

NEPAL
PROGRESS REPORT

for the period
1 July - 31 December 1980

DEVELOPMENT OF IAAS

Project 367-11-110-102

Contract AID/NESA-C-1197

Agency for International Development

in cooperation with

Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities, Inc.*

*Members are: University of Illinois, Indiana University, University of Iowa, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, The Ohio State University, and the University of Wisconsin.

MUCIA Team

Two of the MUCIA team members completed their long-term assignments at Rampur and returned to the U.S. Dr. Rex E. Ray, Team Leader, returned to the U.S. after completing a 26-month assignment to resume his position in the College of Education at Michigan State University. Dr. H. C. Bittenbender, Plant Science Advisor, also completed a long-term assignment and returned to the U.S. after spending 26 months in Nepal.

Several months before the assignments of Dr. Ray and Dr. Bittenbender were to be completed, recruiting for their replacements began at the MUCIA campuses. A decision was made to appoint Dr. Garland Wood, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University, to the team leader position. Dr. Henry Foth, Professor of Crop and Soil Science, was selected to replace Dr. Bittenbender as Plant Science Advisor. Both Dr. Wood and Dr. Foth made short trips to Nepal in August/September to review the project and interact with Tribhuvan University administration and faculty.

Dr. George Axinn of Michigan State University returned to the IAAS on his second short-term as consultant in rural development. Also, Dr. R. Keith Chapman, Professor of Entomology at the University of Wisconsin, visited Rampur as a consultant in Entomology. Dr. Chapman is academic advisor to Mr. Fanindra Neupane who is in a Ph.D. program at the University of Wisconsin.

Contract Negotiations

During August, Mr. Douglas Pickett, USAID/Nepal, visited the East Lansing project office for discussions relating to the project. Discussions centered around planning for the project continuation through September 1984.

To follow up on these discussions and to handle other project business, the campus coordinator, Dr. Darrell Fienup, and the MUCIA Executive Director, Dr. William Flinn, traveled to Nepal in November. While there they met with officials of USAID, Tribhuvan University and IAAS for continued program planning.

An extension to the contract to continue work until 30 June 1981 was signed during the reporting period. Included in this was a change to U.S. dollar expenditures for local (Nepal) support which had previously been handled through local currency funding. Agreement was also reached to extend the total project through September 30, 1984. Increased emphasis will be given to applied research and extension programs in the remainder of the project.

Activities at the IAAS

After many months of student strikes and an unsettled condition at the IAAS, classes began again in June and a full semester was completed in October. That was the final semester before changing to the annual system.

Workshops, seminars and visiting lecturers were utilized for staff development on the Rampur campus. These were conducted by the MUCIA team, IAAS staff and other agencies responsible for agricultural development in Nepal.

In addition, several staff accompanied the MUCIA Plant Science Advisor on tours of research stations at various locations in Nepal and attended conferences, such as the Winter Crops Conference, held within the country. This provided an opportunity to see Nepali agriculture and other agricultural research activities being conducted in the various regions outside the Terai.

The Campus Development Committee continued to meet concerning the building program. Priorities have been set for use of the balance of the building fund. Some of the laboratories in the new classroom building have been equipped and are now ready for use.

Several meetings of the Extension Committee were held during the time Dr. Axinn was in Rampur. Discussions were on Farmers' Field Day, Seminars and the proposed Documentation Center and Farmers' Information Center. A Seminar schedule was set and speakers designated. Some of the topics scheduled included: Farming Systems Research (Dr. George Axinn); On Nepalese Agriculture (Dr. H. C. Bittenbender); The Effects of Planting Dates and Nitrogen and Potassium Amendments on Growth, Development and Yield of Dry Beans (Tara P. Nepal); and Socio-Economic Aspects of Livestock Production in Gandhaki Zone, Nepal (Dr. Veit Burger, ADC). These seminars are to continue during the next year.

The library has been able to expand into adjoining areas as laboratories were moved to the new facilities. This has increased both space and efficiency of operations until the new library building is completed. Library acquisitions have continued at about the same level for the past few years with some increase in reference text acquisitions as staff return from advanced study leave.

Staff Development

The participant trainee program continues to provide the IAAS with qualified teaching staff. Staff are returning from the U.S. and India and others are departing. While staffing needs are still serious, the nucleus of well trained professionals is expanding.

