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MONTHLY REPORT - MARCH 1985

CHAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

EXPERIENCE, INCORPORATED

CONTRACT NUMBER: 511-0543-C-00-4214

PROJECT NUMBER: 511-0543

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CHAPARE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT 511-0543

EXPERIENCE, INCORPORATED

I. Activities

A. Administrative and Institutional

Unloaded and distributed matresses and box springs delivered fro[illegible] to EI staff residences 26 March.

Connected new telephone to EI office in Cochabamba on 27 March. The number is 49951.

Stove and refrigerator received on loan from USAID/La Paz for Dr. Alvarado.

Dr. Owens worked with IBTA/Chapare Director, the two station directors and the administrator for three weeks on the IBTA/Chapare Budget.

Dr. Owens met with CORDECO representatives.

Received short wave radio on loan from Automobile Club on 8 March. A compatible radio is located at the Villa Tunari Staff House.

Two meetings were held with SDTB, IBTA/Chapare and E.I. concerning coordination of activities. It was agreed that the groups should meet a minimum of once a month.

Contract signed for security fence at Alvarado's house.

Dr. Owens and IBTA director Francisco Zannier reviewed furniture requirements for the IBTA/Chapare liaison office in Cochabamba.

Radio codes were developed and distributed to potential users to increase security.

Dr. Owens and Patricia Violand obtained pro-formas for carpets and drapes for the EI residences.

Dr. Owens worked with IBTA/Chapare director Francisco Zannier in developing a guide for a five year work plan.

EI Staff meeting - discussed were needs for maps for operating effectiveness and analysis of TQA costs, plans to be developed with US Consul William Scarborough for emergency evacuation plan.

Dr. Mondoñedo metwith IBTA/Chapare personnel and a private entrepreneur interested in research in flower production in the Chapare.

Drs. Owens and Taylor met with IBTA/Chapare and SDTB personnel to evaluate the Quarterly budget projections, the four year budget projections and an operating plan for the next four years.

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Lopez, Taylor, Bieber, Mondoñedo and Alvarado were in the Chapare from 27 February to 9 March and from March 18 to March 22. Alvarado and Bieber were in the Chapare from 28 March to 31 March. Dr. Owens was in the Chapare 8 March with John Fasullo and David Johnson DD/RDO USAID/Bolivia for the closing ceremony of the first Farmer/Promotor training course.

IBTA/Chapare and EI met with Roger Hurtubise of Sociedad Nueva. They proposed an interesting school garden project for the Chapare.

Business cards for EI staff were ordered.

Dr. Alvarado was approved by the IBTA/Chapare director to be EI representative on the committee for Research project development and guidance.

EI Staff meeting to plan logistics of expected furniture arrival from Santa Cruz. The furniture will be delivered in pieces and needs to be assembled in Cochabamba.

Dr. Owens and Taylor participated in a meeting with IBTA/Chapare and SDTB to review IBTA/Chapare budget for 1985 - 1988 and the work plan for the next four years. Of major concern was proposed research and how its impact would be evaluated.

New personnel added to the IBTA/Chapare Staff list during the month of March.

Dr. Bieber moved out of Hotel into house with no furniture or electrical appliances on March 14.

B. Technical

1. Meetings

A meeting was held between Joe Lopez and Mr. Castro from La Paz to discuss cooperation in Mr. Castro's thesis on Cardomom for his Chemical Engineering degree. The cooperation will benefit both parties since the information will be used to develop a feasibility study on the production of Cordomom in Bolivia.

Joe Lopez met with the New Society Organization. This organization was referred by Kate-Jones Patron (the nutrition asst. director from USAID/Bolivia). The organization has three projects in the Chapare. There is a desire to Coordinate projects with IBTA/Chapare.

Drs. Taylor and Alvarado participated in a meeting at the Canadian Institute of Technology in Chimoré. In attendance were the Institute Director; Carlos Montaño, Carlos Alarcón and Enrique Jaldin of SDTB; Lic. Jorge Noda of USAID/PL 480 program; Chimoré community leaders; colonization leaders, rural development leaders and several students and former students. The

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reason for the meeting was to discuss reinstatement of PL 480 funding for various uses including scholarships. USAID stated that funding would not be forthcoming until certain reports and projections were submitted. A committee of one member from each representative group volunteered to help the director. After on day's work the reports were submitted to USAID.

