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Postharvest Institute for Perishables

Postharvest Institute for Perishables

ANNUAL REPORT

1980-1981



in cooperation with
**United States Agency for
International Development**

Project Title: Storage and Processing of Fruits and Vegetables
Project No. AID/DSAN-CA-0265
Washington, D.C., U.S.A. 20523

ANNUAL REPORT

Postharvest Institute for Perishables
University of Idaho
83843

October 1, 1980 through September 30, 1981

Prepared for the

Agency for International Development
Cooperative Agreement NO. AID/DSAN-CA-0265
Project Title: Storage and Processing of Fruits and Vegetables

Dr. Robert L. Skiles, Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
FOUNDATION AND OBJECTIVES.....	1
ORGANIZATION OF PIP.....	1
RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIVITIES.....	2
I. GENERAL TECHNICAL SERVICE TEAMS.....	2
1. Paraguay: AID/Asuncion Request.....	3
2. Barbados: AID/Bridgetown Request.....	3
3. Nicaragua: AID/Managua Request.....	3
4. Dominican Republic: AID/Santo Domingo Request.....	4
II. ADAPTIVE RESEARCH.....	4
III. DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM.....	4
IV. LOSS REDUCTION MANUALS.....	5
V. SHORT COURSES AND TRAINING GUIDES.....	5
VI. INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS.....	5
VII. VOLUNTARY INFORMATION NETWORK.....	6
VIII. GRADUATE LEVEL EDUCATION.....	7
IX. PEACE CORPS INTERACTION.....	7
X. MULTINATIONAL COOPERATION.....	7
ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.....	7

- APPENDIX A: Evaluation by USAID Mission
- APPENDIX B: Evaluation by GTS Team Members
- APPENDIX C: Evaluation by Host Country Organization
- APPENDIX D: Evaluation by GTS Team Leader
- APPENDIX E: PIPIC Satisfaction Survey
- APPENDIX F: GAPP Charter
- APPENDIX G: PIP Information Brochure

Foundation and Objectives of the Postharvest Institute for Perishables

The Postharvest Institute for Perishables, hereinafter referred to as PIP, was founded at the University of Idaho in accordance with an agreement between the University and the United States Agency for International Development, dated September 29, 1980. The objectives of the agreement are:

1. To increase the availability of fruit, vegetable, root and tuber crops and enhance the basic diet of people in the developing countries by reducing postharvest food losses
2. To reduce costs of these perishable commodities by improving marketing efficiency.
3. To encourage the development of fruit, vegetable, root and tuber crop industries and processing.

The expressed means for attaining those objectives are:

1. PIP will function as an international base to organize general technical service teams that will identify, assess and reduce the problems associated with the storage, marketing and processing of perishable crops.
2. PIP, in conjunction with AID, will design projects on activities which will reduce food losses, reduce costs and improve market efficiency, and/or encourage and enhance economic growth through agri-business development in the labor intensive perishable crops industries and through foreign exchange earnings from the export of these commodities.

Organization of PIP

Soon after PIP was founded in October, 1980, Dean R.J. Miller, College of Agriculture, UI, designated Dr. Richard Schermerhorn and Mr. Walter Sparks, both from the University of Idaho, to be Co-Directors, and Dr. Harry Fenwick, University of Idaho, to be Assistant Director. Then a Policy Committee was formed of the following individuals:

Dr. R.J. Miller, Chairman
Dr. Richard W. Schermerhorn, Co-Director of PIP
Dr. Donald Jackson, Development Alternatives, Inc.
Mr. Harvey Neese, Agri-Food Systems International, Inc.

After subsequent advertisements and interview, the following staffing was completed:

1 February 1981 - Gleanne Wray, Administrative Secretary
8 April 1981 - Paulette George, Librarian/Information Specialist
10 August 1981 - Robert Skiles, Director

The Policy Committee described above was formed by a formal agreement between the University of Idaho, Development Alternatives, Inc., and Agri-Food Systems International, Inc. Representatives from each entity are on the committee, and its purpose is to establish guidelines for the operation of PIP. Robert Morris, AID/Washington, who is Program Manager, acts as an ex officio member of the committee.

