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USAID/India

Mission Evaluation Plan, FY 1983-FY 1984

ANNEX

Ongoing Data Collection Activities

for

Evaluation of Beneficiary Impact

Program Office

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The following sections below provide additional details on existing data collection efforts under the Rajasthan Medium Irrigation, Integrated Rural Health and Population, Title II Food for Work and Rural Economic and Demographic Survey projects. Selected survey instruments for these data collection activities are on file with ASIA/DP, as are selected baseline studies for the Gujarat Medium Irrigation project. The Title II School Feeding evaluation involves analysis of existing data rather than collection of new data, and consequently is not discussed below.

B. Rajasthan Medium Irrigation (386-0467)

The project's basic objective (stated as an "output" rather than a "purpose" in the logical framework) is to enhance access to controlled water supplies by expanding irrigated acreage, improving system reliability, and increasing the efficiency of water use. The purpose level objectives are to increase small farmer agricultural output and decrease the impact of drought; the project goals are to increase small farmer income, expand rural employment opportunities and increase food availabilities.

Issues of irrigation system performance will be addressed primarily through special studies. Studies on water losses have already been initiated by the Irrigation Department of the Government of Rajasthan (GOR), and other special studies will be carried out as the project progresses with assistance from the USAID/India agricultural and engineering staff.

Beneficiary impact will be assessed by comparing conditions in the project area after full project development with the conditions existing before project development. Baseline surveys were initiated for this purpose in mid-1982 on 6 of the 15 medium irrigation schemes funded under the project. The baseline surveys are being undertaken by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) with the cooperation of the GOR Bureau of Economics and

Statistics. The survey comprises four schedules: Household Schedule, Status of Women Schedule, Village Schedule, and Town Schedule. In addition to data on farm input use, crop mix, production, employment and incomes, the baseline will include data on nutrition, household time allocation, and economic activities in relevant market towns. The resurveys will be undertaken within 5 to 8 years following the baseline surveys, depending on the rate of buildup of irrigation benefits. Control group data will be available from a few farms within the survey area which will remain unirrigated, and from district-level on production and yields (irrigated and non-irrigated) routinely collected by the GOP. Retrospective benefit-cost analyses will be possible using the data from the resurveys.

C. Integrated Rural Health and Population (386-0468)

The project purpose is improved access to health and family planning services, and the project goal is mortality reduction in the 0-4 age group (as measured by a decline in infant and child mortality) and fertility reduction (as measured by a decline in the Crude Birth Rate). "Access" includes quantitative and qualitative aspects of availability of health facilities and services as well as the utilization of those facilities and services by villagers.

Baseline data are currently being collected from 2000 households per project district (i.e. 26,000 households in all) on mortality & fertility, and a broad range of other items relating to the rural population's health and demographic status, health beliefs and practices, and service utilization. Other baseline assessments - Training Needs Assessments, Communications Needs Assessments, and Management Needs Assessments-are also being conducted in each project area to provide concrete data on which to plan improvements in service worker skills management practices, and health communications strategies. Control group data are not being collected as such, but some comparative data

will be available from other non-project districts (e.g., fertility and mortality data).

The community survey is being conducted at the beginning and end of the project, with an interval of 3 to 4 years, which is the minimum time period over which there are likely to be significant changes in fertility and mortality. The training, communications and management assessments will be done at 1-2 year intervals. Routine monitoring and training and construction outputs are being monitored on a quarterly to yearly basis. In addition, each project area will conduct at least one operations research study to generate data about some specific area of service delivery. The data collection for the community survey and the needs assessments is being done by Indian institutions, with some technical assistance provided by USAID. Tabulation and processing are largely being done by the Indian institutions involved. These institutions, e.g., the Registrar General's office (the Indian census agency), Institute of Population Studies, and Operations Research Group, Indian Institute of Management, have skilled groups who have been contracted under project funding to carry out the relevant data collection and analysis.

D. Title II Food for Work

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) uses Title II commodities to support Food for Work activities in India. Program levels averaged about $25 million during FY 1978 - FY 1981, but declined to $17 million in FY 1982 and $12 million in FY 1983 as part of the reduction in the Title II program in India. USAID began a survey-based evaluation of Food for Work impact in 1981; the field survey work has now been virtually completed, and final reports on the surveys will be completed by early 1983.

The evaluation of Food for Work (FFW) impact comprises five profiles of workers on FFW projects (Recipient Profile Studies) and six assessments (Asset Studies) covering major types of FFW programs - tanks and dams, irrigation wells, land levelling and low-cost housing. The Recipient Profile Studies attempt to measure the impact of FFW commodities on the employment, income and nutritional status of FFW worker households. Other survey data on landless workers will provide control group information. The Asset Studies (other than the low-cost housing study) will assess the impact on production, incomes and employment of the assets created by FFW activities, and will include benefit-cost computations.

The studies will be used by CRS as a major input for a revised FFW programming system designed to increase the impact of FFW projects. The Government of India (GOI) has not been directly involved in carrying out the studies. However, the GOI Planning Commission is aware of the scope and content of the FFW studies and has advised USAID that it plans to review the studies carefully for their implications for GOI FFW programs.

Rural Economic and Demographic Survey (REDS) (386-0486)

In the late 1960s USAID sponsored the Additional Rural Incomes Survey (ARIS), a 5000 - household all-India study of the impact of the Green Revolution. The survey was carried out in three rounds from 1968-69 to 1970-71 by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). The basic results were reported by NCAER in Changes in Rural Income in India (New Delhi, 1975), on file with ASIA/TI. The ARIS data was also the basis for separate NCAER publications on fertilizer use and on agricultural credit, and has been used by others subsequently to investigate a wide range of rural development topics.

The 1982 resurvey now being funded by USAID is being administered in two parts. An economic questionnaire repeats the questions from the earlier survey, and was administered in mid-1982 to heads of households (of which about 3000 out of the 5000 in the survey are households included in the ARIS). A separate demographic questionnaire was administered by female interviewers to married females in the same sample households in November and December, 1982. The data will be entered in NCAER's computer. Data analysis should begin in mid-1983.

The REDS will provide trend or longitudinal data on the variables included in the earlier survey. These include agricultural input use, size of landholding, assets other than land, savings, investment, non-farm sources of income, consumption expenditures, and income distribution. This aspect of the survey will be a valuable source of information on the impact of the GOI agricultural and rural development programs of the 1970s. The value of the data will be further enhanced when the district-level data from the 1981 census become available, since ARIS and REDS roughly correspond to the censuses of 1971 and 1981. For the variables included in REDS but not in ARIS (household time allocation and demographic data), the current survey will provide a basis for a wide range of cross-section studies on household employment patterns and demographic behavior. In addition to providing valuable information on the relationship between demographic behavior and non-family planning variables, the demographic component of the REDS data will furnish national and regional benchmark data for other studies (such as the IRDP community baseline surveys).

The GOI is represented on the Technical Advisory Committee for the REDS by members from the Ministry of Finance, the Planning Commission and the

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. These agencies contributed to the design of the demographic questionnaires and will be involved in the seminars which will be organized on various aspects of REDS data analysis beginning in late 1983.