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UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND RURAL SOCIOLOGY

JUNE 1, 1968 to MAY 31, 1969

TECHNICAL REPORT

211(d) International Program

University of Tennessee

Agricultural Economic Issues in India

By way of background, this grant was made to help strengthen teaching and research related to international development in the rural social sciences at the University of Tennessee (hereinafter called UT), with special emphasis on advanced preparation of students with career interests in development and on investigational work to reinforce the efforts of AID contract teams and Indian professionals to deal with crucial agricultural modernization and rural adjustment problems of India.

As an outgrowth of the grant, a new faculty position was established with the designation "International Professor of Agricultural Economics" to enable a person to give full-time attention to 211(d)-related activities. This position was filled, starting July 1, 1968, by Dr. David W. Brown, a former UT faculty member with subsequent international development experience.

However, the 211(d) work is not conceived as being the concern of Dr. Brown alone. Ideas and activities are being developed in close association with Dr. Merton Badenhop, former UT Party Chief who is teaching two core courses in international agricultural development and who devotes a large share of his time to counseling of international students. Problems of concern to the department's land economist and two rural sociologists relate closely to analytical needs in India. There is also frequent communication with, and involvement of, other departmental staff members: the Department Head (Dr. T. J. Whatley), the Director of International Agricultural Programs (Dr. Lewis H. Dickson), and the campus-wide Director of International Education (Dr. Nelson Robinson).

Major Activities since July, 1968

This period has been devoted largely to groundwork for teaching, research, and India backstopping support to be catalyzed with the help of the 211(d) grant. Activities of note (emphasizing those that Dr. Brown has been associated with) include the following:

1. Review of courses and curricula of special relevance to international rural development.

An inventory of development-related courses in agricultural economics and other fields suggests some subject matter gaps (especially at operational program evaluation and implementation levels) but, in general, the need does not seem to be so much for a profusion of new "international" courses as for curricular flexibility to meet the special needs of students with development interests. This is especially true for those who want to emphasize the "human" or "action organization" aspects of development.

A departmental committee, appointed by Dr. Whatley in early 1969, has recommended addition of a graduate concentration in agricultural development economics, as well as two courses to focus especially on analysis and implementation of development programs. These proposals will be considered as part of a special review of all dimensions of the department this coming fall.

Elsewhere on campus further steps have been taken this past year to strengthen the offerings available to agricultural economics students. In September, 1968 Dr. Walter C. Neale, who has a strong interest and experience in Indian rural development, joined the Economics Department and new seminar courses are now being offered in the development economics area. In Political Science a new series on the politics of development is being offered. Closer communication among faculty with special interest in Asia has been catalyzed through establishment of an Oriental Studies Committee. Both Dr. Badenhop and Dr. Brown have participated in its sessions.

2. Establishment of working relationships in India.

During October and November, Dr. Brown made a six-week visit to India to become better acquainted with emerging problems and activities, and to establish informal arrangements for 211(d) student research. It appears that the department can usefully relate to activities of agricultural economists at the Universities in Bangalore and Coimbatore. There are some problems (e.g., grain marketing, state-level agricultural projections, and characterization of isopotential areas) that might well be tackled in communication with professionals in other regions of India as well as with other CUSURDI members in the U.S. Dr. Brown is keeping in touch with several contacts in India; among others, these include the agricultural economics heads at UAS/Hebbal (Dr. Ramanna) and Coimbatore (Dr. M. Srinivasan), the A/D/C Visiting Professor at UAS/Hebbal (Dr. Donald Taylor), and the UT Party Chief in Bangalore (Dr. D. M. Thorpe).

Dr. Whatley was in India for three weeks in February, under invitational travel, to participate in the USAID/Delhi conference on long-range planning needs and to become acquainted with activities in southern India. This has resulted in further progress in identifying meaningful 211(d) activities, establishing closer relationships with Indian contacts, and encouraging departmental-wide understanding of international needs.

Dr. Badenhop has been in Coimbatore since April on a three-month assignment under the UT/AID contract to diagnose grain marketing and pricing problems. It is expected that this work will delineate some follow-through research areas that 211(d) students and AID participants at UT might usefully tackle.

3. Students receiving support under 211(d).

The first 211(d) fellowship was awarded in August, 1968, to a n. Ph.D. candidate, Mr. Parker Cashdollar, who has experience in agricultural credit. In early 1969, following additional jelling of ideas about the best shape and form for UT's 211(d) work to take, announcements of the available fellowships were sent to other agricultural economics departments in the U.S. as well as to returning Peace Corps Volunteers through the Peace Corps "Greensheet." This has led to several inquiries, some of which are receiving consideration. (A 211(d) fellowship has been recently offered to a Peace Corps agricultural specialist who has an M.S. and who would be returning in 1970.) Also, one or two Ph.D.

candidates who are now in the department and who have keen development interests may be shifted to 211(d) for dissertation work in India. Rather than necessarily making the 211(d) study awards at an early date, the desire has been to reserve these for students whose international career potentials and interests seem especially strong.

