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**SDSU**

**ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT  
and  
SEMI-ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

**July 1, 1992 - September 30, 1992**

**Moroccan Cooperative  
Agricultural Development Project**

**Grant Number HNE-0158-G-00-2075-00**

*Submitted to the*  
**Bureau for the Near East  
U.S. Agency for International Development**

*Submitted by the*  
**San Diego State University Foundation  
San Diego, California 92182**

# **SEMI-ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

**July 1, 1992 - September 30, 1992**

## **Moroccan Cooperative Agricultural Development Project**

*Submitted to the*

**Bureau for the Near East  
United States Agency for International Development**

*Submitted by the*

**San Diego State University Foundation  
San Diego, California 92182**

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San Diego, California 92182**

**This Semi-Annual Technical and Quarterly Progress Report of the initial activities of the Moroccan Cooperative Agricultural Development Project was prepared by the San Diego State University Foundation utilizing input from participants in the Kingdom of Morocco, the State of Israel and the United States of America.**

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## **OVERVIEW**

The Moroccan Cooperative Agriculture Development Project is funded by the Agency for International Development Bureau for the Near East. Initiated July 1, 1992, the Moroccan Project is being accomplished by participants from the Kingdom of Morocco, the State of Israel and the United States of America and is designed to meet a number of national development priorities set by the governments of Morocco and Israel.

The goal of the Moroccan Cooperative Agricultural Development Project is to increase the ability of Morocco's agriculture sector to meet internal demands for agribusiness products, and to strengthen the capabilities of both Morocco and Israel to export agribusiness products. The project constitutes a new stage in the Middle East Regional Cooperation Program, introducing a Middle East country other than Egypt as a cooperating partner with Israel and the United States. Accordingly, broadened regional cooperation will be a major objective. Technical objectives to be addressed for each country are listed below.

### **Morocco**

1. Introduce the most up-to-date technologies for plant propagation as a means of improving vegetable yield and quality as well as reducing the cost of propagating hybrid vegetable cultivars;
2. initiate a sound pot-plant industry geared toward the export of rooted seedlings of foliage crops and a variety of finished pot-plants;
3. improve open-field production of early tomatoes through the introduction of high yielding, high quality cultivars;
4. expand existing agro-industries thorough the introduction of superior cultivars and new crops;
5. initiate open-field production of hardy ornamental plants for the local and export markets;
6. optimize open-field crop production through modern agro-management practices and irrigation technologies; and
7. extend intensive crop production technology through a trained cadre of specialists.

### **Israel**

1. Develop high yielding, high quality cultivars of open-field salad tomatoes;
2. develop high yielding, high quality hybrid onion cultivars for the processing industry;
3. propagate, by tissue culture, selected cultivars of woody ornamentals for open-field production;
4. develop new hardy ornamental species for open-field production; and
5. undertake research that leads to the domestication and intensive production of truffles.

The Morocco project is strengthening and expanding cooperative efforts between Moroccan and Israeli participants with its new research topics which is bringing an infusion of new people and organizations into the regional cooperation programs.

# SEMI-ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

# **SEMI-ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

## **THE TECHNICAL PROGRAM**

The new 5-year Moroccan Cooperative Agriculture Development Project will involve the introduction and expansion of research, development, demonstration, extension and training activities among private sector agribusinesses and scientists from Morocco, Israel and the United States. Participants from the three countries agreed to conduct cooperative activities to develop sophisticated agricultural techniques and technologies; establish a plant propagation center and experimental farms with high demonstration; conduct the extension of new techniques and crops to young Moroccan farmers; and initiate the exchange for training of agriculturists between Morocco and Israel.

Funding for the implementation of the Moroccan project was approved for July 1, 1992.

## **COOPERATING INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH SITE**

### **The Kingdom of Morocco**

**Ouldja de Chtoukas Asemour (OCA):** all research and development activities in Morocco will be concentrated at this site of at least 25 hectares. This site is being donated by Maghreb Agriculture. It is located some 60 kilometers south of Casablanca.

**Maghreb Agriculture:** a private enterprise, will be the lead institution in Morocco.

**Ministry of Agriculture**

**Hassan II Institute of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine**

**Institute for Agricultural Research**

**Manay Moroc Incorporated**

**National Institute for Agronomy**

### **Israel**

**Institute of Applied Sciences, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva:** will be the lead institution.

**Ministry of Agriculture**

**Agriculture Research Organization**

**Faculty of Agriculture of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

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## **PROGRESS REPORT**

### **Progress in Comparison with Goals and Objective**

Progress in comparison with the work plan and in comparison to the goals and objectives outlined in our original proposal, has been satisfactory for the first phase of the project, July 1-September 30, 1992. Accomplishments include: grant was issued; staff hired, sub grants were issued; financial recording and reporting systems were set up in San Diego; a technical visit to Morocco was made by three Israeli specialists; plans for the first Technical Committee meeting were made, an agenda established and travel plans finalized.

