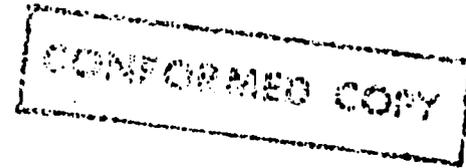


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PROJECT ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

PROJECT TITLE:	Tropical Bont Tick
PROJECT NUMBER	598-0652
DATE OF AUTHORIZATION:	August 28, 1987
FUNDING PERIOD:	
Original	4 years and 4 months
Amended	3 years and 5 months
LOP FUNDING:	\$3,499,000
IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES:	United States Department of Agriculture and Ministry of Agriculture, Antigua
PACD:	Original: December 31, 1991; Amended: February 12, 1991



1. PURPOSE

To develop information in order to formulate policies, strategies, and operating procedures required to confront effectively the Tropical Bont Tick and associated livestock diseases in the Caribbean, using Antigua as a test site. To produce data required to determine whether eradication can be accomplished and at what cost.

2. BACKGROUND

In fiscal year 1987, Congress earmarked \$2 million in an amendment to Section 103 (a) (3) of the Foreign Assistance Act for the purpose of eradication and control in the Caribbean of the tropical bont tick.

The Tropical Bont Tick is associated with two major livestock diseases, heartwater and dermatophilosis. The tick was introduced into the Caribbean about 1830 when infested cattle from Senegal were imported into Guadeloupe. Since its introduction, the tick has spread to some thirteen neighboring islands. It has been feared that the tick will advance to the mainland of North and South America debilitating the livestock industry in these countries.

Funding

The Project was authorized on August 28, 1987 at \$3,499,000. The initial obligation was \$1,924,000. At the end of the Project \$334,264 or 17.4% of the obligated amount was expended.

A Participating Agency Service Agreement (PASA) was signed (9/30/87) between USAID and the United States Department of Agriculture /Animal and Plant Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) for the implementation of the Project. The PASA (No. LAC-0652-P-AG-7049) required that USDA/APHIS sign an agreement with the Government of Antigua through the Department of State Circular 175A procedure. Due to delays in this process,

RDO/C executed (May 28, 1988) a Limited Scope Grant Agreement (LSGA) with the Government of Antigua. This essentially gave RDO/C implementation responsibility for the Project. The financial management of the Project, however, remained with USDA/APHIS. The PASA expired on September 30, 1990 and was not renewed. The LSGA was terminated on February 12, 1991.

3. SUMMARY OF INPUTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Tropical Bont Tick Project had three components: (a) Eradication Demonstration, (b) Information and Evaluation, and (c) Policy and Strategy Formulation. Component (a) was never initiated. Under Component (b) two studies were initiated, an Economic Impact Analysis and a Wildlife Study. A pickup truck, portable livestock scale and other small pieces of equipment totalling \$24,000 were purchased for these studies. Upon completion of the project, the equipment was handed over to the Government of Antigua.

The Eradication Demonstration component ran into serious implementation problems as USDA insisted on using an acaricide which was not approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This component was originally designed to involve the use of two EPA-registered acaricides, both of which were endorsed in a 1987 environmental assessment. Subsequently, however, USDA/APHIS revised its recommendation on these chemicals and instead proposed the use of another chemical, Bayticol. Bayticol was said to have tremendous advantages in terms of its efficacy and ease of application. A second environmental assessment, conducted in 1989 by independent experts outside of AID, strongly recommended against its use in the Project as serious data gaps existed regarding its environmental and health impacts.

The Project, therefore, did not achieve the goals and objectives for which it was designed. The Economic Impact Analysis provided only incomplete information on the cost/benefit analysis of an eradication program. The Wildlife study was useful in providing information on the life history of the bont tick, the animal species which it affected, and the principal vectors. The main component, Eradication Demonstration, was not implemented.

4. DEVELOPMENT IMPACT

The Project was aborted before the main component could be implemented, hence, there was no appreciable development impact.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTINUED MONITORING

The tropical bont tick may still be considered a serious threat to the livestock industry in the region and to the North American mainland. AID could consider collaboration with other donor groups, such as, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) which have expressed an interest in tackling the problem in the region.

6. LESSONS LEARNED

- i) The difficulties involved in coordinating the implementation of a project with two organizations, each operating within its own rules and regulations which may differ considerably on various issues.
- ii) When two organizations are responsible for the implementation of a project, there should be clear lines of authority and division of responsibilities.
- iii) USAID regulations require an environmental assessment before the use of any chemical can be approved for project funded activity. Further, the Agency cannot use any chemical which is not EPA-approved.
- iv) At the project design stage, careful consideration must be given to the required environmental assessments and adequate preparation made for their completion before the project is authorized.

Clearance:
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MTaylor, PRM *MT* 5/17/93
MHorween, CONT *MH* 8/18/93
BBurnett, D/DIR *BD* 8/19/93

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