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11/11/82  
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BLUE NILE INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Eleventh Quarterly Report

Project 650-0018 - Contract AID/afr-C-1582

April 1, 1982 - June 30, 1982



**EXPERIENCE, INCORPORATED**

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55402

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I. INTRODUCTION

Project activities and accomplishments in the project area accelerated again this quarter as the project completed preparations for the approaching planting season. The number of project staff members living and working in the project area grew to over twenty as a permanent presence of extension and cooperative development officers was established. Adding to the staff population at the Abu Gemai Agricultural Development Center was a team of staff members testing tractors and drivers and assembling the equipment to be used in the project's mechanized farming program. All necessary supplies for the entire rainy season program were on hand as the rains which would halt all road transportation to the project area were expected at any moment. A radio was set up for voice communications with Damazin and Khartoum and the project boat was in operation, ferrying people and critical supplies to and from the project area.

As the quarter came to a close, the Extension Officers had begun making their scheduled visits to project area farmers while the Cooperatives Officer assisted the Cooperative Credit Committees process the first farm operating loans to cooperative members. Forty-nine loans with a combined value of S\$10,020.58 had been made by the end of the quarter. It was estimated that the combined value of loans granted for mechanized operations would more than double before the planting operations were complete early next quarter. Thus the project expects to conduct mechanized farming operations on 1,000 to 1,500 feddans on approximately 100 project area farms this season.

During the quarter, two animal vaccination campaigns were conducted. The poultry campaign was carried to seven project area villages and vaccinated 960 chickens while the cattle vaccination program reached 20 project area villages and vaccinated

6,000 cattle. The cattle vaccination campaign initiated a program to sell veterinary drugs on a cost basis to project area animal owners.

Project activities in Damazin centered around the Project Demonstration and Verification Farm. The farm was divided into production units with a three-year rotation: 15 feddans cow pea, 15 feddans sorghum, and 15 feddans sesame. One hundred of the farm's 150 feddans were given an initial disking prior to planting early next quarter. Also at the farm, the Animal Traction Specialist began training the newly arrived pair of oxen.

In Rosseries, the project made arrangements with the Rosseries Town Council to share the cost and effort to build a road, approximately 8 km in length, to a mutually desirable boat moorage location on the Blue Nile.

One of the highlights of the quarter occurred when the most influential farmer in Abu Gemai relinquished his efforts to have the price per feddan for mechanized tillage and planting services reduced below the level set by the cooperatives. He had also tried to hire tractor services from several sources outside the project area. His failure to do so gave the project a heartening indication that its mechanized services were a better buy than its "competitors". After his capitulation, there was an upsurge in the number of applications for the cooperatives' mechanized services.

The quarter came to an end with the project staff sharing a genuine and well earned feeling of accomplishment. For those readers who have a copy of the project's annual plan of work, the project is pleased to announce that a brief examination of that document, in light of this report, will reveal a satisfying progression of accomplished plans.

## II. PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY SECTION

This quarter's report follows the established format of previous quarterly reports. The objectives of each section are listed with a statement of progress toward accomplishing each objective. This is followed by a statement of the section's major problems and recommendations. This is followed by a listing of the section's objectives for the next quarter.

### A. Agricultural Mechanization Section

#### Objectives and Accomplishments:

1. Continue to supervise project construction activities until this responsibility is taken over by the General Services Officer.

The USAID engineer and the E.I. architectural consultant visited the project in April to conduct the final inspection of the block of 22 staff houses in Damazin; however, USAID had not released the houses to the GOS by the end of the quarter. The E.I. architectural consultant again visited the project later in the quarter and inspected all construction, i.e., construction in Damazin and in the project area. It was decided to place first priority on completing project area facilities to be used during the approaching rainy season. It is estimated that sufficient housing will be available in Abu Gemai and Abu Sheneina for the project field staff before the rains set in.

2. Have a GOS Agricultural Engineer and a Farm Equipment Specialist join the project staff.

Due to the absence of the Project Director from the project during a major portion of the quarter and due to the lack of time caused by the press of essential project activities, no progress was made toward the accomplishment of this important objective.

3. Develop a special tractor driver training course.

No progress was made on this objective due to a lack of time to devote to it.

4. Select and train ten tractor drivers to produce six drivers qualified to work with the project.

Four tractor drivers were selected through a testing program and hired on a probationary basis June 15. Since joining the project, the drivers have been receiving on the job training from the Agricultural Engineer and his assistants.

