

MONTHLY REPORT - APRIL 1985

CHAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
EXPERIENCE, INCORPORATED

CONTRACT NUMBER: 511-0543-C-00-4214

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I. Activities

A. Administrative and Institutional

Drs. Alvarado, Bieber, Mondoñedo and Taylor worked with research personnel at both the Chipiriri and La Jota Experiment Stations to develop research priorities and criteria for selecting research projects. An operating plan for both stations was developed by all personnel at both stations. Plans were formulated for the Research, Extension and Production activities for 1985 and extending through the life of the project in 1988.

Dr. Owens discussed purchases of appliances and household items with USAID/ La Paz April 3, PIO/C's received for drapes, carpets and alarm systems. Requests for household items and appliances for E.I. personnel and staff house are in process. These are to be purchased directly by USAID. USAID has now loaned six (6) stoves and six (6) refrigerators pending arrival of EI appliances.

Dr. Alvarado's family moved into their house on 3 April.

Dr. Taylor met with the National Road Service (SNC) and SDTB to coordinate cooperative radio use in Villa Tunari and to attend the inauguration of a new feeder road program as nine pieces of heavy road equipment were unloaded at the community of Bolivar's in the Chapare.

Dr. Taylor represented EI at the funeral of General Vargas Tapia on 3 April.

EI Staff meeting to discuss information needs concerning development of the demonstration farms.

Dr. Taylor met with the SDTB director and four other SDTB Administrative personnel to discuss reduction of tensions between IBTA/Chapare and SDTB personnel. Lack of knowledge of the wording of the convenio between IBTA and SDTB has caused misunderstandings concerning the role of SDTB as a coordinator or supervisor of IBTA/Chapare activities.

Dr. Owens attended a Coordinating meeting at SDTB involving most of the executing agencies in the Chapare Regional Development Project, including campesino leaders. Ing. Francisco Zannier gave a summary of activities planned by IBTA/Chapare.

Two heavy duty 70 amp batteries were purchased for the generator at Villa Tunari on 13 April.

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Alarm Systems were installed in Taylor's house on 13 April and in Mondoñedo's on 27 April.

Dr. Taylor met with Ing. Conrado Camacho of SDTB to formalize a request for fuel to be purchased in Cochabamba at the SNC office with delivery to be taken at the SNC encampment in Villa Tunari - 15 April.

Dr. Mondoñedo moved into his house on 14 April. All EI staff are now living in their houses.

Joe Lopez met with Dr. Carlos Montaña, Oswaldo Antezana and Waldo Tellería to describe the content of talks given by DIRECO personnel at a Community meetings of a sindicato along the Rio 24. (See Issues and Solutions).

Taylor and Patricia Violand assisted Alberto Bleichner of USAID in inventorying new furniture arrivals and the removal of USAID furniture loaned to Dr. Owens. 23 April.

Lopez and Taylor obtained prices of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides from Servicio Agricola Comerical that were on the AID acceptance list.

EI Staff meeting to review IBTA/Chapare budget.

IBTA/Chapare completed its formal "Plan Operativo" (work plan) for 1985 and the life of the project. This was presented formally to SDTB on 22 April and to Campesino leaders on 23 April. Owens, Bieber, Lopez Alvarado and Mondoñedo participated in this meeting.

Patricia Violand located the Dupleich contract which had been lost by USAID. All rental contracts in which EI is involved have now been processed by USAID for payment.

Furniture for E.I. personnel arrived in Cochabamba on 17 April. Factory personnel began assembling and delivering articles through the ensuing two weeks. Some articles were still lacking at the end of April ie. kitchen chairs and kitchen tables.

Drs. Owens and Taylor traveled to Perú from 16 April to 20 April with John Fasullo and Oswaldo Antezana of USAID. The object of the trip was to meet with USAID Perú personnel involved in the administration at the Upper Huallaga Project and the Chief of Party of IRI, the Contractor involved in technical assistance to the implementing agency, PEAH. Discussion concerned differences - similarities, problems - successes, and administrative cooperation that may evolve between the Upper Huallaga Project in Perú and the Chapare Project in Bolivia. A future meeting will involve Upper Huallaga Project personnel at the administrative level in Perú to visit the Chapare operational project.

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IBTA/Chapare and SDTB personnel discussed vehicle equipment and budget requirements with USAID Project Manager, John Fasullo on 23 April. USAID was informed that IBTA/Chapare, may have to curtail planned activities for lack of transportation and equipment. Alternatives such as vehicle rental and borrowing from other government entities was discussed.

