vertical files are full of classified up-to-date brochures on animal care, research reprints, management, feeding, etc. Hundreds of scientific journals are on the shelves.

A very capable young man was employed by IRZ and training in Library

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Science was given by a lady HPI volunteer. He was supplied with a Dewey Decimal book, Sears list of subject headings, etc. Unfortunately, making final shelf list and catalog cards and final instructions could not be done due to the illness of the HPI volunteer who returned to the U. S. for hospitalization and treatment.

It is recommended that the IRZ librarian be trained further by working a few weeks with the librarian at the Baptist college in Ndu (or some other library) so he can complete the card catalog file.

SMALL FARMER LIVESTOCK PROGRAM  
Project Number 631-0015

October - December 1983

Year Make Model	Location	Title Specify (1) USAID (2)	License Number	Driver (s): Specify (1) U.S. Contractor (2) Third Country Contractor (3) Cameroonians	Odometer reading: (specify miles or kms)	Days out of Operation	Reason (e.g. parts, regular service, accident, etc.)	Maintenance facility used	Quality of Maintenance facility service
980 Jeep J-10 Large Pickup	Bamenda	HPI		U.S. Contractor	49,000 Km	90	Waiting for parts from U.S.A.	Local garage	Good*
980 Jeep Cherokee	Bamenda	HPI	NW 285K	U.S. Contractor	51,000 Km	3	Routine Service		
983 Renault 12	Bamenda	HPI	NW 185L	U. S. Contractor	32,000 Km	3	Minor repairs	Local garage	"
983 Renault 12	Bamenda	HPI	NW 454L	" "	45,000 Km	5	Routine service	Local garage	"
981 Jeep J-P	Bamenda	HPI	NW 784J	" "	46,000 Km	5	Minor repairs	" "	"
982 7 ton Mercedes Truck	Bamenda	HPI	NW 584K	Cameroonian Mechanic Driver	28,000 Km	3	Routine Service	" "	"
983 Renault 18	Bamenda	HPI	NW 762L	Chief of Party and Cameroonian Driver	39,000 Km	2	Routine Service	" "	"
January - June 1984									
980 Jeep J-10 Large Pickup	Bamenda	HPI		U.S. Contractor	49,000 Km	180	Waiting for parts from U.S.A.	Local garage	Good*
980 Jeep Cherokee	Bamenda	HPI	NW 285K	U.S. Contractor	56,800 Km	6	Routine Service		
983 Renault 12	Bamenda	HPI	NW 185L	U.S. Contractor	38,000 Km	6	Minor repairs	Local garage	"
983 Renault 12	Bamenda	HPI	NW 454L	" "	51,000 Km	7	Routine Service	Local garage	"
981 Jeep J-P	Bamenda	HPI	NW 784J	" "	51,200 Km	7	Minor repairs	" "	"
982 7 ton Mercedes Truck	Bamenda	HPI	NW 548K	Cameroonian Mechanic Driver	76,472 Km	7	Routine Service	" "	"
983 Renault 18	Bamenda	HPI	NW 762L	Chief of Party and Cameroonian Driver	52,000 Km	6	Routine Service	" "	"

\*Problem lies with Renault (Douala). They order parts which do not fit -- we use local mechanic to install parts. Always waiting for parts from America or Europe.