Responsibilities and Activities of PIP

According to the terms of the agreement between the University of Idaho and USAID, the following responsibilities are defined for PIP:

- I. Organize General Technical Service Teams.
- II. Adapt research to developing countries.
- III. Develop a documentation system for dissemination of information.
- IV. Develop and distribute manuals on postharvest loss reduction.
- V. Conduct short courses and training in postharvest loss reduction.
- VI. Organize international meetings related to loss prevention in developing countries.
- VII. Develop an international voluntary network of groups associated with food loss reduction in perishable crops.
- VIII. Coordinate placement of developing country graduate students in the U.S.
- IX. Develop a cooperation with the Peace Corps in developing countries.
- X. Cooperate with other financial institutions interested in promoting postharvest loss control in perishable crops.

The activities in PIP during the year October 1, 1980 to September 30, 1981 that pertained to these ten categories will be addressed in detail in the sections that follow.

I. General Technical Service (GTS) Teams

In preparation for the organization of GTS teams that could respond to an AID Mission request in any phase of postharvest losses in perishable crops, it was necessary to locate and have on file the names of appropriate, available people. Accordingly about 3500 questionnaires were mailed to people whose names appeared in professional directories of engineering, economics, food technology, horticulture, plant pathology, entomology and agronomy. Also, all land-grant colleges or universities were contacted at the same departments as above, including all the faculty at the University of Idaho in the above disciplines. Also contacted were experts in postharvest disciplines whose names were recommended to PIP by various people in the field.

The questionnaires sought information concerning major and minor fields of expertise, commodity specialties, foreign experience and foreign language capability, and availability for overseas assignments. At the same time "Contractor Employee Biographical Data Sheets" were obtained for the purpose of calculating consulting fees and for submission to AID/Washington when a GTS team was organized.

There were 498 questionnaires returned to PIP by September 30, 1981 and the data was entered into the Expert Roster computer system. This is an IBM Storage and Retrieval System (STAIRS) that PIP maintains at the University of Idaho. This procedure is supervised by Gleanne Wray, Administrative Secretary.

Upon completion of a GTS team mission to a developing country the members prepare a draft report for the Mission Director before returning to the U.S. After returning to the U.S., they prepare a fully documented final report for wide distribution in both English and the native language. Subsequently, PIP sends its own questionnaires to the AID Mission, the host country organization that requested the assistance, the GTS team leader and the GTS team members. The purpose of the questionnaires is to obtain a complete appraisal of all aspects of the operation to improve future operations. Samples of the questionnaires appear in Appendices A to D of this report.

1. Paraguay

AID/Asuncion Request

Two consulting engineers spent the period May 3 to May 8, 1981 in Asuncion, Paraguay in response to a request from CREDICOOP through AID/Asuncion. The engineers were Mr. Thomas Skinner, of T.C. Skinner & Associates, Inc., Gainesville, Florida, and Mr. Alton Robertson, of Seaburn & Robertson, Inc., Tampa, Florida. The Mission requested specialists to prepare technical specifications for climate controlled and refrigerated rooms for storage and handling of bananas, strawberries, tomatoes and pineapples.

Activities and Results

The engineers assisted Credicoop Ltda., an organization financed partially by USAID. They were required to estimate the refrigeration requirements and to provide technical specifications for buildings and equipment to be purchased for installation. Calculations were based upon seasonal requirements for storing and processing strawberries, tomatoes and bananas for later export.

A report was written in English and Spanish which included specifications and recommendations for storage room sizes and air circulation capacity, and required cooling capacities of the refrigeration units.

2. Barbados

AID/Bridgetown Request

In September, 1981, a request was received from AID/Bridgetown for short-term technical assistance to provide an assessment of physical and economic losses associated with postharvest handling, transport, storage and distribution of sweet potatoes, cabbage, avocados, ginger and other perishable commodities. The area specified for study are the islands of Barbados, Antigua, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

The GTS team members will be Mr. Donald Leeper, Agri-Food Systems International, Inc., Leader; Dr. Donald Jackson, Development Alternatives, Inc.; and Dr. Richard Schermerhorn, University of Idaho.

Activities

It is not planned that this GTS team will go to the Caribbean islands until October, 1981. Therefore, their activities and results will be published in the Annual Report for 1981-1982.

