

# Office Memorandum

USAID/TUNISIA

TO : The Files

FROM : William F. Litwiller, Project Manager

SUBJECT : Evaluation Report of the Livestock Feed Production and Utilization Project 664-0293

DATE: December 6, 1980

REF.: Evaluation Report on the USAID/Tunisia Livestock Feed Production and Utilization Project 664-0293 dated October, 1980 by A.L. Nellum and Associates

The objective of this memorandum is to address the recommendations of the referenced report and to state GOT and PASA team reaction and action that are being taken to implement certain recommendations. Although for several reasons, including structure of the team and the short duration of the evaluation, the evaluation lacks the depth and understanding desired, it does contain many useful recommendations that are proving helpful to the GOT and PASA team.

In the attached report, the Summary of the Recommendations appears on pages 8 - 10. This memo only includes the response or comment concerning these recommendations.

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## RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendation Number

- 1 Two training seminars are felt needed, and we support their continuation. However, they should encompass the total Projet Intégré subject matter, not just livestock.
- 2 Their attendance should be authorized according to their functional needs, not an open policy that will create absenteeism from their job.
- 3 The evaluation team must have overlooked the fact (see page 16) that the Economics Section scheduled 24 regional mini-seminars of one day duration during the year (held 20). The evaluation team must have also overlooked the 11 regional farm planning seminars also of one day duration that were held with agents from 18 governorats during the year. The bovine, ovine, forage and economic sections participated in these seminars.  
  
According to agents' prior experience and current functional needs, more than two days are required for the staff in many governorats.
- 4 The chapter on Dairy Cattle production is already in the process of revision. The chapter on "Dual Purpose Cattle Production" is not being revised because the major emphasis in Projet Intégré is on milk production and this chapter is adequate to serve our future needs in this subject.
- 5 This chapter will be rewritten by the Tunisian staff and appropriate consultation with local veterinarians will be included.
- 6 The perennial forages section is in the process of being strengthened.
- 7 The evaluation team must have gained an incorrect impression of the role of Projet Intégré. In OEP, Projet Intégré is assigned the primary responsibility of conducting educational programs to increase forage production and its utilization in producing milk and meat. Secondary emphasis is placed on beef production as a complementary product from the dairy herd. Projet Intégré is not emphasizing mixed grazing systems. The FAO/SIDA project within OEP has the primary responsibility for bull fattening and beef cattle production.  
  
An M.S. in nutrition will not address the husbandry practices needs of the project. An M.S. in animal husbandry would more nearly address the project requirements.
- 8 The evaluation team did not attend a demonstration field day and, therefore, was not aware of the bulletins, line drawings, charts, and slides that are being used by the project.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

Recommendation  
Number

- 9 This is a valid criticism and this phase is being strengthened.
- 10 This recommendation is being implemented.
- 11 This recommendation is being implemented.
- 12 This recommendation is being implemented.
- 13 Agreed.
- 14 Agreed.
- 15 Has already been initiated and will be extended.
- 16 Has been emphasized and will continue to be.
- 17 Seed Production is not on a two-year participation period.  
It is a continuous program with participating farmers.
- 18 Each section has specific functions which are full time and reach out in separate directions of Tunisia.
- 19 A valid recommendation, and is being implemented.
- 20 The development of winter pasture for dairy cows and fattening bulls has been a successful Projet Intégré demonstration and the program has been increased by 40% this year. However, for the winter forage production for green chop there is also a critical need and this phase of forage production is also being expanded.
- 21 Forage production and feeding has always been integrated with creep and lead feeding demonstrations. Normally the first action completed on a farm is to help the farmer establish or improve his forage production with assistance on livestock management a follow-up action. In the future, creep and lead feeding concentrates will not receive special emphasis because the practice is now widely adopted, especially since concentrates (due to subsidies) have been priced lower than hay.
- 22 Agreed.
- 23 A valid recommendation. Efforts are underway to accomplish this recommendation.
- 24 The report notes that 40.8% of the cultivated farms are less than 5 has. (Annex N). The latest bi-annual reports which were made available to the evaluation team supply the following information:

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

Recommendation  
Number

24  
(continued)

	<u>Size of farm with demonstration<sup>1/</sup></u>	<u>Distribution of farms by size<sup>2/</sup></u>
5 has. and less	1277 - 71.2%	40.8%
5.1 - 10 has.	253 - 14.1%	22.4%
10 - 20 has.	131 - 9.3%	19.7%
More than 20 has.	133 - 7.4%	17.1%

It should be further noted that 85.3% of the forage demonstrations were on farms of 10 has. or less while the percent of total farms of this size in Tunisia was 63.2%.

