

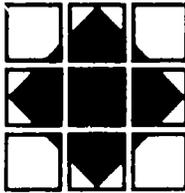
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REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STUDIES AND PLANNING SERVICE

QUARTERLY REPORT
NO. XIX
JANUARY - MARCH 1986

USAID/ZAIRE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR
STUDIES PROJECT (660-0070)

CONTRACT NO. AFR-0070-C-00-5003-00



THE PRAGMA CORPORATION

116 EAST BROAD STREET
FALLS CHURCH, VA, 22046

Tel. 703-237-9303 • Telex 203507 PRAGMA FSCH UR
FAX 703-237-9326

President
Jacques Defay

Established 1977

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THE PRAGMA CORPORATION

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I. INTRODUCTION

This quarterly report covers the nineteenth quarter of activities of the Pragma Team, which provides technical assistance to the Studies and Planning Service (Service d'Etudes et Planification, or SEP) of the Zairian Department of Agriculture and Rural Development under USAID/ZAIRE Project 660-0070. The report covers the first quarter of 1986.

There are four substantive sections to this report. The following section provides an overview of the major events of the quarter, while Section III reviews progress toward project objectives. Following a section on the major problems and constraints encountered, the report concludes with the individual reports of Pragma Team members.

The Pragma Corporation

II. MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE QUARTER

The Pragma Team consisted of five members this past quarter, with the arrival of Dr. Anthony Yeboah as Field Thesis Advisor for project participants doing Master's thesis research. Dr. Yeboah's principal activities during the quarter consisted of working with Cits. Nseye Mara and Kalamba Tshibangu as they began field work for their theses. Dr. Yeboah also began serving as liaison person with USDA and with the universities where Project 070 participants are currently enrolled.

The Southern Band Survey and related activities were a central focus for a good number of Project 070 technicians. During the month of January 10 Division of Strategy and Planning (DSP) technicians--mostly from the Economic Analysis and Project Bureaus--completed the first round of data collection (which had begun around December 20, 1985). These individuals completed a first draft of a preliminary report in February, the report giving tabular results from the survey. During March they and 19 other SEP technicians including Division of Statistics (DSA) personnel, attended an Agricultural Surveys Seminar presented jointly by Pragma and USDA.

The seminar, which was held from March 3-28, was custom-designed around the Southern Band Survey. This was done via considerable planning and preparation, including discussions in Washington early in the quarter involving Dr. Fatoorehchie of the Pragma Home office, Prof. Kalonji (the Pragma trainer for the seminar), and USDA officials; and also including extensive planning sessions in Kinshasa involving Prof. Kalonji, Mr. Fliginger (the USDA trainer), and Dr. Shapiro. The seminar went quite well, and at its conclusion we were all pointed toward round two of the survey.

Ongoing work on project reports proceeded well, with the Agricultural Planning Bureau completing a draft of the Kivu Report and submitting it for comments. Work continued on the remaining regional reports as well. The Economic Analysis Bureau continued to be very active, with corrections being made to the Current Situation of Zairian Agriculture report and progress being made on the outstanding reports on cassava, cocoa, root crops, and cotton. In addition, Cit. Tamfumu of the Projects Bureau completed the first draft of the Equateur Project Paper (Ingende Project) in March.

Work continued on the Agricultural Statistics Data Bank, but much of the efforts of the Bureau Informatique (as well as the Bureau Depouillement) were oriented toward verification, entry, and analysis of the Southern Band Survey data. This represents the first time that Project 070 computers are being used to process and analyze survey data from a Project 070 survey. Members of the Bureau Informatique began also last quarter to give training to other SEP employees (beginning with members of the Bureau Depouillement and the Secretariat), in a first step

toward generating broad computer literacy at the Service d'Etudes.

The month of February saw the implementation of a computerized pay system for Project 070. This system was developed by Cit. Kabongo Tshialemba-lemba, Chief of the Bureau Informatique, working in conjunction with Cit. Nzungu, SEP's Chief Accountant. Its implementation has diminished considerably the time spent by the project's accountants preparing salaries and premiums each month. Another noteworthy development during the past quarter was the implementation in January of the merit pay system proposed in response to one of the recommendations from last year's evaluation of the project. This constitutes the first time that the project has explicitly acknowledged the superior performance of some of its personnel.

