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USAID/OSU Weed Control Project

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

July 1 - December 31, 1971

"Weed Control in Less Developed Countries"

USAID/Oregon State University

Regional Contract AID/csd-1442

**GENERAL STATUS
OF PROJECT**

This six-month period took the USAID/OSU weed control research program into its sixth year of operation. Active field programs continued in seven Latin American nations after phasing out the four-year-old program in Colombia in July 1971. With two experienced staff members remaining in residence in Latin America, plus an experienced back-up staff in Oregon, the overall research and training program continued at a very productive level.

A highlight of this period was a most successful first meeting of the Latin American Weed Control Association (ALAM), with approximately 175 weed control personnel representing nearly every Latin American nation.

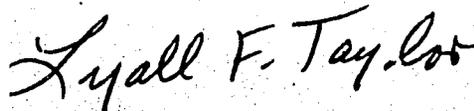
Several changes were made in the Corvallis-based staff during this period, primarily as part of a goal to reduce administrative and back-up research costs and to increase in-field activities.

A new man, Mr. Herbert Fisher, has completed training in Corvallis and should be moved overseas as soon as possible.

This project is scheduled for a thorough review by USAID/Washington early in 1972, and its long-range status determined at that time. The project staff and the University are convinced that it has been a productive program with a very great continuing need in most developing countries for improved expertise in weed control research. Accordingly, a long-term extension of the program will be proposed.

An agricultural economics program will also be suggested for addition to the project to evaluate direct and indirect economic and social effects of the program in host countries.

A brief review of specific activities during the July 1 - December 31, 1971, period follows, plus a listing of personnel and a proposed budget.



L. F. Taylor, Acting Project Director

**PROJECT ACTIVE
IN SEVEN LATIN
AMERICAN NATIONS**

Direct input to the original project region, Colombia, was terminated in July 1971 following evaluation which noted the high level of expertise and local competency that had developed in weed control research. However, a direct influence of the Colombian effort was carried over to the lowlands of Ecuador where Myron Shenk acts as regional project leader. Shenk also has responsibility for coordinating a full program in Panama.

In Central America, Lupe Garcia has initiated contacts, organized cooperative research programs with local institutions, arranged for training of in-country counterparts, and has been instrumental in elevating interest and participation levels in weed research programs for El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala.

**ALAM HOLDS ITS
FIRST MEETING**

All doubts that the Latin American Weed Control Association (ALAM) would start off as a viable organization were dispelled by the turnout of prominent government, university, and industry weed researchers for the first annual meeting of ALAM (Asociacion Latinoamericana de Especialistas en las Ciencias Aplicadas a las Malezas) held at Mexico City in mid-November.

The conference attendees, representing nearly every Latin American country, heard 77 technical papers offered during the three days of concurrent sessions which ranged over a variety of topics concerning weed research and control of weeds. Several USAID/OSU project counterparts presented papers and other project personnel were directly involved with the program.

**STAFF CHANGES
REFLECT PROJECT
EVOLUTION**

Herb Fisher, a weed control specialist with three years of experience in Brazil, plus fluency in both Spanish and Portuguese, joined the staff in September 1971. During the fall and early winter Fisher underwent training at Corvallis designed to implement eventual assignment in Central or South America. He also provided backup support to Mr. Garcia by preparing materials and visual aids for short courses to be presented in Central America.

In the absence of Dr. W. R. Furtick, on leave with FAO, Dr. Lyall Taylor was named acting director of the project. Taylor has 20 years of broad experience with weed and pest control research, industry, and management.

In other shifts, Mr. Lane Coulston left the project and Dr. Juan Cardenas returned from Colombia and requested a reduced role in project affairs in order to devote more time to other activities. The ratio of field staff to back-up personnel at Corvallis improved as a result of these changes.

A Peace Corps Volunteer assigned to El Salvador as a national specialist for weed control (with emphasis on extension) took up residence at Santa Tecla. The PCV, Mr. Kenneth Yoder, recently completed an MS degree in agronomy at the University of Minnesota. Yoder will be responsible for training extension personnel in weed control as well as preparing technical literature for use by extensionists. He works very closely with Mr. Garcia to gain the benefits of a coordinated effort.

LOCAL CONSULTANTS IDENTIFY WEEDS

Mr. Antonio R. Molina, Plant Taxonomist at the Pan-american School of Agriculture "El Zamorano," Honduras, began a much-needed program of identifying primary weed species in five countries of Central America. Working in conjunction with Mr. Garcia, Molina is providing valuable information, including color slides, of previously unidentified weed species found throughout the Central American project region.

