AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

#179

698-0382

PD-AAI-590-A1

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6/9/78

FROM - Monrovia

SUBJECT - LIBERIA PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY No. 78-2
WARDA (698-0382)

REFERENCE -

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Contained in this airgram is the subject PES with one copy of the evaluation report. The Mission requests AID/W duplicate and distribute the PES and the evaluation report to all interested parties.

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Attachments: a/s sent Mail Room 6/23/78

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DRAFTED BY	OFFICE	PHONE NO.	DATE	APPROVED BY:
EVAL:WHenewick:med	Evaluation	52	6/6/78	Harvey E. Gutman, Acting Director

A. I. D. AND OTHER CLEARANCES

ED:VHenderson
PR:JSperling

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PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY

1. Mission USAID/Liberia	2. Project Number 699-0382
3. Project Title West African Rice Development Association (WARDA)	
4. Key project dates (Fiscal years) a. Project Agreement Signed: Each FY b. Final Obligation: FY80 c. Final input delivered: FY80	5. Total U.S. funding-life of project $
6. Evaluation number as listed in Eval. Schedule No. 78-2	7. Period covered by this evaluation FROM: 10/75 TO: 3/78 Month/year Month/year
	8. Date of this Evaluation Review 3/28/78 Month/day/year

9. Action Decisions Reached at Evaluation Review, (NOTE: 34 specific action recommendations were made by the evaluation team in the attached report. Only the major ones are listed here.)	10. Officer or Unit responsible for follow-up	11. Date action to be completed
MOPTI:		
A. If intensified efforts to locate a Research Director for the Mopti Station fail, AID/W should waive the requirement for American or WARDA member country citizenship.	USAID & AID/W	July, 1978
B. Authority for Mopti construction should be delegated to CDO/Bamako.	AID/W	July, 1978
C. The research efforts and facilities at Mopti should be directed to more adaptive, relevant research.	WARDA	July, 1979
D. Mopti's Assistant Research Director should be recruited from a WARDA member state.	WARDA	Dec., 1978
BOUAKE:		
E. Housing construction should begin immediately.	WARDA USAID	Aug., 1978
F. Extent of staff and research exchange between Bouake and the Training Center should be increased.	WARDA	July, 1979
G. A socio-cultural/economic survey of mangrove swamp rice farmers should be initiated.	WARDA	Jan., 1979
WARDA:		
H. WARDA should consider preparation of socio-economic studies in several areas.	WARDA	July, 1979
I. Consideration should be given to costs and benefits of a study of WARDA's program impact on regional rice production.	USAID & WARDA	July, 1979
(NOTE: Area Auditor General (Nairobi) conducted a financial audit of WARDA in January 1978. No major recommendations were contained in the draft report dated April 10, 1978)		

12. Signatures:

Project Officer	Mission Director
Signature	Signature
Typed name: Van B. S. Henderson	Typed name: Harvey E. Coleman
Date	Date

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13. SUMMARY

The evaluation team reviewed WARDA programs and accomplishments from the perspective of its four major operating entities: Secretariat, Training Center, Mopti Research Station, and Rokupr Research Station. Each of these entities contributes to the success of the project at the output and project purpose levels, which were the main focus for this interim evaluation.

a) Secretariat. The WARDA Secretariat operates on an annual budget of $844,000 (1978) to be contributed by the 14 member countries. As an indicator of regional support and interest in WARDA, annual member country payments show mixed results with 85% of 1976 payments and 35% of 1977 payments received as of January 1978. Foreign donor support as a % of total WARDA budget has not decreased.

From the program perspective, the Secretariat has greatest potential for linking the research and training activities to the needs of the farmers within the region. For WARDA to evidence any impact at the project goal level (increased and improved rice production) there will need to be concerted efforts in the extension services, perhaps spearheaded by the Secretariat staff.

b) Training Center. During the first two years of operation, 1976 and 1977, the Training Center has graduated 159 trainees in a series of three courses: 6-week course for Field Assistants, 6-month course for Rice Specialists, and 8-week courses for special topics i.e. post-harvest technology. While the scientific/research components of the courses appear adequate, more attention is required for extension techniques and for exposure to the two Research Stations' operations and research findings. A sample of the Training Center graduates from Liberia, the Gambia, and Nigeria indicates that most of the graduates have continued some form of rice-related activity for their respective governments.

c) Mopti Research Station. The newer of the two WARDA research stations, Mopti has had personnel on site since late 1976. Its progress has been somewhat retarded by the lack of a Director to give management and program direction. Problem areas and decisions are still process and input oriented i.e. facilities, equipment, polder construction, etc. Positive indicators include Government of Mali contributions (est. $400,000 in land and infrastructure); basic working relationship with Operation Riz Mopti (GTM project for marketing, selling and extension for rice farmers); a five-man staff of research assistants who are qualified but lacking field experience. No results of 1977 research efforts were yet available.

d) Rokupr Research Station. The Station's research program is firmly based on a philosophy of [illegible] personnel solutions to problems of farmers, which is applied by continuous field trials and focused with Sierra Leonian farmers in the area. Rokupr comes closest to meeting project purpose level expectations: research to date has focused on varietal improvements in swamp rice by evaluating good points of traditional varieties and then testing of 150 imported varieties for adaptability. Research is now aimed at 2 primary types of high-yielding varieties: long-duration, disease-resistant variety for present cropping methods and short-duration, salt-tolerant variety for potential double cropping. The gap of socio-cultural information will be initially addressed in 1979 with a proposed farm survey in the Rokupr area.

In a regional context, Rokupr administers coordinated trials in approximately 100 locations throughout the WARDA region. In addition, the Station sponsors annual research review meetings for researchers from the region.

14. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY.
Over a period of five and a half weeks from February 17 to March 29, 1978, a team of four individuals conducted an evaluation of WARDA activities at the request of USAID. The evaluation team was composed of two consultants under PASA from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and agricultural economist seconded from WARDA staff, and the USAID Project Manager. The composition of the team provided the several perspectives of external experts, WARDA and the Mission, and resulted in findings and recommendations of both a critical and practical nature.

It was originally anticipated that the evaluation could include an impact analysis of WARDA's role in the region. This proved virtually impossible with the time and resources available. One of the recommendations of the evaluation team is for WARDA and USAID to give careful consideration to a long-term impact analysis within the next two to three years. The evaluators determined that WARDA was major regional organization encompassing 14 member nations and was still in its formative program and research stages and there was insufficient history to expect major accomplishments to date.

15. Documents to be revised to reflect decisions noted page 1: None.
Waiver for Recommendation A will/requested if required.

HORAN

FOR A CONTINUATION, SEE #6980382001701 (PD-AAI-590-B1) .AND

#6980382005801 (PD-AAI-591)