Two additional developments, each of which has a retrospective aspect with prospective implications, should also be mentioned. In late February Mr. John Fliginger, original Team Leader under Project 052, returned to Kinshasa as one of the trainers for the Agricultural Surveys Seminar. During his stay he managed to unearth the documentation and the bulk of the maps for the area sample frame (which had been developed under Project 052 but was never used under Project 070, and which was reported last year by the evaluation team to have been lost). Mr. Fliginger recommended that the feasibility of reconstituting the area sample frame be examined, for possible use under Project 119. In addition, Mr. Jim Gulley, USDA academic advisor to Project 070 (and before them, Project 052) participants in the U.S., arrived in Kinshasa on March 15th for an eight-week stay. Mr. Gulley, who will be working with Cit. Tamfumu of the Projects Bureau and Cit. Kassenga of the Economic Analysis Bureau, is to conduct an evaluation of the training that took place under Project 070. His evaluation should produce lessons and insights useful for Project 119.

III. PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING PROJECT OBJECTIVES

In addition to the progress toward achieving several project objectives inherent in continued work on the project's ongoing activities (e.g, commodity and regional reports, data bank), the following should be noted regarding progress toward achievement of specific end-of-project status (EOPS) indicators from the original Project 070 PP:

- With respect to the indicator, "Improved operational linkages between DSA and the rest of SEP," the Agricultural Surveys Seminar held in March, with balanced participation from each of the project's two divisions, constitutes an important step in promoting improved operational linkages between the two divisions. It is anticipated that the two divisions will collaborate closely in work on the second round of the Southern Band Survey (SBS).

- Implementation of a computerized pay system reflects the achievement of two EOPS indicators: "Improved accounting procedures in place at SEP" and "Improved data processing programs."

- "Improved data processing programs" continue to be developed, as part of the work of analyzing the SBS data; in addition, the computer training that has just begun should ultimately contribute to this objective as well.

- The indicator, "institutionalized collection of agricultural statistics that accurately reflect the performance of the agricultural sector," has not been achieved; but the SBS constitutes, in our view, a very important step in the right direction.

- Completion of a first draft of the Equateur Project Paper for Ingende constitutes important progress made on the EOPS indicator, "Institutionalized identification, design, monitoring, and evaluation of projects."

IV. MAJOR PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Three problems are identified in the individual reports: computer hardware maintenance, typing, and transportation. The vendor in Kinshasa responsible for computer hardware maintenance, STI, has proved to be inadequate to the task. Unfortunately, we do not have a wide range of options to choose from. This has been a particularly frustrating problem, and frankly there is no readily apparent solution. The new project will be buying new hardware, and IBM appears to be entering Zaire's computer market; perhaps the passage of time will alleviate this problem.

Typing is a problem, as we have a growing backlog of manuscripts. We hope to train our typists to use word-processing software on our computers, but that will take some time. Perhaps we should consider augmenting the typing pool.

Transportation problems are a serious constraint to data collection, and such problems have especially been encountered by participants doing master's thesis research. In the short run, project four-wheel drive vehicles should be provided to technicians whenever possible (e.g, for work in Bas-Zaire, Bandundu, and Shaba--where we now have a Project 070 Land Rover stationed). In the long run, we should explore means of assuring transportation (as with our Shaba Land Rover) in each of Zaire's regions.

V. INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEMBER'S QUARTERLY REPORT

Name: Chan P. Nguyen
Position: Agricultural Planning Bureau Advisor
Period covered: January - March 1986

I. STATUS OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE QUARTER (See Section IV of previous individual quarterly report)

1. Assist the Agricultural Planning Bureau to finalize the Kivu report

My principal task this quarter was to assist the Agricultural Planning Bureau to finalize the Kivu report. The 359 page report was completed as planned. It consists of five chapters. The first chapter gives a brief description of the overall environment, including geographical and biological conditions, human resources, and food consumption habits. The second chapter focuses on the current agricultural situation in the area. The third chapter evaluates the main factors that may have a direct or indirect impact on agricultural production. The fourth chapter is concerned with a thorough review of other agricultural development related sectors such as communication networks, infrastructures, etc. The report is hence concluded by an identification of three recommended areas that would possibly be suitable for future development of agriculture and livestock after taking into consideration all of the factors related to the improvement of the agricultural sector in the previous chapters.

The report was submitted to the Chief of Party on March 31, 1986.

