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Annual Report

Contract
GOB/AID 511-93

Resettlement Advisor, Project - CHANE/PIRAY SAN JULIAN
Loan 511-T-050

July 1, 1976.....June 30, 1977

Submitted by:

Harry Peacock

The twelve month period between July 1, 1976 and June 30, 1977 witnessed a change in the Chané/Piray - San Julian Newlands Development Program from a project characterized by discord, delay and demoralization to one in which a course of constructive activity was clearly discernable. The discord expressed early in the year had its roots in and continued to draw nourishment from a series of incidents which occurred in 1975, a time when lines of communication between the National Institute of Colonization and AID/Bolivia were poorly established and project procedures poorly understood. Lack in continuity such as changes in Project Coordinator and Field Administrative Chief on the part of INC and repeated changes in Project Manager for AID may have prolonged the poor communication; though at the same time personnel changes have provided an opportunity to leave behind some of the more emotionally packed disputes between the agencies. There has developed not only a much improved flow of information between the two agencies, but there has been a corresponding elevation in the trust level. There exists at the close of this reporting a prevailing attitude that INC and AID are cooperating in a common task. The lack of trust and cooperation, at times the cause and at other times the effect of poor communication, has been a major factor in the retardation of the project as a whole.

During the period July, 1976 - June, 1977 the arrival of project machinery made possible settlement of 12 villages in the San Julian Project area according to schedule. Heavy rains in May produced a variety of problems related to operation of machinery and logistical support. Due to the initiative of the field project administrative chief and support from the La Paz office of INC, these problems were dealt with in such a way as to keep village settlement on schedule.

Attention given to the San Julian Project by AID technical person

ell has produced advances in the development farm management procedures applicable to the special conditions of the geographic zone and the usual limitations placed on new colonists. Currently under development are projections for farm development based on 1) Slash-and-burn agriculture, 2) Hand clearing of land with planting of and fruit trees and other perennials, 3) Planting of pastures for livestock, and 4) land clearing of stumps and roots to permit tillage practices. All options contemplate use of credit.

The greatest single agronomic problem being faced in the colonization zones at this time is the control of underisable vegetation; this includes weeds and second growth jungle.

The above mentioned alternatives in farm development practices are calculated to provide guidelines for continuous cultivation that would increase production and provide for increasing the value of the land. Institute of Colonization agronomists are taking as their major objective for the following year the control of second growth jungle.

The Institute of Colonization and AID personell have recognized the urgency of defining boundaries of the existing private properties in the San Julian Colonization Zone. Work on this problem is under way, but this must continue to be a major concern during the next two years. With the San Julian experience as a guide, care should be taken in areas of future settlement programs to clear the areas well in advance as with regard to existing private properties or other third party claims. It is not enough to say that there is a decree. Aerial photography may show areas in which actually agricultural work is or has taken place. Efforts should be made to contact all persons stating a claim to land in these projected colonization areas. New colon-

ists are not in a position to deal with land owners or logging companies with regard to property rights.

Legal structures now provide for the Instituto Nacional de Colonización to give titles to lands in colonization zones without going through the Agrarian Reform Office. This has been considered a major step in providing a faster system to get land titles to the colonists and thereby encourage investment in the land and increased productive capacity. However, it should be emphasized that this new procedure is not yet operative. It is important that serious attention be given to the development of those procedures that will allow colonists settled in 1976 to receive their land titles in 1978. There are approximately 500 colonists living in San Julian who should receive their property titles during this following year.

If attention is not given to this matter during the current year, the back log will quickly place the INC in conditions similar to those in which Agrarian Reform now encounters itself. This should be considered in light of pending colonization programs, such as that in Rurrenavaque. It is urgent that the tituling procedure be clearly defined and that the process be implemented during the next three months in San Julian.

