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Report #1

Report of GARD Consultancy

Training

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FINAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

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I arrived in The Gambia on Friday, November 29, 1985. The purpose of my visit was to determine the participant training policies and procedures to be followed in administering the Gambia Agricultural Research Diversification (GARD) Project.

I met and discussed participant training matters with the following people: Tom Hobgood, GARD Project Officer-USAID and member of GARD Training Committee; Elon Gilbert, Chief of Party, GARD Project and member of GARD Training Committee; Tom Mahoney, USAID Program Officer; Binta Sidibe, USAID Training Officer; Glen Fulcher, Chief of Party, Mixed Farming Project; Sompo Ceesay, Deputy Director, Agriculture and Chair Training Committee; Sombo Kinteh, Head, PPMU and member of GARD Training Committee; Patricia Kim-Scott, Consular, American Embassy; Sargent Janneh, Immigration Office, Ministry of Interior; and staff from the West African Exam Council.

During meetings with Elon Gilbert, Tom Hobgood, Sompo Ceesay, and Sombo Kinteh, we discussed criteria to be considered in selecting participants for training by the GARD Training Committee. Also we discussed possible nomination procedures. From these discussions, I compiled a suggested list of criteria and nomination procedures for consideration by the Training Committee.

The first meeting of the Training Committee was scheduled on Friday, December 6. I assisted the Chief of Party in planning the agenda for this meeting, was an observer and took notes during the meeting, and prepared and distributed the Minutes of the Meeting to the Training Committee members for approval.

While in The Gambia I also met with Mariatou Faal, a prospective FAO participant who is considering graduate work at the University of Wisconsin. Ms. Faal has been admitted to the University of Wisconsin as a College Special (non-graduate school classification). I explained to Mariatou and to her Department Head, Mr. Kinteh, Mariatou's admission status. Since Mr. Kinteh supported Mariatou's delaying beginning her program until the summer or fall semester, 1986, I suggested both meet with Aaron C. Johnson, Jr., Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, UW-Madison, when he comes to The Gambia for the GARD Project in January.

Mohammed Cole is one of two Gambians selected to begin in January graduate training under the GARD Project. I met with Mr. Cole and we discussed his training at Wisconsin. I also conducted Mr. Cole's predeparture orientation session. Musa Mbenga is the other Gambian selected for training by the GARD Committee. Because of the shortage of fuel, it was not possible for Mr. Mbenga to come to Banjul from Sapu. Therefore, I was not able to personally discuss his program with him. I did, however, assist in preparing the PIO/P's for both individuals, arranged for their \$150 advance allowance checks, and arranged for confirmed travel reservations and preparation and payment of their international travel tickets. Both are scheduled to depart The Gambia early in January.

A reference paper was prepared by me to be used by the GARD staff in implementing the participant training program. And I updated the Participant Training Implementation Schedule for the Chief of Party to review.

On the final day of my visit, Elon Gilbert, Tom Hobgood, and I had a meeting to review and summarize the participant training activities of the GARD project.

Matters Requiring Follow-up

1. Notify Binta Sidibe when contract signed so PIO/P's for Cole and Mbenga can be executed.
2. Musa Mbenga and M. Cole must be cleared by the GOTG. Dave Gibson should discuss this with Amadou Taal on Monday, December 16.
3. Mbenga and Cole must comply with USAID predeparture requirements (see attached letter to Mbenga and memo to Binta Sidibe). Binta will assist in processing and expediting.
4. How to fund in-country training programs must be determined. Wisconsin should review participant training section of budget and check against worksheets. Given plans for participant training, how does that relate to budget. Elon and Tom will review possible options also.
5. Notify Department Heads of training opportunities available under GARD and solicit nominations.
6. In January, a meeting of the Training Committee should be scheduled. Suggestions for agenda items to discuss:
 - A. Discuss possibility of coordination of GARD training activities with other funding agencies' training activities.
 - B. Review nominations and select appropriate candidates for long- and short-term training
 - C. Discuss overall project and decide what specific areas of training should be targeted for GARD Project.