2. Continuous "On-The-Job-Training" to the Agricultural Planning Bureau Staff

On-the job-training has been continued at the Planning Bureau in the form of in-progress of regional studies. Three reports are underway: Kivu, Haut-Zaire, and Kasai-Occidental.

Other than routine training four of eight bureau members participated in a one month USDA sponsored agriculture data collection statistics seminar which was held in Bas-Zaire. Another bureau member participated in a project planning workshop which was organized by the World Bank and the Department of Agriculture.

3. Annual Leave

Three days were spent at the Pragma Corporation headquarters in Falls Church, Virginia for the purpose of briefing and debriefing of the implementation of the project during the last year. Annual leave was taken in California from February 27, 1986 to February 4, 1986. I returned to post on February 6th, 1986 and returned to work on February 12, 1986.

II. UNPLANNED ACTIVITIES DURING THE QUARTER

There were no unplanned activities during this quarter.

III. COMMENTS AND SPECIAL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

There were no serious problems encountered during the quarter.

I would like to suggest that a significant increase in the bonus for holding a Master of Science Degree for former USAID participants be discussed in order to retain qualified technicians with post university training in SEP.

IV. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

1. Plan to take one field trip to Bas-Zaire in order to gather necessary data for updating the regional report.
2. Supervise the agricultural planning staff to update the Bas-Zaire report before reproduction.
3. Assist the Agricultural Planning Bureau members in finalizing the first draft of the Kasai-Occidental report.
4. Prepare the individual quarterly and annual reports.
5. Prepare the individual end of contract report.
6. Take annual leave.

Name: Georges Conde
Position: Economic Analysis Bureau Advisor
Period Covered: January-March 1986

I. STATUS OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE QUARTER (See Section IV of previous individual quarterly report)

Among the activities planned for this quarter, January-March 1986, the following are to be noted:

- a) completion of reports on cassava, cocoa, cotton, and Peruvian bark;
- b) starting of surveys for updating the rice and maize reports;
- c) on-the-job training of Zairian professionals;
- d) carrying out eventual specific tasks requested by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- e) participation in the Southern Band Survey by some staff members of the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

A. Reports in question: Cassava, Cocoa, Cotton, Peruvian bark

The first draft on cassava by Cit. Ngemba is completed as stipulated in the previous quarterly report, October through December 1985, but the draft is still being typed.

The first draft on cocoa is still in the hands of Director Mubenga for comments; on the other hand, the report on root crops has been returned by the Director and after correction is now being typed.

The first draft on cotton by Cit. Bokisila is currently receiving comments from Dr. Shapiro and after correction will be transmitted to Director Mubenga. In the meantime, Cit. Bokisila is lending his services to a World Bank consultant, Mr. Eklund, who is studying the manpower problems in Zaire in the agro-industrial sector.

In addition, corrections of drafts on the Current Situation of Zairian Agriculture are still underway after having been typed on the micro-computer.

B. Updating of Rice and Maize Reports

After meeting with members of the BEA and taking into account the staff members participating in the Southern Band Survey, 4 members have been assigned to updating the rice and maize reports, as well as the coffee report.

However, other assignments such as the arrival of Mr. Gulley and the presence of a World Bank consultant have caused Cit. Kassenga and Cit. Bokisila to be busy. It is therefore difficult to schedule the beginning of these studies as currently only Cit. Budiadia is available at the BEA.

C. On-the-Job-Training of Zairian Professionals

The on-the-job training of Zairian professionals has continued, especially those who participated in the preparation of the reports on the "Current Situation of Zairian Agriculture," cotton, root crops and other specific tasks requested by the Department of Agriculture.

In addition, together with Cit. Bokisila and Cit. Budiadia, we attended, on behalf of Project 070, the agricultural equipment day organized by CHANIMETAL at the Intercontinental Hotel on March 6, 1986.

D. Specific Tasks Requested by the Department of Agriculture

During this quarter, very few specific tasks came from the Department besides: 1) the search for the text of the decree on the liberalization of agricultural prices. Also, visits were made to the different government services to obtain it; 2) comments were made on document No. 045/MPCC/AGRIDRAL/86 concerning loan projects for the renewal of agricultural equipment, the supply of small bags (sachets) for the economic operators and the setting up of marginal stocks in the big urban centers. These conclusions have been positive, even if attention has been drawn to some constraints.

E. Southern Band Survey Participation

Several members (5) of our bureau are participating in the Southern Band Survey.

