

November 7, 1997

Mr. Larry Harms
Farmer-to-Farmer Program Coordinator
USAID/BHR/PVC
U.S. Agency for International Development
320 21st. NW
Washington, D.C. 20523

RE: Cooperative Agreement No. **FAO-A-00-96-90038-00**

Dear Mr. Harms:

Please find enclosed five copies of the ACDI/VOCA report for Worldwide Farmer-to-Farmer activities during the fourth quarter of FY97: July 1 through September 30, 1997. This report also summarizes grant activity on an annual basis, covering FY97.

ACDI/VOCA completed **six** projects assigned to **six** F-to-F volunteers for the fourth quarter of FY97. This brings project completion for the fiscal year to **33** projects assigned to **33** volunteers. Additional programmatic and statistical information is contained in the report.

For questions concerning *programmatic* issues, please contact the relevant RPOs (either Susan Krasberg for Africa or Michael Nehrbass for all other regions) or the Senior Vice President for Volunteer Programs, Charles Cox. For questions concerning *administrative* issues, please contact the grants administrator.

Sincerely,

Barry O'Connor
Grants Administrator

Enclosures

Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance

Fiscal Year 1997 Third Quarter Report

Worldwide Farmer-to-Farmer Program

FAO-A-00-96-90038-00

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Introduction

ACDI/VOCA's new Worldwide Farmer-to-Farmer (WW-FTF) grant represents a new phase in our participation in the Worldwide Farmer-to-Farmer program. This grant represents a departure from our former worldwide flexibility; for this grant ACDI/VOCA focuses on a few countries in order to have greater sustainable impact. Each country program differs in its programmatic focus according to the country's development priorities.

The ACDI/VOCA program in the Greater Horn of Africa focuses on food security. Programs in Ethiopia and Uganda have been and are being developed. Eritrea activity remains on hold pending the Eritrean government's approval of program start-up.

The ACDI/VOCA program in Bolivia has a sustainable agriculture focus, providing 35 NGOs with technical training to strengthen their sustainable resource management practices. The program also supports the Government of Bolivia's national development plan. Here ACDI/VOCA's program is unique in being the only international NGO with a cost-sharing arrangement with PL-480 of Bolivia, in that all in-country project expenses are covered.

As for Cambodia, we regret to say that recent events in that country preclude ACDI/VOCA from returning to that country to once again take up our prescribed program for rural development. In lieu of Cambodia, however, ACDI/VOCA is currently negotiating with USAID concerning the possibility of transferring some or all of the F-to-F funds originally reserved for Cambodia to Mongolia where a number of promising projects have been identified.

Finally, we are aware that Attachment D (Impact Indicators Data) is incomplete in terms of reporting from the field as well as from headquarters. We have had difficulty accessing the data requested without developing a program that will, in fact, provide this data in an accurate and efficient manner. We are very close to having such a program in place that will accomplish this task. Hopefully, per the next report, we will be able to fill in the gaps by covering all of FY97 for our projects in Asia and Africa. The one exception in this regard is Bolivia. Their FY97 figures are attached under Attachment D.

Program Highlights

In the fourth quarter, **six** volunteer projects were completed with the assistance of **six** volunteers in **one** country. This brings total project completions to **33** for FY97. Appendix B provides additional statistical information: Table One depicts project completions by country for FY97; Table Two illustrates the number of volunteers by country for the same period. Table Three demonstrates the male-to-female ratio for FY97; Table Four depicts F-to-F projects by category-type for FY97; and Table Five cites VOCA volunteers by state for the same period.

Program Accomplishments

ACDI/VOCA completed **six** volunteer projects in the fourth quarter of FY97. A list of the projects completed this quarter (and for FY97) can be found in Appendix C. F-to-F volunteers were recruited from **15** U.S. states and **two** foreign countries (see Table Five, Appendix B).

AFRICA

All project volunteer assignments have been scheduled for FY98 and beyond. These projected out-year assignments lack specificity at this time, but we anticipate that most will continue to target our mainstay activity of cooperative development.

ERITREA

Due to the political situation in Eritrea, we are unable to implement the volunteer assignments scheduled for that country in FY98. We have proposed that a portion of the surplus be used to conduct three assignments targeted at the establishment of a regional commodity information system. The missions in Uganda and Ethiopia support the implementation of these assignments. Indeed, it was the Ethiopia mission that initiated this idea.

The regional ACDI/VOCA program officer and the Uganda mission's project officer contacted the Farmer-to-Farmer program coordinator in Washington to lobby for using the three volunteer assignments originally slated for Eritrea for the regional food security system. It would be a sound use of resources and it fits within F-to-F objectives. It now appears that the program coordinator has approved this transfer. However, it is still uncertain whether additional volunteer assignments—originally targeted for Eritrea—will be shifted to other countries in the Horn.

If and when Eritrea is prepared to make use of the Farmer-to-Farmer assignments, there is strong agreement that that is where they should be employed. But it will be difficult to implement the eight to twelve assignments allocated for each of the four years under present circumstances.

ETHIOPIA

There was no volunteer activity in Ethiopia this quarter under this program. However, four volunteers have been recruited for assignments starting within the next month. Two other assignments are currently under development.