3. Nicaragua

AID/Managua Request

In September, 1981, a request was received from AID/Managua for the short-term assistance of Drs. Ruth Baldwin and Marion Fields from the University of Missouri. The Food Laboratory of the Ministry of Industry requested assistance in operating procedures for sensory evaluation equipment in the food laboratory and in preparation for marketing such products as bread made with soy flour or fortified baby foods. Also a seminar was requested for training in sanitation for managers and employees of dairy and meat industries.

Activities

It is expected that this GTS team will go to Nicaragua in November, 1981, or later. Therefore, their activities and results will be published in the Annual Report for 1981-1982.

4. Dominican Republic
AID/Santo Domingo Request

In September, 1981, a request was received from AID/Santo Domingo for short-term services of PIP in response to a request from a national marketing institute in the Dominican Republic. The request concerned onions and potatoes, and a review of storage facilities (present and future requirements), alternative storage methods at ambient temperatures, and operational and institutional arrangements which might improve the functions of the national marketing institute.

The GTS team members will be Dr. Neil Meyer and Mr. William Simpson, both from the University of Idaho.

Activities

The team will go to the Dominican Republic in October, 1981. Therefore, their activities and results will be published in the Annual Report for 1981-1982.

II. Adaptive Research

There are adaptive research facilities at the University of Idaho. Particularly at the Aberdeen and Parma Research and Extension Centers. There graduate students from developing countries will be able to do field work on a variety of perishable crops and then study them further under various storage conditions. The results from such studies will be expected to form the basis for M.S. theses written by the students.

There were no graduate students sponsored by PIP during the year 1980-1981, so the research facilities were not used.

III. Documentation System

The Postharvest Institute for Perishables Information Center (PIPIC) has been modeled after the Postharvest Documentation Service of the Kansas State University's Food and Feed Grain Institute. PIPIC focuses on roots, tubers, fruits, vegetables, nuts and spices, and the accumulation and dissemination of information pertaining to their harvesting, handling, storing, processing, transportation and marketing. The services of PIPIC are designed primarily for clients in developing countries. Nevertheless, people from developed countries can obtain the services for a small fee (cost of materials and duplication.)

Paulette George, Librarian/Information Specialist, assumed her position in April, 1981. Since then there have been 2040 literature acquisitions entered into the PIPIC documentation system. From these acquisitions, 256 were used to prepare a bibliography entitled "Roots and Tubers: A Postharvest Bibliography."

When new literature on postharvest subjects is received, it is indexed, abstracted and entered into the retrieval system (STAIRS) that was described earlier. In addition to this computerized resource, PIPIC can also search other databases such as AGRICOLA, Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, Doane Agricultural Services or Tropical Abstracts in order to locate published material.

Upon receipt of requests from developing countries PIPIC can do computer searches on any subject within its area of responsibility and send the information to the requestors in the form of photocopies or 24x reduction microfiche. From May to September 30, 1981 there were 26 requests from developing countries and 3 from developed countries. PIPIC responded by sending 151 photocopied documents containing 1928 pages. Also there was one request for a microfiche.

When requested documentary material is sent to an individual or an organization, a questionnaire is sent also. Its purpose is to obtain an evaluation of PIPIC's services in order to improve in any area necessary. One of the questionnaires appears at the end of this report as Appendix E. To date there have been eight questionnaires returned and all expressed satisfaction with the services.

IV. Loss Reduction Manuals

No manuals were written in 1980-1981. The preparation of them is expected to become the responsibility of the Field Director who will probably be hired in early 1982.

V. Short Courses and Training Guides

No AID Mission requests were received during the year for short courses or training guides.

VI. International Meetings

PIP was invited to participate in the First Consultative Meeting on Postharvest Losses in the Caribbean which was held in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the University of the West Indies. The meeting was held at the University in Trinidad from July 19-24, 1981. Those from PIP or representing PIP who were in attendance were Donald Jackson, Development Alternatives, Inc.; Donald Leeper, Agri-Food Systems International, Inc.; and Richard Schermerhorn, Harry Fenwick, Walter Sparks and Robert Skiles from the University of Idaho. From Washington, D.C. there were Robert Morris, AID, and Lynn Moore, GAO.