II. UNPLANNED ACTIVITIES DURING THE QUARTER

As always, numerous unplanned activities have taken our time as well as that of some members of the BEA.

- a) Evaluation of members of the BEA for the granting of premiums.
- b) Documentary support to PNS (Dr. Weber and Mr. Griego) and to INERA (Mr. Dumond).
- c) Documentary support and exchanges of information with Mr. Eklund of the World Bank: the problem of labor force in Zaire (Industrial sector); Cit. Bokisila is giving assistance to Mr. Eklund.
- d) Documentary support and exchange of information with Cit. Tshishiku of USAID (Annual food requirements in Zaire 1986 through 1990).
- e) Documentary support to Mr. Daniel: information on the agricultural sector in Zaire, and on the 1986 DOA budget; and to Dr. Yeboah on palm products in Zaire.
- f) Logisitical support to Dr. Fatoorehchie of Pragma during his stay in Zaire. Documentary support to RAV (Dr. Brockman and Dr. Bartlett).
- g) Documentary support to Mr. Noudeu on export revenue on agricultural products in 1985 and also to SOFIDE on developments in the food and breeding sector.
- h) Preparation of the end of mission report for Dr. Fatoorehchie.
- i) Numerous work sessions with the Pragma team, Cit. Mubenga and members of the BEA, Mr. Gulley, Ing. Roland Yves of SODE SUCRE of Ivory Coast.
- j) Correction of the report on root crops.
- k) Logistical support to Dr. Yeboah (Foreign Affairs, ZAC, etc.)

III. COMMENTS AND PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

- a) Shortage of personnel due to interference caused by the carrying out of the Southern Band Survey.
- b) At the present time, typing is a problem at the BEA: we are producing documents faster than we can get them typed.

IV. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

It is difficult to know exactly the activities that will be undertaken; however, we plan to:

- a) complete the drafts on cassava, cotton, and Peruvian bark which are in the hands of Director Mubenga, as well as the report on the Current Situation of Zairian Agriculture;
- b) continue on-the-job training of Zairian professionals;
- c) carry out specific tasks requested by the Department of Agriculture;
- d) take 15 days vacation at the beginning of April

In view of our departure from Zaire scheduled to take place on July 6, 1986, the end of this quarter will be devoted to the preparation of our travel.

Name: James K. Gray
Position: Computer Bureau Advisor
Period Covered: January - March 1986

I. STATUS OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE QUARTER (See Section IV of previous individual quarterly report.)

This was not a good quarter for sticking to my planned activities. In fact the major activities during this quarter were not planned for at the beginning of the quarter. Below is a summary of the activities planned for this quarter.

- (1) Expand the quantity of data stored in the Agricultural Statistics Data Bank.

Expansion of the Data Bank continues slowly. Increases were made to the Export/Import file and to the Demographic file. Unfortunately the Data Bank is a low priority due to a lack of real interest outside the Bureau Informatique (BI) and the Bureau Depouillement (BDep). These two bureaus did begin again to hold periodic Technical Committee meetings about the Bank which had been suspended since November.

- (2) Work with SOMECA, a local computer company to conduct an off-site training program for the agents of the Bureau Informatique.

As of the end of the quarter nothing had been heard from SOMECA. They have our request for training complete with a proposed outline and a commitment from USAID for funding. Periodically I check with them to discover the status so far without a definite response.

- (3) Work with the Bureau Chief to continue the program of on-the-job training for agents of the Bureau Informatique.

Limited out-the-job training was held at the BI. Conflicts with training done elsewhere within the Service d'Etudes et Planification (SEP) and with the Southern Band Seminar precluded the possibilities of much training. One individual was given instruction in Supercalc 2 so that he could prepare the Departmental Budget. I also worked individually with a number of agents to improve their dBase-II programs.

- (4) Supervise the completion of the electrical work and computer installation at SEP.

The electrical installation was completed in January, later than originally planned. The new computer equipment was installed shortly thereafter. Unfortunately the computers are not yet working due to unforeseen problems.

First the CP/M cards had not been included in the original order. When they finally arrived, they would not physically fit into the European Apple IIe's that are used here. New cards have been ordered but have not arrived. Thus three Apple IIe's sit idle. We did have one spare CP/M card and John Gold has been bringing in his personal CP/M card so two of the new Apples are operational. We have also encountered a problem with the new printers. So far we have not been able to make the printers work with the interface cards that arrived with the new printers. We have contacted Mr. Thorez of S.T.I. (the vendor who supplied the equipment) and still await a solution.