Dr. Owens discussed the possibility of adding a livestock specialist to the EI staff, with USAID and IBTA/Chapare personnel on 24 April.

Drs. Owens and Alvarado, IBTA/Chapare Director Ing. Francisco Zannier and the two Station directors Franklin Lastra and Jorge Aldunate reviewed a request from San Simon University of Cochabamba to SDTB regarding agricultural research in the Chapare. IBTA is anxious to cooperate in thesis research and on other cooperative efforts. We are opposed to the financing of research which would result in a duplication of effort.

IBTA architect Mildred Camacho, from La Paz, visited the Chipiriri and La Jota Experiment Stations to determine needs for repair and rehabilitation of buildings on 25 April. She is also working on the design and drawings of new buildings for housing and offices.

Dr. Owens and IBTA/Chapare directors revised the budget to permit travel and purchase of genetic material from Costa Rica and Colombia. Additional work was done on USAID and GOB inputs to the Chapare project.

Thomas Gardiner, training consultant arrived on 29 April.

Taylor was in the Chapare April 1 and April 2. Bieber, Lopez and Taylor were in the Chapare April 7 to April 12. Owens and Taylor were in Perú April 16 to April 20. Bieber was in Chapare April 18, and April 23 to April 26. Alvarado was in the Chapare April 17 to April 19 and April 25 to April 27. Mondoñedo was in the Chapare April 18 and 19 and April 25 and 26.

Drs. Alvarado and Mondoñedo presented lectures to sixty students from Universidad Mayor de San Simon who were on a field trip to the La Jota Experiment Station. April 26.

Dr. Alvarado met with a Universidad Mayor de San Simon representative to discuss and plan a tentative joint program for research, teaching and extension. A schedule was developed for Alvarado, Bieber, Mondoñedo and Taylor to present formal lectures, during the current semester, at the University.

B. Field Trips

A field trip was taken from April 7 to April 12 to initiate activities on six demonstration farms in the Federación Unica de Trabajadores.

These activities included the following:

- 1) Assign an Extension Agent and promotor to the demonstration farm.

- 2) Draw a map of the demonstration farm.
- 3) Gather data on traditional farm practices on the demonstration farm, for citrus, rice, maize, papaya, ground nuts, bananas, yuca and associated crops.
- 4) Obtain an estimate of production costs for these crops.
- 5) Plant a family garden on each demonstration farm.
- 6) Obtain soil samples
- 7) Fix dates and planned activities for the next demonstration farm visit.

Participating in the field trip were three EI technicians - Bieber, Lopez and Taylor, one IBTA Extensionist - Leon Vallejos, one IBTA Researcher - Cleto Prado and four promotores. These demonstration farms are in Micro Regions 3 and 5.

A field trip was taken from April 17 through April 19 to initiate activities on three demonstration farms in the Jatum Pampa area. The activities initiated were the same as on the field trip taken April 7 to April 12. The demonstration sites are in Arropy Secho which is four (4) kilometers west of Villa Tunari, Jatum Pampa and Bolivar. Participating in the field trip were three EI technicians Lopez, Alvarado and Mondoñedo. Two IBTA technicians German Inturias and Gustavo Espinosa and one promotor.

The farmers in the Jatum Pampa area, through the assistance of their two promotores and the extension agent of the area, have presented the data needed for the implementation of a coffee project that includes the planting of 60 hectares of coffee by some 103 farmers. Plans are being made to buy the seed beans and initiate the plantings in seven (7) nurseries of the Jatum Pampa area.

Total number of Demonstration farms to date is nine.

C. Investigation

Drs. Alvarado and Mondoñedo assisted in designing fertilizer trails with various levels of zinc. Projects were written on fertilization of yuca and citrus. Two experiments (i) immersing yuca cuttings in Zn SO₄ in four percent solution and (ii) application of 0,5,10,15 Kg. Zinc per hectare to the soil were initiated at the La Jota Experiment Station on April 26.

Dr. Alvarado is responsible for the analyses of soil samples taken from the demonstration farms.

Dr. Bieber wrote project proposals for cassava and Vigna trials and began inspection of bean seed for experimental use.

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Dr. Mondoñedo worked with counterparts to plan research on the multiplication of banana planting materials.

Drs. Alvarado, Bieber, Mondoñedo and Taylor worked with research personnel to outline research guide lines for 1985 and the duration of the project.

To date two new experiments have been initiated with EI collaboration.

D. Training Activities

Drs. Mondoñedo and Alvarado presented technical lectures to visiting university students at the La Jota Experiment Station.

