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Project No. 664-312
Amendment

Dated MAR 27 1986

FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT
to
PROJECT LOAN AND GRANT AGREEMENT
between
THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA
and the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
for
CENTRAL TUNISIA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

CONFORMED COPY

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FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT dated **MAR 27** 1986 to the Project Loan and Grant Agreement dated May 18, 1979, as amended (the "Agreement") between the REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA ("Tunisia" or the "Government") and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, acting through The Agency for International Development ("A.I.D.").

WHEREAS the REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA entered into an Agreement for Economic, Technical, and Related Assistance dated March 26, 1957, pursuant to which this Amendment is entered into by Tunisia and A.I.D.; and

WHEREAS the Parties wish to amend certain portions of the Agreement which concern the Rural Extension and Outreach Subproject; and

WHEREAS the Parties confirm their mutual commitments to the Project.

NOW THEREFORE the parties agree as set forth herein:

1. The Agreement is amended as follows:

(a) All references in the Agreement to the Extension Support Services Unit (ESSU) and to the Agricultural Extension Service (AES) are hereby deleted and the Directorate of Agriculture (DA) and Outreach Staff (OS) are substituted respectively in lieu thereof.

(b) Paragraph (5) of Section 6.7 is deleted in its entirety.

(c) Annex 2-F is deleted in its entirety and the attached Annex 2-F is inserted in lieu thereof.

2. Except as amended hereby, The Agreement remains unchanged and in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, each acting through its respective duly authorized representative(s), have caused this Fourteenth Amendment to be signed in their names and delivered on the day and year first above written.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By: 
James R. Phippard
Director
USAID/Tunis

REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA
Le Secrétaire d'Etat auprès
du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
Chargé de la Coopération Internationale

By: 
Ahmed Ben Arfa
Secretary of State to
Minister of Foreign Affairs
In Charge of International
Cooperation

RURAL EXTENSION AND OUTREACH SUBPROJECT

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Objectives

As with all Central Tunisia Rural Development (CTRD) sub-projects, the goal of this subproject is to improve the quality of rural life and the real incomes of rural households in Central Tunisia.

The purpose of this subproject is the establishment of better two-way communications systems between the population and the public sector service and information organizations, and the improvement of the flow of information among those public sector entities. In more specific terms the subproject will develop and implement an agricultural extension program in Central Tunisia through which the agents of CTDA, in cooperation with other agricultural development agencies, will assist farmers of that region to increase their incomes from their agricultural production activities.

There are several important assumptions linking the purpose and the goal. The key one is that better communications between the beneficiaries and the service entities will allow rural households to gain and use information about technology and practices to increase their productivity, health and well-being. A corollary assumption is that better communications among the outreach and research services will give the agents more information to disseminate which is relevant to their clients' needs. A third assumption is that the means to use more knowledge about agricultural technology, health, and nutrition will be available to the population of Central Tunisia.

B. Technical Interventions

The rural extension and outreach project has two major parts, both aimed at strengthening communication between the population of the project zone, rural development personnel and various public and private services. The first part is to establish a multi-disciplinary extension support group within the CTDA central staff. This group would comprise part of the staff of the CTDA Directorate of Agriculture with responsibility for planning and executing the outreach program.

1. Directorate of Agriculture (DA)

Emphasis would be placed on coordinating CTDA outreach activities with those of other organizations doing related work in Central Tunisia. The support group in DA will be staffed with a minimum of five (5) technical agriculture specialists including dryland agronomy, horticulture, animal production and forage production, water resources development and agricultural economics. The technical specialists will be supported by a media staff of one communications specialist and two assistants with capability in rural sociology and media communication. This group will synthesize technical information and "package" it in a form that is most useful to the target audience. They will also provide technical backstopping to the Outreach Staff (OS) which consists of extension agents assigned to various Delegations in the area. The DA support unit will also help the OS in information campaigns, field days, demonstration plots, and preparing media presentations. Crucial support to this effort will be provided through enhancing the production capacity of the Directorate of Education, Research, and Extension (DERV) of the Ministry of Agriculture to prepare audio-visual material tailored to Central Tunisia. DERV is the central unit within the Ministry of Agriculture (MA) responsible for preparing media material for nation-wide use.

The DA will carry out its outreach responsibilities through four primary extension functions:

(i) provide technical assistance to field agents, and support delivery of agriculture extension and other rural development information through CTDA as well as through CRDA and other rural/agricultural development agencies;

(ii) provide forward and backward linkage between research efforts and beneficiaries as to new knowledge, techniques and practices;

(iii) coordinate CTDA outreach activities with those of other organizations in the region; and

(iv) develop new technology information packages, specifically designed for Central Tunisia conditions and requirements and arrange for their production and dissemination.