### **Changes in Personnel**

Dr. Bonnie A. Stewart was hired as the U.S. Project Director  
Salary level: 60K/ year  
% covered through the project:-50

Ms. Sheryl Bodzak was hired as the clerical support for the SD office  
Salary level: 22K/year  
% covered through the project - 50

### **Travel**

A technical visit was made by three Israelis, Mr. Itzhak Ayalon - Technical Advisor, Mr. Uri Drori - Engineer, and Mr. Itzhak Peretz - Assist. Project Coordinator for Israel, to Morocco. The purpose of the visit was to discuss project start-up activities with Mr. Driss Lahlou, the Moroccan Project Coordinator, and to establish a preliminary list of equipment needed. See attached figure for details on the costs, dates, names, origins and destinations for this travel.

### **Meetings**

#### **San Diego - July 18-20, 1992**

Mr. Driss Lahlou, President of Maghreb Agriculture, Morocco and Mr. Hassan Alami, President of Manay Moroc, Moroccan members of the Steering Committee for the Project, traveled to San Diego on July 18, 1992. Meetings were held with San Diego State University Foundation staff to discuss the terms of the grant, project activities, start-up funds needed by the Moroccans, and financial reporting requirements of USAID.

#### **Washington, D. C. - July 21-23, 1992**

SDSUF staff traveled to Washington, D.C. with Mr. Lahlou, Mr. Alami and Dr. Dov Pasternak - Chairman of the Technical Committee and Steering Committee member. Their names are: Ms. Frea Sladek - Associate General Manager for Development, Dr. Bonnie Stewart, - U.S. Project Director, and Mr. David Moore - Director International Development. Meetings were held with Mr. Bert Porter - Regional Cooperation Officer, Mr. Satish Shah - Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, NE Bureau, Mr. Carey Coulter - Director of the Office of Egyptian and North African Affairs, and Mr. Henderson Patrick - Project Development Officer, Dr. James Lowenthal - Deputy Mission Director for USAID Mission to Rabat; and Mr. Russell Shaw, Legislative Assistant to Congressman Henry A. Waxman. The purpose of the trip was to meet with USAID staff and Congressional representatives to discuss the project and to introduce the cooperating partners from Morocco, Israel and the U.S.

Costs for both trips were born by Maghreb Agriculture and SDSUF.

**Technical Committee Meeting**

The date for the first Technical Committee meeting was set. Participants will arrive in Casablanca on November 2. Meetings with USAID in Rabat will take place on November 3. Travel to the project site and to Agadir will take place on November 4-5. The Technical Meeting will take place on November 6-7. Panel members will depart on November 8.

**Financial Reporting Meeting**

Following the Technical Meeting, SDSUF staff will meet with Maghreb Agriculture to discuss financial reporting requirements for USAID contractors.

**Procurement**

No purchases to date.

**Publications**

There is a "Statement of Intellectual Property Rights" signed by the three Project Coordinators. A copy of this agreement is found in the original proposal, Appendix I.

# RAVEL COSTS

## Cooperative Moroccan Agriculture Development Project

| DESCRIPTION       | DATE | AMOUNT            | NAME          | AMOUNT      | WHERE                 | PURPOSE                              |
|-------------------|------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>23524/6806</b> |      | <b>\$4,209.00</b> |               |             |                       |                                      |
| tech Meeting      | 9/92 |                   | Itzhak Peretz | \$ 1,673.00 | Casablanca            | AirTicket<br>Tel Aviv/<br>Casablanca |
|                   | 9/92 |                   | Itzhak Ayalon | \$ 1,268.00 | Casablanca            | AirTicket<br>Tel Aviv/<br>Casablanca |
|                   | 9/92 |                   | Uri Drori     | \$ 1,268.00 | Casablanca            | AirTicket<br>Tel Aviv/<br>Casablanca |
| <b>28616/6806</b> |      | <b>\$2,685.60</b> |               |             |                       |                                      |
| tech Meeting      | 9/92 |                   | Itzhak Peretz | \$ 1,138.40 | Malaga/<br>Casablanca | Per Diem<br>Lodge/M&I                |
|                   | 9/92 |                   | Itzhak Ayalon | \$ 773.60   | Casablanca            | Per Diem<br>Lodge/M&I                |
|                   | 9/92 |                   | Uri Drori     | \$ 773.60   | Casablanca            | Per Diem<br>Lodge/M&I                |

# ANNUAL REPORT

# ANNUAL REPORT

## PROBLEMS AND ACTIONS TAKEN TO ADDRESS THEM

### Communication

Regional Cooperation Programs involve individuals from three distinct cultures. Sensitivities, social organizations, and even national priorities may differ among them. Within this setting, management and coordination often require finesse and imagination to attain program goals.

All participants have been sensitive to this multicultural diversity. Efforts taken to facilitate communication and support project start-up activities include the following.