The purpose of the meeting was to review and analyze postharvest losses in perishables in the developing countries or islands of Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad and Tobago (not a developing country.)

A formal presentation was made by Robert Skiles in which PIP was introduced to the audience. Then its objectives and capabilities were described in some detail. Paulette George had prepared the bibliography on roots and tubers, and had copies made for all in attendance. They were eagerly accepted.

VII. Voluntary Information Network

During the year 1980-1981, the first organizational steps were taken to form the Group for Assistance in Perishable Products (GAPP). It is intended that this will be an informal association of donor and assistance organizations for sharing and exchanging information relevant to postharvest perishable loss prevention programs.

Robert Morris introduced the concept of GAPP at the First Consultative Meeting on Postharvest Losses in the Caribbean, which was described under VI, above. Following that meeting the principal international donor groups, research centers and multilateral assistance groups were invited to attend the first meeting of GAPP in Washington, D.C. on September 16-17, 1981. The organizations who participated were:

Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center, (AVRC)
Shanhua, Taiwan.

Commonwealth Scientific Industrial and Research Organization, (CSIRO)
New South Wales, Australia

Food and Agriculture Organization, (FAO)
Rome, Italy

International Development Research Center, (IDRC)
Edmonton, Canada

International Food Policy Research Institute, (IFPRI)
Washington, D.C.

International Potato Center, (CIP)
Lima, Peru

Tropical Products Institute, (TPI)
London, England

Institut de Recherches Agronomiques Tropicales, (IRAT)
Montpellier, France

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, (IICA)
San Jose, Costa Rica

International Center for Tropical Agriculture, (CIAT)
Cali, Colombia

The meeting was used to discuss the role that GAPP might assume as a medium for the exchange of information among its members. Then a written document was prepared that described the purpose and objectives of GAPP for distribution to the managers or directors of the individuals in attendance, and to any potentially new members. The document appears as Appendix F in this report. PIP will serve as the secretariat of GAPP.

VIII. Graduate Level Education

Correspondence was initiated with three candidates for graduate study in a Master of Science program at the University of Idaho. The students, if accepted by the University, will study some aspect of postharvest loss prevention in perishable crops, and will write a thesis on the subject to get their degree.

Of the three students being considered, two are from the Philippines, and one is from Colombia.

IX. Peace Corps Interaction

The activity in this area during the year 1980-1981 was limited to a first contact in Washington, D.C. during the GAPP meeting described under VII above. A representative from Peace Corps attended the meetings upon invitation and became acquainted with PIP and its objectives.

X. Multinational Cooperation

Initial action was taken in this area when PIP became known to various world organizations during the GAPP meeting described under VII above. PIP's documentation center and its far-reaching capabilities were made known to many organizations in various ways, e.g. during the Commonwealth Meeting in Trinidad (see VI above), during the GAPP meeting in Washington, D.C. (see VII above), and by direct mailings.

The U.S. Alternate Executive Director of the Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippines, was contacted by mail and plans were made for Robert Skiles to meet with him in December, 1981, to discuss PIP's capabilities and ways in which it might participate in some of the Bank's programs.

Additional Activities

1. A logo with a circular arrangement of the letters PIP, was developed for the Postharvest Institute for Perishables, and is now being used on all brochures, letterheads, reports, and other publications.

2. A small 4-page brochure that describes PIP and its capabilities was printed for wide distribution. It was mailed to 59 AID Missions in developing countries and to anyone requesting information about PIP. The brochure is also being translated into Spanish and French and will be printed and distributed in those languages in 1982. A sample brochure is seen in Appendix G.

3. The Policy Committee met at the University of Idaho on December 11, 1980, and on June 17, 1981. Then it met in Washington, D.C. on September 17-18, 1981.

4. The personnel of PIP moved into permanent offices in Morrill Hall at the University of Idaho in July, 1981.

5. Paulette George, Cleanne Wray and Doris Kayser attended several short computer training classes on the University of Idaho campus.