5. Have a qualified tractor mechanic for the project area join the project.

Objective accomplished. The mechanic was hired in June and, after assisting with the final checkout of equipment in Damazin, was stationed in the project area where he assisted in the assembly of the four planters.

6. Move four tractors and implements into the project area.

Objective accomplished. This activity required much more time than had been anticipated, because the shop truck, planned for used in transporting equipment, became inoperable and a tractor had to be used in its place. The trip to Abu Gemai with the tractor and trailer took approximately five hours one way.

7. Move fuel oil and lubrication for tractor operations into the project area.

Objective accomplished. Again, this operation was carried out using the large 7,040 tractor rather than the shop truck.

8. Make the mobile repair shop operational and move it into the project area with spare parts, tractor tires, filters, etc., necessary for rainy season operations.

Objective accomplished with the exception of making the mobile repair shop (the shop truck) operational. The shop truck has an unusual, and difficult to obtain, electrical coil which failed just as the truck was being placed in full use.

9. Make one project boat operational, including the necessary permits for reservoir operations.

Objective accomplished. The Agricultural Engineer assembled the boat, a process which included installing the motor

the steering system, and the electrical system, and made an initial test of the boat on the reservoir. He also took the lead in negotiating an agreement with the Rosseries Town Council to share, on a fifty-fifty basis, the cost of up-grading the road to the boat landing site. Permits for the boat's operation were obtained from the Provincial Commissioner.

10. Move into Damazin an adequate supply of benzine for rainy season operations.

Objective accomplished.

11. Receive four planters from Port Sudan, assemble, and move them into the project area.

Although the planters arrived in Port Sudan much later than expected, they were in the project area and 75% assembled by the end of the quarter. Complete assembly will be accomplished within the first two weeks of next quarter.

12. Begin tillage operations at the Damazin Demonstration Farm and in the project area.

Approximately 75% of the 150 feddan Demonstration Farm have received an initial disking; however, operations in the project area have been delayed due to the lack of sufficient rainfall.

13. Other activities during the quarter:

- 1) recovered the damaged jeep from Kurmuk;
- 2) assembled two rollover plows for the Demonstration Farm;
- 3) completed the installation of rollover cages on all ten project tractors;
- 4) moved two, twenty foot long, shipping containers into the project area to serve as storage buildings;
- 5) hired a tractor/road grader driver for work on project sites in Damazin;
- 6) installed new hydraulic pumps on the 7,070 tractor;
- 7) repaired the road grader.

### Major Problems and Recommendations

The major problem affecting the performance of this section is the lack of a Sudanese Agricultural Engineer and Equipment Specialist on the project staff. Without these staff members, progress has to be slower than it would be otherwise. The seriousness of the problem gains additional significance in light of the fact that the expatriate Agricultural Engineer will be leaving the project in November 1982.

A problem of significantly different magnitude was caused by the failure of the shop truck. The absence of this vehicle will delay and inconvenience mechanized field operations.

### Objectives for Next Quarter

1. Complete assembly of the four project planters;
2. Conduct mechanized field operations on 750-1000 feddans of farm land in the project area,
3. Continue on the job training of four tractors drivers and assistants,
4. Install a radio in Abu Gemai for communications to Damazin;
5. Order spare parts for project tractors and equipment;
6. Assess field equipment performance and develop orders to complete the equipment package;
7. Carry out mechanized farming operations at the Demonstration Farm.

## B. Agronomy Section

### Objectives and Accomplishments

1. Conduct germination tests on all crops to be planted by the project during the 1982 rainy season.

Objective accomplished. All seed to be used by the project this year tested in the 90 percentile.

2. Have all land to be cultivated by the project prepared for planting.

At the end of the quarter, land preparation on the Demonstration and Verification Farm was approximately ten days behind schedule due to the lack of experienced personnel to operate and repair equipment at the farm.

3. Have the first plantings of sesame, sorghum, and cow pea in place on the Project Demonstration Farm.

The accomplishment of this objective awaits the arrival of sufficient rainfall.

4. Deliver the horticultural package to the Extension Section.

The horticultural package is a series of horticultural recommendations to be used in project area extension efforts. Eighty varieties of vegetables, including cool season juroof varieties and warm season varieties for home gardens, were recommended for possible use in the project area. Planting dates and other cultural practices were included in the recommendations.

5. Train one pair of oxen and employ them in producing a crop.

During June, a simple shed was constructed from local materials to house the oxen at the Demonstration Farm and their training was begun under the guidance of the Animal Traction Specialist.