Two meetings were held, one in San Diego and one in Washington, D.C, among project participants from Morocco, Israel and the U.S. The purpose of these meetings was to meet together as working partners, discuss details of the project and to get clarification on certain issues. Also, meeting with USAID staff in Washington, D. C. was deemed an important activity for facilitation of communications among all participants in the project. The cost for these meetings was born by the participating sponsoring institutions.

Other efforts taken to facilitate mutual cooperation and understanding have been continual phone and fax communications among partners. Continued contact enables all participants to maintain an on-going understanding and to clarify any unresolved questions.

### Visas

Another problem encountered has been securing visas for the Israelis needing to travel to Morocco. Because there are no formal diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the State of Israel, obtaining visas has been a time-consuming and expensive activity. We discussed this issue with our Moroccan partners and they are working on a method to alleviate this problem. We will pursue this issue during the first Technical Committee meeting in November.

## COOPERATION

There will be cooperation among the participating countries as reported, including the Technical and Steering Committee meetings and numerous technical visits to Morocco and to Israel. In addition, every effort will be made to interface with other USAID projects in the region.

## WORK PLAN

### July 1 - September 30, 1992

- grant issued
- staff hired
- program office established
- sub grants were issued
- financial recording and reporting systems were set up in San Diego
- a technical visit was made by three Israelis to Morocco
- plans were made for the first Technical Committee Meeting

### **October 1, 1992 - March 30, 1993**

- finalize and submit detailed work plans for year one
- employ any remaining staff
- convene Technical Committee in November in Morocco
- procure equipment
- develop research sites in Morocco and Israel
- initiate project in Morocco and Israel
- initiate economic and marketing study
- convene Steering Committee in January 1993 in Israel
- prepare, review and forward to AID contract-required reports
- publish and disseminate technical reports, newsletters and other information
- Moroccan training courses finalized/approved
- training in Israel for Moroccans

### **April 1, 1993 - March 30, 1994**

- Moroccan, Israeli and U.S. project coordinator - ongoing communications
- update economic and marketing study
- review detailed work plan and logistical frameworks for years 2-5
- training of Moroccans in Israel
- procure equipment
- develop research sites in Morocco & Israel
- implement project in Morocco and Israel
- publish and disseminate technical reports, newsletters and other information
- prepare, review and forward to AID contract-required reports
- detailed preparation and planning for year two
- convene Technical Committee
- finalize technical/work plans for year two
- convene Steering Committee
- conduct internal evaluation

The work plan commencing October 1, 1992 begins the implementation phase of the project. Activities will be carried on simultaneously in Morocco and in Israel. A descriptive summary of these activities follows:

#### **Morocco**

**Speedling Nursery:** A speedling nursery will be erected in phases, with an initial capacity of one to two million seedlings per year supplied to farms in the target region. The nursery will specialize in the production of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, melons and other crops to be identified. Construction of the nursery will begin in the first phase of project implementation.

**Pot-Plant Nursery:** The pot-plant nursery will generate two types of products: rooted seedlings and finished pot-plants. It will include both a mother plantation and a production unit. Construction of the nursery also will begin during the first phase of project implementation.

**Micro propagation laboratory:** Micro propagation is also used in the pot-plant industry. The intention of this activity is to develop commercial micro propagation capability in Morocco.

**Open-field Production:** This activity will seek to introduce a range of species and cultivars of vegetables for the processing industry. Production will begin in phase one.

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**Training and Extension:** Training of Moroccan extension workers from the Hassan II Institute and training of farmers and farm technicians will be done on the project site.

Training approaches will include on-the-job and short courses. In addition, extension workers will receive training for three to four months in Israel, participating in classes, tours and on-the-job training.

## **Israel**

**Breeding of High Quality Tomatoes for Israel and Morocco:** Studies on tomatoes is to be carried out at the Moroccan site and will be supplemented by the breeding of high quality tomato hybrids in Israel.

**Physiological and Nutritional Studies of Onions:** Research on plant physiology and nutritional requirements for recently developed onion hybrids will facilitate the improvement of management procedures. The work will commence in Israel.

**Micro propagation of Ornamental Eucalyptus:** This work will be conducted at the tissue culture laboratory of the Ben Gurion University. Results of this research will be applicable to the open-field ornamental production activity in Morocco.

**Development of Verticordiaas and Ornamental Plant:** Knowledge gained from initial research will be transferred to Morocco for field testing during the later stages of the project.

**Commercial Production of Truffles:** This activity will seek to identify Moroccan scientists who would be interested in cooperating with Israeli research in this area, and to expand direct ties between involved research institution in both countries.

**Economic and Marketing Study:** The economic study will include an evaluation of the costs of the different products developed in the project; yields and prices in the local and export markets; and returns to the farmers and to investment capital. This report will be revised and updated throughout the life of the project.

**end**