

PD-ABC-703

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT DATA SHEET

1. TRANSACTION CODE

A = Add
 C = Change
 D = Delete

Amendment Number

DOCUMENT CODE

3

COUNTRY/ENTITY: Worldwide
 BUREAU/OFFICE: [10]
 S&T/AGR: [10] [Agr. Program Dev. and Support]

2. PROJECT NUMBER: 936-4200
 3. PROJECT TITLE (maximum 40 characters):
 4. ESTIMATED DATE OF OBLIGATION (Under 'B.' below, enter 1, 2, 3, or 4):
 A. Initial FY: 911 B. Quarter: 3 C. Final FY: 000

5. COSTS (\$000 OR EQUIVALENT \$1 =)

A. FUNDING SOURCE	FIRST FY			LIFE OF PROJECT		
	B. FX	C. L/C	D. Total	E. FX	F. L/C	G. Total
AID Appropriated Total	2,637	-	2,637	35,000	-	35,000
(Grant) S&T/AGR	(2,637)	(-)	(2,637)	(25,000)	(-)	(25,000)
Other U.S. 1. Mission/Reg. Bur.				10,000		10,000
Host Country						
Other Donor(s)						
TOTALS	2,637	-	2,637	35,000	-	35,000

6. SCHEDULE OF AID FUNDING (\$000)

A. APPROPRIATION	B. PRIMARY PURPOSE CODE	C. PRIMARY TECH CODE		D. OBLIGATIONS TO DATE		E. AMOUNT APPROVED THIS ACTION		F. LIFE OF PROJECT	
		1. Grant	2. Loan	1. Grant	2. Loan	1. Grant	2. Loan	1. Grant	2. Loan
(1) AIDN				-	-	25,000	-	25,000	-
(2)									
(3)									
(4)									
TOTALS						25,000	-	25,000	

7. SECONDARY TECHNICAL CODES (minimum 2 codes of 3 positions each)
 8. SECONDARY PURPOSE CODE
 9. SPECIAL CONCERNS CODES (maximum 7 codes of 4 positions each)
 10. PROJECT PURPOSE (maximum 400 characters)

To improve the design, development, implementation, management, and evaluation of the Office of Agriculture portfolio and to provide essential services and resources to the entirety of the portfolio that cannot be provided by other projects.

11. SCHEDULED EVALUATIONS
 12. SOURCE/ORIGIN OF GOODS AND SERVICES
 000 941 Local Other (Specify)

13. AMENDMENTS/NATURE OF CHANGE PROPOSED (This is page 1 of a _____ page PP Amendment)
- The initial obligation year is FY 1991
 - The final obligation year is FY 2000
 - The LOP funding is \$25,000,000
 - The project will be implemented through various procurement mechanisms.

14. APPROVED BY: David Bathrick, Director, S&T/AGR
 Date Signed: 11/17/91
 15. DATE DOCUMENT RECEIVED IN AID/W, OR FOR AID/W DOCUMENTS, DATE OF DISTRIBUTION

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ACTION MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THRU: S&T/FA, Bradshaw Langmaid Jr. (Acting)

FROM: S&T/AGR, David D. Bathrick

SUBJECT: Authorization of the Agriculture Program Development and Support Project (936-4200) Doc # 42002

Problem: You are requested to authorize the Agriculture Program Development and Support project (936-4200) in the amount of \$25,000,000 based on this action memorandum in lieu of a project paper.

Background: The Agriculture Program Development and Support project (936-4200) is a proposed follow-on to the Agricultural Technology Research and Development project (936-4109), which was authorized on May 5, 1981 and will end on July 31, 1991. The earlier project supports three Resources Support Services Agreements (RSSAs) with the Office of International Cooperation and Development of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA/OICD): 1) Agricultural Technology Research and Development; 2) Plant and Seed Materials; and 3) World Rhizobium Collection Center. The Agricultural Technology Research and Development RSSA, a major activity with USDA/OICD, provides technical expertise to the Agency and funds a variety of project design and evaluation activities, special studies and analyses, workshops and small research grants. USDA/OICD also provides technical services in the areas of integrated pest management, plant pathology, biotechnology, soil microbiology and natural resource economics.

