

NP
630711
M629

PN-AAH-832

NEPAL
PROGRESS REPORT

for the period
1 July - 31 December 1979

DEVELOPMENT OF IAAS

Project 367-11-110-102

Contract AID/NESA-C-1197

Agency for International Development

in cooperation with

Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities, Inc.*

*Members are: University of Illinois, Indiana University, University of Iowa, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, The Ohio State University, and the University of Wisconsin.

SIX-MONTH REPORT

1 July - 31 December 1979

BACKGROUND

For four years the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities (MUCIA) has been actively collaborating with the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences (IAAS) of Tribhuvan University, under a contract with the United States Agency for International Development. The major objective of the project is to assist in the institutional development of the IAAS at Rampur so that it can better meet the manpower training needs of the agriculture sector of Nepal.

MUCIA's obligations include providing to the IAAS long and short-term United States staff members who can advise and participate in curriculum development, teaching and research; developing a program of participant training to provide graduate degrees for IAAS faculty at MUCIA member universities; and procuring and shipping of educational materials and project equipment to Rampur.

MUCIA has now had a team of long-term staff members in the field for four years. Nine short-term advisors have carried out assignments in Nepal. Thirteen IAAS faculty members are currently studying at MUCIA campuses. Seven IAAS faculty members have received M.S. degrees and returned to Nepal to resume their teaching. The work of curriculum revision, administrative reorganization, research development, and training of the IAAS staff continues.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The MUCIA field team was complete with the arrival of an advisor in Rural Development. No short-term staff were utilized during the reporting period due to the uncertainty of scheduled classes. Student strikes or threat of strike continued.

Staff development continued with the arrival in the U.S. of six additional participant trainees. Four staff completed U.S. degrees and returned to Nepal. Research activities at Rampur increased and upgrading of academic programs continued.

A 17 - 22 February 1980 date was set for the third Joint Annual Review.

Staff Development

Six participant trainees arrived in the U.S., were given orientation and started their studies at the MUCIA institutions. Four trainees in the U.S. completed the M.S. degree and returned to Nepal. They were:

Narayan Kunwar, Agricultural Journalism

Krishna P. Sharma, Agronomy

Chandra M. Shrestha, Dairy Science

Pradeep M. Tulachan, Agricultural Economics

Identification of potential participants for 1980 began. English proficiency exams were given to IAAS staff and sent to the U.S. for scoring.

The Team Leader and Dean Basnyat traveled to India where they visited several universities, ICAR, IARI and USAID/Delhi to discuss participant placement, acceptance of IAAS graduates and exchange professors.

In the U.S. a weekend workshop was held 28 - 30 September 1979 for all participants sponsored by the project. MUCIA professors in the areas of

soil science, rural development, animal science and sociology also participated. The theme of workshop discussions was "Needs and Strategies for Staff and Program Development at IAAS". Papers were presented by participant trainees as well as the MUCIA professors. All participants were enthusiastic about the results of the discussions held.

MUCIA advisors in Rampur met with Division staff to plan semester course offerings and teaching assignments. In addition, staff seminars and course planning workshops were held. These workshops covered areas such as preparation of a master schedule of classes, course study for each class being taught and the selection of appropriate teaching methods, materials and evaluation.

A one-day retreat was held in Bharatpur for Phase II construction planning in November. Two representatives from each IAAS Division, the IAAS Dean, IAAS Project Manager, and the MUCIA team were involved. All attendees took part in the discussion and showed interest in the planning process.

Seminars in Agricultural Development have been arranged by the Plant Science advisor. The seminars will be held every two weeks and are currently meeting at the advisor's home.

Organization

The policies for conversion of the Agricultural Education students to the Diploma in Agriculture were reviewed. Problems associated with the program were resolved.

An Institutional Curriculum Committee was established to provide overall guidance and coordination on curriculum matters. The Research Committee was reconstituted to review proposed research. A committee was also formed to coordinate the new "Central Stores" for planning and moving phases. When complete purchasing, receiving and storage will be in one location.

Program Development

A great deal of time has been spent in course development and on course sequence. Planning workshops for IAAS staff were held (see Staff Development). Course outlines, practicums and lectures have been improved.

Progress was made in identifying additional research activities for the year with other projects continuing. Over 60 percent of the Plant Science staff are involved in research with projects underway in rice, soybean and leafy vegetable trials as well as cooperative trials in wheat, lentils and chickpeas. A cattle crossbreeding project has been approved in the Animal Science Division. The Rural Development advisor is beginning collaborative research with Indiana University on migration and pursuing possible collaboration with the Integrated Cereals Project.

Administrative Support Programs

A central stores has been established for all equipment and supplies for the Institute with a good inventory of all items. This will provide better use of equipment on hand for teaching and research projects.

A regular maintenance program was developed in collaboration with the IAAS Project Manager. The Project Manager traveled to selected Indian institutions to discuss their maintenance programs.

MUCIA staff worked with the Dean of IAAS in preparing a job description for the farm manager position.

Progress continued in the development of the livestock farm. Construction was completed of the swine finishing shed and construction was started on the dairy quality control laboratory.

The MUCIA team provided assistance in developing the Phase II building program. Included in the planning was an assessment of the needs for

laboratory equipment, supplies, furniture and related items when the buildings are completed. Consultation on landscape development and future maintenance was also provided.

MUCIA Team Management

Dr. Paul F. Kaplan, long-term advisor in Rural Development, arrived in Nepal in late August with his family. Orientation and briefing sessions were conducted. An extensive language training program was started.

The MUCIA team continued to work closely with USAID in connection with future construction at IAAS. They completed a "Client's Brief" and submitted it to USAID. The local currency budget for 1980 was submitted to USAID and approval was received.

Dates for the third Joint Annual Review were established. The MUCIA team, in conjunction with IAAS, Tribhuvan University and USAID, began program planning.

Office of Campus Coordinator -- East Lansing

The appointment of the long-term advisor in Rural Development was arranged. Assistance was given in the logistics of the family's move to Nepal. Orientation was arranged for the six newly arrived participant trainees who began their studies at U.S. institutions. They were:

Uma S. Gupta, Agronomy, University of Illinois

Jaya R. Joshi, Soil Science, University of Wisconsin

Bhairav R. Khakural, Soil Science, Michigan State University

Fanindra P. Neupane, Entomology, University of Wisconsin

Shanta M. Shakya, Horticulture, Ohio State University

Ram C. Sharma, Agronomy, Ohio State University

The coordinator's staff arranged a workshop which was attended by all contract participants. Later in the Fall Term each campus was visited where meetings were held with the participants and their academic advisors. These meetings were to better acquaint the advisors with the project goals and to discuss the participants' progress and adjustment into the U.S. educational system.

The staff carried out the usual logistical and administrative support of the project and participants and maintained liaison with the MUCIA organization, the MUCIA team and AID/Washington.

PLANS AND PRIORITIES

The last half of 1979 continued to be a period of student unrest and uncertainty for institutional planning and program implementation. However, it is important that the work of IAAS and the MUCIA team did continue. More emphasis was given to developing course materials and in applied research. Some of the students' concerns are being resolved through changes in the teaching program and degree options. The MUCIA team is making a real contribution in this process.

The Joint Annual Review planned for February 1980 will provide an opportunity to examine these changes and future options for institutional development at IAAS. By better serving student needs and those of the rural poor in Nepal, the IAAS can strengthen its position through a more focused participation in the agricultural development process. We will carefully examine how the MUCIA/AID/Nepal Project can increase its support to these activities.