As part of this work DA technicians will meet regularly with specialists of appropriate research institutes, universities and outreach agencies outside of CTDA. They will organize workshops, seminars or discussion groups to improve the linkages between field agencies and various disciplinary backstop institutions.

2. Outreach Staff of CTDA (O.S.)

Currently, the O.S. staff consists of agents assigned to the various delegations of CTDA who are expected to spend a majority of their time providing information to farmers and working with them to increase their production. Under this subproject this group will be numerically expanded and trained to carry out the critical outreach function for CTDA.

Training for this group will focus on upgrading their technical capabilities and improving communication skills. The training and upgrading for OS will be conducted, among other places, on experiment stations and demonstration plots of concerned institutions and projects, e.g. INRAT, Le Kef, etc. These activities will be undertaken in close collaboration with research institutions of the MOA capable of providing assistance in their respective disciplines.

The main function of the OS will be to work directly with farmers (giving particular attention to the poorer, dryland farmers) to solve production problems and to introduce new techniques and practices. This will include supervision of demonstration plots among target group members. In carrying out its work, the O.S. will cooperate and coordinate its activities and methodology with that of other services of the Ministry of Agriculture working in the Central Tunisia region.

A Director of the O.S. has been appointed in the first year of the subproject. He will be responsible for coordinating field agents' work in each delegation, supervising work in the nurseries, and assessing training needs of the field agents and arranging to meet these needs.

The O.S. in the field provides the most crucial link in the extension service, therefore, the interaction between these field agents and farmers will be carefully addressed. The following practices will be incorporated into the implementation of extension activities to assure effective delivery of services.

- (i) The use of monthly work plans for extension agents.
- (ii) Each extension agent will work initially with a small number of farmers, within a given area.
- (iii) Direct contact with farmers will be emphasized using demonstrations as the basic extension approach.
- (iv) Farmer information days will be organized, each built around a specific theme, and using demonstration plots to the maximum extent possible.

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(v) Radio will be the major mass medium.

(vi) One-day training sessions will be organized in cooperation with agricultural schools of all levels in the area.

(vii) Direct assistance in the form of seeds or fertilizers may be given to farmers participating in demonstration plots.

As part of the effort to strengthen the O.S., this subproject includes assistance for establishing an agent training farm and nine vegetable plant nurseries. AID financing will help in the planning of these activities, providing short term consultants to address specific problems and obtain certain essential procurement items.

The nurseries will produce seedlings for demonstrations conducted by the O.S. and for sale to farmers in Central Tunisia. The CTDA will develop a plan whereby these nurseries will become self-supporting, by the fifth year of this subproject, through seedling sales.

Pesticides used on the training farm and nurseries will be employed under the direct supervision of qualified personnel in accordance with the environmental assessment carried out specifically for this subproject. In addition, no produce grown on the training farm or nurseries will be sold unless it meets EPA-FAO standards for residuals.

C. Project Inputs

1. Training

a. In-country

It is anticipated AID will assist in financing in-country training programs for CTDA Agricultural Extension personnel. To be eligible for reimbursement all courses must be designed in a manner satisfactory to AID and be included in the annual training plan to be reviewed and accepted by the project coordinating committee. Reimbursement for this training will be made not more frequently than every six months upon certification by CTDA of course participation. These courses will be designed to:

(1) Improve the participants' interpersonal skills and their ability to overcome social and cultural obstacles to effective communication and transference of skills.

(2) Increase the participants' technical skills including those related to the safe use of chemical pesticides and herbicides.

b. Short-Term

AID will finance the training and per diem for short-term participants to be trained in either the US or a third country, in accordance with a training plan jointly developed by AID, the University Contractor, and the CTDA. International travel costs for these trainees will be provided by the Government of Tunisia.

c. Longer-Term

AID will finance up to thirty months of academic training, including subsistence allowances, for each of up to five (5) candidates selected by the CTDA to fill positions within the DA of CTDA. The Government of Tunisia will provide international travel costs for these students.

2. Technical Services

Technical assistance financed by AID will be provided to CTDA and the DERV. These services will be procured by the Government through a contract with a U.S. land grant university and will include three (3) resident advisors: An Agricultural Extension Specialist for 48 months, an Extension Communication Specialist for 20 months, and a Water Management Advisor for 24 months. These services will also include 20 person months of short-term technical services during the five year duration of the project.