The Office of Agriculture's Aquaculture Technical Assistance RSSA with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Department of Commerce is also under the Agricultural Technology Research and Development project. The NOAA/RSSA provides technical expertise for field support, technical backstopping, planning, design and evaluation of the Agency's fisheries portfolio, and coordination of A.I.D.'s activities with those of other international and U.S. agencies.

The Agricultural Technology Research and Development project also provides the mechanism for funding Indefinite Quantity Contracts (IQCs) and the American Academy for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS) Fellows program for the Office of Agriculture.

Discussion: The proposed Agriculture Program Support and Development (PD&S) project (936-4200) will further develop the present mechanism to improve the design, development, implementation, management and evaluation of the Office of Agriculture portfolio and to provide essential services and resources to the entirety of the portfolio that cannot be covered by other projects. The new project will fund appropriate development-related activities, below the level of a formal A.I.D. project, pursuant to the guidelines in Handbook 3, 1D.

The Office of Agriculture will carry out the following types of activities under the new project:

- a. Project or program development, feasibility studies, operational research and pilot testing of hypotheses which may lead to a final project design of an individual new project or to the exploration of new program directions, such as sustainable agriculture.
- b. Sector assessments or other special studies which enhance policy dialogue efforts or lead to a better understanding of technical or institutional constraints as were undertaken in the background preparations for the Office of Agriculture Strategy for the 1990s.
- c. General purpose activities such as seminars, workshops and special economic, sectoral or statistical surveys and studies which cannot be associated with a single, discrete project, including the publication and other dissemination of appropriate research and technical studies. The Symposium on Animal Agriculture and the resulting publication serve as examples.
- d. Small exploratory research activities or support thereto, including state-of-the-art surveys/studies required for preliminary program explorations, such as the pea and lentil study mandated by Congress in FY 1990 from which the Office of Agriculture based its decision to not fund a Pea and Lentil CRSP.

The Agriculture Program Development and Support project will also fund, on an exceptional basis and with justification and approval, the following types of activities:

- a. Evaluations and financial management/audit activities not otherwise budgeted in specific project, program or other agreements. As a matter of policy, the Office of Agriculture began to include evaluations under 936-4109 during years of project budget reductions. This trend has begun to reverse itself by including funding for evaluations in individual project funding. Some evaluations, however, may continue to be funded under the new project.

b. Reasonable pre-project implementation costs or bridge funding between terminating and follow-on projects. One can foresee such an exceptional use of the Agriculture Program Development and Support project when a follow-on project cannot be initiated until late in the fiscal year, after the prior project has expired.

c. Program costs associated with monitoring or auditing non-project activities such as non-project assistance under the Development Fund for Africa (DFA) or other forms of sector assistance, e.g., PL 480 and CIP, when the relevant program assistance agreements do not contain funding for such purposes. No other project in the Office of Agriculture has the capacity to absorb such program costs.

d. Travel or short-term training costs of host country public or private sector counterpart personnel when other funds are unavailable for this purpose. The existing project involved such invitational travel upon occasion. During periods of appropriate need when other means of travel are unavailable, such travel will be funded under the new project as well.

The Agriculture Program Development and Support project will not be used to procure any operating expense-type activity as defined in A.I.D. Handbook 19, Chapter 11 (B)3(a) or any type of activity whose primary purpose is the provision of management support to the Agency and would be considered as part of A.I.D.'s normal cost of doing business.

It is the policy of the Agency, per Handbook 12 1(B)3, to charge all PASAs and RSSAs to program funds. The Agriculture Program Development and Support project will be used as a vehicle to charge Office of Agriculture PASAs and RSSAs to Office of Agriculture program funds. In particular, the USDA RSSA will continue to provide the Agency through the Office of Agriculture with technical expertise in priority areas that the Agency no longer maintains in its professional ranks. Similarly, the Agency has no fisheries nor aquaculture professionals in positions of technical input into the Agency's programs. The Agriculture Program Support and Development Project will serve as the vehicle for the NOAA RSSA as well.

The Agriculture Program Development and Support Project will be managed and monitored by the Assistant to the Director of the Office of Agriculture. Budgetary requirements and activities for this project will be reported in the same manner as any other Office of Agriculture project in Action Plans, the Congressional Presentation, the Annual Budget Submission and the Office of Agriculture Implementation Plan.