6. Equipment that has been received and installed, and is now operational in the PIP offices includes:

- Two IBM computer terminals
- Wang System 5 Word Processor
- 3-M Microfiche Step and Repeat Camera
- Canon NP-Matic Reader/Printer
- 3-M Duplifice Printer
- 3-M Duplifice Developer
- EDP Workstation
- Digital Dec Writer III

7. Gleanne Wray attended a Wang Company word processing training class on April 7-9, 1981 in Spokane, Washington.

8. Harry Fenwick and Don Leeper from the University of Idaho and Agri-Food Systems International, Inc., respectively, represented PIP at a conference on "Food Security in a Hungry World" which was held in San Francisco, California on March 4-6, 1981.

9. Paulette George and Walt Sparks represented PIP at a meeting held in Washington, D.C. on May 12-16, 1981 to make plans and preparations with the representative of the Commonwealth Secretariat for the consultative meeting that was held in Trinidad, West Indies.

10. While Paulette George was in Washington, D.C. from May 12-16, 1981, she made several valuable contacts for resources that added to the PIP Information Center capabilities.

11. Paulette George attended the Bibliographic Retrieval Service's annual user's meeting in Denver, Colorado on September 21-22, 1981.

12. Following his appointment as Director of PIP, Robert Skiles visited the Food and Feed Grain Institute at Kansas State University on September 8, 1981 to learn the basics of that organization. Earlier, other PIP staff members or PIP representatives also visited there to learn more of KSU's programs in order to formulate PIP's programs. They were: William Stellmon, Harry Fenwick and Kenneth Stafford - November 3-6, 1980; Paulette George - April 12-15, 1981.

13. An information brochure for the PIP Information Center has been designed and prepared for wide distribution similar to the introductory brochure that was mailed to AID Missions. The PIPIC brochure has not yet been printed, but final action is expected soon.

14. Pat McCracken and Grace Haskins from the General Accounting Office were in Idaho from October 9 to 16, 1981. They had discussions with PIP personnel on October 9, and during the week of October 12, they visited Southern Idaho and saw harvesting, processing, storage, packaging and shipping of potatoes, onions and apples - all perishable food crops.

15. In Washington, D.C., Robert Skiles met with Mr. Thomas Hemphill of the Cooperative League USA (CLUSA) to discuss possible areas of cooperation on September 18, 1981.

APPENDIX A

EVALUATION BY USAID MISSION

for
Technical Assistance Team
from the
Postharvest Institute for Perishables

1. USAID Mission: _____
2. Mission Address: _____

3. Mission Director or Contact: _____
4. Attached is a copy of the request received in the Postharvest Institute for Perishables. Is it correct? If not, please elaborate.

5. The PIP Technical Assistance Team was able to successfully fulfill this request for assistance. YES _____ NO _____
If NO, please specify details. _____

6. The PIP Technical Assistance Team's preliminary report was satisfactory.
YES _____ NO _____
If NO, why not? _____

7. The PIP Technical Assistance Team's final report was satisfactory.
YES _____ NO _____
If NO, why not? _____

8. Communication regarding the fulfillment of the request (through the Mission, AID/Washington and the Postharvest Institute for Perishables) was satisfactory.
YES _____ NO _____
If NO, please explain and/or assist us by suggesting ways to improve the system. _____

9. Was the language capability of the consulting team acceptable?
YES _____ NO _____
10. Was the consultants' knowledge of the country adequate? (Customs, etc.)
YES _____ NO _____
If NO, please explain. _____

11. How would you appraise the team members' knowledge of their subject matter?
____ Excellent ____ Good ____ Average ____ Poor ____ Unacceptable

12. Was the length of time allotted for this assignment adequate to accomplish the goals?
YES _____ NO _____

13. Do you believe a follow-up training session sponsored by PIP would be of value to further the objectives of the project? YES _____ NO _____
If YES, please specify the kind of training session you believe would be most valuable and other pertinent details. (Number of people involved, facilities, length of training, etc.)

14. Please assist PIP by making any suggestions, comments or criticisms about the assistance you received which will help us to improve our program.

The Postharvest Institute for Perishables is grateful for your cooperation in completing this evaluation. Please feel free to attach additional sheets or information.

It has been a pleasure to serve you.