- (5) Work with the Bureau Chief to train would-be users of the new computers being installed at the Service d'Etudes et Planification.

Cit. Kabongo Bayabalumes and I held a brief course in CP/M and Wordstar at SEP. This course was attended primarily by secretaries who were not on the original list of agents to be trained at SEP. Most of the analysts to be trained were involved with the Southern Band Study. I also gave a course in CP/M and Wordstar to agents of the BDep. These agents have begun to use their computer to a limited degree.

- (6) Make editorial changes to the Master Operations and Policy Manual and the Policies and Procedures Manual: The Agricultural Statistics Data Bank.
- (7) Work with the Bureau Chief to update, as needed, the two manuals listed above.

Editorial changes were made during this quarter to the two manuals and two chapters were written for inclusion in the Master Operations and Policy Manual. The two new chapters were given to the Chief of Operations within the BI who has not as yet returned them. Major revisions are required to the Policies and Procedures Manual: The Agricultural Statistics Data Bank. These changes are necessary due to changes in the product coding, to reflect the new Administrative Entity file, and to the changes in the structure of all Data Bank files. All changes made so far have been made to the English, or unofficial versions of these manuals. The official versions are in French and thus any changes made to these must be approved according to guidelines in the manuals themselves.

- (8) Assist the Chief of Party in the preparation of the Pragma Voucher.

The Pragma voucher is now being prepared completely by the administrative assistant. I did provide occasional assistance as required.

II. UNPLANNED ACTIVITIES DURING THE QUARTER

- (1) A large portion of my time this quarter was spent on the Southern Band Study. The Bureau Informatique was involved too late in this study to properly prepare computer programs necessary for data entry, verification printouts, output tables, and analysis. Thus programming was occurring at the same that data was arriving at the door. This caused some problems that may not have occurred if some advanced planning had been done. Unfortunately, the urgency and complexity of some of the programs caused me to be involved much more than was desirable.
- (2) I participated in the planning for the four week seminar given in conjunction with the Southern Band Study. On 26 March I gave a two hour presentation on "Survey Design and the Microcomputer."
- (3) The repaired 20 MB Corvus hard disk was finally made operational in March. Thus I had to spend time reformatting and reloading this device. Also since the Corvus is primarily intended to support the Data Bank, I spent time restoring the data and programs which constitute the Data Bank. The presence of the Bureau Chief and the Data Bank Manager at the Southern Band Seminar inhibited this effort as it was often impossible to locate important data. At this same time, work was done adding to and improving the existing Data Bank programs.
- (4) During this quarter I reviewed and revised the Personnel Management System to correct some errors and to incorporate some additional reports.
- (5) Since early 1985 the BI has been preparing updates to the Department of Agriculture's budget. During this quarter the format of the budget was changed significantly necessitating a major reprogramming effort. This job has been the responsibility of the Bureau Chief, but since he was at the Seminar, I had to take major responsibility for reprogramming the budget and training another agent in this task.
- (6) The supervisory mission of Mohammad Fatoorehchie occurred during this quarter and required some attention.

III. COMMENTS AND SPECIAL PROBLEMS

Hardware problems continue to cause delays. Currently there is one computer down with a bad power supply. S.T.I. is trying to get it fixed, but I feel that perhaps they have trouble getting spare parts. This is in addition to the problems with the CP/M cards and the printers. Hardware problems can occupy a lot of time - time that doesn't necessarily need to be spent by an

expatriate advisor. Personally I am not a hardware expert, and even if I were I probably would be reluctant to go inside a computer when there is an authorized dealer in town.

What is most needed in this regard is logistical assistance. It is needed in reporting problems and following them up. It has also been needed when I had to be responsible for getting computer equipment delivered from the Embassy to the bureau, or when I had to search in town for computer paper so that the office could continue to function. I'm not sure that 20 years of computer experience is needed for these tasks. Of course the absence of a telephone at the Division of Statistics only compounds the problem.