Following in urgency after the question of providing titles, is the matter of selection of candidates for colonization. This matter was commented on in quarterly report dated Oct. 1/76. Dec. 31/76. Also, the project advisor during the second half of Oct. in meetings with the AID director stated the opinion that when groups are selected as candidates for colonization outside the normal patterns of migration, or worse still if they are directly recruited or given incentives to mi-

grate, the comparative results that can be expected are: 1) higher drop-out rates, 2) greater manifestations of dependency, 3) more hostility toward government agencies connected with the project, and 4) slower rates of economic development. During the 1976 settlement period the INC was advised that provisions should be made to receive up to 200 colonists from the south of Potosí where conflict between two villages, was to be settled on the basis of transfer of campesinos from that area to San Julian. It should be noted that the goals that were being focussed upon at that time were not the stated goals of the Colonization Project. The results of this activity follow an old pattern and can now be reported.

Of the 80 colonists enrolled and given physical examinations in the villages of origin, 40 arrived in the colonization area. After two months this number was reduced to eight... a drop out rate of 80% as compared to a standard drop out rate after two years of 20% in the nucleo settlements in San Julian.

The question of using the San Julian Project as a solution to the problem of unemployed minors was discussed and considered appropriate, although fortunately no action was taken.

So long as the colonization program under consideration is treated as an effort to facilitate a spontaneous pioneer movement in the Bolivian society, the project goals are realistic. To the extent, the San Julian project is used in response to social or political brush fires, the project goals are being sacrificed in favor of other objectives.

Currently under discussion is the possibility of receiving repatriates from Argentina in colonization programs. This involves an

exceptionally complicated social process and should be dealt with as a special situation, not assuming that programs designed for the migration of highland farmers to tropical farm areas would be adequate for the social, psychological and technical re-adjustments necessary for repatriates from Argentina. (We do not use a butter knife to cut steak). Most Bolivians who have migrated to Argentinian cities have passed through a process of social transition from Bolivian rural to Bolivian urban and to foreign urban. At each change there have been deep adjustments made in behavior patterns and values. These changes involve not only the taking on of new patterns, but also the rejection of old patterns. If an individual perceives he is being obligated to "regress" toward rejected patterns of behavior or value systems, the resistance will be extremely high.

The working relationship between the United Churches Committee and the National Institute of Colonization in providing orientation for new colonists, has more than fulfilled the expectations set forth in the contract to which the two parties are subscribed.

Inputs by both agencies have exceeded contractual commitments. On the basis of the 1977 settlement experiences, the INC-CIU orientation program is being designed to attend a maximum of 30 nucleos during 1978. Personnel needed for the orientation of 1,200 colonists and families, will be recruited during the last quarter of 1977 and the first quarter of 1978, and will receive training during the months of April and May of 1978.

Not only percentage wise, but actually numerically, there will be a decline next year in experienced personnel involved in Orientation of New Colonists. There are anticipated to be no more than six staff members with over one year of experience in the field among the expected

35 member interdisciplinary technical team. Attention should be given to structuring replicable administrative modles and recording operational procedures so as to mitigate against loss of experiences derived from previous programs.

Work in the Chané/Piray area during the past year has been limited to those activities of Agricultural Extension carried on by INC agricultural personell in cooperation with CIAT personell in as much as work has not begun on the construction of the all weather access road into the zone, nor has the credit component of the project received final approval. As soon as the well drilling equipment purchased with loan funds arrives in Santa Cruz, this equipment should carry out the drilling operation at the projected Agricultural Services Center near San Pedro, as indicated in the project plan. The development of the Agricultural Services Center and the implementation of the Credit Program are essential to bring the large areas of second growth jungle located in the zone back into agricultural production and avoid the abandonment of large number of small farmers from the area.

Recognizing the tendency of colonization areas to expand, it would be advisable to consider the areas northwest and southeast of the current San Julian project in regard to potential for settlement of small farmers. Satellite photography indicates that the area to the northwest is poorly drained with numerous swamps. At present mahogany is being exploited from the area by companies with logging concessions. To the south-west the area is known to be relatively dry and well drained. Experiences of Mennonite farmers near this area, with similar climatic conditions and missionary work among the Ayoré indians, indicate that colonization would be possible by applying procedures adapted to the climatic conditions.

Observations by light aircraft as well as on the ground should be made during the 1977 dry season in both zones. Future aerial photography of the San Julian project zone should include the area from the rail road 80 Km. southeast of Los Cafes to 200 Kms. northwest of los Cafes.