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Weed control in less developed countries; semi-annual progress report, July-Dec. 1968

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9. ABSTRACT

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Semi-Annual Progress Report
July 1- December 31, 1968

"WEED CONTROL IN LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES"

USAID/Oregon State University
Regional Contract AID/csd-1442

First year project activities expanded

Programs undertaken during the first year of the contract were expanded, the scope of coverage broadened and output of results from the USAID/Oregon State University contract accelerated during the period of July to December 1968.

Development of an effective new product, practices and equipment project collaboratively with the College of Tropical Agriculture of the University of Hawaii was achieved. The result is expected to provide an important service to world research staffs in experiment stations and industries.

Project initiated in Ecuador

The Ecuadorian weed control program was initiated July 1, 1968 with assignment of a counterpart weed control specialist for training in Colombia. His six-month training included basic concepts of practical weed control, as well as theory of weeds and their control. He also attended a one month short course on weed control in Venezuela.

Work already underway in Colombia is, in many cases, almost directly applicable to research in Ecuador, thus speeding up the work there. Research in Ecuador is being conducted in the highlands on potatoes, wheat and oats and in the tropics on corn, cotton, pastures and cacao. It is expected that when the Ecuadorian counterpart returns from training he will increase the involvement of INIAP (Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias) in an active weed control research program.

Group formed in Colombia

Through the efforts of Dr. Juan Cardenas, project leader in Colombia, and the Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA), the Colombian Weed Control and Plant Physiology Society was formed as a vehicle for exchange of information and cooperative pooling of research. The first meeting has been set for early in 1969.

Over 40 people attended the formational meeting at Bogota in August at which Dr. Cardenas was elected president. There was representation from official, semi-official and private entities as well as students of agronomy.

The Society represents the first technical body formed in Colombia for the support and furtherance of weed control research and application. The group, in addition to pooling and exchanging information, is one of the few societies that sponsors student members and actively supports weed control courses and programs of the agronomy schools of Colombian universities.

Colombian program activities

Due to the temporary vacancy of the University of Nebraska/AID Mission position in weed control in Colombia, the weed control course at the National University of Bogota was taught in the fall semester of 1968 by Dr. Cardenas in conjunction with another University of Nebraska staff member.

Problems with aquatic weeds have become serious with reports of a 30,000 hectare water reservoir being totally covered and a multi-million peso cement plant being forced to shut down. Research is needed on aquatic weed control. Irrigation districts, too, continue to experience problems of increasingly impaired efficiency and soaring maintenance costs. One of the 19 Colombian student thesis problems underway is, "Aquatic weeds and their control--A study of four species."

A number of articles have either been submitted for publication or are being completed. In addition, several technical and extension-type manuscripts are being prepared for eventual publication.

New products and practices group

An increased program of product evaluation is underway. Based on the previous year, approximately 150 new compounds from the world's chemical industry will be tested and the results made available to industry and the world research staffs. Compounds are being tested for their safety to a wide range of crops and their effectiveness in controlling a group of annual weeds.

The cooperative program of testing with the College of Tropical Agriculture of the University of Hawaii is scheduled for an expanded program in 1969-70 by carrying out supplementary trials in a dry climate and on a low organic matter soil in contrast to the high rainfall and high organic matter of the present site.

Special projects

To pinpoint the economic feasibility of non-traditional agricultural inputs in Colombia such as fertilizer and pesticides, the AID/OSU staff has begun to gather data. However, further information is required and to define and assess just what data should be collected, a member of the staff will spend three months in Colombia working with the project.

Among the objectives of the study are: assessment of herbicide potential in Colombia both by areas cultivated and products available; measurement of the economic feasibility--at the farmer level--of procedures recommended by ICA as technically practical; and cooperation with Colombian technical personnel in establishing research that will lead to determination of the most economical practices and rates of application for commercial use.

BUDGET ANALYSIS FOR AID PROJECT, csd-1442, AS OF 1/24/69

Classification	Orig. 3-yr. Budget	Revised Budget July '67	Spent 66-67	Spent 67-68	Estimated 68-69	Estimated total 3 years	Savings (-) or Overdraft (+)
Salaries	(227,582	193,872	(26,072	(97,985	84,890	(223,408	(-) 4,964
Wages	(34,500	((14,461	(
Payroll Assess.	16,613	16,671	1,903	7,153	7,252	16,308	(-) 363
Indirect costs							
On-campus	33,331	33,676	11,025	30,768	34,406	76,199	(+) 42,523
Off-campus	36,348	36,204	204	6,628	4,956	11,788	(-) 24,416
Consultant fees	27,000	27,000	---	330	500	830	(-) 26,170
Expend. Equip.	17,000	2,000	656	4,983	12,280	17,919	(+) 15,919
Publications	3,500	3,500	658	1,612	1,300	3,570	(+) 70
Seminars; Consult's		16,000	---	663	3,900	4,563	(-) 11,437
Travel + Allowances	117,041	87,492	6,618	22,774	25,000	54,392	(-) 33,100
Non-Expend. Equip.	---	14,000	322	6,358	7,900	14,580	(+) 580
*Vehicles		13,500		16,030	cr. 1,060	14,970	(+) 1,470
TOTALS	478,415	478,415	47,458	195,284	195,785	438,527	(-) 39,888

*A truck equipped for weed control, including sprayers and supplies to the total amount of \$5,939 has been transferred to the Turkey Contract. This transfer is not shown in the budget above.