6. Develop Demonstration and Verification Farm research plans for this year's rainy season operations.

Objective accomplished. The plans call for the construction of three model 15 feddan farms that will be mechanically tilled, planted, and weeded using the equipment available to the project. The experience gained from the model farms is expected to provide some indication of the economic and agronomic viability of the mechanized system employed. The three farms will be planted to sesame, sorghum, and an edible legume, cow pea, to gain some knowledge of the effects of this rotation system under local conditions.

Also, a joint research program was developed with the local range management department, utilizing 30 feddans on

the Demonstration Farm to test the performance of food, fodder, and forage crops. Early sorghum, sudan grass, clitoria, and lab lab will be planted.

7. Have the project agronomist receive additional training in the United States.

The project agronomist, Mohammad Abdulla Abbas, will be leaving for study in the U.S. in early July 1982.

#### Major Problems and Recommendations

The problems facing this section are of a recurring nature: lack of qualified staff to assist with the agronomic program, lack of secretarial services, and inadequate supplies of truck fuel.

#### Objectives for Next Quarter

1. Continue the planned crop planting program;
2. Continue crop maintenance through harvest;
3. Employ the project oxen in a crop production trial to further their training and gain some initial indications of the feasibility of animal traction under local conditions;
4. Continue in-service training in agronomic and horticultural activities for GOS personnel.

### C. Cooperatives and Credit Section

#### Objectives and Accomplishments

1. Complete arrangements to have the Agricultural Bank of Sudan act as the intermediary for the cooperative credit fund.

The bank has tentatively agreed to act in this capacity and to provide administrative support and guidance to the program. The bank's final approval is expected in the near future. Complete accomplishment of this objective awaits the attainment of some remaining conditions precedent to the release of the credit funds by USAID; however, this will not curtail the cooperatives' credit program for mechanized services and seed this year as these are "in kind" loans.

2. Complete pre-cooperative education programs for cooperative members.

Objective accomplished. A total of 469 cooperative members received training in the principles of cooperatives, during a series of 26 meetings conducted by the Cooperatives and Credit staff.

3. Complete the training of the four cooperative boards of directors not trained during last quarter.

Three additional boards of directors received training in their duties and responsibilities this quarter, bringing the number having received training to six out of a total of eight.

4. Finalize the development of a cooperative organization model and loan policy.

Objective accomplished. These documents were finalized by the Cooperatives and Credit staff and approved by the boards of directors of the cooperatives.

5. Continue efforts to have qualified GOS personnel join the project as Cooperative Education and Training Officer and as Senior Cooperatives Officer.

Again this quarter, no progress was made on the secondment of these two important staff members.

6. Have the seven villages cooperatives registered with the GOS and in full operation as demonstrated by the granting of agricultural loans to farmers.

Three cooperatives have received their formal registration from the GOS. The necessary documents have been filed

on a fourth cooperative and formal registration is expected in the near future.

7. Have the credit committees of the seven village level cooperatives trained and executing their duties in granting approximately 100 loans to farmers.

The credit committees of four cooperatives have received training regarding their duties and responsibilities. Three of these committees have begun processing loan applications. The first forty-nine farm operating loans (to cover the cost of mechanized services and, in some case, seed) were made during the last two weeks of the quarter. The combined value of these loans was LS 10,020.58.

8. Have the cooperative union formed and fully operational with office equipment, supplies, and staff in place.

The union was not formed; however, a working group, whose objective is to accomplish this, was organized. The working group included a representative from the Provincial Commissioner's office, the Assistant Commissioner for Cooperatives, and representatives from the Sudan Socialist Union, the Agricultural Bank of Sudan, and the village level cooperatives. The equipment, supplies, agricultural machinery, and staff were in position in the project area and prepared for the planting season operations.

9. Have the land to be planted by tractors measured to determine tractor service fees.

This objective was accomplished by the Data Management Section at the request of the Cooperatives and Credit Section. The areas of 91 farm fields were determined. The total, combines area of these fields was approximately 1,300 feddans.

10. Additional activities during the quarter:

- 1) served as Acting Chief of Party for approximately 30 days during the absence of the Chief of Party;
- 2) maintained the project financial records for the Damazin office;
- 3) assisted in getting the project boat operational;

4) distributed approximately 150 Leucenia seedlings in the project area;

5) developed (with assistance from Agricultural Mechanization Advisor, Agricultural Economist, and Data Management Advisor) a pricing schedule for the mechanized cultivation services to be offered by the cooperatives and negotiated acceptance of the prices with the cooperatives' executive committee.