IV. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1986

- (1) Expand the quantity of data stored in the Agricultural Statistics Data Bank.
- (2) Work with the Bureau Chief to continue the program of on-the-job training for agents at the Bureau Informatique.
- (3) Work with the Bureau Chief to train would-be users of the new computers being installed at the Service d'Etudes et Planification.
- (4) Work with agents of the Bureau Informatique and the analysts at SEP on the entry of data and the preparation of reports for the Southern Band Study.
- (5) Make all the computers within SEP operational.
- (6) Make the 5 MB Corvus operational again.
- (7) Continue to backstop agents of the Bureau Informatique in their programming efforts.
- (8) Work with the Bureau Chief to update as needed the Master Operations and Policy Manual and the Policies and Procedures Manual: The Agricultural Statistics Data Bank.

Name: Anthony Yeboah
Position: Field Thesis Advisor
Period Covered: January - March 1986

I. STATUS OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE QUARTER

I came on board on December 29, 1985 after about four months delay. My immediate assignment was to write down my planned activities for the first quarter of 1986 which included:

1. tracking down Cit. Kule Sisko;
2. reviewing work done by Cit. Nseye Mara and Cit. Kalamba Tshibangu on their theses;
3. supervising the work to be done on the next phases of their theses (2 above);
4. coordinating the visit by Professor Reed from the University of Kentucky;
5. working with the project's part-time administrative assistant in establishing files on participants; and
6. performing a liaison function for the project participants - both old and new.

This report on my planned activities follows the above listing:

1. Tracking down Cit. Kule Sisko

After about two weeks of search, and delivery of messages, Cit. Kule finally contacted me at my apartment. We discussed the subject of his thesis writing. He was willing to write his thesis if he would not be required to show up at SEP daily. Since this decision was beyond my authority I suggested a meeting between him and Mr. Ron Daniel. Apparently such a meeting never took place and I have not seen Cit. Kule since then. My understanding is that Mr. Daniel is going to write a letter to him officially severing Cit. Kule's connection with SEP.

2. Review of theses

Cit. Nseye Mara

Cit. Nseye's report on his mission to Bandundu in October 1985 was read and commented upon. Data collected during the survey were also reviewed and suggestions given as to the necessary transformations of the data that needed to be performed.

Cit. Kalamba

Several equations for new planting of oil palm seedlings had been estimated by the participant at the University of Kentucky. After reviewing them, I found that none gave adequate statistical fit. However, due to lack of data in Zaire on the variables used in the equations, it was impossible to augment them. I therefore suggested a collection of primary data by the use of a questionnaire.

3. Supervision of further work on theses

Cit. Nseye Mara

During this quarter, the transformation of his thesis data were completed and put on diskettes. The econometric model to be used in the analysis was fully developed and several equations estimated. We are still exploring other functional forms despite the fact that many of the estimated equations gave good statistical fit.

Cit. Kalamba

A questionnaire was developed to survey oil palm plantation owners both in Bandundu and Haut-Zaire regions. On February 21 Cit. Kalamba and I departed for Bandundu region to start the survey. I stayed for a week during which time the questionnaire was pretested in the Bulungu zone of the region. After appropriate changes had been made in the questionnaire I returned to Kinshasa on February 27 while Cit. Kalamba continued with the survey until March 24. He is currently writing a report on the mission.

4. Coordination of the visit by Professor Reed

Professor Reed's initial plans were to come to Kinshasa during the month of February to work with Cit. Kalamba for about three weeks. However, I wrote a letter to him asking for a rescheduling of his visit to enable the participant time to conduct the survey. Even though I did not receive a personal response from Dr. Reed, I have been informed by Mr. Jim Gulley that he has postponed his visit to sometime in the summer or possibly during the month of May.

5. Establishing files on participants

I worked with the project's part-time administrative assistant, Mrs. Dayna Griego, to establish files on technicians who left for the U.S. in August of 1985. For each participant, we have information from the university of admission, status of admission and area of concentration for their M.S. degrees.

6. Liaison function for the project participants

Related to activity 5 above, I performed a liaison function for the project participants doing graduate work in the U.S. In connection with this, I wrote a letter to Mr. Jim Gulley (USDA/OICD/ITD) with copies to Dr. Richard D. Robbins of North Carolina A & T State University and Dr. Glenn Ames of the University of Georgia. In this letter, I requested the information outlined in item 5 and also catalogues from the various institutions.

II. UNPLANNED ACTIVITIES

I researched for economic data on oxen in the Kasai as a result of a request by Dr. Glenn C. W. Ames of the University of Georgia. The data were to be used by Cit. Simba Lianabo who is a non in-country M.S. student writing his thesis on the introduction of oxen into the maize-beans-manioc farming systems. I was ably assisted by Cit. Ngongo.