Mail to:

Postharvest Institute for Perishables
University of Idaho
College of Agriculture
Morrill Hall, 216
Moscow, Idaho 83843
U.S.A.

(Telephone: 208-885-6791)

APPENDIX B

EVALUATION BY GTS TEAM MEMBERS

Consulting Assignment
for the
Postharvest Institute for Perishables

1. Name _____
2. Address _____
3. Consulting Assignment:
Location: _____
Nature of assignment: _____
4. Were you given a clear concept of the assignment from the PIP office and staff? _____ Yes _____ No
If NO, please elaborate. _____
5. Were the arrangements that were made for your assignment satisfactory?
 - a) Travel: _____ YES _____ NO
 - b) Lodging: _____ YES _____ NO
 - c) Transportation: (in-country) _____ YES _____ NO
 - d) Meals: _____ YES _____ NO
 - e) Secretarial help: (if applicable) _____ YES _____ NO
 - f) Mission contacts: _____ YES _____ NO

If any of the above were unsatisfactory, please use this space to elaborate and/or make suggestions as to how we can improve the system for future GTS team assignments?

6. Was the time allowed for completing the assignment adequate?
_____ YES _____ NO
If NO, why? _____

7. Would you recommend some type of follow-up (training session, training manual, etc.) as a result of the technical assistance you provided?
_____ YES _____ NO
Please explain. _____

8. Please assist PIP by making suggestions, comments or criticisms about the assignment you have just completed, which you believe will help us to improve our program. (Use extra sheets if necessary.)

The Postharvest Institute for Perishables is grateful for your cooperation both in completing this form and especially in your willingness to assist our goal of reducing the postharvest losses of perishables in developing countries.

Thank you!

Mail to:

Postharvest Institute for Perishables
University of Idaho
College of Agriculture
Morrill Hall, 216
Moscow, Idaho 83843
U.S.A.

(Telephone: 208-885-6791)

APPENDIX C

EVALUATION BY HOST COUNTRY ORGANIZATION

for
Technical Assistance Team
from the
Postharvest Institute for Perishables

1. Name _____

2. Address _____

3. Attached is a copy of the request for assistance received in the PIP office through the AID Mission. As the host country organization, is the request accurate? YES ___ NO ___

If NO, please specify what the request should have said. _____

4. The PIP Technical Assistance Team was able to successfully fulfill this request for assistance. YES ___ NO ___
If NO, please specify details. _____

5. The PIP Technical Assistance Team's preliminary report was satisfactory.
YES ___ NO ___
If NO, why not? _____

6. The PIP Technical Assistance Team's final report was satisfactory.
YES ___ NO ___
If NO, why not? _____

7. Was the language capability of the consulting team acceptable?
YES ___ NO ___

8. Was the consultants' knowledge of your country adequate? (Customs, etc.)
YES ___ NO ___
If NO, please explain. _____

9. How would you appraise the team members' knowledge of their subject matter?
___ Excellent ___ Good ___ Average ___ Poor ___ Unacceptable

10. Was the length of time allotted for this assignment adequate to accomplish the goals? ___ YES ___ NO

11. As a result of this technical assistance, how will the lives of the people in your community be affected?

12. As the host country officials/organization, would you be interested in a follow-up training session sponsored by PIP to further the aims and objectives of your project? YES NO
If YES, please specify the kind of training session you believe would be most valuable and other pertinent details. (Number of people involved, facilities, length of training, etc.)

13. Please assist the Postharvest Institute for Perishables by making any suggestions, comments or criticisms which will help us to improve our program.

The Postharvest Institute for Perishables is grateful for your cooperation in completing this evaluation. Please feel free to attach additional sheets or information.

It has been a pleasure to serve you.

Mail to:

Postharvest Institute for Perishables
University of Idaho
Morrill Hall, 216
Moscow, Idaho 83843

(Telephone: 208-885-6791)

APPENDIX D

EVALUATION BY TEAM LEADER

Consulting Assignment
for the
Postharvest Institute for Perishables

1. Name _____

2. Address _____

3. Country visited by team _____

4. Dates of visit _____

5. Names and addresses or affiliations of other members of team:

6. Was the number of people on the team appropriate for the study? Comments.

7. Were the academic backgrounds and/or experiences of the team members appropriate and complementary for the study? Comments.