#### Major Problems and Recommendations

The absence of high level counterpart personnel is the major problem facing this section. Compounding the problem this quarter was the frustration generated by the inability to address the problem due to the absence of an effective Project Director. The Project Director was absent for approximately two months this quarter and the Acting Project Director has no authority to solve the problem.

#### Objectives for Next Quarter

1. Have the cooperative credit committees grant at least 100 farm operating loans to project area farmers;
2. Have 400-500 feddans of project area farm lands cultivated using cooperatives equipment and drivers;
3. Arrange for training six cooperative field workers at the Cooperative Training and Development Center in Khartoum;
4. Continue efforts to have qualified GOS personnel join the project as Cooperative Education and Training Officer and as Senior Cooperatives Officer;
5. Develop a cooperatives expansion and training program for implementation during the coming dry season;
6. Meet the conditions precedent for the release of the cooperative credit fund from USAID;
7. Take one month R & R leave.

#### D. Data Management Section: Data Management Advisor

##### Objectives and Accomplishments

1. Continue efforts to have the project Data Management

Office integrated with the local GOS office responsible for agricultural development planning and project implementation.

A meeting was held with the Provincial Commissioner, the Project Director, and the Chief of Party to discuss the function of a provincial planning department and the project's contribution to such an office. The Provincial Commissioner requested that we write him a letter containing the details of our conversation. The letter was drafted and forwarded to the Chief of Party for his comments.

2. Have a GOS planning expert seconded to the project to head the Office of Project Planning and Evaluation.

A position description for the planning expert was drafted and discussed with the Chief of Party and Project Director. A week was spent in Wad Medani and Khartoum discussing the position and potential candidates for it with Dr. Osman Khalifa, the Regional Minister of Agriculture; Dr. Hassan Sid Ahmed of the National Ministry of Agriculture; and Mr. Hassan Mohammadi of the Department of Soil Conservation, Land Use and Water Programming. Although each of these gentlemen promised to recommend candidates for the position, none have done so. The absence of the Project Director during the quarter has further delayed any progress on this objective.

3. Develop a land use plan for the project area.

The accomplishment of this objective awaits the secondment of a planning expert to the project; however, efforts were made to have the Soil Conservation, Land Use, and Water Programming Department report on their field work done in the project area on this subject in early 1981.

4. Continue data analysis services for other project section.

Under the supervision of the Data Management Advisor, staff enumerators finished analyzing data from Dr. Fruzzetti's survey concerning project area sorghum storage facilities, farm level labor utilization, and child mortality rates. Data from

an Extension Section, juroof land, farm survey was coded, analyzed, and returned to the Extension Section. A revised set of age/sex pyramids relating to ten project area viillages was also completed.

At the request of the Cooperatives and Credit Section, the Data Management Advisor and a team of three enumerators undertook the measurement of those farmers' fields who were planning to hire the services of the cooperatives' mechanized equipment. The measurements will serve as the basis for calculating the charges for the mechanized services and the loans to cover charges. In 18 days, our team measured 91 fields having a combined total area of approximately 1,300 feddans. The trip report we wrote covering the field work was also designed to be used as a "training manual" for extension workers who will be employing the techniques described in their field work.

5. Continue monthly and quarterly reporting functions.

Objective accomplished. The draft quarterly report for the first quarter of 1982 was completed in April. Project newsletters in English and Arabic were published for all three months of the quarter. The monthly newsletters have received favorable comments from readers inside and outside the project.

6. Have the GOS candidate for a M.S. in regional planning at a U.S. university join the project.

No progress.

7. Establish a provincial-level office of planning development within the GOS.

This matter was discussed with the Regional Minister of Agriculture and the project's contact person with the National Ministry of Agriculture. Plans have been made at the regional level to establish such an office; however, the implementation of these plans have been delayed due to certain changes occurring within the government.

8. Additional activities during the quarter

1) The Data Management Advisor assumed joint responsibility, with the Agricultural Engineer, for the project boat:

its safe operation, moorage facilities, guards and pilot. The boat was safely moored in the reservoir, two guard huts constructed, and guards and pilot hired. During June, the boat made a test trip to Abu Gemai with eight people on board. The trip which normally takes 2.5 hours by jeep and will become impossible by jeep during the rainy season, took approximately one hour each way by boat and was declared "most enjoyable" by all on board. The Agricultural Engineer, Cooperatives and Credit Advisor, and the Data Management Advisor negotiated an agreement with the Rosseries Town Council to share the cost (on a 50/50 basis) of up-grading the road to the boat landing site. The Data Management Advisor will monitor this construction project during next quarter.

