

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

PROJECT TITLE : Improved Rural Technology (RDA Outreach)
PROJECT NUMBER : 698-0407.16 PROJECT AMOUNT : \$50,000
FIRST OBLIGATION: FY80 FINAL OBLIGATION: FY80
FINAL INPUT : FY84
COUNTRY : SWAZILAND

1. Summary of Services Performed and Goods Furnished:

Under this Project, USAID/Swaziland provided funds to establish a training and demonstration site at the Mahamba-Zombodze Rural Development Area (RDA) and to expand the training and demonstration site at the Northern RDA. The sites are called Village Technology Units (VTUs). The two Village Technology Units are part of a larger Women in Development UNDP/UNICEF project. AID inputs included training materials, construction materials, tool kits, training per diem and one vehicle. The Government of Swaziland (GOS) provided staff salaries, one vehicle, sites and buildings. In addition, the United Nations contributed a technical expert to be the counterpart to the Project Manager.

2. Status of Completion of Project Elements:

All of the elements of the project have now been completed. The training and demonstration site at the Mahamba-Zombodze RDA is now fully operational. Two Swazi trainers at the site are training local Swazis in the construction of various appropriate technology devices and also in the construction of simple household and building materials using appropriate technology methods.

In addition, the training and demonstration site at the Northern RDA is fully functional and has three Swazi trainers, including a trainer in welding.

Approximately \$44,000 of the planned \$50,000 will have been expended after all disbursements are made.

3. Summary of Project Accomplishments:

The project fully accomplished its purpose of expanding the Village Technology Program to the Mahamba-Zombodze RDA and expanding the program at the Northern RDA. Over 160 Swazis have been trained in areas such as cinder block making, carpentry, cement jar making to produce water or grain storage containers and welding. Following completion of courses, trainees are given loans to purchase tools, cinder-ram machines or welding equipment to start their own enterprises. Forty-six graduates have been assisted to establish businesses, either in groups or individually, within their own homesteads. Each earns an average of E80 (\$67) per month. Five cinder-ram machines and four toolkits have been issued to graduates on a loan basis. In the Mahamba-Zombodze RDA site, a graduate who purchased a cinder-ram machine hired three Swazis, trained them in block making and grossed over E5000 (\$4167) in the first six months of business. This successful venture has created a huge demand for training in the area. During the project, three staff members were trained who now run the VTU at Mahamba-Zombodze, over 15 types of devices were introduced to the homesteads through the outreach program, over 5000 people from within and outside Swaziland visited the VTU sites, over 250 requests for training and supply of devices have been received, and a core of dedicated staff has been trained to manage and operate the two VTUs.

4. Further Inputs Expected into the Project: None

5. Lessons Learned:

The project started very slowly with delays in receiving commodities and in construction activities. Also, the death of the highly respected Swazi project director in early 1983 created implementation problems. A new director has not yet been named. The project PACD was extended twice for a total of two years. In the past two years, though, the VTUs have been institutionalized with trained staff and good facilities. However, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) did not budget for the training costs of the program, and thus the program may not continue as originally envisioned. Since the AID project was part of a larger, still ongoing UNDP/UNICEF WID project, the MOAC and the GOS in general did not

appreciate the fact that AID funding was being discontinued despite repeated letters and discussions to this effect. The MOAC was perhaps too dependent on donor funding for this program although it did establish positions and hire personnel to staff the VTUs. More attention should have been given to finding alternative ways to fund the training costs such as charging participants or selling materials built by the trainees. A USAID official attempted to secure MOAC funding to continue the training but was not successful.

6. Recommendations for Further Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation:

a. The training programs at the VTUs should be monitored. The MOAC will be encouraged to appoint a Director and to fund training costs. If necessary, continued assistance to the program officials in finding alternative sources of funding for training should be given. USAID officials will encourage local Peace Corps Volunteers to assist the graduates of the training program and perhaps attempt to obtain funds for selected training through the Small Project Assistance (SPA) program.

b. The USAID/Swaziland Controller will de-obligate the unexpended balance when the final financial reports are received.

Date:

5/16/84

Project Officers:

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Date:

5/15/84

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