

AIRGRAM 70-AAA-013-F1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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TO - GEORGETOWN AIDTO A 53

FROM - AID/Washington

SUBJECT - Diversification & Development of Agriculture

REFERENCE - 504-11-120-039

5 GEORGETOWN 1. AID/W Evaluation Panel reviewed this PROP on September 18, 1970. It is approved for one year only (FY 71) with the following conditions:

2. The Panel attempted to determine from the PROP what end-of-project-status was expected i.e. what specific changes would have taken place in Guyana as a result of this project. From reading the PROP, the end-of-project-status is not at all clear. It does appear that many research projects will have been completed and specific knowledge will be available on possible crops and techniques for the intermediate savannas and other areas. Ebini will also presumably be established as a major research station. It is not at all clear, however, that these various outputs will produce any meaningful organized accomplishment of a project purpose. In fact, the project appears to be a basket description of a number of worthwhile but somewhat unrelated research activities.

3. The Panel believes that a fresh approach should be taken to thinking through of this project. One possible approach is suggested in this message. The Mission, however, may have other better approaches to offer.

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4. The Panel considered that the purpose of this project appears to be "to construct and obtain approval for a practical development program for the intermediate savannas". The end of project status would be that a coherent and organized development plan would have been completed. This plan would include the findings of numerous research studies of technical and economic feasibility of various courses of action, and financial plan for development of the savannas showing potential donors, costs benefit ratios, the impact on balance of payment, agricultural production, employment income of farmers, etc.
5. The Panel believes that if the many research activities are concentrated towards the objective of the preparation of a meaningful, practical development program, that the project would have more lasting benefit than it would as now constructed. Indeed the development program would be one way of assuring that the suggested research findings are actually implemented and do not gather dust on book shelves.
6. The Panel believes that there is a great potential in the area of Agricultural Extension. There is much discussion of the research element but little of how the results of the research are translated into increased agricultural production, i.e. how is the message carried. There are presently about 50 agricultural field personnel on the Ministry payroll with various levels of training and competence. All are in position, it would appear, to benefit substantially by additional higher level training and exposure to more advanced Agricultural Extension concepts and techniques. This probably could be done simply and easily through the medium of the University of Florida contract in the same manner as is being done at Tuskegee for Animal Husbandry personnel. The feeling of the Panel is that the USAID should consider adding such training, if appropriate to the project design.
7. It is suggested, therefore, that the USAID rethink and resubmit this PROP in the Spring of 1971, having it pointed towards a specific overall purpose such as that outlined (or some other purpose which the Mission thinks more appropriate).

IRWIN