2) A grain price monitoring program was initiated in Damazin Wholesale prices (the prices paid to farmers) for the major grains and will be monitored on a routine basis.

#### Major Problems and Recommendations

The uncertainty of the GOS in regard to the establishment of an office of development planning is a major factor constraining the implementation of planning activities by this section.

#### Objectives for Next Quarter

1. Continue efforts to have the project Data Management Office integrated with the local GOS office responsible for agricultural development planning and project implementation;
2. Have a GOS planning expert seconded to the project to head the Office of Project Planning and Evaluation;
3. Develop a land use plan for the project area;
4. Continue data analysis services for other project sections;
5. Continue monthly and quarterly reporting functions;
6. Have a GOS candidate for a M.S. degree in regional planning at a U.S. university join the project;
7. Continue to monitor grain prices in Damazin;
8. Continue to monitor boat related activities;
9. Take a month R&R leave.

E. Data Management Section: Agricultural Economist

Objectives and Accomplishments

1. Complete the harvest study report.

The revised final draft of this report has been reviewed by several people, including the Agronomic Advisor and the Chief of Party, and will be issued in its final form next quarter. Only the lack of secretarial services in the Damazin Office prevented it from being completed this quarter.

2. Complete the land clearing labor usage study and report.

The data for this study has been collected, coded, and analyzed. Due to a nine-day period of convalesce, during which the Agricultural Economist was confined to his bed on his doctor's orders, the completion of this report was postponed until early next quarter.

3. Prepare research formats for planting season studies.

The Agricultural Economist accomplished this objective through four separate activities:

- 1) he designed the data collection records to be used by his field team in gathering data on labor usage in traditional planting and weeding operations;
- 2) he worked with the Extension Advisor to design a farm visit record, to be used by extension officers, which would collect essential economic information on the farms visited;
- 3) working with the Agronomy Section, he assisted in the planning of mechanized and animal traction activities on the Demonstration Farm and developed a program to collect essential economic data from those activities;
- 4) he developed, with the assistance of the Extension Advisor, the Cooperatives and Credit Advisor, and the Agricultural Engineer, a system of collecting essential economic data from project area mechanized farming operations. The Agricultural Economist had planned to employ a team of enumerators to collect this information; however, these plans

had to be modified when it became apparent that there would be insufficient housing or camping facilities for the team;

5) assisted the Cooperatives and Credit Advisor develop a schedule of charges for tractor services.

#### Major Problems and Recommendations

The lack of housing in the project area or camping equipment has stopped the planned effort to gather economic information on the project's mechanized farming operations in the project area, causing alternative plans to be made and implemented at the last moment. Progress on all reports has been delayed due to the lack of secretarial services. The lack of regular mail delivery from Khartoum during the rainy season has also been a problem.

#### Objectives for Next Quarter

1. Revise the shiel report;
2. Draft the land clearing report;
3. Analyze the data collected and draft the report on labor usage in traditional planting operations;
4. Analyze the data collected and draft the report on labor usage in traditional weeding operations;
5. Collect essential economic data from the Demonstration Farm and Animal Traction Unit;
6. Supervise data collection activities in the project area;
7. Analyze and report on mechanized farming data collected, per staff agreement, by the Cooperatives and Credit Section, the Extension Section, and the Agricultural Mechanization Section from mechanized operations in the project area.

#### F. Extension Section

##### Objectives and Accomplishments

1. Complete the secondment of male and female extension counterparts.

The secondment of these two people, Awatif Abdulla Mohammad as the Women's Extensionist and Mohammad Yousif Mohammad

as the Senior Extension Officer, was finalized in the closing days of the quarter.

2. Conduct a poultry vaccination campaign in seven project area villages.

The campaign was carried out in six project area villages and received a very positive response from the villagers. A total of 960 chickens were vaccinated.

3. Complete analysis of the juroof land farm survey with assistance from the Data Management Section.

An initial report analyzing the responses to 40 questionnaires was received from the Data Management Section. An additional 15 questionnaires were completed by the end of the quarter. These will be combined into a final report to be issued during the coming quarter.

4. Conduct Field Days at Abu Gemai and Abu Sheneina vegetable demonstration plots.

A Field Day was held in each of these locations in April. Vegetables harvested during the Field Days were distributed to those farmers attending. Discussions and demonstrated covered the culture of leafy vegetables on juroof lands, improved versus local varieties of vegetables, and techniques of insect pest control.