III. COMMENTS AND PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

My main concern is the lack of adequate transportation during field surveys for the participants writing their thesis in Zaire. It is so difficult to travel around in the interior of the country that the absence of good transportation makes collection of reliable farm data virtually impossible. It is recommended that future participants conducting farm surveys be provided with a vehicle from the project.

IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER 1986

1. Coordinate the second phase of Cit. Kalamba's survey of oil palm plantations which is to be conducted in Haut-Zaire.
2. Two technicians, Cit. Lukusa and Cit. Tonyemba are expected to arrive in Kinshasa during the early part of April. I will start work with them on their theses.
3. Coordinate Dr. Mike Reed's May visit.
4. Continue to supervise the thesis work of Cit. Nseye Mara.
5. Continue to perform a liaison function for project participants in the U.S.

Name: David Shapiro
Position: Chief of Party and Projects Bureau Advisor
Period Covered: January-March 1986

I. STATUS OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE QUARTER (see section IV of previous individual quarterly report)

A. Carry out routine administrative work: SEP, USAID, PRAGMA

As usual, numerous meetings were held throughout the quarter focusing on various aspects of the ongoing administration of the project. With respect to SEP, there were three important series of meetings that took place: 1-six meetings with Dr. Bewa, General Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, that principally examined the severe management problems at the Statistics Division and prospective solutions to those problems; 2-three meetings with Director Mubenga, Mr. Daniel, and Mr. Babilot (FAO advisor at the Statistics Division) to review progress on the FAO Statistics project and to insure improved collaboration and coordination between that project and Project 070; and 3-four meetings with Bureau Chiefs, Division Chiefs, and Ms. Sebrechts to implement the merit pay system (prime de rendement) recommended as part of last year's project evaluation and accepted by USAID.

With respect to USAID, I participated in meetings and discussions concerning Project 102 and also the USAID audit of Project 070 (scheduled for April). I also met with Director Mubenga, Mr. Daniel, and Ms. Gladys Gilbert of AID/Washington. Ms. Gilbert oversees AID's projects in Zaire, and the purpose of the meeting was to provide her with an overview of USAID's present and future activities at SEP. Finally, in addition to work on telexes and the Pragma monthly voucher, we also held two Project 070 team meetings during the quarter. At the latter meeting, in late March, we decided to try to hold such meetings on a regular (biweekly) basis.

B. Complete the Quarterly Report for the fourth quarter of 1985

The report was completed (in draft) early in the quarter.

C. Review documents: Current Situation of Zairian Agriculture Report, Kasai Oriental Regional Study, Manioc Price Study, Equateur Project Paper, etc.

Reviews of the Current Situation Report and the Kasai Oriental Study, which had begun late in the fourth quarter of 1985, were completed during this past quarter. This consisted of chapters 1-3 and 8-11 of the former, and chapters 2-5 of the latter. In addition, the three completed chapters of the Manioc Price Study (by Cit. Kalombo) and the Equateur Project paper (by Cit Tamfumu for the zones of Ingende and Bikoro) were also

reviewed, along with Cit. Bokisila's Cotton Report. Finally, I also read and commented extensively on the first draft of the Southern Band Survey Preliminary Report covering the tabular results of the first round of the survey.

D. Continue work on the Southern Band Survey (data collection and analysis)

There were four distinct aspects to work on the SBS last quarter: first-round data collection, processing of data from the first round, preparation of the preliminary report, and preparation for the second round of the survey. The first-round data collection, which had begun in late December, continued throughout almost all of January. I returned to Bas-Zaire, to the collectivity of Ngufu, from Jan. 10-13 to oversee part of this data collection.

In late January, processing of the data began. This consisted of both manual tabulations and computerized data processing--the former to permit a preliminary (tabular) report to be completed quickly, and the latter to facilitate more sophisticated data analyses. A series of meetings was held between late January and late March, both to outline and monitor progress on the preliminary report and to develop protocols and procedures for computer processing of the data. By the end of the quarter considerable progress had been made on both fronts: a first draft of the Preliminary Report had been completed by the end of February, and a second draft was imminent; and the data had been verified and entered on the computers, with some early analyses already done.

Preparation for the second round of the survey really began with the Seminar on Agricultural Surveys given in March, since the course was custom designed to be oriented toward the implementation of the Southern Band's round two. In addition, at the very end of the quarter I met with Cits. Mingiedi, Ngonde, and Nsavar of the Statistics Division to discuss preparation of the round 2 questionnaire and an Instruction Manual, and the choice of Statistics Division technicians to participate in the survey.

