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DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM EVALUATION, AFGHANISTAN, PROJECT CASE HISTORY:
SUMMARYNational Agricultural Development--Research
30-AP-11-A-5

An agricultural research program to assist Afghanistan was established in 1953 with U.S. assistance which, despite many handicaps, has been able to: (1) Train outside Afghanistan eighteen Afghan technicians; (2) Level and drain land, and equip for mechanical and power farming, research stations at Kabul -2-, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Helon and Marja; (3) Establish and partially equip a model poultry station and a modern dairy farm; (4) Build a greenhouse and distribute from it annually an average of 1,000,000 plants to local farmers; (5) Introduce Hampshire Red roosters to a degree which has materially improved local poultry; (6) Demonstrated that sugar beets can produce 20 tons per acre of 21% sugar content; and that cotton production can be increased over 100% (three or more times local averages for both crops); (7) Established birchwood nurseries and budded over 100,000 local fruit trees.

Afghan farmers had developed a self-sustained, subsistence farming based on wheat culture; but because of their isolation had had little exchange of crop or agricultural knowledge. The U.S. began assisting with a TC agreement signed in 1953. In 1954 a University of Wyoming contract was signed, and staffing began in 1955.

Objectives of the program were to: (1) Increase agricultural production; (2) improve quality of agricultural products; (3) find and introduce more efficient cropping methods; (4) Establish within the Ministry of Agriculture a Research Department; (5) Develop a system of research stations; and (6) Develop adequate research personnel within Afghanistan.

To develop this program, the Wyoming contract has supplied a total of sixteen different technicians from 1955 to present, with an average of three technicians on hand each year. In FY '63 two contract technicians are in Afghanistan; and two direct-hire have been programmed but are not yet in Afghanistan. Twelve participants have received degree training in the United States; and six others have received special training in the United States or in third countries. An estimated \$200,000 in commodities have been supplied. The Afghan contribution has included 8,428,241 Af (370,000) in U.S.-controlled local currency.

The program has been handicapped or slowed by a lack of suitable or trainable counter parts; as one direct result, the U.S.-supplied technicians have had to do a large part of the research work rather than train Afghan to do it. The Ministry of Agriculture assigned twelve junior-technicians to work with this program at its inception; but only three of these remain and those lost were not replaced. In the Helmand Valley, where a similar program was established, three senior technicians were assigned by HVA and these continue to function. As a result, the HVA research program has advanced more rapidly than that in the Ministry.

Neither the Ministry nor HVA has as yet established a research department to operate the functions of this activity, and technicians have had to work with personnel assigned to many different bureaus or sections. Afghan personnel at established research stations have not been continuous, and there has been a constant need to train replacements or to supervise station activities in the absence of responsible Afghan personnel. A program has not been submitted to the Ministry and is under consideration which should solve such problems.

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II. Objectives

1. Short range objectives were listed as follows;

- a. To increase agricultural production of Afghanistan.
- b. To improve the quality of the products so that they will command a higher price in both the domestic and foreign market. (in the case of fruits, nuts and vegetables, the quality is often of greater importance than the yield).
- c. To find more efficient production methods.
- d. To test crop varieties of known high yielding species for adaptation and introduction to Afghanistan.

2. Long Range objectives were listed as:

- a. To establish a Department of Research as one of the branches of the Ministry of Agriculture, with a functioning administrative organization having responsibility for all research activities of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- b. To develop a system of agricultural research stations including a central station in the vicinity of Kabul and substations in the principal agricultural and livestock centers of the country.
- c. To build up adequate research personnel by on-the-job training, by sending promising students abroad for research training and by schooling within the country whenever suitable facilities become available.
- d. To initiate a program of agricultural research suited to the needs of the country and designed to build up a sound body of knowledge of the soils; the adaptation of crops and varieties to the various areas, the proper methods of culture, pest and disease control and soil management; the adaptation of breeds of livestock and poultry to Afghan conditions; the value of native feeds and the management and proper care of livestock and poultry under Afghan conditions.

III. Resources Committed.

- a. Beginning in 1955 and through to the present time, the University of Wyoming has staffed the project with American technicians as shown below.

