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Attached is Terminal Report of Mr. Otis E. Cross, Extension Agricultural Engineering Specialist.

Agricultural Extension

COTTAM

Attachment: Pages 2 through 7 of this airgram.

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I - INTRODUCTION

a) - Background of Qualifying Professional Experience:

The writer was born and raised in a farming community in the center of the wheat bowl in Kansas. After one year of junior college, he began working in the production departments of aircraft factories in Wichita, Kansas. After alternate periods of work and school, he graduated from Kansas State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering with major studies in farm buildings and equipment. The pre-graduation aircraft work offered excellent training in factory production, design, and during the latter part, teaching experience.

After college graduation in 1946, he accepted a position as assistant professor in Agricultural Engineering at the University of Georgia, a position he held for ten years; that is, until July 1956. Requirements were completed and the writer received his Master of Science in Agricultural Engineering in 1949, again with major studies in farm structures.

In addition to his teaching duties at the University of Georgia, he engaged in engineering and land surveying and became registered as a professional surveyor and also as a professional engineer. He also designed and constructed five rural homes and one city home. All such experience was in line with his training as farm structures specialist.

b) - Arrival and Orientation to Living in Brazil:

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Upon arrival in Brazil, the writer and family spent a few unpleasant days in the Guanabara Palace Hotel. With the kind assistance of ANR personnel, temporary living quarters were acquired and living tensions slacked off. During the first two months in Rio, the writer devoted full time to language study. It was at that time considered a foolish and hopeless endeavor. Since that trying period, and by traveling alone, the writer can see the language progress as a result of the basic training. Because of the fact that the writer's family had lived in the country in the States, it required approximately a year for them to become orientated to city living conditions. Even as yet the family is not fully at ease with the language difficulties.

c) - Orientation to Job

Job orientation was more or less informal. The ANR Livestock Specialist, Mr. Uel D. Thompson, was especially helpful and the

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writer is grateful to this individual for his time and advice on the extension program in Brazil. The lack of the thorough knowledge of the language did not prevent traveling alone, but it did retard progress when the conversation entered the technical field of structures.

Attempts have been made to locate a counterpart. To this date, a reasonably satisfactory individual has not been employed. It appears that the graduates of the agricultural colleges do not specialize in the farm structures engineering phase of study. It is apparent that the qualifications of a counterpart must be lowered. This will obviously retard the progress of work and necessitate a longer training period.

This technician obtained an overall view of Brazil by initially traveling with the Agricultural Education Advisor, Mr. Robert Manire, and the above mentioned Livestock Specialist. Although such trips were not performed specifically for the Agricultural Engineering Specialist, they did introduce that individual to the travel, work, and living conditions of Brazil.

II - ASSIGNMENT TO DUTY (As Agricultural Engineering Extension advisor, later shortened to Agricultural Engineer)

a) Project Activities

This phase of work is a relatively new activity in the development of an Agricultural Extension Service in Brazil. It is understood that one previous technician had been assigned to the Rio, or national headquarters, office. That individual was a specialist only in commercial grain storages and therefore did not work with on-the-farm structural problems. In which case it was necessary for this writer to "start from scratch."

Generally speaking, farm structures throughout Brazil are considerably retarded. This includes farm homes, all types of livestock housing, all types of feed processing and storage, and the overall sanitation on the farm. In relation to farm homes - not a single farm home has been observed which would be considered ideal and many were in such condition that they would not afford decent housing for animals. On livestock housing - some scattered examples of "fair" structures were found, but generally the housing was lacking in many aspects. Feed processing and storage on the farm is practically non-existant. The general practice is to use a portion of the home as a feed storage area. Sanitation difficulties arise from (a) livestock and poultry areas entirely too close to the home, (b) poor planning of livestock and poultry areas resulting in profoundly inadequate sanitation

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conditions, (c) a total lack of understanding of the necessary requirements in order to obtain a safe and dependable household water supply, (d) home not designed and constructed to offer even the basic essentials needed for comfort and sanitation, and (e) although a minority of the farms have privys, these are not constructed or maintained in sanitary condition.

The solution to many of these problems is not within the scope of achievement of the individual farmer. It is evident that the "young" extension services in the various states have their future work laid out. Through the media of publications, information leaflets, result demonstrations, training sessions, and radio, the extension service can educate the farmer and improve his standard of living.