Project Data: The initial obligation year is FY 1991, and it is planned that a total of \$2,637,000 of central funds will be obligated the first year. The final year of obligation is FY 2000, and the PACD is April 30, 2001.

In addition to the amount authorized above, an estimated \$10,000,000 may be contributed to this project by Missions, Regional Bureaus, and other offices of A.I.D. Funding may be provided from the Economic Support Fund (ESF) or the Development Fund for Africa (DFA), as appropriate, as well as the accounts authorized for Bureau for Science and Technology funding under this project.

Determinations and Certifications: This project will involve four RSSAs, three with USDA/OICD and one with USDC/NOAA. Determination and justifications for these RSSAs are provided as an attachment to this Action Memorandum.

Congressional Justification: The project was not included in the FY 1991 Congressional Presentation. A substantive notification will be sent to Congress as soon as this project has been authorized.

Recommendation: That you sign the attached project authorization.

Clearances:

S&T/AGR:ECarter	(In draft)	Date	4/17/91
S&T/PO:DSheldon	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date	4/23/91
S&T/MGT:KHarley	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date	4/22/91
GC/S&T:GWinter	(In draft)	Date	4/15/91

[Signature]
S&T/AGR:LLS/MMB:WANG#8187e:3/27/91:Rev.4/19/91

PROJECT AUTHORIZATION

COUNTRY: Worldwide
NAME OF PROJECT: Agriculture Program Development and Support Project
PROJECT NUMBER: 936-4200

1. Pursuant to Section 103 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA), I hereby authorize the Agriculture Program Development and Support project involving planned obligations of not to exceed \$25,000,000 in grant funds over a 10-year period from date of authorization, subject to the availability of funds in accordance with the A.I.D. OYB/allotment process.

The initial obligation year for the project is FY 1991. The final year of obligation is FY 2000. The PACD is September 30, 2001.

In addition to the amounts authorized above, an estimated \$10,000,000 may be contributed to the project by Missions, Regional Bureaus and other offices of A.I.D. Funding may be provided from the Economic Support Fund (ESF) or the Development Fund for Africa (DFA), as appropriate, as well as the accounts authorized for the Bureau for Science and Technology funding under this project.

2. The purpose of the Agriculture Program Development and Support project is to improve the design, development, implementation, management and evaluation of the Office of Agriculture portfolio and to provide essential services and resources to the entirety of the portfolio that cannot be provided by other projects.

The Agriculture Program Development and Support project will fund appropriate development-related activities, below the level of a formal A.I.D. project, pursuant to guidelines in Handbook 3, 1D.

3. The agreements which may be negotiated and executed by the officer(s) to whom such authority is delegated in accordance with A.I.D. regulations and Delegations of Authority shall be subject to the following essential terms and covenants and major conditions, together with such other terms and conditions as A.I.D. may deem appropriate:

a. Source and Origin of Commodities. Nationality of Services. Commodities financed by A.I.D. under the project shall have their source and origin in the "cooperating country" or the United States, except as A.I.D. may otherwise agree in writing. (Each country in which research, training or technical or other assistance takes place under the project shall be considered a "cooperating country.") Except for ocean shipping, the suppliers of commodities or services shall have the cooperating country or the United States as their place of nationality, except as A.I.D. may otherwise agree in writing.

Ocean shipping financed by A.I.D. under the project shall, except as A.I.D. may otherwise agree in writing, be financed only on flag vessels of the United States.

b. I hereby determine that the proposed RSSAs with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Department of Commerce (USDC) qualify under Section 621(a) of the FAA because: 1) they are for technical assistance; 2) the USDA and USDC are particularly suited to carry out the scope of work; 3) this action is not competitive with private enterprise; and 4) this action will not interfere with the normal work of the USDA and the USDC nor will it interfere with the domestic operations of the USDA and the USDC.