These data show that the project demonstrations are directed more intensively to the small farm size than the normal distribution of farm size in Tunisia.

<sup>1/</sup> Bi-annual Report, Spring 1980, Projet Intégré, O.E.P.

<sup>2/</sup> Bureau du Plan, MinAg, 1974.

25

Free inputs to larger private dairy farms has not been general practice. Annex L Table shows the average herd size in 1979 was 7 head for demonstrations and these include some larger state-owned farms which have never received free concentrate inputs from Projet Intégré. The average size flock within the integrated farm program is 18 head.

The demonstration program of Projet Intégré has been directed to flocks of 50 to 100 head. However, the sheep advisor and the Director last August agreed that changes would be made in the demonstration program. This will include a total management package and implemented in 1981 and directed to flocks of under 50 head.

It should be noted that the sheep component of the project has only been in operation for 18 months and a major change in direction is already underway.

26

It should be noted that 16% of the central staff is female and that regional staffs also include females. Advisers work with staff regardless of sex. More females are in training at agricultural schools and presently some are in training in regional offices.

27

Seminars have been used to improve these skills. In fact, the last seminar included such topics as extension methods and use of visual aids. A copy of this program was provided to the evaluation team for their review. The next seminar will also include presentations on extension methods.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

Recommendation  
Number

- 28 OEP and other MOA officials are aware of this problem and have made every effort to staff positions that are vacated. We do not think that promotions and assignment of greater responsibilities should be stopped in order to keep specialist in a position for a project. It must also be recognized that replacements are not always immediately available.
- 29 All parties agree to this recommendation, and plans have been drawn up for transportation. In fact this project has more vehicles per agent than any other extension activity in Tunisia. The overall allocation of vehicles to various agencies in Tunisia limits the number of vehicles that OEP can procure. There is constant pressure on the part of the USAID and OEP to assure adequate transport for agents.
- 30 Agree to this recommendation if funds are available within GOT and USAID.
- 31 OEP is a very specialized agency - Forage Production and Utilization. Other organizations in Ministry of Agriculture and Education seem more appropriate to address this need.
- 32 Efforts to establish a Seed Growers' Association have been under discussion for nearly a year. The organizational meeting was held December 4, 1980.
- 33 USAID/Tunis and the MOA are currently in the PP design stage of a range management program, in response to GOT initiatives.
- 34 Some of the central team will remain in Tunis; Dairy, Economics, Seed Production. However, the range and sheep sections will be located in the regions where closest to the rangeland and highest concentration of sheep; probably Sidi Bou Zid.
- 35 The "Direction Technique" is scheduled to be operative in early 1981 and will function as the central team with assistance from the USAID PASA advisors.
- 36 This is not a practical recommendation in view of the organizational constraints of OEP and the research institute.
- 37 OEP would welcome this addition to the central staff and would also welcome USAID technical assistance.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

Recommendation  
Number

- 38 This recommendation is being implemented as all concentrate inputs with cattle demonstrations will terminate on January 1, 1981. It should be noted that this trend has been underway for several years - fertilizer was eliminated in 1976. Concentrate for ovine demonstrations and free seed will continue in 1981, however, these inputs are to be phased out in 82 and 83.
- 39 Only limited quantities of molasses are available in Tunisia and are presently being used in feed mills and in liquid form on farms. It would be difficult to justify drying facilities and energy cost for this limited amount. We do not deem this to be a problem since the present quantity of molasses is being fully utilized in animal feed.
- 40 OEP is in the process of implementing this recommendation with consideration to the total farm resources and broad government support being utilized to improve the management of agricultural resources. This includes artificial insemination, dairy production records, veterinary services, forage production and farm management systems as well as marketing of farm products.