4. Reference materials.

A special effort has been made this past year to build up the holdings of UT's agricultural library related to international development (using normal library funds). Also, a special collection of books, statistical materials, and study reports related to India has been started. This has received the active interest and help of the UT Vice Chancellor for Agriculture, the Director of International Agricultural Programs, the UT Party Chief in India, and the Agricultural Librarian.

While in India and with much help from UT's Party Chief, Dr. Brown arranged for shipment of a number of reference materials not readily available through normal library channels. Dr. Thorpe has taken the initiative in supplying the campus with additional materials since then. USAID/Delhi, AID/W, and Ford Foundation people, as well as professors in other U.S. universities, have also been very helpful in making recent situations and analytical reports available.

Within the department Dr. Whatley and Dr. Brown have been making a special effort to call the attention of other staff to internationally related readings and case examples of possible use in various undergraduate and graduate courses. A similar exchange of materials is taking place between Dr. Brown and interested faculty in other departments.

5. Teaching and student advisory work.

In addition to his previously existing senior level course on world agriculture and trade, Dr. Badenhop introduced a new graduate level course on the economics of agricultural development during the 1968-69 Winter term. Dr. Brown taught the graduate level policies this Spring. In this, the emphasis was shifted to approaches for dealing with a fairly wide spectrum of issues, with emphasis on problem-solving approaches and on applications to developing countries as well as the U.S.

Of the 56 graduate students in the department during the 1968-69 academic year, three have been from South India, two from Brazil, one from Venezuela, one from Iraq, one from Tunisia, and one from Taiwan. In addition, there are U.S. students with strong international development interests. The general pattern is for either Dr. Badenhop or Dr. Brown or both to serve on the advisory committees of such students.

6. Initial plans for India-related thesis topics.

Following his trip to India, Dr. Brown compiled a list of some research problems that seemed to be of special relevance to emerging problems in South India and, at the same time, feasible for 211(d) students or Indian participants at UT to undertake as thesis studies. These cluster into five broad groups: (1) farm-level production adjustments, (2) marketing structures and pricing, (3) change-agency program planning, (4) state-level overviews of emerging agricultural patterns and needs, and (5) implications of agricultural modernization for dis-

advantaged rural groups. With the limited number of students and faculty likely to be involved, it is not proposed necessarily to try to blanket all these areas; the idea would be to undertake modest "thrusts", each involving two or three students on related topics. The particular problems to receive attention over the five-year grant period would be kept flexible, depending on how emerging needs and interests in India blend with available capabilities at UT. It is also proposed to focus on state- and local-level problems in Mysore and Tamil Nadu states, with the hope that there will be findings and methodological offshoots of value to other States and the all-India level as well.

Shortly following Dr. Brown's trip to India, UT's Party Chief was in Knoxville for home leave. This opportunity was used to discuss further with departmental staff, students, and participants the possibilities for thesis studies and other activities related to UT's work in India. Although it will be late 1969 before any of these students are at the thesis stage, three have already done some preliminary analyses related to grain marketing and agricultural credit in India as part of term projects in courses taken this past year. Following Dr. Badenhop's return from India in July, the plan is to have during the remainder of the summer a series of workshop sessions for relevant faculty and students to conceptualize further proposed studies, with special attention to possible follow-throughs to Dr. Badenhop's work in the grain marketing/pricing area.

It is felt that some of the topics to be studied by 211(d) students and Indian participants in agricultural economics might well be linked to companion studies by participants in other agricultural fields at UT. Possible ways to encourage this have been discussed by Dr. Brown with interested administrators and faculty.

Thought has been given to problems of language, logistical support, and visas for the 211(d) students who would be doing thesis work in India. It appears that studies of a synthesizing nature may be more feasible than attempting to obtain raw data firsthand, and that in some cases (particularly for married students) stays of three or four months more suitable than placing a student in India for a year or longer. For Indian participants (as with many foreign students) identification of useful research topics that can be tackled in the U.S. without being able to do more field work at home poses some problem.

7. CUSURDI LRAAA Committee.

In addition to Dr. Whatley's participation in the Delhi long-range planning conference, Director Dickson and Dr. Brown have met with the committee established by CUSURDI in 1968 to explore possible ways for the six universities to coordinate campus backstopping activities aimed at achieving a better overview of agricultural patterns and potentials in the various states of India. This is proving to be a useful vehicle for keeping in touch with agricultural economic work related to India in these other universities and insuring that activities initiated by UT under 211(d) are as complementary as possible to research elsewhere.