The major portion of the writer's work has been connected with Agricultural Extension ETA projects (6,11,15,17). However, consultant, advisory, and supervision work has been done with other ETA projects as well as with State and Federal organizations. (ETA projects 3, 10, 18, 27, 38, 42, 43, 45).

b) - Functional objectives

1. To prepare extension type farm structures training material.

2. To train Brazilian county agents in the farm structures program.

3. To assist local, state, and federal groups on farm building and equipment problems.

4. To train Brazilian Extension County agents in the design and use of practical farm structures.

5. To train a Brazilian counterpart to be an Extension Agricultural Engineer specializing in structures.

6. To serve as advisor and consultant to U.S. and Brazilian farm structures interests.

7. To promote interest and understanding in improvements in the rural structures area.

c) - Operational Achievements

The Brazilian Agricultural Extension program was about 22 months old at the time of the writer's arrival. Naturally, much of this time was used in setting up offices and personnel. Even to the date, some of the county offices are under-staffed and lack adequate

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office space. The personnel situation is now being solved by recent college graduates and subsequent training in extension methods and procedures at Fazenda Ipanema (ETA Project 6). Since this writer's arrival, he has participated in two training sessions at Fazenda Ipanema with a total of 26 people receiving training in basic farm structures.

This technician has prepared, in Portuguese and the metric system of measurement, a total of eleven sets of blueprints. The plans are as follows: commercial-type potato storage house, small dairy milking parlor with elevated stalls, small dairy milking parlor on ground level, portable hog house, portable hog feeder, portable hog waterer, poultry laying house of 8 x 9 meters, portable poultry range shelter, portable poultry range waterer, portable poultry range feeder, and palm oil seed germinator. Some of these plans were in cooperation with other technicians and have been prepared in bulletin or information leaflet form.

In cooperation with ETA Project 42, a complete poultry enterprise was developed. This writer then went to Carazinho, Rio Grande do Sul, and personally supervised the construction of the various components of that installation. One training meeting has been conducted at the site with excellent results.

The writer has served as a member of survey teams to evaluate the plans of various state projects or to offer recommendations on execution of existing plans.

About one year ago our Agricultural Education Advisor was transferred to chief of party in another country. Because of the writer's ten years teaching experience and Brazilian travel with the Agricultural Education Advisor, he (the writer) assumed the educational advisor's duties. The Brazilian counterpart in the educational position had been well trained and these additional duties involved a minimum of attention on the part of the writer.

The field work has covered 12 states of Brazil but approximately 85% has been concentrated in the four southern states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Parana, and São Paulo. A total of 22 (232 days of travel) trips were taken. Some trips were multiple purpose and involved two to four different subject matters. General trip classification may be summarized as follows:

1. Observation, survey, and recommendations 9

2. Attendance at conferences 5

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3. Teaching and inservice training 3

4. Collection of material for post classification.. 2

5. Supervision of construction 2

6. Washington, D.C., medical consultation 1

One of the conference trips listed above was to Santiago, Chile. The writer was honored by having been requested to present a paper and assist in a South American machinery training center held in Chile. In relation to item 6 above, the writer was hospitalized in Bethesda, Md., for five weeks and afterward restricted to desk duties for two months.

d) - Summary Evaluation

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One of the main objectives of the assignment continues to defy solution, namely the training of a counterpart. As has been stated previously in this report, the qualifying standards have been lowered in an attempt to secure a reasonably qualified individual. The quantity of extension-type material published falls below the desired amount. The acquisition of a counterpart will alleviate the translation problem. Also, the hiring of a full-time competent draftsman would allow the technician to devote more time to new publications and to training meetings.

III - CONTACT WITH OTHERS

a) - Brazilian Agencies and Individuals:

During a total travel time of 232 days, numerous contacts were made with directors of secondary schools, directors of experiment stations, state secretaries of agriculture, national secretaries of agriculture or their representatives of all the South American countries, state project planning staffs, prefeitos, state and regional architectural directors, both Brazilian and American managers of farms and American manufacturing firms, local carpenters, and an untold number of farmers.

b) - UN and Voluntary Agencies:

The writer has worked with the FAO agricultural machinery specialist from Rome, Italy; ICA technicians of Chile, Peru, and Columbia; various industrial specialists; and ICA housing specialists of Chile.

c) Other Americans:

Contact with other Americans has included personnel of USOM/Brazil and personnel of numerous American commercial and industrial firms. Other contacts included tourists and many religious missionaries.

IV - RECOMMENDATIONS

a) -For Continuation of Project:

It is recommended that this project be continued and intensified. The county agents have such a small amount of printed material that they are handicapped in their work. Future work should include publications, film strips, and/or demonstrations on such subjects as the following: additional poultry plans, construction procedure on simple buildings, hog lot equipment, improving farm-made kitchen stoves, baby chick brooder, simple wood-constructed dairy barn, corn and other grain storages on the farm, and a complete "overhaul" on the line of thinking in the requirements and design of a farm home, including the total farmstead.

It is also advisable to continue cooperation with affiliated projects. The results of many of these cooperating projects make ideal extension demonstrations.

b) -For Closer Coordination of Division and Mission Activities:

The projects of the Agricultural Extension Service are rather widely scattered throughout Brazil. In view of this fact, it is important to coordinate and forward information so that all offices may understand the overall situation. It is believed advisable that subject matter specialists be more throughly exploited and also that they be consulted at a more advanced date on matters pertaining to projects within their fields of work.

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