The development of the seedbeds and their plantings with vegetable seeds on nine demonstration farms was performed as a nonformal training actively in which approximately thirty farmers participated.

To date - twenty technical personnel nineteen promotores and seventeen farmers have been trained in a formal training format. More than thirty farmers have been trained in an informal setting during demonstration farm nursery and seed bed development.

II Issues and Solutions

Rural Police activities were again carried out in the Chapare without notification to IBTA/Chapare or EI.

Chance meetings in the Chapare with control and enforcement personnel, tend to link IBTA/Chapare and EI with control efforts. This could damage our position and result in loss of confidence by the farmers. This could be avoided if IBTA-EI has prior notice of this activities.

Lack of understanding of the content of the convenio signed between SDTB and IBTA has caused some tensions between members of the two agencies. Of major concern is the coordination/supervision role to be played by SDTB. All personnel need to be required to read the convenio with a follow up group session to explain questions.

Poor communications between Cochabamba and the Chapare make changes in itineraries and schedules impossible to transmit to and from communities working with IBTA/Chapare and SDTB. Radios at the experiment Stations would greatly enhance working relations.

Lack of an IBTA/Chapare boat and motor requires total reliance on the Sindicatos and Federation people for logistic support when working along any of the many rivers in the Chapare. A project boat and

and outboard motor would allow timely completion of programmed work and reduce tensions between the Sindicato members.

IBTA/Chapare personnel continue to be discontent with the salary bonus being provided through the project. They feel a bonus based on the parallel exchange rate is more equitable. On April 30 the official exchange rate was \$b. 49,500/1US\$ while the parallel rate was \$b. 180,000/1US\$. The salary conflict effects the personnel's ability to perform and reduces the motivation needed for a 100 percent effort involvement in the project.

The project has reached a stage where mobilization has become critical. To date no project transportation has arrived. Only one vehicle is available to the twelve extension agents currently involved in the project. More communities are requesting IBTA/Chapare Services, every month. IBTA/Chapare and the EI technicians are unable to provide timely services and timely attendance at prescheduled meetings due to lack of adequate transportation. A possible short-term solution is local rental of vehicles or local purchase of a few vehicles.

Programmed research at both Experiment Stations is being slowed down due to lack of adequate farm equipment and adequate chemicals.

Some of the experimental seeds were found to be heavily infested with weevils. A continuous insect control program is recommended.

The legal coca regulations authority appear to be attempting to indirectly involve IBTA/Chapare in the coca control program. By accident IBTA/Chapare and EI technicians crossed paths with DIRECO personnel at a community celebration for a new school facility along the Rio 24 in the Federación Unica de Trabajadores. The DIRECO people mentioned, in their talk, that IBTA had been contracted by SDTB to find substitute crops for coca. In addition, they were making unreasonable promises misleading the farmers and were being negative towards cooperatives. By association, at the same meeting, this type of talk puts IBTA/Chapare in a compromising position. Even though IBTA/Chapare is charged with providing technical assistance to farmers, the association may reduce farmers' enthusiasm to participate in the development program. One of the solutions is to orient DIRECO personnel on IBTA/Chapare project goals, strategy, etc. and for SDTB to supervise DIRECO activities a little closer.

III Work Planned for Next Reporting Period

Assist IBTA/Chapare personnel with completion of training budget for 1985.

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Assist Thomas Gardiner (Short term training consultant) with programming the training curriculum for IBTA personnel, promoters and farmers for 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988.

Assist extensionists, promoters and farmers in planning activities on 15 demonstration farms for 1985.

Assist IBTA personnel in developing technical packages for traditional crops.

Coordinate and participate in second training program for IBTA/Chapare technical personnel to be held May 28 to June 1st. at Chipiriri.

Assist extensionist, promoters and farmers in planting two community nurseries and eight coffee nurseries in the Jatun Pampa area.

Continue preparation of Crop calendars and the development of horticultural crop brochures for the Chapare area.

Preparation of research proposal in multiplication of banana planting materials, in collaboration with counterparts.

Planting of systems trials involving (1) Cassava - corn - beans (2) corn - legumes (3) cowpea varieties.

Transplanting of tomatoe, cabbage and peppers into garden demonstration plots.

Establishment of fertilizer experiments on the main crops of the Chapare.

At least two technicians to travel to Yungas, Costa Rica and Colombia to obtain germplasm for the Chapare Very Wet Tropics.

Initial community visits to the following areas.

- 1) Manco Capak
- 2) Alaska Chapare

Continue to visit farm communities, on invitation, to explain IBTA/Chapare project goals.