8. Links to Tennessee-related activities.

Some elements in Tennessee's own agricultural modernization and rural adjustment are not unlike those in India and other developing countries. Since his return to UT, Dr. Brown has spent some time becoming acquainted with recent

developments in the region as well as with research, extension, and action programs that bear on its problems. It is felt that some of these experiences (e.g., problems of local agency coordination, short-cut techniques for predicting crop responses to new practices) could well be brought together, analyzed in terms of India-type needs, and written up for stimulation of thought in India. Also, use is being made of these Tennessee activities in courses and special activities for development students.

There are at least three U.S. oriented research projects on the UT campus beyong agriculture per se which may carry useful implications for India. One is an agricultural economics study in cooperation with the Atomic Energy Commission on strategies for insuring adequate food stocks in the U.S. during emergency situations (could provide useful concepts for buffer stock and food assistance approaches in India). A second is a cross-disciplinary set of projects on aerial reconnaissance remote sensing techniques (perhaps leading in break-throughs in resource evaluation and crop reporting methods). A third is a new and unique UT study of possible roles of the state government in stimulating development through accelerated channeling of scientific and technological information to both the private and public sectors.

9. Departmental seminars.

During the 1968-69 academic year, there were several seminars and staff meetings in the department that focused especially on the international dimension. These included:

October 10	Dr. S. S. Johl, Head, Agricultural Economics, Punjab Agricultural University: Some Aspects of Development and Agricultural Economics in India
December 12	Dr. D. M. Thorpe, Party Chief, Tenn./AID India Contract: Agricultural Development and the UT Program in South India
February 11	Dr. D. W. Brown, UT: Report on the North Carolina Policy Institute Conference, "Agriculture and International Trade," Jan. 27-28, 1969
February 27	Dr. D. W. Brown, UT: Are Agricultural Economists Useful Creatures in Developing Countries?
February 28	Discussion session with two Peace Corps returnees with recent experience in Latin America and Asia
April 10	Mr. E. S. Kamulegeya, Principal Cooperatives Officer, Uganda: Some Aspects of Planning, Agricultural Development, and Cooperatives in Uganda
May 15	Mr. Charles Farmer, UT: Role of Livestock in a Nuclear-Powered Agro-Industrial Complex in the Middle East
May 28	Dr. D. W. Brown, UT: Report on recent concerns and innovations in the graduate education of foreign agricultural economics students at U.S. universities

10. Agricultural Progress Shows.

In connection with observance of UT's 175th Anniversary, the Institute of Agriculture in June is holding a special progress show in three locations of the State to acquaint the Tennessee public with research developments and new educational activities. One of the major exhibits and series of talks focuses on the world food problem and UT's agricultural assistance activities in India. Some cultural aspects of Indian life are also included. This India presentation is attracting considerable interest and is helping the Tennessee public to understand better the nature of development problems and assistance work. Helping to prepare for this has involved a significant part of the 211(d) professor's time since early 1969. A by-product of the information assembled for the exhibit may be some educational materials for distribution for a wider Tennessee audience.

11. Other international activities involving agricultural economics staff and students during the past year include the following:

In the summer of 1968, Dr. Badenhop and one graduate student, in collaboration with a professor and student from Political Science, designed and led a survey of land tenure patterns in the Dominican Republic. This was under a small USAID research contract. Tabulation of the results is in progress on the UT campus.

Under the leadership of Dr. Keller and Dr. Whatley, one graduate student has been participating in an AEC/Oak Ridge pre-feasibility study of the use of atomic energy for water supply and electric power in the development of agro-industrial complexes in arid regions of the world. The UT component has focused on implications for livestock systems in the Near East. Other facets of this work relate to other parts of the world, including India, and it may be that the department will have further involvement along this line of investigation.

This year (January 13-17, 1969) the annual all-campus international Cultural Festival centered on India. Dr. Badenhop was involved in its planning as well as in one of the presentations.

During the Spring quarter break, arrangements were made by Dr. Brown and the TVA International Visitors Office for 13 foreign agricultural students from UT to visit nearby TVA projects and related agricultural activities. At other times during the year, special opportunities were worked out for participants from India to visit TVA installations, TVA rural development work near Muscle Shoals, and UT agricultural extension activities related to area development.

Since July, 1968, Dr. Brown has served as "Career Consultant" in agricultural economics for the Peace Corps, whereby returning Volunteers write for suggestions about graduate study possibilities at institutions in the U.S. A number of these have interest in continuing careers related to development. This counseling does not bear directly on UT's international activities, but it is felt to be consistent with the broader aims of the AID/211(d) program. At the same time, it has provided a direct pipeline to students with valuable experience who might be interested in coming to UT. One contact made through this route started M.S. degree work this Spring and others have submitted applications.