UGANDA

All five of the Farmer-to-Farmer slots allocated to Uganda should be completed by the end of the calendar year. One has been completed, three are in recruitment and one is under development.

ASIA

CAMBODIA

ACDI/VOCA began its Cambodia project in the last quarter of 1996 with a series of start-up activities designed to provide a focus for its Worldwide Farmer-to-Farmer Program within the current context of the development conditions and efforts in the country. This led to the formation of the Rural Income and Productivity Enhancement (RIPE) project designed to

complement the initiatives and direction of USAID/Cambodia's Rural Economic Growth (REG) and UNDP/CARERE projects in the northwestern region of the country.

ACDI/VOCA—in various meetings with local partners among the international donor community, NGOs and government agencies—introduced the project's design and objectives in support of the general goal of increasing farm and agribusiness productivity, income, local capacity for decentralized planning, and the number of rural development projects.

In previous quarters RIPE responded to requests for short-term technical assistance in collaboration with CARE International and delivered expert support to SEILANITI. An ACDI/VOCA volunteer facilitated an institutional strengthening and strategic planning workshop for the local NGO. Another volunteer assisted the same organization in developing a feasibility study on agricultural credit.

In its continuing bid for stronger involvement in the development efforts in Cambodia, we explored various possible partnerships with major contractors of the USAID Cambodia REG project. While these negotiations were very productive and significant points of agreement were made, the sudden political and military violence that erupted in early July 1997 caused mass evacuations and instability that cut short any further developments as USAID decided to postpone future action on REG indefinitely.

Unfortunately, it now appears that the July coup—which precipitated mass internal dislocation, evacuation of foreign nationals, condemnations from foreign governments, suspension and cancellation of development assistance, and widespread anxiety and economic collapse in the country—has led to the *permanent* suspension of all U.S. development assistance to Cambodia. Per this news, ACDI/VOCA closed its office in Phnom Penh.

LATIN AMERICA

BOLIVIA

Six volunteer assignments were implemented this quarter. The momentum for project development picked up this quarter with sixteen requests for technical assistance received. Implementation targets are still behind schedule due to a slow start at the beginning of the calendar year because counterpart funds were not received until the end of the March. It is now projected that of the 22 assignments pending implementation, ten will be implemented in the next quarter and twelve during the first quarter of 1998. The counterpart donor, PL-480, was informed of the delay in implementation and is now considering a no-cost extension through March 30, 1998.

Per office administration, the deputy director resigned effective September 30, 1997 and recruitment is underway for her replacement. ACDI/VOCA's business planning session has been postponed until the new deputy director position is filled.

IIEMA (Research Institute for Ecology and the Environment) requested a volunteer to do an advanced training course in the application of *ARC/INFO*. She trained seven staff professionals

at the University. In addition to conducting the training, the volunteer assisted the director of the Institute in developing a promotional strategy for providing *ARC/INFO* services and proposals for funding.

An ACDI/VOCA volunteer was requested to analyze and redefine the organizational structure and operations of *ASE* (Sucre Association of Ecology). She worked with the Board of Directors of *ASE* recommending how to better define roles and responsibilities, and improve the by-laws, the membership program, and overall operations. Finally, she assisted in defining a preliminary action plan for implementation.

Radio San Gabriel and *IBTA* (The Bolivian Institute for Agricultural Technology) proposed an integrated pest management coffee project. The volunteer was requested to analyze the diseases and pests that affect coffee in the Corroico region. He provided a number of recommendations for integrating pest management of four pests and diseases. He also trained 100 technicians on how to detect pest and disease problems, implement integrated pest management techniques, and improve organic coffee production.

Finally, a volunteer was recruited to assist *LIDEMA* (League for the defense of the Environment) in solid waste management. The volunteer visited six regions of Bolivia in order to ascertain solid waste management issues in each region and assist eight organizational members of *LIDEMA* in improving their solid waste management campaigns. Based on these visits, he was able to further assist *LIDEMA* in their national “Quality of Life” campaign.

Business development activities this quarter have included further work towards developing local institutions that will eventually be able to manage technical and financial assistance for agricultural development, conservation and efforts to develop a collaborative commodities warehousing program. Regarding agricultural development, ACDI/VOCA’s country representative continues to work with *LIDEMA* and *FUNDAGRO* (Agricultural Extension Foundation) with the hope that these organizations will eventually be capable of financing and channeling ACDI/VOCA assistance.

The *Agrocapital Foundation* could become a viable option for institutionalizing ACDI/VOCA’s technical assistance in the areas of agriculture and rural finance development. The Foundation could position itself to compete favorably with other local development organizations for funds to support technical assistance in agriculture, rural finance and conservation development. Many donors agree that extensive technical assistance, combined with a well managed credit program, is needed to help local businesses and producer associations to become competitive and profitable. ACDI/VOCA and *Agrocapital* could make a good combination for competing with other service organizations (local and international) for funding and implementing technical and financial assistance programs.