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IV. Factors Accelerating or Inhibiting Progress.

a. On host country side

1. Major difficulties encountered:

Lack of suitable and trainable counterparts within the Ministry of Agriculture program would be the number one difficulty. Assignment of cast off people from other departments and the erosion of these to the army, other jobs, etc. over the period results in the contract technicians actually doing the field work, planning the programs, etc., with the resultant lack of interest by top Ministry officials.

Nearly complete lack of understanding on the part of policy making Ministry officials as to what was required in a research program resulted in non-assignment of facilities, lack of budget, scattation of responsibility and authority, all hampering progress.

The Ministry of Agriculture has never set up a department of research, hence funding is from other technical divisions or wholly from USAID funds in the contract.

Lack of stations with assigned lands or loss of lands after they were developed to other uses was hampering.

Lack of irrigation water, floods, etc. largely delayed useable results.

Difficulty in local procurement due to RGA procurement procedures meant idle tractors during critical times or late planting, etc.

2. Factors accelerating progress:

In the Helmand Valley where senior technicians on the Afghan side were assigned to head the crop and livestock portions of the program, steady progress and useable results have been accomplished.

Sufficient funds in a separate research budget in the IV allowed for the development and operation of two good research stations.

Use of PL 480 funds in station development give promise for more fruitful future programs.

b. On U.S. Side

1. Specific devices or tactics facilitating progress:

a. Use of contractor to procure commodities needed for the project allowed for relatively satisfactory procurement and delivery of needed commodities.

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develop antagonism between the two groups which results in a lesser net accomplishment.

The evaluation further points out that Mission direction of the contract should have been tighter to the point of insisting that joint contractor, RFA, & Mission planning took place and that useable results were collated and published.

Project analysis highlights also a long suspected theory that developing nations only reluctantly accept research results they have not been intimately associated in developing. This means that much of the work will have to be repeated, at least on a sampling basis, by Afghans before results are put into practice.

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Balance Sheet
Research

Components	1952 Status	1962 Status
Research Stations Agronomic	None	Six (6) fully operational
Livestock Stations	None	A model poultry farm and a model dairy partially equipped.
Personnel Training	None	Twelve (12) participants secured degrees in U.S.; six (6) short time outside of Afghanistan; only four (4) with program.
Assigned Personnel	Twelve (12) Junior Assigned Min. Three (3) Senior Assigned HVA	Three (3) Junior - Min. Three (3) Senior - HVA
Institutionalized	No	Ministry - No HVA - Yes
Results Brought to Farmers	None	400,000 vegetable transplants yearly. Hampshire Red rooster distributed. Now predominate strain in country. Budded over 100,000 local fruit trees HVA cotton nearly 100% planted in rot.

Balance Sheet
Research

Unsolved Problems -

- a. Lack of institutionalization in Ministry.
- b. Lack of Afghan participation in Ministry

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REFERENCE - AIDTO A-1279 :
"National Agricultural Development Research, Project
306-AB-11-AA-5"

Re referenced Case History, make the following additions and corrections:

Page 3 - paragraph C delete and substitute in lieu thereof, the following:

C. Royal Government of Afghanistan Contribution.

In 1955 the Ministry of Agriculture assigned 12 junior grade technicians (Vocational Agriculture Certificate or less) of which only 3 remained as of April 1, 1963. Also, of the 12 participants receiving training towards college degrees under this program, only two remained with the Ministry's research program in April 1963. In the Helmand Valley Authority, however, there were three full-time senior technicians assigned to research as of the same date and who are still with the program.

Prior to the present RGA fiscal year 1342 (beginning March 22, 1963), the Ministry has never had in its budget an item specifically designated for research, although there was an item for "Wyoming Research Team". The Ministry has, however, met the costs for labor, POL, etc., out of their regular budget. The H.V.A. likewise has met similar costs. Both the Ministry and the H.V.A. have provided land, irrigation, water storage and other facilities for research work.

With the change in the RGA government in March of 1963, came developments which have culminated in achieving most the fundamental goals of the Wyoming Contract. On April 21, 1963 H.M. the King signed

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Page 5 - V. ACCOMPLISHMENTS -- Modify as indicated by addition of paragraph A. below and changing lettering of subsequent paragraphs.

- A. The establishment of the Directorate-General for Agricultural Research by Royal Decree signed April 21, 1963. This is the legislative act which accomplished the institutionalizing of agricultural research in Afghanistan.

Continue complete section as it stands starting with paragraph A, changing to letter B and thus changing lettering throughout.

STEEVES

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