During the year Dr. Brown gave talks related to international development and assistance programs to four local groups -- the UT chapter of the American Society of Engineering Education, a local church group, a local Lions Club, and in-service training group of agricultural extension workers. In addition, he recorded a 15-minute "Faculty Platform" tape for distribution to 60+ radio stations throughout Tennessee.

Off campus, Dr. Brown was invited to participate in the May 8-10 Agricultural Development Council conference on U. S. graduate training for agricultural development. He also presented a seminar at Michigan State University on May 15, "Putting Rural Development Policies into Action." Both of these provided good opportunities to acquire new ideas for possible innovations in the department's international dimension at UT.

Forthcoming in the next issue of Tennessee Farm and Home Science is an article by Dr. Badenhop, "U.S. and Tennessee Farmers' Stake in World Agricultural Exports."

UT established this year a new "International House" as a center of both educational and social activities for foreign and interested U.S. students. The chairman of the planning committee for this endeavor is an agricultural economics graduate student, and Dr. Brown is serving as one of the faculty advisors. This could prove to be effective vehicle for cross-disciplinary seminars related to international concerns.

A Forward Look

For an overview of anticipated directions and emphases of the UT 211(d) work during the five-year grant period, attention is called to the tentative work plan that was submitted informally by Dr. Brown to AID/W through CUSURDI in March 1969.

Looking more specifically at plans for 1968-70, it is hoped that the recommendations for a graduate option in agricultural development and two new development-related courses can receive departmental, college, and university approval and be activated. If such approval is received, the 211(d) professor would teach both courses.

To the extent that applications from appropriate candidates are received, it is hoped that a year from now there would be four or five graduate students in the 211(d) fellowship stream. In addition, one or two part-time workships may be offered to students with emerging development interests on a term-by-term basis. This would not only enable such students to become better acquainted with international development problems, but would also accelerate the assembly of data and other materials for use in the department's teaching and India backstopping activities.

During the latter part of 1969, the first 211(d) Fellow should be completing an M.S. degree study which bears conceptually on agricultural credit problems in southern India. This would serve as a point of departure for subsequent Ph.D. dissertation work in Coimbatore or Bangalore. It is anticipated that he would be conducting field work in India as early as summer 1970.

Starting summer 1969, a participant from India will begin work on a Ph.D. dissertation that relates to the grain marketing/pricing problems currently being studied in South India by Dr. Badenhop. A second participant will probably start his dissertation study by early 1970. This will probably focus on identification of iso-potential production areas in Mysore and efficient procedures for building up a fund of farming input-output data for extension and development planning purposes. (This relates closely to proposed Tennessee contributions to CUSURDI long-range planning work.)

It is possible that another Ph.D. candidate will be shifted to 211(d) for dissertation work in India in late 1969 or early 1970. If so, the topic will probably be one that contributes further to the marketing/pricing study mentioned above.

The 211(d) professor has no definite plans at this time for additional stays in India. His own emerging research focus is on change-agency planning as a problem of economic choice. During the coming year he hopes to develop some conceptual and educational materials which bear especially on program-design problems observed in South India. The expectation would be for Dr. Brown to accompany the first 211(d) Fellow to help him with his Ph.D. study. However, an earlier trip could be made if felt by others to be useful in connection with AID-supported activities, or toward reinforcing work of Indian agricultural economists.

Starting fall 1969, the department's teaching and research staff will be strengthened by two staff additions -- one, a recent Ph.D. from Minnesota in the area of resource development and regional analysis, and the second, a recent Ph.D. from Purdue in the areas of marketing and finance. It is anticipated that both will have involvements with internationally related activities of the department.

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SOME INFORMAL ITEMS PREPARED BY DAVID W. BROWN RELATED TO 211(d) ACTIVITIES
July 1, 1968 - May 31, 1969
(Available on request)

68-1 Rural Development Agencies as Decision Makers, 15 pp.

68-2 Some Courses and Seminars of Special Relevance to Rural and International Development, 2pp.

68-6 Some Initial Ideas about Thesis Possibilities Related to Tennessee's Work in Southern India, 6 pp.

68-7 Course Proposal: Planning and Implementation of Rural Development Programs (first draft), 2 pp.

68-10 Checklist of Possible Activities and Changes Related to 211(d) and Agricultural Development, 5 pp.

69-4 Report of Activities Related to the AID/Section 211(d) Grant, July 1, 1968-January 31, 1969, 5 pp.

69-8 Sketch of Plans for 211(d) Work from March 1969 to about July 1970, 3 pp.

69-12 Work Plan: 211(d) Grant Program in Agricultural Economics, 16 pp.

69-14 Needs and Activities Related to International Teaching and Research (prepared for UT Committee for Oriental Studies), 4 pp.

69-39 Putting Rural Development Plans into Action (summary of seminar presentation at Michigan State University), 6 pp.