

A.I.D. EVALUATION SUMMARY - PART I

PD-ABB-368432

1. BEFORE FILLING OUT THIS FORM, READ THE ATTACHED INSTRUCTIONS.
2. USE LETTER QUALITY TYPE, NOT "DOT MATRIX" TYPE.

IDENTIFICATION DATA

A. Reporting A.I.D. Unit: Mission or AID/W Office <u>USAID/Malawi</u> (ES# <u>89-2-215-I</u>)		B. Was Evaluation Scheduled in Current FY Annual Evaluation Plan? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slipped <input type="checkbox"/> Ad Hoc <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation Plan Submission Date: FY <u>89</u> Q <u>2</u>		C. Evaluation Timing Interim <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Final <input type="checkbox"/> Ex Post <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
D. Activity or Activities Evaluated (List the following information for project(s) or program(s) evaluated; if not applicable, list title and date of the evaluation report.)					
Project No.	Project /Program Title	First PROAG or Equivalent (FY)	Most Recent PACD (Mo/Yr)	Planned LOP Cost (000)	Amount Obligated to Date (000)
612-0215	Malawi Agricultural Research and Extension (MARE) Project	7/18/85	9/92	15,000	15,000

ACTIONS

E. Action Decisions Approved By Mission or AID/W Office Director	Name of Officer Responsible for Action	Date Action to be Completed
Action(s) Required		
1. CID contract extension until August 1991 and PACD to September 30, 1992 in order to allow technical assistance experts to overlap with counterparts returning from overseas training.	Arnold J. Radi	Feb 1989
2. USAID issuance of a formal letter communicating the need to reactivate the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Program Steering Committee and to schedule more frequent Committee meetings.	Arnold J. Radi	Nov/Dec 1989
3. USAID policy dialogue with the Steering Committee to insure that the Controller for Agriculture Services, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Agricultural Research implement steps for strengthening research and extension linkages, and jointly set research priorities.	Arnold J. Radi	April 1990
4. Establishment of MOA Woman's Program Demonstration Fund.	Arnold J. Radi	Feb 1989
5. Establishment of the Training Unit within the MOA.	Arnold J. Radi	April 1989
6. Clarification of Project Accounting Procedures with the MOA.	Arnold J. Radi	Aug/Sept 1989

(Attach extra sheet if necessary)

APPROVALS

F. Date Of Mission Or AID/W Office Review Of Evaluation: September (Month) 1989 (Year)

G. Approvals of Evaluation Summary And Action Decisions:

	Project/Program Officer	Representative of Borrower/Grantee	Evaluation Officer	Mission or AID/W Office Director
Name (Typed)	Arnold J. Radi	M. MUGHOGHO	Indira S. Biswas	Carol A. Peasley
Signature	<i>Arnold J. Radi</i>	<i>M. Mughogho</i>	<i>Indira S. Biswas</i>	<i>Carol A. Peasley</i>
Date	<u>5/16/90</u>	<u>12/07/89</u>	<u>5/16/90</u>	<u>5/12/90</u>

ABSTRACT

H. Evaluation Abstract (Do not exceed the space provided)

The project aims to improve the Ministry of Agriculture's (MOA) institutional capacity to increase the productivity of traditional crops and to identify the most viable crops for diversifying smallholder production. The technical assistance component of the project is being implemented by the Consortium for International Development (CID) and the training component by the MOA with assistance from USDA. All other project elements are implemented by the MOA.

This mid-term evaluation was conducted by a GOM-USAID/Malawi team on the basis of a review of project documents, field visits and interviews with project personnel and trainees. The evaluation purpose was to assess the performance of the MARE Project in relation to achievement of its end of project objectives, to make recommendations regarding the future implementation of the project, and to analyze the actual and potential sustainability of the project.

The major findings and "lessons learned" were:

- The "integrated approach" to technical assistance has proved highly effective and should continue to be utilized. Contractors have effectively accommodated to the new approach and contractor administrative support has been outstanding.

- The GOM Steering Committee has not fulfilled expectations and should be more active in determining research and extension priorities and in improving linkages among the various departments of the MOA by scheduling regular meetings involving the designated representatives.

- More specific means of tying non-localized research to extension need to be developed.

- Over the past year the Women's Program Section (WPS) has gained tremendous credibility within the MOA. It is fast becoming the GOM's major source of information and data concerning women's participating in agricultural production and income generating activities.