Drs. Taylor, Alvarado and Rodriguez met with SDTB to formalize map needs for the project and determine a particular size projection that would uninformly be used by all agencies in the Itegrated Chapare Development Project.

Taylor, Lopez, Lastra and Aldunate met with Bubusama farmers in Quillacollo on 16 March.

Two meetings were held with representatives of the Canadian funded development program SONU to discuss potential cooperative work in the community of Nuevo Chapare. Of special interest was a pork nursery program.

Taylor, Lopez, Lastra, Inturias and Vallejos met with Rio 24 Federation President to plan logistics of a week long trip to establish six nurseries and one demonstration farm.

Dr. Taylor met with the Sindicato President from Puerto San Francisco to program that community's activities during the week-long nursery development campaign on April. March 25.

Lopez attended a meeting in the community of Don Pablo with several IBTA personnel. The community had invited IBTA and E.I. for orientation of the IBTA/Chapare program. They appeared quite interested and will contact IBTA/Chapare at a later date for an additional meeting later.

Dr. Owens, Alvarado and Lopez, Aldunate, Escobar, Rojas along with Dr. Montaño and Dave Johnston of AID attended a meeting at La Fortaleza in Sinahota to discuss the possibility of IBTA intervention in the community. This is considered a great advancement since this community is one of the major centers for coca marketing.

2. Field Trips

Lopez and Taylor with two IBTA technicians, and two farmers traveled to a farm past the Cesarsama bridge to evaluate potential of this farm as a representative demonstration farm. The farm was next to the main road to Puerto Villarroel with sandy soils and half the farm on the side of a hill with the other being bottom land.

Drs. Alvarado, Bieber & Mondoñedo with Enrique Jaldin evaluated the Villa Tunari and Mariposa nurseries for potentially usable materials. March 4.

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Drs. Alvarado and Mondoñedo traveled with Carlos Alarcón by foot into to Alto Paraiso hill country in Micro region 6 to evaluate the potential benefit to the area and the project of extending technical assistance to the area. Due to the three to four hour walk required, it was determined that the impact of technical assistance to any large volume heavy crop would be minimal or even counter-productive.

3. Investigation

Dr. Bieber translated Cassava papers from Nigeria into Spanish to be utilized for Yuca trial in progress.

Dr. Mondoñedo and IBTA/Chapare personnel initiated preparation of Crop Calender for Chapare area.

Dr. Alvarado assisted research and extension personnel of both experiment stations in formalizing the research objectives and crops to be given priority during the life of the project. Individual research proposals were collated for review and correction before submition for official review.

Dr. Bieber wrote several tentative research papers involving corn, legumes and Cassava.

Dr. Bieber and Franklin Lastra planned a horticultural demonstration plot for Chipiriri, secured seeds and planted the seed beds for later transplanting.

Dr. Alvarado completed initial conversations with CIAT and IBTA/Chapare in relation to use of rock phosphate in the Chapare.

Several consultant's reports were read for applicability of the data and recommendations to the specific micro climatic regions in the Chapare.

4. Training Activities

A. On March 4 - 8 a preservice training program was held for 19 community designated "promotores" (paratechnicians) trainees. They were from microregions 2,3 and 5 of the Chapare. The general objectives of the training was for the participants to develop to knowledge and skills for the following:

1. Comprehend therole of extension, research and the community para technicians in developing agriculture in the Chapare.

2. Learn different agricultural extension teaching tools for transfering new and improved agricultural practices for the Chapare.

3. Apply basic adult educational principles in their work as paratechnicians in the Chapare.

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4. Learn different components and techniques of nonformal education.

5. Increase the knowledge and ability needed in technical agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry.

6. Learn Skills to work with better efficiency in agricultural communities in the Chapare.

B. On March 20 - 22 a farmer training program was carried out at both research stations for farmers from different communities in the Chapare. The objective of the trainig was to increase knowledge and skills needed to successfully manage a nursery in the Chapare. (See handout for more details). Note: Due to lack of adequate transportation the pickup vehicles arrived five to seven hours late. Eleven of the original farmer volunteers were lost due to feelings of deception and loss of trust. The course was postponed two days to recoup some of the lost farmers. While the programmed number of 8 - 10 participants at each Experiment Station was realized, it must be emphasized that these were not all of the original group. The extent of the damage to the program is not yet know.