In a similar capacity, Dr. Bruce McBryde, a Research Associate at the Pont. Universidad Catolica Del Ecuador, Quito, is assisting Mr. Shenk in identifying economically-important weed species in Ecuador. The information generated by both consultants will be valuable in relation to implementing further weed control research and application in the project areas with an eventual possibility of greater benefit through dissemination of data to other countries.

**INFORMATION EFFORT
EMPHASIS CONTINUES**

During the six-month period covered by this report the project continued to actively disseminate publications, technical information (often in response to inquiries received from LDCs), and research materials.

As of December 31, 1971, two of the major publications associated with the project have been distributed as follows: HERBICIDE USE AND NOMENCLATURE INDEX, 1,718 copies sent to 91 countries; WEED RESEARCH METHODS MANUAL, 1,307 copies sent to 92 countries. Recipients include project personnel, counterparts, USAID personnel, PASA personnel, as well as researchers, university personnel, libraries, extensionists, and other workers in LDCs and throughout the world.

**BRIEFS ON OTHER
PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

.... Dr. Taylor and Larry C. Burrill, weed control specialist headquartered at Corvallis, both visited the project regions to review current programs and assist project leaders as well as attend the first ALAM meeting at Mexico City project staff members attended several professional meetings in the U.S. several short courses organized by the project were presented in Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, and Nicaragua project leaders continued to advise advanced weed control students relative to thesis work in their respective countries close coordination and advising was provided for counterparts in the establishment of weed control research plots and testing Mr. Garcia assisted in the preparation of certain weed control recommendations for El Salvador back-up research trials on weed control in small grains were established in Oregon.

Weed Control Research Project

Personnel Employed - July 1, 1971 to December 31, 1971

- W. R. Furtick - Project Director
- left August 25, 1971, for sabbatical leave with FAO
- L. F. Taylor - Associate Project Director
- became Acting Project Director as of August, 1971
- J. Cardenas - Weed Control Specialist
(former Regional Project Leader, Colombia)
- returned to Corvallis and reduced to half-time work basis
- J. G. Garcia - Weed Control Specialist/Regional Project Leader,
Central America
- M. D. Shenk - Weed Control Specialist/Regional Project Leader,
Ecuador-Panama
- L. C. Burrill - Weed Control Specialist/Back-up Research Project Leader
- H. H. Fisher - Weed Control Specialist (in training)
- joined project August 16, 1971
- L. E. Coulston - Assistant to the Director
- terminated July 31, 1971
- A. E. Deutsch - Information Services/Administrative Services
- J. E. Moran - Electronic Data Processing Specialist
- half-time basis
- G. S. Knapp - Fiscal Affairs/Translation Services
- F. C. Fraser - Project Field Technician
- D. R. Sutherland - Project Field Technician
- C. A. Stearns - Secretarial/Data Processing Specialist
- B. E. Bonham - Secretarial/Filing-Reception

BUDGET ESTIMATE

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Paid 4-1-71 to 12-31-71</u>	<u>Additional Est. Costs to 3-31-72</u>	<u>Est. Total 4-1-71 to 3-31-72 (12 months)</u>	<u>Est. Budget 4-1-72 to 6-30-72 (3 months)</u>	<u>Projected Budget 7-1-72 to 6-30-73</u>
Salaries and Wages	\$118,584.28	\$ 37,302.79	\$155,887.07	\$ 37,303.00	\$140,341.00
Payroll Assessments	10,672.59	3,357.24	14,029.83	3,357.00	12,361.00
Indirect Costs					
On-campus	42,640.45	13,530.82	56,171.27	13,531.00	41,769.00
Off-campus	8,673.30	2,653.87	11,327.17	2,654.00	15,774.00
Total	(51,313.75)	(16,184.69)	(67,498.44)	(16,185.00)	(57,543.00)
Nonexpendable Equipment	1,160.90	500.00	1,660.90	1,000.00	10,000.00
Expendable Equipment	11,980.49	5,456.14	17,436.63	5,000.00	27,600.00
Travel and Allowances	27,048.10	13,220.28	40,268.38	13,300.00	48,800.00
Other Direct Costs	6,474.50	6,183.73	12,658.23	6,200.00	13,500.00
Consultants	547.80	6,951.20	7,499.00	--	5,000.00
Subcontracts	20,021.80	7,358.20	27,380.00	--	15,000.00
Totals	\$247,804.21	\$ 96,514.27	\$344,318.48*	\$ 82,345.00	\$330,145.00**

* \$36,602.66 for additional indirect costs should be added making a total of \$380,921.14.

** Expected to be changed to \$330,000 based on communications with AID/Washington in January, 1972; also, several changes in budget breakdown by classification are possible.