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SUBJ: PROP FOR DIVERSIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1. SUBJECT PROP HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY THE PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE AND APPROVED FOR FY 1972 FUNDING ONLY, SO AS NOT TO IMPEDE PROJECT MOMENTUM OF ACTIVITIES ALREADY UNDERWAY. BEFORE APPROVAL FOR FUNDING BEYOND FY 1972 CAN BE CONSIDERED, HOWEVER, THE MISSION IS REQUESTED TO RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

2. WHILE THE MISSION'S INTENTION OF OPTIMIZING SHORT-TERM RESULTS BY IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH FINDINGS HAS MERIT, THE REVIEWING COMMITTEE FELT THIS APPROACH WARRANTED CERTAIN CAUTIONS. SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IS THE NEED FOR LONG-TERM PLANNING TO ANTICIPATE POTENTIAL MARKETING AND DISEASE RELATED PROBLEMS IN RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION PROGRAMS. IT WAS ALSO FELT THAT THE SCOPE AND EXPANSE OF THE NUMBER OF CROPS COVERED BY THE PROPOSED PROJECT MIGHT BE TOO AMBITIOUS, CONSIDERING THE RATHER LIMITED MAGNITUDE OF US TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND COUNTRY POTENTIAL FOR

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FOLLOW-UP. ALTERNATIVELY, THE USAID MIGHT CONSIDER CONCENTRATING ON A FEW SELECTED CROPS AND CARRY THROUGH ON EVERY PHASE FROM RESEARCH TO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION, DISEASE CONTROL, MARKETING, PROCESSING AND EVEN POSSIBLE EXPORTATION POTENTIALS.

3. THE REVIEWING COMMITTEE NOTED THE ABSENCE OF BASELINE DATA IN THE PROP. THE PROP OMITTS ESSENTIAL BENCHMARK DATA FROM WHICH PROJECT PROGRESS CAN BE MEANINGFULLY MEASURED. FOR EXAMPLE, HOW DO WE STAND (IN TERMS OF COSTS, PRICES, RATES OF RETURN, VOLUME) IN RELATION TO PRESENT PRODUCTION CONSUMPTION AND EXPORT OF EACH PROPOSED NON-TRADITIONAL CROP? IN QUANTIFIABLE TERMS, WHERE DO WE EXPECT TO BE ONE YEAR FROM NOW WITHOUT SUCH DATA? HOW CAN WE DECIDE TWO YEARS FROM NOW WHERE WE SHOULD BE? AT WHAT POINT SHOULD WE STOP PROVIDING ADDITIONAL HELP, TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS OR STOP ASSISTANCE ALTOGETHER?

4. THE COMMITTEE FELT IT IMPORTANT THAT THE PROP ADDRESS ITSELF IN MORE DETAIL TO THE QUESTION OF GUYANA'S HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS AS IT RELATES TO GOG POLICIES AND PRIORITIES FOR RESEARCH, CREDIT, INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, ETC. FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. BASELINE DATA ON EMPLOYMENT AND PERSONAL INCOME SHOULD ALSO BE INCLUDED.

5. NOTE WAS MADE THAT THERE IS NO INDICATION IN THE PROP OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH PRESENT TECHNOLOGY IS BEING DIFFUSED BY MEANS OF AN EXTENSION SERVICE. THE COMMITTEE ALSO WONDERED IF THE MISSION HAD EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITIES OF TRAINING FACILITIES OTHER THAN THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA. PARTICULAR MENTION WAS MADE OF CIAT AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF SENDING PARTICIPANTS THERE TO OBSERVE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

6. THE PROP FAILS TO IDENTIFY UNDP AND OTHER DONOR INTEREST AND CONTRIBUTIONS, BOTH ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL IN DIVERSIFYING GUYANESE AGRICULTURE. IT FURTHER INDICATES (ON THE PROP FACE SHEET) THAT COOPERATING COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN QUITE LOW IN THE PAST, MOREOVER, NONE IS PROJECTED FOR THE FUTURE. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING, BASED ON CP NARRATIVE RECEIVED FROM THE MISSION, THAT THE LOCAL CURRENCIES GENERATED FROM PL-480 TITLE I SALES AGREEMENTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE UTILIZED TO SUPPORT THE EBINI RESEARCH STATION. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE IF SOME ESTIMATE IN CASH AND KIND CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH THE GOG HAS

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AGREED TO COULD BE SHOWN BOTH ON THE FACE SHEET AND IN THE NARRATIVE.

7. FINALLY, A LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX, AS PRESCRIBED IN M.O.1025.1, IS REQUESTED IN ORDER TO FACILITATE AND EXPEDITE FURTHER PROJECT APPRAISAL.

GP-4. ROGERS

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