The contractor will be responsible for assisting the CTDA in activities such as: (1) planning, developing and implementing training programs; (2) planning for procurement of equipment and supplies; (3) developing equipment specifications and maintenance plans; (4) procurement of imported commodities; (5) planning and implementing programs for farmer information days, demonstration plots and communication programs; (6) planning and implementing the establishment of the extension support function within the D.A. and the development of its relationship outreach activities of other organizations in Central Tunisia; and (7) planning and establishing the nurseries and a training farm. The contractor will also help the DERV of the Ministry of Agriculture to develop procedures and materials that will increase the usefulness of DERV's output to CTDA.

3. Commodities

The commodities to be furnished under this subproject include vehicles for transportation requirements of project staff and advisors; tractors, field equipment and agricultural supplies for the establishment and operation of demonstrations, nurseries and a training farm; and, audio-visual equipment for use by the Agriculture Directorate (DA) of CTDA and by DERV of the Ministry of Agriculture.

4. Other

a. Demonstration Plots

AID will reimburse CTDA \$200 for each of up to 1,100 demonstration plots that are: (i) established in accordance with specifications to be developed with the assistance of the U.S. university contractor and approved by AID; (ii) provided advisors and consultants and (iii) implemented during the assistance period of this subproject. Reimbursements will be made on a semi-annual basis upon certification from CTDA that the demonstration plots have been implemented according to specifications and approved plans as indicated above.

b. Farmer Information Days

AID will reimburse CTDA \$250 for each day of up to 500 farmer information days conducted during the life of the subproject, in accordance with plans developed with the assistance of US advisors and consultants and subsequently approved by AID. The reimbursement will be made semi-annually, upon certification from CTDA that the farmer information days have been conducted according to approved plans.

The certifications presented by the CTDA for reimbursement of costs associated with the activities described in C.1.a., C.3.a., and C.3.b. above, will be accompanied by an accounting of the actual costs incurred. If these actual costs are such as to increase the mean percentage of the cost actually reimbursed per event above 50 percent or to reduce it below 25 percent, the fixed amount to be reimbursed may be adjusted by AID so that reimbursements provide about one third of the actual costs.

AID will finance the cost of participation of a U.S. expert(s) in carrying out an environmental assessment in conjunction with the appropriate Government of Tunisia entity. A part of the AID contribution will also be used for evaluations to be conducted at the midpoint and at the completion of the subproject.

D. The Role of Women

This subproject will reinforce existing GOT initiatives to enhance the role of women in the economy. On a professional level the subproject will support an effort to increase opportunities for women as extensionists within the O.S. The CTDA planning unit will develop a plan to meet that objective in the subproject area.

Simultaneously, this subproject will impact directly on women in the target population. Women will be included in the groups of farmers participating in the demonstration plots and other

extension activities. In addition, the training given the extension agents will sensitize them to the special problems women face as farmers and equip them to deal effectively with these matters.

II. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PARTIES

A. AID Financing^{1/}

Assistance in the form of AID loan dollar funds are provided for the following:

<u>Loan Funds</u>	(000 Dollars)
1. Training	435.0
2. Technical Assistance	970.0
3. Commodities	1,003.0
4. Other	<u>397.0</u>
Total U.S. Financing	2,805.0

B. Government Financing

In-kind and Tunisian dinar contributions are provided for the following:

	(000 Tunisian Dinars)
1. Training	42.5
2. Construction	95.0
3. Office, Equipment and Supplies	128.0
4. Transportation	52.0
5. Maintenance and Operation of Vehicles and Equipment	380.0
6. Vehicle Replacement	120.0
7. Staff	865.0
8. Extension Training Farm	51.0
9. Nurseries	<u>51.9</u>
Total Government Financing	1,785.42/

^{1/} The total US financing is firm although the individual line items are illustrative and actual expenditures may vary from amounts shown.

^{2/} These are estimates only. Some, being recurring costs, may be met from Title I of the GOT budget, others will be met from Title II.

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III. RESPONSIBILITIES

CTDA will implement the activities described in this annex with authorities from and responsibilities to the Ministry of Agriculture. In so doing, CTDA will negotiate agreements with the DERV, and with various institutes, schools and other institutions (such as Moghrane and Le Kef) for the development and implementation of in-country training programs, farmer field days, and demonstration and research plots.

The Government, in conjunction with a U.S. contractor(s), will conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine the impact of any pesticides and other chemical products used in relation to the demonstration plots, nurseries and training farm elements of this subproject. Further, the Government will take into consideration the recommendations of the EA in designing the program.

The MOA will negotiate a contract with a U.S. university that has demonstrated research, implementation and teaching capacity and experience in the development of dryland farming systems, extension and communications systems, on-farm water management, and irrigation systems.

The contractor should also have experience in procurement of commodities and services in accordance with AID regulations.

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