E. Work with the Projects Bureau to monitor progress vis-a-vis the PES recommendations

Working with Cit. Tamfumu, Assistant Bureau Chief, I developed a format for monitoring progress on these recommendations and we generated status reports as of Dec. 31, 1985 and March 31, 1986. The former status report was annexed to the last quarterly report, while the latter is an annex to this report. We also held a Projects Bureau meeting in early March to review progress on the various activities being undertaken by bureau technicians.

F. Make necessary arrangements for the USDA course on Agricultural Data Collection (To be given in March)

The course (Agricultural Surveys Seminar) was indeed given in March (3-28) in Kasangulu (Bas-Zaire) and the necessary arrangements proved to be considerable. I worked with CENACOF, a national training center which frequently assists with USDA-sponsored courses, to determine how they could help us (principally in translation and evaluation work). I coordinated translation of course materials. I prepared a contract for Professor Kalonji, who served as a Pragma-provided co-trainer for the course. With Prof. Kalonji and John Fliginger, the USDA-provided co-trainer, I worked on preparations for the course, specifically focusing on course content and scheduling. This work began in late February and continued through March. I also participated in the course, both as an observer (classroom and field) and as an instructor (discussing data needs and questionnaire design in the context of the Southern Band Survey, field measurements, and the Frazier model). All told, I was present at Kasangulu during 10 of the 20 days during which the course was given.

G. Coordinate the Pragma semi-annual supervisory visit in February

Dr. Fatoorehchie spent two weeks in Kinshasa, from Feb. 11-25. During that time numerous meetings were held with Director Mubenga and Mr. Daniel, principally to discuss short-term consulting needs, the budget situation, and the end of the project. In addition, meetings were also held with Mr. Brown and Mr. Podol at USAID.

H. Train and work with the project's new part-time administrative assistant

Mrs. Dayna Griego began working on January 2nd as a part-time administrative assistant, focusing on USAID and Pragma related matters. She has taken over a number of administrative tasks (voucher preparation, routine telex communication, looking after administrative/logistical concerns for Pragma team members) so as to free me up for more technical work. The office is distinctly more orderly since she began work and she is a most welcome and capable addition to the Project 070 team.

II. UNPLANNED ACTIVITIES DURING THE QUARTER

- Jim Gulley's long-planned trip to conduct an evaluation of the participant training under Project 052 finally materialized in mid-March, and I worked with him after his arrival, including two meetings with Mr. Daniel to discuss Mr. Gulley's data needs and plans for his 8-week stay.

- I participated in a number of discussions and meetings concerning possible resurrection of the area sample frame that had been reported to have been lost, but thanks to the efforts of Mr. Fliginger (the original Team Leader under Project 052) it was found again.

- I provided data on manioc cultivation to Dr. Pandey of Project 091 (RAV). These data, which he wanted for a conference he was to attend in Nigeria, came from the Preliminary Report of the Southern Band Survey.

- I met and talked with Mr. Per Eklund, on mission for the World Bank to assess the importance of labor constraints on agricultural production. Mr. Eklund was particularly interested in the Southern Band Survey data on labor utilization and activities of household members.

III. COMMENTS AND SPECIAL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

The pressing problem at the moment is the scarcity of typists capable of using our computers for word processing. We would like our reports to be put on computer, but we are experiencing a growing backlog of reports awaiting typing. We hope to alleviate that problem in the near term by training more of our typists to use the computer.

Otherwise, my only problem is that there's always a whole lot of (i.e., too much) work to do. Having a part-time administrative assistant has helped, but the principal effect has been to alter the composition of my work time rather than the amount of that time.

IV. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER

1. Carry out routine administrative work: SEP, USAID, PRAGMA.
2. Complete the Quarterly Report for the first quarter of 1986 and the End-of-Project Report.
3. Review documents: Kivu Regional Study, Southern Band Survey Preliminary Report, Project 119 Project Paper, etc.
4. Continue work on the Southern Band Survey (data collection and analysis).
5. Work with the Projects Bureau to monitor progress vis-a-vis the PES recommendations.
6. Give the Introductory Microeconomics Course to participant training candidates and other SEP technicians, and finalize selection of individuals for the next participant training group.