Signature: Richard E. Bissell
Richard E. Bissell
Assistant Administrator
Bureau for Science and
Technology

Date: 5/2/91

Clearances:

S&T/AGR:LSchulze	<u>LSchulze</u>	Date	<u>4/17/91</u>
S&T/AGR:ECarter	<u>ECarter</u>	Date	<u>4/17/91</u>
S&T/AGR:DBathrick	<u>DBathrick</u>	Date	<u>4/17/91</u>
S&T/PO:DSeldon	<u>DSeldon</u>	Date	<u>4/22/91</u>
GC/S&T:GWinter	<u>(In draft)</u>	Date	<u>4/15/91</u>
S&T/FA:BLangmaid	<u>BLangmaid</u>	Date	<u>4/29/91</u>
S&T/MGT:KHarley	<u>KHarley</u>	Date	<u>4-22-91</u>

MB AS
S&T/AGR:MMB/LLS:WANG#8190e:3/28/91: REV.4/17/90

**ACTION MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, BUREAU FOR
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

FROM: S&T/AGR, David D. Bathrick

SUBJECT: 621(a) Determinations for Resources Support Services
Agreements (RSSAs) under the Agriculture Program
Development and Support Project (936-4200)

Problem: The Office of Agriculture plans to continue the Resources Support Services Agreements (RSSAs) currently funded under the Agricultural Research Technology and Development project (936-4109) under the new Agriculture Program Development and Support project (936-4200). The Office of Agriculture requests your determinations that these RSSAs qualify for exemption from the provisions of OMB Circular A-76 and are consistent with the provisions of Section 621(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

Discussion: The Agriculture Program Development and Support Project (936-4200) is the proposed follow-on activity to the Agricultural Technology Research and Development Project (936-4109), which was authorized May 5, 1981 and will terminate July 31, 1991. The project has been amended several times since initiation to increase the life of project funding, extend the final year of obligation and consolidate several activities of the Office of Agriculture under one project. The project supports four Resources Support Services Agreements (RSSAs), three with the Office of International Cooperation and Development of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (OICD/USDA): 1.) Agricultural Technology Research and Development; 2.) Plant and Seed Materials; and, 3.) World Rhizobium Collection Center. The fourth RSSA in the Office of Agriculture, a RSSA with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Department of Commerce, also falls under the Agricultural Technology Research and Development Project.

The original A-76 Determinations for these RSSAs will expire on July 31, 1991. The Office of Agriculture plans to continue to access the technical expertise of these four RSSAs under the new Agriculture Program Development and Support Project (936-4200).

OMB Circular A-76, "Policies for Acquiring Commercial or Industrial Products and Services Needed by the Government", precludes the use of services or products of one Federal agency by another unless any one of three circumstances occurs:

- There is no satisfactory source available from the private sector.
- There is a formal program established for managing excess capacity and the excess capacity to be used has been reported as excess under such a program.
- It is determined by a cost comparison analysis that it is more economical to obtain the services or products from another agency than from a private source.

1

The Circular further states that it is not intended that Federal agencies create or expand capacity for the purpose of providing commercially available products or services to other Federal agencies.

Section 621(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, authorizes an exception to OMB Circular A-76. Section 621(a) provides:

"In such fields as education, health, housing or agriculture, the facilities and resources of other Federal agencies shall be utilized when such facilities are particularly or uniquely suitable for technical assistance, are not competitive with private enterprise, and can be made available without interfering unduly with domestic programs."

A.I.D.'s use of other Federal agencies through PASAs and RSSAs is governed by Circular A-76. However, exceptions are provided under Section 621(a) for technical assistance activities ("technical assistance" includes both the actual on-site provision of assistance to developing countries and the various support services and activities which directly facilitate such assistance activities, whether performed overseas or in the U.S.). The requirement of Section 621(a) that facilities of Federal agencies not be competitive with private enterprise is read in conjunction with the requirement that the facilities are particularly or uniquely suitable. Therefore, a finding that the Federal agency is slightly better technically or slightly less expensive than private enterprise is not enough. What is required is that the Federal agency must have a clear and substantial superiority to private enterprise either on technical or cost grounds to the extent that private enterprise is not in the competitive range when compared with the Federal agency.

The Section 621(a) exception has at least three implications:

- The services desired from the other Federal agency must be for technical assistance.
- The other Federal agency must be uniquely or particularly suited to carry out the technical assistance activity (i.e., be in a better position than A.I.D., the private sector, or another Federal agency to fulfill the requirement).
- The furnishing of services or commodities to A.I.D. must not unduly interfere with the Federal agency's domestic program.

Individual 621(a) Justifications for the three RSSAs with the USDA and the one RSSA with the NOAA follow. Each justification will address the three implications of Section 621(a) as stated above.

Section 621(a) Justification for Agricultural Research Technology and Development RSSA with OICD/USDA.

