

The Agribusiness Council, Inc.

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Quarterly Report
January - March 1992
Middle Income Country Association Development
(Grant No. PDC-0091-G-00-1114-00)

Summary

Project implementation fell behind schedule during this period primarily due to uncertainty surrounding PRE's replacement of the project officer (Richard Sines) who resigned from AID in early February. ABC met with PRE/Emerging Markets director Russ Anderson twice and provided background briefings on the ABC/AER project as well as projections for the current year. It was agreed to survey USAID missions to determine appropriate "targets of opportunity" for agro-enterprise association development (rather than schedule travel to target countries indicated in the grant document).

Highlights

ABC continued earlier efforts aimed at strengthening communications between state/local agribusiness councils and the emerging overseas network of counterpart AER agro-industry associations. For example, ABC designed and circulated a survey to state/local agribusiness groups as a step toward developing a directory of agribusiness associations.

On the international front, ABC completed a comprehensive report on its 1990 exploratory missions to Poland and the Soviet Union, including participation at the Ciechocinek, Poland conference on agriculture in Eastern Europe. The document was prepared for AID/EUR.

Communications and programming initiated earlier during the PPC coordinating process and the FHA/PPM grants have also generated some important independent project activities (which could qualify under Middle Income Country grant). For example, interest has accelerated both in AID/W and in Israel for the proposed AER/Israel. This activity may result in a workshop for interested Israeli and Palestinian agribusiness, or a less complicated Israeli agro-industry counterpart group.

Feedback reports from the AER/Uganda's successful start-up continue to filter in, and it appears the new association is off to a good start (see letters of December 10 and January 14, 1992 describing links with



animal industry). ABC contributed material concerning upcoming OPIC trade missions scheduled to visit Uganda and other East African countries in May. (Agribusiness participants have expressed interest in meeting with local AERs).

ABC also participated in a special briefing for newly elected Zambian President Frederick J.T. Chiluba and his Minister of Commerce and Industry Ronald Penza on February 17. Zambian officials expressed keen interest in encouraging business partnerships through ABC and requested background material on establishing a Zambian counterpart. (see attached)

Other Noteworthy Activities

- * On February 11, ABC hosted a planning meeting for its subcommittee on New Crops/Technologies which featured Dr. Giovanni Mignoni of Risanamento AgroIndustriale Zuccheri (Rome), a renown expert in kenaf and other new crops.
- * February 6 (Kingston, Jamaica). ABC/AER conducted a briefing and luncheon with members of the executive committee of Jamaican Agricultural Scientists Association chaired by Dr. Lyndon McLaren of the Jamaican Agricultural Development Foundation (JADF). [This meeting has generated a follow-up workshop scheduled for Kingston on April 27, 1992 at which representatives of various Jamaican agro-industry sectors are expected to consider initial steps in forming an AER/Jamaica.]
- * ABC participated in the Nixon Presidential Library Conference on "America's Role in the Emerging World," (March 11 - 12) at the Four Seasons Hotel. Hollis had a brief opportunity to discuss the ABC program concept and Russia visit with former President Nixon.
- * ABC testified in support of AID programs (March 18) before the President's Commission on AID Management, chaired by George M. Ferris, Jr.
- * ABC submitted two proposals to AID/EUR to facilitate program activities with Eastern Europe and the C.I.S.. These activities are anticipated as a follow-on to work underway with EUR/TR exploring the agro-industry organization potential for selected countries (also following up on ABC/AER Moscow briefing with various republic representatives which have resulted in numerous invitations and requests for information).
- * ABC (Hollis) participated as guest lecturer/speaker before several career day programs at the Graduate level (Columbia University) and secondary school (Washington International School) discussing aspects of international trade association professional development.



Attachments

- A. Letter from North Carolina Agribusiness Council
- B. Letter from State of Florida/Department of Agriculture
- C. Executive Summary/Contents of ABC Report on Ciechocinek Conference
- D. Letters from various Israeli leaders on AER/Israel
- E. Letters, AER/Uganda, December 10, 1991 & January 14, 1992
- F. Letters /L. Kapambwe, Charge D'Affaires, Embassy of Zambia (March 23, 1992), Stephen Humphrey, Hopkins & Sutter (April 15, 1991)
- G. Letter, George M. Ferris, Jr. President's Commission on the Management of AID Programs (March 20, 1992)
- H. Letter, Hon. Tony P. Hall, Chairman, House Select Committee on Hunger (March 12, 1992)
- I. Article, Washington International School Newspaper, April 1992
Letter, January 30, 1992 from Columbia University (School of International and Public Affairs)

