

SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL DIVISION PROGRAM

AFGHANISTAN

The Technical Assistance program in Agriculture began in the Helmand Valley in response to a plea for assistance to salvage the Helmand Valley project. The program began on a limited scale in Kabul with the Ministry of Agriculture on a limited scale in 1954. Total expenditure figures are not available for the Helmand Valley. Ministry of Agriculture total expenditures through FY 62 are \$2,534,000. The proposed program for the Helmand Valley for FY 63 is \$600,000 and for the Ministry of Agriculture program is \$90,000.

Within Country Program presentations Agriculture is listed as the number 2 priority behind Education. It is considered the number one priority by the IGA. This is largely so because it is planned that proceeds from export of agricultural commodities will pay the larger portion of the country's developmental plans.

The Food and Agriculture Division within the USAID Mission/Afghanistan and its predecessor assistance organizations has been primarily confined to a straight Technical Assistance program with the furnishing of limited commodities and a relatively large participant program. Capital development projects in agriculture such as major irrigation works, etc., have generally been under contract with private or other Governmental technical organizations. It can be said that cooperation between assisting technicians from contract and direct hire has not been close.

Afghanistan is presently receiving technical assistance and advice in Agriculture from FAO, USSR, Yugoslavia, UN Special Fund and USAID. While there is some overlap within technical fields such as extension and irrigation, an attempt has been made to segregate fields of activity so that no assisting agency or country duplicates the efforts of another.

USAID is furnishing technical assistance in the Helmand Valley in the fields of extension, research, live stock, farm machinery and irrigation. Technicians from Kabul are directly assigned to the valley also provide limited assistance in agronomy, plant protection and horticulture. This assistance is furnished through the Agricultural division of the Helmand Valley Authority. It can be said that only limited contact or assistance is made directly to the farmer on the land. The program has been up and down after a promising start. At one time there were no American technicians in the valley at all for a period of eight months and the general recruitment and placement time between technicians in the same field is 8 to 18 months. FVA has had only limited local currencies to carry construction and operation

costs which has resulted in considerable lag in completion of planned programs.

The Technical Assistance program with the Ministry of Agriculture also has a history of limited and faltering progress. However, in 1960 there was a program buildup resulting in a greater and more concentrated effort. At the present time there are programs in agronomy, plant protection, horticulture, forestry, livestock (poultry and dairy), research, extension, range management, irrigation and audio visual information. There is limited assistance in administration. Programs are planned in grain storage and in ground water investigation. There have recently been phased out programs in credit and farm machinery and range management will be dropped next FY.

The program is gradually expanding into the whole country as the unwritten agreement between FAO and USAID limited US activities to the southern half of the country and FAO to the northern half is gradually eroded away. It is planned in FY 63 funding to initiate some direct action programs such as self help irrigation and land improvement programs. Again programs have been delayed or constricted through lack of counterpart or local currency and limited RGA budgets.

A relatively strong participant program is beginning to pay off with the return of former year financed participants. Also, a supply of graduates from the Faculty of Engineering at Isral University is beginning to become available.

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