

FINAL REPORT

Grant no. DAN-4193-G-00-1104-00
Individual Development Grant for the SANREM CRSP

Sustainable Agriculture through Biological-Enrichment Research (SABER)

Synopsis

The Individual Development Grant was successful: new collaborative research linkages were created and elements of the SABER project were included in a Global Plan for the SANREM CRSP.

Activities

International collaborators were enlisted to complete the SABER team in the areas of agricultural economics and pest/crop interactions. Grant funds were used for partial support of an international trip to discuss our project with Dr. Barry Dent, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Dr. Paul Teng, International Rice Research Institute. Dr. Dent agreed to provide our group with conceptual leadership in the area of systems approaches to the socioeconomic components of sustainability. His research group is developing a formal "minimum dataset" for evaluating social constraints on farmer decision making, particularly in the adoption of innovative agrotechnology. Dr. Teng is working in parallel to develop a formal systems approach to assessing pest/crop interactions. As described in our proposal, the socioeconomic and pest/crop methodologies are crucial to the systems analysis of sustainability that the SABER project is to provide.

Our intent was to have each Planning Entity include the SABER project in their plan. A copy of our proposal was FAXed or express-mailed to each of the three groups that received Global Planning Grants.

The group lead by Michigan State University identified elements of the proposed project as important in their Global Plan. A member of the SABER team visited Michigan and an agreement was reached for participation of the University of Hawaii in the MSU-lead Global Plan. The group lead by Ohio State University considered the SABER proposal and placed it in their planned Integrated Nutrient/Soil/Water Management research area (see letter, attached), but no specific agreements were reached for collaboration (no invitation was extended for the SABER team to meet with OSU personnel). The group lead by University of Georgia rejected the SABER proposal with essentially no interaction on the proposal content or the reasons for the rejection.

Analysis

Our Individual Development Grant was successful in its most basic intent, but the relationship between the individual grantees and the global planners unfolded much differently than expected. Our presumption in developing the SABER proposal was that the Individual Development Grants were in preparation for the "type A" research support grants, at approximately

\$100,000 per year, described in a SANREM planning document¹. The SABER project was designed as a package with the hope of being included *in toto* within the SANREM CRSP.

The RFA gave the Global Planners latitude in the number of individual grantees to enlist and the level of support they would be provided. We believe this was unfortunate. The strength of the Individual Development Grant program was its ability to foster creative research ideas. That creativity can easily be discounted and dismissed when the ideas compete with plans to build a research bureaucracy.

We believe there will be a continuing need for the type of research proposed in our project. Success of the SANREM CRSP, we believe, will be closely tied to development of new methodologies for agricultural systems analysis -- methodologies that are transferrable throughout the world and designed to assess the long-term impacts of agriculture and agricultural development. We will continue to work towards that goal and pursue all avenues of research support. We will also remain committed to cooperating with the recipient of the SANREM CRSP core grant.

¹Board on Agriculture, Board on Science and Technology for International Development, and National Research Council. 1991. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C. (see pages 30 to 34)

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Revised Summary Budget with Cost-sharing
RFA Section C.2.(c)(4)

Cost Element	Estimated	
	AID (this Grant)	Expended Jan 29, 1992
Salaries	0	0
Fringe Benefits	0	0
Consultants	0	0
Travel, Transportation, & Per Diem:	8,870	3,411
-Domestic: 5,815		
-International 3,055		
Other Direct Costs	72	30
Subcontracts/ Subgrants	0	0
Indirect Costs	3,367	3,367
TOTAL EST. AMT.	12,309	6,808



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October 23, 1991

Dr. Robert Caldwell
Dept. of Agronomy & Soil Science
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Dr. Caldwell:

Dr. Norman Uphoff gave me a copy of the materials which you transmitted to him regarding your SANREM Grant from A.I.D. We appreciate your interest in the possibility of having your research interests represented in our Global Plan. This letter is intended to indicate to you how we are considering the possibility of incorporating your research plans into it.

We ask that you consider this information to be privileged. As you know, three Comprehensive Planning Grants were awarded. We are unaware of the development of Global Plans by the other two consortia. Just as we do not ask you to tell us what their plans are, we ask that you not inform them of our plans.

We believe that the SANREM CRSP will be unlike the other CRSP's in that there will be less margin for individual studies. Sustainable agriculture must be approached from an integrative framework. Thus, we consider it important that the research design and actual field work maximize interaction among researchers, across the various disciplines.

We have tentatively defined five broad areas of research endeavor. These are:

- (a) Integrated Nutrient/Soil/Water Management
- (b) Integrated Pest Management
- (c) Integrated Farm Enterprise Management
- (d) Agroecosystem Analysis and Modelling
- (e) Institutional/Policy/Sociocultural Analysis/Evaluation

We anticipate forming research teams for each of these areas, probably with a principal investigator for each. We had a management committee meeting last week and discussed possible teams of scientists for each area. Your name was associated with the Integrated Nutrient/Soil/Water Management area, along with those of Rattan Lal, OSU; John Duxbury, Cornell; Jonathan Lynch, Penn State; Bharat Singh, Fort Valley State and others.

Dr. Robert Caldwell
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We intend that a principal investigator for each area will eventually be elected by members of each respective team of researchers. That individual will serve on the Technical Committee. Annually, we will solicit proposals from research teams, with the possibility of funding at least two proposals from each area, each year. We intend to seek additional outside funding. If we are successful, then the number of group proposals funded will be increased.

Our identification of research teams is based on our best guess as to what research interests are, given the proposals which you and others submitted to A.I.D. and dialogue among us. These teams may be modified somewhat. However, we want you to know that we consider you to be a potential member of our research team, with the same rights and privileges - including equal access to research funding - and the same responsibilities. Should A.I.D. make special funding available for you, you will have priority access to funding under our SANREM.

We expect that the research teams will be getting together to discuss research proposals during the next three months. We have programmed an on site work shop for early December. This will be an opportunity to ground our research design in the reality of specific regions and ongoing activities of PVO, NGO, host country university, government agency and other collaborators. From this will emerge the initial research program for our Global Plan.

In closing, we appreciate your willingness to send us copies of your individual development grant. We look forward to continuing dialogue with you as we continue to develop our Global Plan.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. David O. Hansen
Associate Dean & Director

c.c. J. Kirkwood, Fort Valley State
N. Uphoff, Cornell
H. Massey, Kentucky
W. Lacy, Penn State

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