The proposed Agriculture Program Development and Support project, at approximately \$750,000 per year, will serve as the source of program funding for the RSSA with the Office of International Cooperation and Development of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (OICD/USDA) providing for the assignment of five technical professionals from the USDA in the areas of integrated pest management, plant pathology, biotechnology, soil microbiology and natural resource management to the Office of Agriculture. These five long-term professionals, along with other short-term professionals and support personnel of OICD/USDA, provide to the Office of Agriculture program and project related activities including project design work, evaluations, program implementation, feasibility studies and research. The RSSA personnel are program funded and do not provide services similar to those performed by direct-hire employees. The RSSA also provides limited program support through general purpose activities such as arranging workshops, seminars, and special economic, sectoral or statistical surveys and studies; sector assessments or other special studies; and the maintenance of small grants.

In reference to the implications of the Section 621(a) exception:

- The services desired from the USDA are for technical assistance. Technical assistance includes actual on-site provision of assistance to developing countries and various support services and activities which directly facilitate such assistance activities, whether performed overseas or in the U.S. The RSSA will not fund individuals who will officially represent A.I.D. at any function; approve policy documents; supervise A.I.D. employees; negotiate, review or sign contracts on behalf of A.I.D.; certify vouchers; select or recruit A.I.D. employees; or prepare A.I.D. funding or budget documents.
- The USDA is particularly suited to carry out the technical assistance activity due to demonstrated expertise of an exceptional nature. The USDA has both a clear and substantial superiority to other sources, both private and public. The preponderance of resources available for application to the activity is much broader in scope and more readily available from the USDA than from other sources.
- The furnishing of services or commodities to A.I.D. will not unduly interfere with the USDA capacity to conduct its domestic programs. The linkage of A.I.D. and the OICD is considered mutually advantageous in the conduct of their two separate programs.

Recommendation: That you sign the following FAA Section 621(a) certification. I hereby determine, in accordance with the factors described above, that the RSSA with the OICD/USDA qualifies as an exception to OMB Circular A-76 as it is for technical assistance; the USDA is particularly suited for this activity; and, this action does not unduly interfere with the domestic USDA program.

APPROVED:

[Signature]

DISAPPROVED:

DATE:

4/30/91

Section 621(a) Justification for Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Assistance RSSA between A.I.D. and the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The proposed Agriculture Program Development and Support project, at approximately \$240,000 per year, will serve as the source of program funding for the RSSA with the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USDOC/NOAA) providing for the assignment of three long-term individuals to the Office of Agriculture technical assistance and support in the areas of aquaculture, catch fisheries and marine fisheries. The RSSA personnel are program funded and do not provide services similar to those performed by direct-hire employees. The Agency no longer has any professionals in the fields of aquaculture, catch fisheries or marine fisheries. The individuals provided by this RSSA represent the entirety of the discipline available to the Agency.

In reference to the implications of the Section 621(a) exception:

- The services desired from the NOAA are for technical assistance. Technical assistance includes actual on-site provision of assistance to developing countries and various support services and activities which directly facilitate such assistance activities, whether performed overseas or in the U.S. The RSSA will not fund individuals who will officially represent A.I.D. at any function; approve policy documents; supervise A.I.D. employees; negotiate, review or sign contracts on behalf of A.I.D.; certify vouchers; select or recruit A.I.D. employees; or prepare A.I.D. funding or budget documents.
- The NOAA is particularly suited to carry out the technical assistance activity due to demonstrated expertise of an exceptional nature. The NOAA has a clear and substantial superiority to other sources, both private and public. The preponderance of resources available for application to the activity is much broader in scope and more readily available from the NOAA than from other sources.
- The furnishing of services or commodities to A.I.D. will not unduly interfere with the NOAA capacity to conduct its domestic programs.

Recommendation: That you sign the following FAA Section 621(a) certification. I hereby determine, in accordance with the factors described above, that the Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Assistance RSSA with the USDC/NOAA qualifies as an exception to OMB Circular A-76 as it is for technical assistance; the NOAA is particularly suited for this activity; and, this action does not unduly interfere with the domestic NOAA program.

APPROVED: Pa y²-ell

DISAPPROVED: _____

DATE: 5/2/91

Section 621(a) Justification for the Plant and Seed Materials RSSA with OICD/USDA.