COSTS

I. Evaluation Costs

1. Evaluation Team		Contract Number OR TDY Person Days	Contract Cost OR TDY Cost (U.S. \$)	Source of Funds
Name	Affiliation			
W. Ronnie Coffman]		24		IQC from MARE funds
Robert L. Bruce]	Sunny	18	\$69,589	
Kenneth L. Robinson]	Contract	18		
Raymond A. Woodis]		18		
Pauline E. Peters		15	\$ 6,246	MARE funds
David C. Gibson		10	none	REDSO
P.K. Sibale (MOA)		15	none	GOM

2. Mission/Office Professional Staff
Person-Days (Estimate) 40

3. Borrower/Grantee Professional
Staff Person-Days (Estimate) 100

A.I.D. EVALUATION SUMMARY - PART II

SUMMARY

J. Summary of Evaluation Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations: (Try not to exceed the three (3) pages provided)

Address the following items:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of evaluation and methodology used • Purpose of activity(ies) evaluated • Findings and conclusions (relate to questions) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal recommendations • Lessons learned |
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Mission or Office: USAID/Malawi	Date This Summary Prepared: April 1990	Title And Date Of Full Evaluation Report: MARE Mid-Term Evaluation Report January 25, 1989
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1. Purpose of the Activity

To improve the Ministry of Agriculture's (MOA) institutional capacity to increase the productivity of traditional crops and to identify the most viable crops for diversifying smallholder production.

The project has tried to address several constraints affecting smallholders: a) lack of technologies that are suitable for smallholders; b) lack of an effective research-extension linkages; and c) a shortage of skilled agricultural personnel.

2. Purpose of the Evaluation

The purpose of the mid-term evaluation was to assess MARE's progress towards achievement of end of project objectives, to make recommendations regarding the future implementation of the project, and to analyze the actual and potential sustainability of the project. The evaluation was conducted by a GOM-USAID team on the basis of a review of project documents, and interviews with project personnel and beneficiaries.

3. Findings and Conclusions

- The "integrated approach" to technical assistance has proved highly effective.
- The GOM Steering Committee has not fulfilled expectations and should be more active in determining research and extension priorities and in improving linkages among the various departments of the MOA.
- Two critical positions in the Agricultural Training Branch (ATB) have been filled and a Training of Trainers Manual has been developed for use by ADD training units.
- Extension Aids Branch is a viable institution providing improved services to the Ministry of Agriculture.
- The Agroforestry Commodity Unit has identified two promising technologies: alley cropping using lucaena and contour grass strips and hedge-rows to control soil erosion.

4. Principal Recommendations

- Clarify project accounting procedures with the MOA.
- Extend the CID contract until August 1991 and the PACD to September 30, 1992 in order to allow technical assistance experts to overlap with Malawian counterparts returning from overseas training.

USAID needs to insure that the Controller for Agriculture Services, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Agricultural Research implement and strengthen research and extension linkages and jointly set research priorities.

USAID should encourage the Steering Committee to schedule more frequent meetings.

5. Lessons Learned

The effective MARE "integrated approach" to technical assistance could be utilized in future USAID/Malawi projects.

Policy dialogue with the GOM needs to continue in order to insure that the research and extension linkages are strengthened and that research priorities are set by both research and extension departments.

Monitoring of project accounting procedures to insure that A.I.D. procedures are being implemented should occur on a more regular basis.

More specific means of tying non-localized research to extension need to be developed.

ATTACHMENTS

K. Attachments (List attachments submitted with this Evaluation Summary; always attach copy of full evaluation report, even if one was submitted earlier; attach studies, surveys, etc., from "on-going" evaluation, if relevant to the evaluation report.)

- Copy of MARE Mid-Term Evaluation Report

COMMENTS

L. Comments By Mission, AID/W Office and Borrower/Grantee On Full Report

The evaluation provided answers to the questions posed in the scope of work. The evaluators spent sufficient time in the field to fully understand the activity, its impacts, and the problems encountered in managing the activity, and thoroughly reviewed project documents.

The evaluators were objective and carefully analyzed project and interview data before drawing up principal conclusions and recommendations. The findings and lessons learned that are cited in the report generally concur with the conclusions reached by USAID staff and well-informed host country officials.