8. Did your team function well as a unit? Comments.

9. Under similar conditions in the future, do you believe that your team should be considered for an assignment? Comments.

Use additional pages if necessary.

15

APPENDIX E

SATISFACTION SURVEY

You are the reason the Postharvest Institute for Perishables Information Center exists. Please help the PIP Information Center staff by answering the following questions in order that we may better serve you.

1. I received: ___ photocopied articles ___ microfiche ___ bibliography
2. Materials arrived on: ___ Year ___ Month ___ Day
3. The package arrived: ___ Undamaged ___ Damaged ___ Destroyed beyond use
4. The print quality was: ___ Clear ___ Blurry ___ Illegible
5. The materials came: ___ sooner than expected
 ___ about when expected
 ___ too late for use
 ___ other: _____
6. I received: ___ enough material ___ too much ___ too little
7. % of the materials were useful to me. The rest was not because the materials are:
 ___ too general ___ too technical ___ too specific
 ___ too long ___ too short ___ wrong language(s)
 ___ wrong crop(s) ___ other: _____
8. I got what I requested: ___ yes ___ mostly ___ some ___ NO
9. I will use PIP again: ___ definitely ___ probably ___ unlikely ___ NO
10. I will recommend PIP to my colleagues: ___ YES ___ NO
with these reservations: _____

11. Other services I could use are: _____

Thank you very much for your help. Please turn this over, fold on the indicated lines, seal and mail.

First Fold

AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
AEREO

Stamp
Properly

Information Center
Postharvest Institute for Perishables
Library, Room 314
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843
U.S.A.

Second Fold

Sender's Address:

Seal

APPENDIX F

Group for Assistance on Perishable Products

The needs of developing countries, particularly in their rural development and welfare call for increasing agricultural production and productivity. Growing more food crops is not, however enough; it is equally important to ensure preservation of what is grown until such time as it is needed for ultimate local consumption or for export. The inadequacies of current postharvest systems are of major significance, and the development and application of improved procedures and techniques that will minimize these losses are of corresponding importance.

What is GAPP?

It is a voluntary association of organizations which are involved in most or all of the following: the provision of professional advice, the conduct of field projects, the training of developing country personnel and the conduct of research and its application in relation to the problems of postharvest losses of perishable crops especially roots, tubers, vegetables, and fruits in developing countries. The association is essentially technical; it is international in character, but informal and limited in membership so that its activities aimed at its specific objectives can take place readily.

What is the objective of GAPP?

GAPP aims through the consultation of its members to exchange information on on-going and/or proposed activities. In essence GAPP is a forum for the exchange of technical information and expertise and is concerned with the identification and stimulation of new endeavors in the postharvest sector of perishable food crops.

How does GAPP function?

The member organizations meet periodically to exchange information for mutual benefit and to review progress in relation to postharvest development work in the field whether on-going or proposed; the training of developing country personnel; and the desirability of preparing special technical seminars or topics such as products, methodologies or other aspects of the postharvest sector.

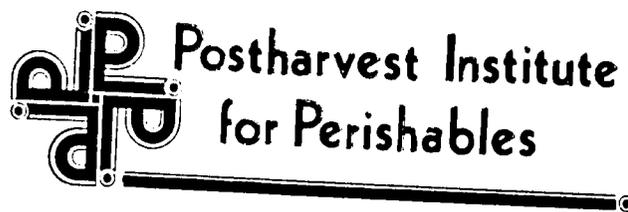
At present the Postharvest Institute for Perishables (PIP) provides the Secretariat for the group and takes care of its business between meetings.

GAPP has no funds of its own and therefore does not function as a donor of financial aid. However, each of its individual members does, in accordance with the conditions of its charter and mode of operation, provide resources in support of research, training and/or technological development in the developing countries.