The present Plant and Seed Materials RSSA with the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (ARS/USDA) administered by the Office of International Cooperation and Development of the USDA (OICD/USDA), at approximately \$80,000 per year, represents one of the oldest projects in the Office of Agriculture with a continuous collaboration with the USDA since 1955. Since 1981, technical expertise has been provided to the Office of Agriculture, regional bureaus and missions under the Agricultural Research Development and Support project (936-4109). The RSSA facilitates the assignment of technical assistance in the maintenance of plant and seed materials, the processing of plant and seed materials for shipment at the request of missions and other services to the Office of Agriculture. The RSSA personnel are program funded and do not provide services similar to those performed by direct-hire employees. The USDA maintains a comprehensive program involving plant genetic resources and through its own resources collects germplasm on a worldwide basis. The germplasm is not only preserved, but made available for redistribution. The USDA Plant Introduction Officer funded under the RSSA maintains close contact with other sources of seeds and vegetable plant materials including both international and national (U.S.) institutions.

In reference to the implications of the Section 621(a) exception:

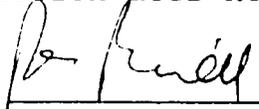
- The services desired from the USDA are for technical assistance. Technical assistance includes actual on-site provision of assistance to developing countries and various support services and activities which directly facilitate such assistance activities, whether performed overseas or in the U.S. The RSSA will not fund individuals who will officially represent A.I.D. at any function; approve policy documents; supervise A.I.D. employees; negotiate, review or sign contracts on behalf of A.I.D.; certify vouchers; select or recruit A.I.D. employees; or prepare A.I.D. funding or budget documents.

- The USDA is particularly suited to carry out the technical assistance activity due to demonstrated expertise of an exceptional nature. The USDA has a clear and substantial superiority to other sources, both private and public. The preponderance of resources available for application to the activity is much broader in scope and more readily available from the USDA than from other sources. The USDA is the only organization with the specialized expertise needed to adequately match general requests for germplasm with specific hybrids, crosses, lines or varieties suitable for growth under the wide variety of agro-ecological conditions which exist in the LDCs. Sound technical judgment and regulatory experience are both needed to avoid violating other countries' quarantine restrictions, some of which are much more rigorous even than the U.S.

There are no private sector institutions with comparable breadth and depth of expertise that can provide the services needed. Furthermore, no private sector institution has the necessary international credentials to permit their free access to international and national germplasm repositories wherein free exchanges of genetic materials are arranged.

- The furnishing of services or commodities to A.I.D. will not unduly interfere with the USDA capacity to conduct its domestic programs. The linkage of A.I.D. and the OICD is considered mutually advantageous in the conduct of their two separate programs and the USDA benefits from the new accessions to their germplasm collection facilitated through this project.

Recommendation: That you sign the following FAA Section 621(a) certification. I hereby determine, in accordance with the factors described above, that the Plant and Seed Materials RSSA with the ARS/USDA through the OICD/USDA qualifies as an exception to OMB Circular A-76 as it is for technical assistance; the USDA is particularly suited for this activity; and, this action does not unduly interfere with the domestic USDA program.

APPROVED: 

DISAPPROVED: _____

DATE: 4/30/91

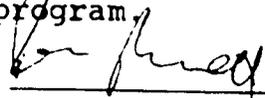
Section 621(a) Justification for the World Rhizobium Study and Collection Center RSSA with OICD/USDA.

The present World Rhizobium Study and Collection Center RSSA with OICD/USDA, at approximately \$75,000 per year, facilitates the assignment of technical professionals from the USDA/Agricultural Research Service at Beltsville, Maryland in the areas of soil microbiology to provide a safe and perpetual depository and collection center for Rhizobium and Bradyrhizobium cultures, available to users world-wide, and to provide research and training opportunities in the area of legume-Rhizobium technology to scientists from developing countries. The overall goal of the activity is to increase legume productivity through enhanced nitrogen fixation. The RSSA personnel are program funded and do not provide services similar to those performed by direct-hire employees.