Also in this quarter, the country representative facilitated—with the assistance of an ACDI/VOCA volunteer—in the formation of a national private conservation foundation called The Bolivian Alliance for Conservation. As an elected member of the Executive Committee, our country representative is helping the organization to become a legal entity in Bolivia and form an

international Board of Directors. If the Alliance succeeds it may be another way of institutionalizing ACDI/VOCA activities in favor of conservation in Bolivia.

In September, the country representative and the director of planning for the Chamber of Agriculture (CAO) in Eastern Bolivia attended the ACDI/VOCA-hosted international conference on grain storage and warehousing in Poland. While there they met with several ACDI/VOCA staff to decide on a course of action for developing a commodities warehousing project for Bolivia. Although a warehousing collateral law does exist in Bolivia, it pertains to all stored goods and is administered by the banking system, which tends to serve and protect the banks. In addition, specific regulations for commodities warehousing need to be developed prior to designing a plan for promoting its application. The CAO and ACDI/VOCA Bolivia agreed to develop a collaborative concept paper for a Bolivia proposal.

In terms of program direction, because there was a three-month delay in receiving counterpart funding at the beginning of the year, implementation of technical assignments is behind schedule. However, requests are now being received at a regular rate and project assignments are being developed. It is hoped that PL-480 will give ACDI/VOCA a three-month, no-cost extension through March 30, 1998 to complete the thirty-five assignments that were originally planned.

ACDI/VOCA Bolivia continues to evaluate the response and participation of the thirty-five organizations selected to benefit from the PL-480/Farmer-to-Farmer funded program. Many of these organizations have contacted ACDI/VOCA during the past year wanting to be included in the program and this may be the opportunity to benefit some of them.

ATTACHMENT A

ATTACHMENT B

TABLE ONE (Project Completions by Country, 10/01/96 - 09/30/97) – FY97

TABLE TWO (Number of Volunteers by Country, 10/01/96 - 09/30/97) – FY97

TABLE ONE (Projects)		TABLE TWO (Volunteers)	
COUNTRY	ACDI/VOCA	COUNTRY	ACDI/VOCA
Antigua		Antigua	
Belize		Belize	
Bolivia	15	Bolivia	15
Brazil		Brazil	
Cambodia	2	Cambodia	2
Costa Rica		Costa Rica	
Dominica		Dominica	
Dominican R.		Dominican R.	
Ecuador		Ecuador	
Ethiopia	15	Ethiopia	15
Guatemala		Guatemala	
Haiti		Haiti	
Honduras		Honduras	
Indonesia		Indonesia	
Kazakstan		Kazakstan	
Kenya		Kenya	
Malawi		Malawi	
Mexico		Mexico	
Mongolia		Mongolia	
Mozambique		Mozambique	
Nepal		Nepal	
Nevis		Nevis	
Panama		Panama	
Peru		Peru	
Philippines		Philippines	
Russia		Russia	
St. Lucia		St. Lucia	
St. Vincent		St. Vincent	
Salvador		Salvador	
Swaziland		Swaziland	
Uganda	1	Uganda	1
Uruguay		Uruguay	
Zimbabwe		Zimbabwe	
TOTAL	33	TOTAL	33

TABLE THREE (Female to Male Volunteer ratios, 10/01/96 - 09/30/97) – FY97

ACDI/VOCA	05 (F) to 28 (M)	1:6
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TABLE FOUR (Project Completions by category, 10/01/96 - 09/30/97) – FY97

PROJECT CATEGORY		ACDI/VOCA
1	Farmers	1
2A	Farm Association & Organizational Development	1
2B	Farm Association & Business Operations	1
2C	Farm Association & Environmental Improvement	1
3A	Agribusiness Enterprises & Organizational Development	
3B	Agribusiness Enterprises & Business Operations	2
4	Agri-Credit & Financial Institutions	2
5	Government	9
6	Educational Institutions	4
7	Youth Groups	2
8A	Environment & Sustainable Resource Management	5
8B	Environmental Education	1
8C	Environmental Policy and Law	
8D	Environment & Human Resource Development/Capacity-Building	3
9	Misc.	1
TOTAL		33

TABLE FIVE (Volunteers by State or Country, 10/01/96 - 09/30/97) – FY97

State or Country	No. of Volunteers	State or Country	No. of Volunteers
Alabama		Nebraska	1
Alaska		Nevada	
Arkansas	1	New Mexico	1
Arizona	1	New York	
California	5	South Carolina	2
Colorado	2	Ohio	1
Florida	1	Oregon	
Hawaii		Pennsylvania	1
Iowa		Tennessee	1
Idaho	3	Texas	1
Illinois		Utah	
Kansas		Virginia	
Louisiana		Washington	1
Maryland		Wisconsin	
Michigan		West Virginia	
Minnesota		<i>Guatemala</i>	4
Mississippi		<i>Philippines</i>	2
Missouri			
Montana	3		
		TOTALS	
			31*

* The discrepancy between the total number of volunteers by state (31) and the total number of volunteers completing projects (33) for FY97 is explained by the fact that during the course of FY97 a single volunteer is counted once against the state tally, but the same volunteer may be counted more than once against the completed-project tally because that volunteer served on more than one assignment during FY97.

ATTACHMENT C

ATTACHMENT D

ATTACHMENT E