

INSTITUTO UNIVERSITÁRIO DE TRÁS-OS-MONTES E ALTO DOURO

MONTHLY REPORT; PURDUE-AID-IUTAD
May 1982, J. L. Ahlrichs

English teaching and testing were priority items this month to clear our persons planning on bolsas to the USA. I continued to teach two evenings per week. All but two of the persons planning to come on bolsas did well on their ALIGU exams. One of the two was close and had 60 hours more of English instruction recommended by ALIGU. We have gone into more intensive teaching with him to help attain the necessary level.

The soils teachers wanted to develop classroom and field work on land use and land capability classification. I worked with Engra Portella in developing these classes using some excellent sites selected on the Quinta by Engr. Afonso Martins.

We continued greenhouse studies. Our five day bioassay of soil toxicity in acid soils is proving to be very sensitive and we are expanding our studies with it as this may prove to be useful to us in deciding with which soils and which varieties we can expect the most response to liming. We observed that a tolerant local wheat variety, Barbela, in an acid toxic soil had nearly normal root length but the roots had almost no root hair development unless the soil was limed. An experiment in pots with sprouted grape cuttings has also been started to determine whether our acid soil is causing poor root development and thus contributing to the poor survival of new plantings in drought stressed years.

The late frost badly affected two of our grape experiments. The Institute along with the regional MAP office responded to the frost with an advisory flier on how to prune and manage the frozen vines. The flier was well done and is an example of the kind of rapid advice they can cooperatively provide to the extensionists and farmers for other lesser or greater agricultural crisis caused by weather, disease, etc.

I made a soil and plant collecting trip to northwest Portugal with Rui Vale to help him initiate his work.

The last shipment of journals nearly completed our set (volumes 1 to 16) of Hort Science. The few missing issues have been back ordered by Purdue. This journal is appreciated and being used by our Horticulture staff.

I met Prof Leon Garoyan in Lisboa and introduced him at AID. AID arranged a visit for him with the Portuguese expert on cooperatives, Nelson Heitor. Most of this month has included considerable hosting and helping our three economists from Davis and Purdue. Their course to the 25 to 30

participants is given from 4:30 to 6:30 and 7:30 to 9:30 each day plus Saturday mornings. We will know in another week but at this stage it seems to be a success.

Through the expediting of June Lang both Antonio and Ana Maria Nazeré Pereira were accepted at Purdue and this month they have independently obtained fellowships to support them. They have been accepted by other universities in the meanwhile but are choosing to come to Purdue. They hope to arrive there in July.

I've sent letters of introduction and inquiry to four of the ag departments at Purdue to help four of our IUTAD students who would like to find a summer job at Purdue for August and September.

Nearly all of our Procalfer equipment has arrived and João Coutinho is busy introducing equipment and new routines into the soil testing lab. Prof. Danhke is scheduled to return to Portugal for Procalfer and we have scheduled him for the week of June 21 for Vila Real.

James L. Huber