Those who recently received Master's degrees in the U.S. are:

Rishi Adhikari, M.S.
Horticulture, M.S.U.

Padam P. Sharma, M.S.
Soil Science, University of Minnesota

Bhola N. Pokharel, M.S.
Agricultural Economics, Ohio State University

Maheshwar Sapkota, M.S.
Animal Science, M.S.U.

Mr. Kailash Pyakuryal returned to Nepal from Michigan State in November, 1980 to gather data for his Ph.D. thesis. He will be in Nepal for about a year before returning to M.S.U. to complete his analysis and final defense of his dissertation.

New arrivals in the U.S. were:

Nagendra Shah
South Dakota State (Dairy)

Gopi Upreti
University of Hawaii (Horticulture)

Nav Raj K.C.
University of Minnesota/Waseca
(non-degree, Business Administration)

(See Appendix A for complete list of U.S. Participant Trainees.)

The Coordinator's office again arranged for the annual workshop at the University of Wisconsin in September. The workshop was attended by all the U.S. participants, except Mr. Upreti who is at the University of Hawaii, and several MUCIA faculty who have served in Nepal. The topic of the workshop was "Institution Building at the IAAS." The trainees also reported on their thesis research projects. This seminar continues to be a valuable tool for communication and planning with the young staff of the IAAS who are being trained in the U.S.

Project Coordinator's Office

The project office continued to provide back-up support for the team in Nepal and the participant trainees in the U.S.

The return of two team members from Nepal and the orientation and preparation of their replacements required many logistical arrangements. Orientation was also arranged for the newly arrived participant trainees. The coordinator's staff arranged a workshop which was attended by contract participants. Later in the Fall Term each campus (except Hawaii) was visited where meetings were held with the participants and their academic advisors. The purpose was to better acquaint the advisors with the project goals and to discuss the participants' progress and adjustment into the U.S. educational system.

The staff carried out the usual logistical and administrative support of the project and participant trainees and maintained liaison with the MUCIA organization, the MUCIA team and AID/Washington.

APPENDIX A

PARTICIPANT TRAINEES

- Sribindu Bajracharya, Agricultural Economics
Michigan State University, M.S. 1978
- Nanda Joshi, Poultry Science
The Ohio State University, M.S. 1978
- Satya Tiwary, Extension Education
The Ohio State University, M.S. 1979
- Krishna Sharma, Crop Science
Michigan State University, M.S. 1979
- Chandra Man Shrestha, Dairy Science
University of Illinois, M.S. 1979
- Narayan Kunwar, Agricultural Journalism
University of Wisconsin, M.S. 1979
- Pradeep Tulachan, Agricultural Economics
University of Illinois, M.S. 1979
- Krishna Shrestha, Administration (non-degree)
Michigan State University, 1979
- Tara Nepal, Crop Science
Michigan State University, M.S. 1980
- Rishi Adhikari, Horticulture
Michigan State University, M.S. 1980
- Bhola Pokharel, Agricultural Economics
The Ohio State University, M.S. 1981
- Padam Sharma, Soil Science
University of Minnesota, M.S. 1980
- Maheshwar Sapkota, Animal Science
Michigan State University, M.S. 1981
- Kailash Pyakuryal, Rural Development
Michigan State University, Ph.D.
- Jaya Joshi, Soil Science
University of Wisconsin, M.S.
- Tej Bahadur K.C., Soil Science
University of Wisconsin, Ph.D.
- Fanindra Neupane, Entomology
University of Wisconsin, Ph.D.
- Uma Gupta, Agronomy
University of Illinois, M.S.
- Shanta Man Shakya, Horticulture
The Ohio State University, M.S.
- Bhairav Kahkural, Soil Science
Michigan State University, M.S.
- Nav Raj K.C., Administration (non-degr)
University of Minnesota Technica
College
- Nagendra Shah, Dairy Science
South Dakota State University
M.S.
- Resham Thapa, Entomology
Michigan State University, M.S.
- Gopi Upreti, Horticulture
University of Hawaii, M.S.
- Lakshmi Subedi, Agronomy
University of the Philippines
at Los Banos, M.S.
- Murari Suvedi, Extension Education
University of the Philippines
at Los Banos, M.S.