5. Implement the women's education program with assistance from the Ministry of Education personnel.

Due to the absence of the Project Director and Female Extension Counterpart, this program has been delayed at the point of formally requesting that three adult literacy teachers be allowed to work with the project.

6. Implement an in-service training program for female adult education teachers with the Ministry of Education.

This objective, which supports objective number 5, has also been postponed.

7. Prepare field crop demonstration plots for planting.

A 5.5 feddan plot in Abu Gemai and a 2 feddan plot in Abu Sheneina were cleared of trees and brush and a planting

program for each was developed. The 5.5 feddan plot will be mechanically cultivated and the 2 feddan plot will be cultivated with hand tools during this rainy season.

8. Continue the farm visit program.

At the end of the quarter, the Extension Officers were implementing the rainy season program to visit approximately 100 farmers twice a month. A farm visit record was developed to document activities during the visit, the condition of the farmer's crops, and other relevant observations.

9. Other activities during the quarter:

1) developed a tentative budget for the women's extension program;

2) organized the allocation of project area housing, transportation, and supplies among project field staff.

Major Problems and Recommendations

1. The absence of counterpart personnel has constrained the entire extension program and completely delayed the implementation of the women's extension program;

2. The inability to utilize existing project housing in Damazin due to the continued uncertainty of their release to the GOS has caused serious morale problems among the extension staff;

3. The inadequate nature of housing in the project area has made living and working in that remote area difficult;

4. Vandals and grazing animals damaged both juroof demonstration plots. This happened to all juroof farms in the area that were not fenced and did not have a 24-hour guard.

Objectives for Next Quarter

1. Complete analysis of the juroof land farm survey with assistance from the Data Management Section.

2. Plant the two field crop demonstration plots, demonstrating:

1) a three-year rotation of cow pea, sesame, and sorghum;

2) intercropping of sorghum and cow pea;

- 3) local versus improved varieties of sorghum and sesame;
- 4) local and improved varieties of vegetables.
3. Continue the farm visit program;
4. Implement the women's education program with assistance from Ministry of Education personnel;
5. Implement an in-service training program for female adult education teachers with the Ministry of Education;
6. Take one month R&R leave.

G. Livestock and Range Management Section

Objectives and Accomplishments

1. Second a GOS livestock specialist to the project to lead the Livestock and Range Management Section.

No progress.

2. Implement a cattle vaccination campaign in the project area.

This objective was accomplished through the efforts of Dr. El Kheir Khalafalla who had been employed by the project on a temporary contract. The campaign, which was carried out with the assistance of the local Department of Animal Health, reached twenty project area villages and vaccinated 6,000 cattle. Blood and fecal samples were taken for later analysis in Khartoum. External and internal parasite control drugs and 197 bottles of injectable terramycin were sold on a cost basis in what is planned to be a continuing program. This marked the first time many of the villagers were able to purchase drugs for treating their animals. In addition to cattle, considerable interest was shown in the treatment of donkeys, one of the mainstays of the local transportation system.

3. Conduct an elementary level animal health training program for a selected group of nomadic herders.

Dr. Khalafalla arranged for this short course to be conducted near Khartoum at the Omdurman Veterinary Training

School. Transportation and housing arrangements were made for 12 young herdsmen who had agreed to attend the course; however, when the day came for them to depart the project area for Omdurman, only four of the herders were prepared to go. Consequently, the course was postponed until next dry season.

4. Resolve problems impeding the demarcation of nomadic cattle routes from the project area to the rainy season grazing areas near the White Nile.

The major problem affecting this objective is the demarcation of cattle routes outside the project area. Several influential farmers have cleared areas within the cattle routes and are farming them. Questions have been raised over compensation for these farmers should they be forced to abandon these areas. The matter will have to be resolved at a high level of government.

5. Other activities during the quarter:

1) Dr. Khalafalla made arrangements for the purchase of a pair of oxen for the project animal traction program and advised the project on their housing and care;

2) He also assisted in the resolution of a problem arising as a result of some project area farmers clearing restricted forest lands; these restricted areas are normally used by nomadic herders during their stay in the project area;

3) Dr. Khalafalla initiated a program to establish a forage seed nursery in the project area in conjunction with the local range management department;

4) He also assisted the Data Management Advisor in making arrangements for the Rural Water Development Corporation to conduct a water survey of the project area. At the last minute, the Rural Water Development Corporation postponed this survey.

#### Major Problems and Recommendations

Progress in this section of the project is being constrained by the lack of full time specialists to implement its program.