In reference to the implications of the Section 621(a) exception:

- The services desired from the USDA are for technical assistance. Technical assistance includes actual on-site provision of assistance to developing countries and various support services and activities which directly facilitate such assistance activities, whether performed overseas or in the U.S. The RSSA will not fund individuals who will officially represent A.I.D. at any function; approve policy documents; supervise A.I.D. employees; negotiate, review or sign contracts on behalf of A.I.D.; certify vouchers; select or recruit A.I.D. employees; or prepare A.I.D. funding or budget documents.
- The USDA is particularly suited to carry out the technical assistance activity due to demonstrated expertise of an exceptional nature. The USDA has both a clear and substantial superiority to other sources, both private and public. The preponderance of resources available for application to the activity is much broader in scope and more readily available from the USDA than from other sources. Specifically, the combination of an existing Rhizobium collection, experienced personnel and international connections makes the USDA, its facilities and programs, the best qualified institution for establishing and maintaining a truly international center for the collection and study of rhizobia.
- The furnishing of services or commodities to A.I.D. will not unduly interfere with the USDA capacity to conduct its domestic programs. The linkage of the A.I.D.-funded RSSA and the USDA is considered mutually beneficial because new acquisitions to the collection are available for the use of the USDA as well as other researchers throughout the U.S.

Recommendation: That you sign the following FAA Section 621(a) certification. I hereby determine, in accordance with the factors described above, that the World Rhizobium Study and Collection Center RSSA with the ARS/USDA through the OICD/USDA qualifies as an exception to OMB Circular A-76 as it is for technical assistance; the USDA is particularly suited for this activity; and, this action does not unduly interfere with the domestic USDA program.

APPROVED: 

DISAPPROVED: _____

DATE: 4/20/91

Clearances:

S&T/AGR:ECarter (In draft) Date 4/17/91
S&T/PO:DSeldon *DS* Date 4/23/91
S&T/FA:BLangmaid *BL* Date 4/29/91
S&T/MGT:KHarley *KH* Date 4-22-91
GC/S&T:GWinter (In draft) Date 4/15/91
LLS
S&T/AGR:LLS/MMB:WANG#8199e:4/5/91:Rev.4/19/91

APR 4 1991

ACTION MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, BUREAU FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THRU: DAA/S&T, Bradshaw Langmaid, 
FROM: S&T/AGR, David D. Bathrick 
SUBJECT: Agriculture Program Development and Support Project (936-4200)
Doc # 42001

Problem: The Office of Agriculture's present program development and support activity, the Agricultural Technology Research and Development Project (936-4109), began in FY 1981 and will terminate July 31, 1991. The Agriculture Program Development and Support Project (936-4200) is proposed to assume many of the same functions rather than extend the ten-year-old project. Your authorization is requested to:

- accept this document as the Project Identification Document;
- waive the requirement for a senior program review committee; and,
- accept an Action Memorandum to DAA Langmaid as the Project Paper.

Discussion: The Agricultural Technology Research and Development Project (936-4109) serves as the program development and support activity for the Office of Agriculture with an annual budget of approximately \$1.5 million. The project provides the vehicle for the following activities:

- the USDA/OICD RSSA for professional support and services
- the NOAA RSSA for professional support and services
- the USDA/ARS Plant and Seed Materials services
- the USDA/ARS World Rhizobium Center services
- the AAAS Fellows program
- the Office of Agriculture evaluations and concept papers
- the Office of Agriculture workshops and conferences
- the Agricultural Indefinite Quantity Contracts for the Agency
- the Small Research Grants
- the Office of Agriculture collaborative activities with the International Agricultural Research Centers

The requested action follows a rational plan of portfolio consolidation and simplification. The present project represents a joining of five former Office of Agriculture projects into one project. New project development will assure that the activity will be alligned with the new strategy of the Office of Agriculture. The new project will continue to be the only activity for program development and support activities in the Office of Agriculture.

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Recommendation: That you accept this Action Memorandum as the Project Identification Document for the Agriculture Program Development and Support Project (936-4200), waive the requirement for a program review committee; and accept an Action Memorandum to DAA Langmaid as the Project Paper for the Agriculture Program Development and Support Project.

APPROVE [Signature]

DISAPPROVE _____

DATE 4/9/91

Drafted: S&T/AGR:LSchulze:3/13/91:8179e.

Clearances: S&T/AGR, MBlakeney draft Date 3/13/91
S&T/AGR, ECarter draft Date 3/14/91
S&T/PO, DSheldon [Signature] Date 4/2/91