APPENDIX G



**Technical Assistance and Training
To Reduce Postharvest
Losses in Perishables**



University of Idaho

in cooperation with
United States Agency for
International Development



Postharvest Institute for Perishables

Instituto para el Estudio de Pérdidas Post-cosecha en los Cultivos Perecederos
Institut Pour l'Etude des Pertes Post-récolte de Cultures Périssables

The Postharvest Institute for Perishables (PIP) was founded because of concern with food losses from harvest to consumption in developing countries. The Institute was founded in October, 1980, at the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, U.S.A. by means of a Cooperative Agreement with USAID. PIP is also associated with two private development firms — Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) and Agri-Food Systems International, Inc. (AFSI) — which have substantial experience in providing technical assistance in and to developing countries.

The goals and objectives of the Postharvest Institute for Perishables are:

1. To increase the availability (without increasing the production areas) of fruit, vegetable, root, tuber and spice crops, and to enhance the basic diet of people in developing countries by reducing postharvest food losses.
2. To reduce costs of these perishable commodities by improving the efficiency of marketing.
3. To encourage the development of processing and other industries associated with fruit, vegetable, root, tuber and spice crops.

Technical Assistance Teams

PIP will provide experienced technical assistance teams in response to requests from developing countries. World-wide technical assistance in reducing postharvest losses in perishables will be available under the Cooperative Agreement with the United States Agency for International Development.

Upon request, postharvest specialists (economists, engineers, entomologists, food technologists, horticulturists, plant pathologists, rural sociologists and others) will be available for direct technical assistance to USAID Missions, host countries and AID/Washington. PIP will strive to send specialists with relevant developing country experience.

Other types of assistance under the Cooperative Agreement will include:

1. **Adaptive and practical program development** directed at investigation and application of new and existing postharvest technology based upon the needs of the requesting countries.

2. **Information services** in the form of written responses to inquiries, printed materials and audio/visual training aids to provide information vital to reducing losses and improving postharvest technology. Requests from developing countries will be free. Others will be assessed a nominal fee.
3. **Specialized training** such as degree programs, short courses, workshops, seminars, etc., designed to assist host country personnel to solve postharvest problems of perishable commodities.

Cost

Short term technical assistance and training will be provided to host country and AID Missions with international travel, per diem and salaries of consultants financed from the PIP Cooperative Agreement. Missions may be required to fund preparation of specialized materials and participant expenses on mutually agreeable terms.

The Mission will be requested to assist in funding short courses and degree programs on the University of Idaho campus or on other U.S. university campuses.

How to Apply

Host country institutions and agencies desiring technical assistance may request such assistance through USAID missions. For additional information, write to the Postharvest Institute for Perishables, College of Agriculture, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, 83843, United States of America. (Telephone 208-885-6791).

International Coordination

PIP will act as the secretariat for the Group for Assistance on Perishable Products (GAPP), which is an international network of donor agencies, developing country research centers and trade associations interested in reducing losses of perishable products.

PIP will interact with international donor groups, research centers, bilateral and multilateral assistance groups, the U.S. Peace Corps, the private sector and others for the sharing of information, identification of research and educational needs, and the stimulation of cooperation to avoid duplication in reducing postharvest losses of perishable commodities in developing countries.

Information Center

Information on all phases of harvesting, handling, storage, marketing and processing related to reducing postharvest losses in fruit, vegetable, root, tuber and spice crops will be available from the Postharvest Institute for Perishables Information Center, College of Agriculture, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83843, United States of America. (Telephone 208-885-7059).

Areas of Assistance

PIP will be prepared to provide technical assistance in a variety of areas including, but not restricted to, the following examples:

1. Determine causes of postharvest losses including predisposing factors associated with infection/infestation of harvested commodities.
2. Assess postharvest losses from harvest to consumption.
3. Prolong the storage and shelf life of perishable commodities in fresh form after harvest through improved harvesting and handling practices, pest control, storage design, cooling and/or refrigeration systems and marketing efficiency.
4. Conduct feasibility studies on the potential for processing specific perishable commodities.
5. Prolong storage life of processed commodities.
6. Assist in promoting export of fresh or processed perishable commodities to regional, national and international markets.
7. Analyze and provide suggestions on governmental policies affecting transportation, marketing and export of fresh and processed commodities.
8. Help instructional institutions develop curricula and extension aids relevant to assessment and prevention of postharvest losses.
9. Coordinate the placement of developing country student candidates for masters degrees in U.S. universities with competence relevant to assessment, reduction and prevention of postharvest losses in perishable commodities.