Objectives for Next Quarter

1. Have a GOS livestock specialist join the project to implement the livestock and range management program.

H. Project Management: Chief of Party

Objectives and Accomplishments

1. Continue efforts to strengthen project management.

Mr. Siddiq Abdallah Abdelgani was appointed as Project Director replacing Mr. Khalid Abdalla Shams. Although the appointment was effective June 1, 1982, the new project director has not yet joined the project. The Chief of Party met with Mr. Siddiq in Khartoum and briefed him on project activities.

Individual staff conferences were held throughout the quarter with all staff members. Special attention was given to Dr. Khalafalla, the TDY livestock consultant; Ken Eubanks; Jerry Pruitt; and John Butts. Several full and mini staff meetings were used to coordinate activities between project sections. Additional meetings were held with GOS project staff and with GOS officials in Khartoum. The most significant of these meetings was one with Dr. Gamal Ahmed of the Agricultural Minister's office in Khartoum and a meeting with Dr. Mohammad El Fadil, the Undersecretary of Animal Health, both of whom expressed keen interest in the project.

2. Continue efforts to have the project chain of command within the GOS well defined and functioning effectively.

This objective was pursued during meetings with GOS and USAID officials in Khartoum. Progress has been very slow in this area; however, the project has received verbal reports that an agreement has been reached to have all operational matters pass through regional and local levels with overall responsibility for the project remaining with the National Minister of Agriculture.

3. Respond to the USAID evaluation of the project.

Although the finalized version of the evaluation report has not been received, a lengthy review of a draft of the document was prepared and forwarded to USAID in late May. The draft report needed extensive rewriting and editing to correct factual and judgemental errors.

4. Coordinate staff efforts to insure that the project achieves its objectives concerning the approaching planting season.

As reported elsewhere in this quarterly report, the objective has been accomplished.

5. A weekly boat service from Damazin to Abu Gemai and Abu Sheneina was initiated late in the quarter. This major accomplishment is the culmination of considerable effort over a long period of time by several E.I. staff members, including the Logistics/Administration Officer, GSO, Agricultural Engineer Coop and Credit Advisor, Data Management Advisor and the Chief of Party, all of whom played roles at one time or another. Cooperation with the Provincial authorities and local Rosaries council was also instrumental in finding a suitable boat docking site.

The impact of this service on project rainy season operations will be invaluable in that field staff are no longer isolated during July-September monsoon period. Boat service combined with the installation of radio communication will enable field operations to run much more efficiently.

Operational responsibility for boat service is under the Data Management Advisor who, fortunately, has considerable prior experience. An experienced pilot has been hired by the GOS.

6. Other activities included:

- 1) several field trips to the project area to review construction progress, land clearing, extension demonstration of vegetable juroof plantings, extension Newcastle vaccine campaign and coop/credit activities.

- 2) briefed the Provincial Commissioner on project progress;
- 3) in company with other E.I. staff made a field trip to the Sudanese-Egyptian Agricultural Project to determine the availability and suitability of their seed planters as an alternative should the project's planters not arrive in time;
- 4) attended the Cooperatives and Credit Section's organizational meeting for the cooperative union;
- 5) assisted the General Services Officer monitor project construction activities;
- 6) assisted the Agronomist in project activities at the Demonstration Farm;
- 7) rainy season procurement was highly successful in that the project seeders (see C above) did arrive in Damazin (and the project area) and were ready for use and fuel (benzine and diesel) supplies were obtained and transported to Damazin and Abu Gemai. We were also able to get several shipments of other vital equipment. Credit for these efforts goes mainly to the GSO, who worked diligently with customs officials, truckers, petroleum officials and others in Khartoum and Port Sudan.

#### Major Problems and Recommendations

1. The major problem facing the project is one of lame duck administration on the GOS side. While the new Project Director was appointed as of June 1, he still has not been to Damazin. The current Director went on leave early in May and had not returned by the end of the quarter. The Acting Director does not have adequate authority to engage in decision making. This is especially crucial in the area of staff secondment and staff housing assignments.
2. The advent of the Holy month of Ramadan on June 22 has slowed down project activities somewhat.
3. The final USAID Project Evaluation Report has not been received. The usefulness of several key recommendations will be lost if the document is not completed in the near future.

Objectives for Next Quarter

1. Continue efforts to strengthen project management;
2. Supervise the credit, cooperatives, and extension activities while the E.I. advisors are on leave;
3. Assist the Data Management Advisor complete the next quarterly report.

NOTE: The Chief of Party was on R&R for approximately one month in May/June.

