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II. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES UNDER AID/csd/3306 PLANNING CONTRACT

July 1, 1971 - March 31, 1972

This three-year research proposal which is spelled out in the next section is an outgrowth of a nine-month planning contract--AID/csd/3306. The purpose of the planning contract was to allow Carl K. Eicher and a team of researchers at MSU and in Tropical Africa an opportunity to jointly design a three-year research proposal on rural employment problems in Tropical Africa. The planning contract enabled MSU researchers to visit AID missions, local government officials and researchers in Africa in order to interact and develop country specific research priorities within the context of the overall conceptual framework. The field visits also allowed an opportunity to determine whether local financing--mission and/or government--would be forthcoming to complement funding from the Central Research Office of AID/Washington.

Over the first six months (July - December, 1971) of the nine-month period of the planning contract the following progress was recorded:

1. Research associates in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Zaire Republic (formerly Democratic Republic of the Congo) undertook an intensive review of the literature on employment problems and government policies and strategies for coping with the problems. The following papers were prepared over the past six months:

- A) Dunstan Spencer, "Agriculture and the Problem of Urban Unemployment in Sierra Leone", Paper presented at the First Conference of the Agricultural Society of Sierra Leone, Freetown, September 17/18, 1971.

- B) S. M. Essang, "Official Views on Rural Unemployment, Rural-Urban Migration, Population Growth, Income Distribution and Agricultural Mechanization: A Summary Report and Observations", Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, December, 1971.
- C) Eric Tollens, "Critical Review of Research on Agricultural Economics and Unemployment in the Republic of Zaire" (Department du Rurale Economie, National Universite du Zaire, Campus de Kinshasa, January, 1972 draft)

2. A total of 1290 publications on various aspects of unemployment, migration and mechanization were assembled in the Department of Agricultural Economics at MSU; xerox copies of many of these publications were made available to researchers in Nigeria, Ghana, Zaire Republic and Sierra Leone. In addition, a systematic attempt was made to acquire "non-price" literature such as preliminary conference papers, research proposals, etc. in order that these could quickly be sent to researchers in the field. This exercise led to the conviction that an orderly exchange of current publications is a valuable component of a research network and that financing for such an information system should be included in the three-year proposal.

3. In order to develop an overall conceptual framework for the study, Byerlee and Dunlop reviewed the literature and prepared the following four working papers:

- A) D. Byerlee, "Macro Economic Considerations in Research on African Rural Development and Employment Generation".

- B) D. Dunlop, "Population Growth and Economic Welfare: Its Long-Run Effects"
- C) D. Byerlee, "Research on Migration in Africa: Past, Present, and Future".
- D) D. Dunlop, "An Analysis of the Rural Non-Farm Economy (Small-Scale Industry, Trading and Service Activities): Implications for Research".

In addition to the above working papers, Gordon Gemmill prepared a preliminary report of his research on oxen powered mechanization and maize production in Malawi. Gemmill's paper, "Studies of Mechanization: Review and Progress" will be incorporated into a Rural Employment working paper, "Needed Redirection in Research on Agricultural Mechanization".

4. A meeting of network researchers was held at Ibadan in December, 1971. It was agreed at the Ibadan meeting that the research should focus on rural employment problems in Tropical Africa. It was also agreed at the Ibadan meeting that the research should be concentrated in three countries--Nigeria, Zaire, and Sierra Leone (called concentration countries) and that the network should facilitate the research of scholars in other countries such as Ghana, Malawi, Ethiopia and possibly Tanzania and Uganda. In total approximately 25 researchers and five or six countries will be included in the network. (See Appendix A.)

5. Since employment problems cannot analytically or for policy purposes be separated from other development problems, it is necessary to pursue research on employment as an integral part of high priority policy topics which will likely vary considerably from country to country. Since the agricultural sector is so large in countries such as Zaire and Nigeria the research will concentrate on a range of rural employment problems in major food producing regions in these countries.

A close examination of food prices and trends in food imports in Nigeria, Zaire, Ghana, Sierra Leone, etc. reveals that food policy is emerging as a key issue in Tropical Africa.^{1/} However, the bulk of the economic research in Tropical Africa has been focused on export crops.^{2/} Economists have assigned a low priority to research on food crop production because it was assumed that African countries were in the "land surplus" category and that food production would grow almost automatically in response to growth in population and effective demand.

Government policy makers and donors such as AID, IBRD, etc. have become very interested in how food production can be expanded in Zaire, Nigeria, Ghana, etc.^{3/} Since policy makers in these countries have a common interest in both employment and food production problems the network researchers decided to concentrate their research on rural employment in major food producing regions.

6. Local Financial Support--The planning contract provided an opportunity for MSU researchers to interact with government officials and AID missions in Nigeria, Ghana, and Zaire Republic in order to arrive at the country specific research priorities and to determine whether any mission or government financing would be forthcoming to complement central funding. The following financial commitments were obtained:

^{1/} For example, the Republic of Zaire is importing 100,000 tons of maize per year, and substantial quantities of wheat flour and rice. Food prices in Nigeria have risen 30% in the past years. Nigeria has embarked on a number of schemes to bring 1.5 million acres of land in the Northern states under irrigated wheat production. Ghana is importing \$10 million of rice annually and Sierra Leone is also a rice importer.

^{2/} See Carl K. Eicher, Research on Agricultural Development in Five English-Speaking Countries in West Africa, New York: Agricultural Development Council, 1970

^{3/} H. C. Kriesel, "Cereal Development Policy in Nigeria for the 1970's", USAID/Lagos, Draft, October 18, 1971.

- A) The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Zaire and AID/Kinshasa are giving high priority to the proposed research. AID/Kinshasa has agreed to allocate up to 50,000 Zaires (1 Zaire = \$2.00) per year (total of \$300,000) to pay the local cost of the Zaire portion of a study of rural employment in major food producing regions. It is proposed that MSU play the major role in carrying out the study in Zaire.
- B) In Nigeria, The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources has informally agreed to finance Dr. Essang's proposed study of "Strategies for Increasing Food Production and Rural Employment" and the first phase of Dr. Olayide's proposed study "Research on Rural Integrated Development and Food Production in the Guinea Savannah Zone of Nigeria". It is anticipated that further studies will be developed by Nigerian scholars--e.g. Olatunbosun, Idachaba, and Falusi--by late 1972. Since Nigeria has a large number of young agricultural economists, it is proposed that Nigerians carry out the bulk of the projected studies in Nigeria. MSU consultants--e.g. Liedholm--will work with Nigerian scholars on a request basis.
- C) In Sierra Leone, there is very little funding available to develop the agricultural economics research capacity of the Njala University College. Presently, there are four Sierra Leone faculty members in the Department of Agricultural Economics. It is proposed to finance the total portion of the Sierra Leone study under an MSU sub-contract to Njala. A Sierra Leoneon--Dunstan Spencer--is the principal researchers in charge of the

Sierra Leone project.

D) In Ghana, Fred Winch, Planning Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, is undertaking a micro economic study of the rice industry in Northern Ghana with emphasis on rice production under alternative systems of mechanical technology. Winch's salary is partially financed by AID/Ghana through a contract with the Near East Foundation. Mr. Y. Atta-Konadu, Ministry of Agriculture, is in the early stages of a micro economic study of the maize industry. John Nabila, Department of Geography, University of Legon, will undertake a study of the out-migration from the rice producing area in Northern Ghana.