

SEMI-ANNUAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORTA. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Country: Zambia | 7. Field Backstop Officer: Will Whelan, AEO |
| 2. Project Title: Agricultural Development: Research and Extension (ZAMARE) | 8. A.I.D. Backstop Officer: Sid Bliss, AFR/PD/SAP |
| 3. Project No.: 611-0201 | 9. Date of Last Evaluation: 6/23/86
Last audit: 3/88 |
| 4. Date of this report: 9/30/88 | 10. Date of Next Evaluation: 1990
Next audit: None |
| 5. Implementing Agency: Ministry of Agricultural and Water Development (MAWD) | 11. Waivers processed: None |
| 6. Major Contractor(s): University of Illinois (\$10,276,375) | |

B. FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 12. Date of Authorization: 9/23/88 | 16. Cumulative Obligation \$12,515 |
| 13. Authorized LOP Amount: \$12,515 | 17. Cumulative Accrued Expenditures: \$12,046 |
| 14. Date of Initial Obligation: 9/26/80 | 18. Cumulative Commitment: \$12,228 |
| 15. PACD (original): 12/31/85
(revised): 12/31/88 (TRNG)
(revised): 7/31/88 (TA) | 19. Est. Cost of Individual Inputs: \$12,228
A. Technical Assistance: \$7,803,557
B. Training: \$2,599,465
C. Commodities: \$949,914
D. Construction: \$112,890
E. Operation Recurrent Costs: \$721,545
F. Contingency: \$40,636 |

C. PERFORMANCE INFORMATION20. Project Purpose:

To help the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) strengthen the agricultural research capacity of MAWD and to increase the effectiveness of the extension service in transferring relevant technology with emphasis on small farmers.

21. Progress Towards Meeting EOPS:

- A. Increased production of oil seeds (sunflower, soybean) and maize by small farmers in central province. Soybean production increased substantially each year and sunflower production decreased primarily due to price differentials in relation to the price of maize.
- B. Improving the understanding and knowledge base of small farmers production constraints by focusing research/extension activities on small farmer welfare. The ARPT in Kabwe, Central Province was quite successful in this area. They worked in three separate areas of the province, doing numerous surveys then devising strategies to overcome the constraints revealed by the surveys.

C. Functioning Commodity Research Teams in oilseeds and cereal grains working on the needs of small farmers:

1) The sunflower section of the Oilseeds Research Team functioned quite well up to the departure of the TA. It is staffed and should continue functioning.

2) The soybean research was not provided with proper counterparts although some technicians did work with the TA and the work will continue with assistance from CIDA.

3) The Maize Research Team was supported by three donor agencies. Therefore, the team will continue because SIDA and FAO are continuing to support the effort.

D. Functioning adaptive research planning team capable of referring small farmers production constraints to the CRT's. This was certainly accomplished during the LOP and it seems likely to continue although at a reduced level because of funding, transport and manpower constraints.

E. Functioning extension staff in central province that is working collaboratively with the ARPT and disseminating relevant technology to small farmers. The basic problem with having a functioning extension service is that the GRZ does not budget sufficiently for transport, travel and other support services.

F. The project paper called for 34 professionals to be trained to B.S. and graduate degrees. The project actually trained 48. A total of 85 short-term participants were sent overseas including individuals in key management positions (including the current Director and the two Assistant Directors of Agriculture). Thousands of farmers, extension workers, technicians and scientists were trained in the country including more than 4000 person-days of in-country training and over 11,000 person-days of farmers attending farmer meetings and field days. Sixteen ZAMARE trained counterparts served at least six months with a ZAMARE scientist.

22. Project Outputs:

Longframe Output Targets

Output Status

Establishment of two multi disciplinary research teams, e.g. oilseeds CRT and cereal grains CRT

The teams were established during the LOP. However, since the departure of the ZAMARE soybean breeder, that position has remained vacant. The sunflower team is continuing after the departure of the ZAMARE TA. The excellent and extensive work done by the TA during the project leaves the sunflower program in good condition with trained scientists and technicians. The maize research program is in good shape with SIDA and FAO continuing to support the Team.

ARPT Teams conducting diagnostic, design and testing research in established recommendation domains.

The ARPT in Central Province worked in three recommendation domains. The team members conducted numerous surveys, designed strategies to overcome constraints, tested alternatives then presented the results to farmers at demonstrations, field days and on farm trials.

Identification of small farmer production constraints by research/extension links. The ARPT did establish these links in the recommendation domains in which they worked but without the project support they will probably fail. The extension service is well organized but ineffective due to budget constraints.

23. Important Issues/Problems:

A. Project design

Overall the project was very well designed and it was an extremely successful project. Problems that arose were sometimes due to changed circumstances and sometimes to poor planning.

1. Inappropriate Technology

A decision was made before the project was implemented to use zero tillage as one of the practices to be promoted by the ARPT. Zero tillage machinery was ordered and shipped in, again before the project was implemented. This practice is not suitable for small farmers especially in a nation with an extreme lack of foreign exchange to import chemicals for weed control. The use of chemicals by illiterate small farmers is very dangerous and environmentally hazardous. There is no guarantee that the chemicals will be imported due to the lack of foreign exchange. The mistake was in selecting a technology before the project was implemented and the ARPT had a chance to diagnose the problems and make recommendations.

2. Inappropriate machinery and vehicles

Large machines were ordered before the project was implemented and therefore before the TA's were on site and could make appropriate recommendations. Many of these machines were never used, some were later sold to large scale farmers, some are still largely unused at the research stations. Large machines are inappropriate for the research done in Zambia because most of the work is with small plots and the large machines just cannot work effectively on them.

Vehicles were of four different makes from three countries and motorcycles were of two makes. Spare parts were extremely difficult to obtain in Zambia and procurement through USAID channels was slow and time consuming.

B. Non-replacement of vehicles

One of the major hinderances to the TA's effectiveness was that all the vehicles were not replaced after two years. The vehicles were undependable, dangerous and caused the TA's to lose a lot of valuable time.

C. Financial Management and Control

Inaccurate financial records plagued the project during its entire life.

Records from REDSO/ESA/RFMC and the contractor were seldom in agreement when expenditures by project budget lines were compared. A great deal of time, energy and patience was spent on reconciling financial records. An agreed upon computerized project monitoring system in place from the start of the project, would have eliminated most of these problems.

D. Incentives and Disincentives

The relationships between the ZAMARE team members and their counterpart and associates in MAWD were outstanding. Mutual trust and respect resulted in lasting friendships. There was, however, a perception that the local system lacked sufficient incentives for rewarding individuals for undertaking additional training, productive work and innovation. Likewise, absence of punitive action for lack of performance, excessive absenteeism, etc. did not encourage initiative.

E. Late Audits

The first audit in 1985 addressed only program results and economy and efficiency. It would have been much better if a financial and compliance audit had been made at this time or earlier instead of waiting until the project was about to finish. The problems uncovered by the 1987 audit should have been taken care of much earlier for the benefit of both A.I.D. and the contractor.

24. Important Actions Over Next Six Months	Timeframe	Action Agent(s)
A. Complete documentation - Action Memo for PACD extension to accommodate a continuing linkage program.	10/88-11/88	PDO, RCO, AADO REDSO/SADO
B. Completion of PACR.	10/88	AADO/REDSO-SADO
C. Complete PILs.	10/88-11/88	AADO/REDSO-SADO
D. Begin continuing linkage activities.	12/88	Univ. of Illinois at Urban/Champaign and MAWD
E. Negotiation of audit recommendations.	10/88-12/88	RCO/UIUC
F. Participant Trainees Returned.	12/31/88	