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INTSOY - ICA Soybean Production Training
in Colombia

John W. Santas

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May 1980

International Soybean Program, INTSOY

College of Agriculture
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COLOMBIA TRIP REPORT

Name: John W. Santas, Training Officer, INTSOY

Period of Travel: April 7-15, 1980

Itinerary: April 7: Champaign/Cali (Arrive 8:00 p.m.)
April 8: Cali and Palmira
April 9: Cali/Bogota (Depart Cali 4:00 p.m.)
April 10: Bogota
April 11: Bogota/Quito (Depart Bogota 12:00 noon)

Purpose:

1. Determine ICA interest in collaborating with INTSOY to present another soybean production course similar to the one developed for Peruvian Production Agents in 1979. The proposed course would be conducted at Palmira, Colombia using combined INTSOY and ICA personnel and resources and would be open to any qualified persons from Spanish-speaking countries who are able to find financial support.
2. Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with ICA and incorporate plans for the 1980 course into a subsequent Letter of Agreement.

Organizations and Persons Contacted:

Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA)-Palmira Experimental Station

Gilberto Bastidas R., Coordinator, National Legume Research Program
Octavio Cardona, Public Relations Director, ICA Region 5, Cali

Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT)

Fritz Kramer, Coordinator, Publications and Communication
David Evans, Conference Coordinator
Fernando Fernandez, Training Director

ICA Headquarters, Bogota

Jaime Navas, Head, Agronomy Department

Results, Accomplishments, Observations:

After spending two days in the Palmira area working with Gilberto Bastidas and his colleagues, Ing. Bastidas and I went to Bogota to present plans for the 1980 course at ICA headquarters and to request the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and a Letter of Agreement which provided details on the

course. The ICA Directorate expressed a very positive attitude toward the Memorandum and our plans to collaborate on another course. They needed a few days to get the documents approved by all appropriate individuals and agreed to send me a cable when the approvals had been secured. They were confident that the documents would be signed and would reach us via mail by the end of April.

The Letter of Agreement contains the following details relative to the 1980 course:

Dates: November 24 through December 12.

INTSOY will be responsible for recruitment of participants from all countries of South and Central America and the Caribbean. The course will be cancelled if less than 15 are enrolled. A maximum of 20 participants will be accepted.

Available Spanish-speaking INTSOY staff and ICA Region 5 personnel will serve as course instructors.

The training fee will be U.S. \$900.00 per participant, not including international travel and living allowance. This fee is calculated to cover time, travel and other course-related expenses incurred by both institutions. The suggested per diem rate is \$30.00. The \$900.00 training fee will be sent directly to INTSOY by each participant or his sponsor and must be received no later than October 10. A one-third share (\$300.00/participant) will be retained by INTSOY and the balance sent to ICA Region 5 before October 24 to cover their course preparation costs. It is anticipated that five Colombian participants will enroll in the course. Some will be sponsored by ICA and some by other agencies and organizations. They will be exempted from the INTSOY portion of the training fee and allowed to enroll for \$600.00.

Calls made at CIAT were basically courtesy calls, as well as to inform them of the outcome of the 1979 course and plans for this year. We discussed the possibility of housing participants in CIAT facilities, but discovered they will be in use at the time of our course. Participants will be housed in a local hotel as the Peruvian group was last year.

While in Bogota, we stopped to see David Schaer, Chief of Agriculture and Rural Development, USAID. We wanted to thank him for assistance with the 1979 course and explain our present plans. He was out of town, so we visited with his secretary and left a message. We were informed that the USAID office in Bogota will be closed as of June 30, 1980.