

Oregon State University
University Development Linkages Project

ANNUAL REPORT
October 1996 - September 1997

Lead Institution Oregon State University
Principal Investigator Herschel Weeks, Ph.D
Cooperative Agreement Number PCE-5063-A-00-30011-00

Project Goal To improve the well being of small holder rural families through improved extension and nutrition support

I. Annual Activity Report

A. DESCRIPTION OF PAST YEARS ACTIVITIES

Objective 1 To strengthen the Extension Education Program at the Bunda College of Agriculture and US institutions of higher education

Sub-objective 1 To develop and implement a Master of Science Program of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology at BCA (renamed Rural Development and Extension)

Sub-objective 1 activities during the past year included

- Development of Master of Science course modules

Ten Teaching Models developed by Collaborators from Washington State University and Oregon State University have been reviewed. Four of these have been field tested and are being evaluated. The modules were adapted for local conditions by specialists that were contracted in Malawi.

- Development of Master of Science Programs

a) Master of Science in Extension and Rural Development

The Master of Science (M Sc) Program in Extension and Rural Development was launched in October 1996 with an enrollment of three students. Two of the first batch of students came from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, and one came from the private sector.

Recruitment of Students A brochure has been developed to facilitate recruitment of students from within and outside Malawi. These will be sent to all training and research institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and governments departments involved in planning and policy analysis.

Prospects for the coming years Demand for graduate training is likely to increase with publicity campaigns and due to donor support for development of local training capacity at this level. Currently the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is undertaking inventory of training needs and there is a good chance that the M Sc Program in Extension and Rural Development at Bunda College will be major component of their in-service human resource development. The increased

role of NGOs in extension and training in the rural communities has also created demand for trained personnel at M Sc level. Candidates for graduate training are also being drawn from the undergraduate program at Bunda College through financial support from the Rockefeller Foundation. With the low cost per graduate student (estimated at \$6,000 per annum) local training is likely to be appealing to the government, donors and the private sector. These indications suggest that the prospects for training at Bunda College are very bright.

(b) Master of Science in Agribusiness Management

Market liberalization in Malawi has created the need for knowledge in business skills and management. Bunda College has responded by developing courses at graduate level to create capacity at middle level management in agribusiness. Since graduate training addresses medium to long term management requirements, short courses in agribusiness management for small to medium scale entrepreneurs are also being developed. It is expected that these two programs will be implemented concurrently in the coming fiscal year (1998).

Needs Assessment A needs assessment involving selected SADC countries (Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Malawi) was undertaken to establish areas of deficiency.

Curriculum Development The results of the needs assessment were presented at a national workshop during which curricula for both short courses and graduate training in agribusiness management were considered. The workshop was attended by representatives of major stakeholders including government ministries, training and research institutions, NGO's and the private sectors. A second workshop which aims at ratifying proceedings of the first workshop and recommendations will be held in October, this year.

Prospects for the coming years The M.Sc proposal will be submitted to the University for consideration by November, 1997 and it is expected that first intake of graduate students will be enrolled in January, 1998. The increase in agribusiness activity associated with market liberalization will generate sufficient demand for the program to become sustainable.

C ©Master of Science in Agricultural Economics

Review of Curriculum and Syllabi The change in economic and political environment necessitated a review of the M.Sc program offered by Bunda College. In order to address emerging economic challenges vis-a-vis rising population and environmental degradation due to rampant deforestation, the curriculum for the M Sc in Agricultural Economics was reviewed. The new curriculum incorporates courses and practical sessions on policy analysis in natural resources management, food and agricultural policy, agribusiness, trade and regional cooperation.

Performance Indicators Seven students graduated with a Master's Degree in Agricultural Economics in 1997. Seven other students are preparing for their final oral examinations. Currently there are three students completing mandatory course work and three others in the first year of the program.

Prospects for the coming years The prospects for the future are bright considering the increasing demand for trained manpower at middle management level in both the private and public sectors. High cost of training abroad will make graduate training at Bunda College competitive and sustainable.

Sub-objective 2 Research on Extension and Rural Development

Sub-objective 2 activities during the past year included

- Exchange Visits on Program and Research Development.

A number of exchange visits were undertaken by several members of the collaborating institutions for purposes of strengthening training and research programs. In 1996 Professor Zachary Kasomekera, the Principal of Bunda College visited Oregon State University. During this visit a number of tasks were accomplished. These include

- The establishment of GIS training at Bunda College
- Identification of Faculty to assist in undergraduate and graduate training at Bunda College
- Identification of type of technical support to Bunda College for the establishment of new programs and strengthening of existing programs. This trip has benefited Bunda College in terms of computing facilities and software.

Counterparts visiting University of Malawi in 1996 included Dr Glenn Good, Dr Herschel Weeks and Ms Leanna Ott. The major thrust of these visits was to improve financial and administrative capacity of the UDLP activities at Bunda College.

Other visits by Dr Candace Buzzard and Dr Bart Thielges in 1997 aimed at developing research linkages that would sustain the link relationship beyond the formal UDLP lifetime. A research proposal on natural resource management with special emphasis on women was conceived and is being prepared for submission to potential funding agencies.

Dr Charles Mataya visited the US in August in 1997 with the purpose of participating in the International Conference of Agricultural Economists in Sacramento from 9th to 16th August. The visit was extended to Canada (University of Alberta) where discussion on the development of the Agribusiness Program at Bunda College were held. This was followed by a visit to Oregon State University.

A visit by Dr Mataya to Oregon State University aimed at consolidating research linkages with various counterparts. During this visit a number of meetings were held in relation to both research and training. One of the outcomes of these meetings was the possibility for Dr Steve Buccola to develop a joint proposal with Dr Mataya in two areas: Development of Poverty Monitoring Indicators and Utilization and Management of Natural Resources vis a vis Energy Policy Impact Analysis.