I. Project Management: General Services Officer

Objectives and Accomplishments

1. Inventory all project property and equipment.  
Objective accomplished. Inventory cards are now being maintained on all inventory items.
2. Have necessary housing for project area operations ready for occupancy.

At the end of the quarter, project area construction was in the following stages of completion:

<u>Number of Buildings</u>	<u>Building Type</u>	<u>Percent Completion</u>
at Abu Gemai		
4	T-2	60
9	T-3	30
1	Office	25
2	Warehouse	50
at Abu Sheneina		
1	T-2	75
3	T-3	75
1	Office/Warehouse	75
at Kharen Kharen		
1	T-2	75
4	T-3	75
1	Warehouse/Meeting Center	100
1	Office	25

3. Continue comprehensive preventative maintenance program for all project equipment.

This program is being implemented at a much lower level than was planned due to the lack of personnel.

4. Begin training a GOS mechanic to take over all responsibilities for project vehicle maintenance.

This program has not been initiated because a GOS mechanic has not been assigned to this section.

5. Begin training GOS General Services Officer to assume all general service operations.

This program has not been initiated because a GOS staff member of adequate qualifications has not been assigned to this section. One GOS staff member has been trained to maintain stock records and issue supplies.

6. Identify, secure, and transport to Damazin and/or the project area all supplies required for rainy season operations.

Objective accomplished. The necessary supplies were in position at the end of the quarter. Some additional supplies, not necessary for rainy season operations, either had not arrived in Port Sudan or had not cleared customs at the end of the quarter. These supplies, four containers, some AMC parts, and two rubber boats will be delivered to Damazin as soon as possible.

7. Monitor all construction activities.

This on-going objective was turned over to the General Services Officer during the quarter.

8. Other activities during the quarter

1) purchased in Port Sudan: 96 drums of benzine and 76 drums of diesel. Of these, 41 drums of benzine were delivered to the project office in Khartoum and 55 drums of benzine and 76 drums of diesel were delivered to Damazin. Also, delivered to Damazin were: 5 drums of kerosine, 4 drums of motor oil, and 2 drums of grease;

2) cleared the four project planters from customs in Port Sudan and had them delivered to Damazin;

3) recovered a damaged jeep from Wad Medani;

4) installed electrical appliances and up-graded electrical service at staff houses;

5) began up-grading roads used by the project in Damazin.

#### Major Problems and Recommendations

It is recommended that all vacant staff positions relating to general service functions be filled. These positions include: a general services officer counterpart, a chief clerk, supply clerk, time keeper, three store keepers, three lubricators, and several mechanics and assistant mechanics. It is also recommended that the project employ a full time electrician, a full time air condition/refrigeration technician, and a full time carpenter.

#### Objectives for Next Quarter

1. Monitor all construction activities;
2. Complete the up-grading of all project roads in Damazin and to the boat landing;
3. Have the remaining project supplies from Port Sudan delivered to Damazin.
4. Have necessary personnel to implement general service functions join the project;
5. Continue comprehensive preventative maintenance program for all project equipment.

#### J. Project Management: Logistics and Administration Officer

##### Objectives and Accomplishments

1. Move into Damazin all necessary supplies for project operations during the rainy season.

Objective accomplished. The major objects of concern were the four, tractor drawn planters to be used in project area farming operations this rainy season. The Logistics Officer processed the import license for the planters and assisted the General Service Officer get them cleared from Port Sudan. The planters arrived in Damazin in June.

2. Hire and train a local-hire employee to assume the responsibilities of the Logistics and Administration Officer.

Objective accomplished. Ms. Peng Gordon was hired to take over procurement, petty cash, travel arrangements and general office functions. Although USAID has expressed its interest in closing the Khartoum office, the Logistics Officer and the newly-appointed Project Director have raised some objections to this course of action. Of particular concern is the matter of the project's subcontract with SUTRENCO and logistical support for the Damazin staff.

3. Other activities during the quarter:

- 1) resolved a financial crisis involving the payment of funds to the construction contractor which allowed them to continue construction of project buildings;
- 2) completed project financial reports;
- 3) with assistance of the Chief of Party, finalized the details of Dr. Khalafalla's short term contract;
- 4) continued efforts to have the construction contractor provide the project with requested contractual documents;
- 5) maintained the Khartoum office and routine procedures.

Objectives for Next Quarter

1. Continue to train the new office assistant;
2. Finalize travel arrangements for staff members going on leave;
3. Assist the Cooperatives and Credit Advisor meet the contractual conditions precedent to the release of cooperative credit funds by USAID;
4. Continue the Khartoum office functions;
5. Go on approximately one-month leave.