All IBTA/Chapare personnel at both stations were involved in these two training programs as well as EI personnel Alvarado, Bieber, Lopez, Mondoñedo and Taylor.

C. Dr. Taylor worked with La Jota mechanic and assistant mechanic teaching them some field repair measures for loose connecting rods and adjusting diesel full injection pumps. He also worked with the Chipiriri mechanic to analize and correct a problem causing a SDTB vehicle to have lost total power.

D. Drs. Owens, Taylor and Patricia Violand along with IBTA/Chapare personnel Francisco Zannier, Jorge Aldunate, Franklin Lastra, Raúl Terán, SDTB personnel Carlos Montaño, Waldo Tellería, Enrique Jaldin, Antonio Torrico, Carlos Alarcón, Mario Candia, Oswaldo Antezana, ACDI secretary, Martha Vega and all the secretaries from SDTB, participated in a two day training program put on by USAID/La Paz personnel. Emphasis was on regulations, forms, format and timing requiares by participants to expedite funding and procurement of materials. March 27 and 28.

E. Taylor, Alvarado and Lopez translated several lesson plans and outlines into Spanish to be placed in the training file to be used for future training courses.

II. Issues and Solutions

A. Lack of concise road maps of the Chapare and lack of communications equipment caused consideralbe wasted of time when and extension team took advantage of an invitation from a community and extended their planned four hour trip to two days. A team was sent out to search for them in case of a break dawn or injures due to a large storm.

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The search party failed to make contact due to no precise road map or trip plans.

B. A twenty three day (2 March to 25 March) National General Strike created several hinderances in fully acomplishing the objectives for the month of March. Some of the major issues were:

1. Gasoline supplies were irregular and several times were cut completely off.
2. IBTA Regional an IBTA national personnel were on strike and threatened the IBTA/Chapare personnel with expulsion from their union for continuing to work.
3. IBTA/Chapare personnel were threatened with violence when seeking fuel from the refinery.
4. A government announcement that all government employees would not be paid their salaries for the month of March reduced enthsiasm and morale.
5. Lack of sufficient vehicles prevented a timely pick up of farmer trainees for the two nursery development training programs, held simultaneously at La Jota and Chipiriri Experiment Stations. The farmer volunteers all left the pick up area. A compromise was agreed upon and the program was subsequently held two days late. Almost all of the original volunteers refused to participate due to their loss of confidence in our ability to keep our work.
6. Planned activities with farmers will have to be either reduced or completely stopped until suitable transportation is provided to prevent total reversal of the advancements made by IBTA/Chapare in the last three months.
   Up to this date all vehicles used for the IBTA/Chapare project work have been those presently assigned to the Chipiriri and to La Jota Experiment Stations. The original number of vehicles was reduced by IBTA Regional office in anticipation of new vehicles being provided by project funds. Of the remaining vehicle, several are in need of repair and new tires. Transporting personnel in the back of an open pick-up through the rain drenched passage to the Chapare, is gradually reducing enthisiasm and morale of all personnel.
7. Neither IBTA/Chapare, SDTB or EI were warned of anti drug activities at the community of Sinahota. As a consequence two EI staff members with two SDTB staff members were trapped in a road block for two hours while the police action was occuring. Their presence during the action gave appearance that they were UMOPAR (Leopardos) advisers.
   Placement of radios at the two experiment stations, at the Villa Tunari staff house and possible in two key vehicles will greatly increase efficiency of operation, administration and security.

III. Work Planned for Next Reporting Period

A) Initiate activities for identified sindicato nurseries and demonstration farms in the Chapare.

B) Continue work in development of crop calenders

C) Develop plans with EI staff and counterparts on research activities concerning horticultural crops, perennials, annuals, spices and livestock for 1985 and the life of the project.

D) Dr. Alvarado to attend a meetingand the designing of a Bolivian land capability clasification system.

F) Community visit to Nuevo Chapare and other communities that desire technical assistance.

G) Drs. Owens and Taylor to accompany Robert Thurston and John Fasullo to Perú to promote cooperative work efforts between the tropical research center in Perú and the two Chapare Experiment Stations (Chipiriri and La Jota).

H) Complete the 5 year plan of operation including research and Extension plans.