Due to heavy teaching and research commitments, it was proposed that a senior graduate student would visit Malawi between October 1997 and March 1998 with the aim of collaborating with Dr Mataya on development of a research proposal in any of the two areas. Oregon State University would provide travel and subsistence while Bunda College would provide accommodation.

Another outcome of the visit was the possibility of developing a joint research proposal between Oregon State University and Bunda College on agroforestry practices in relation to the needs of Malawi women. Dr Catherine Knott would provide leadership in collaboration with Dr Candace Buzzard and Dr Charles Mataya. Counterparts in nutrition, agricultural economics and sociology would be identified at both institutions to participate in this initiative. Ideally the initial phase aimed at gathering baseline data would involve graduate students at Bunda College. The preliminary information would be used to develop a comprehensive study on the Role Agroforestry Practices on Women's Welfare in Malawi.

Sub-objective 3 Household Resource Dynamics

Sub-objective 3 activities during the past year included

- SADC Regional Technical Analysis Training Course for Practitioners in Food Security and Nutrition
- Computer Spreadsheet Short Course for Policy Analysts and Planners
- National Environmental and Natural Resources Management Course
- Poverty Monitoring System

Other Objective 1 Activities

The Department of Rural Development had initiated new research and training linkages with several organizations and University Institutions. The following are just some of them

- Peanut Collaborative Research Program – University of Georgia and Virginia Polytechnic and State University
- Bean/Cowpea Collaborative Research Program – Michigan State University
- University of Wales – Aberystwyth Research and Training Linkage

Objective 2 To strengthen Home Economics and Human Nutrition Programs at BCA and USIHE

Sub-objective 1 To develop curriculum in Home Economics at Bunda College of Agriculture

Sub-objective 1 activities during the past year included

- Evaluating and revising curriculum for the Bachelor of Science degree program in Home Economics,
- Modification of syllabi
- Training for Home Economics faculty
- Update and expand library holdings

Sub-objective 2 To develop an M.Sc Program in Food Science/Human Nutrition at BCA.

Sub-objective 2 activities during the past year included

- Develop and submit a proposal for a new M Sc program.
- Develop curriculum and obtain materials

Sub-objective 3 To develop food processing and food analysis capabilities at BCA.

Sub-objective 3 activities during the past year included

- Training of faculty and students in food processing
- Procurement and shipment of food processing, testing equipment
- Installation of equipment

B DESCRIPTION OF PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION OF EACH OBJECTIVE

Objective 1 To strengthen the Extension Education Program at the Bunda College of Agriculture and U S institutions of higher education.

Sub-objective 1 To develop and implement a M Sc in Extension at BCA.

Substantial progress has been made in the achievement of this objective. The new M Sc program in Extension and Rural Development has been approved by the faculty senate, curriculum has been developed, course modules have been established and the new students commenced studies in January of 1997. Evaluation and revision of the curriculum is on-going, as is the recruitment of students and the identification of scholarship support programs.

Sub-objective 2 To conduct research on Rural Development at BCA, OSU and WSU

Progress in research on rural development and extension includes ongoing masters theses, the doctoral dissertation of Charles Masangano and other research projects. Various topics have been identified for the Masters theses and are being developed under the tutelage of Dr C Mataya at BCA. Charles Masangano's doctoral dissertation is entitled "Practice of Selected AgroForestry Technologies: Farmer Perceptions of Influential Factors". Other research projects in process and published include "Study of the Processes of Social and Environmental Change in Southern Malawi", "A Comparative Study of Staff and Farmer Perceptions of Acceptability of AgroForestry Technologies in Five MicroClimatic Areas in Malawi" and "Sustainable Dambo Resource for Small Holder Farmers in Malawi".

Sub-objective 3 Household Resource Dynamics

The activities and a description of progress follows

- SADC Regional Technical Analysis Training Course for Practitioners in Food Security and Nutrition

In September 1996 Bunda College organized a four-week regional technical analysis course in food security and nutrition. Twenty-two participants from various countries of the SADC Region attended the course. Dr Herschel Weeks was one of the Resource Persons who participated in the workshop. Due to interest generated and positive response received, the course will be offered again early December this year.

- **Computer Spreadsheet Short Course for Policy Analysts and Planners**

The Department of Rural Development through its outreach unit "The Agricultural Policy Analysis Training Unit has introduced a regular hands-on computer course designed to make Bunda Faculty computer literate. The course is open to outsiders at a fee that is slightly higher than that paid by Bunda Faculty. It is expected that funds generated from this course will be used to service computers and purchase additional software that may be required.

- **National Environmental and Natural Resources Management Course**

The Department of Rural Development has won a contract from IUCN to provide a three week course to practitioners on "Environmental and Natural Resources Management". The course will be held at Bunda in November, 1997. It is expected that the course will eventually be incorporated in the short course curriculum and will be offered on a regular basis.

- **Poverty Monitoring System**

The Department of Rural Development is an active member of the Poverty Monitoring System (PMS) in Malawi. The PMS provides technical advice and guidance on policy interventions aimed at reducing poverty in Malawi. Other activities of the PMS include commissioning of studies and dissemination of information on issues related to poverty alleviation.

An off-shoot of the Department's involvement in the PMS is participation in various research activities including one on the development of poverty indicators. One of the Department's own research on "Measuring Sectoral Impacts of Structural Adjustment Using Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) was approved for funding. Initial phase of this study will be launched shortly. The Department welcomes any collaborator from Oregon State University who may be interested in this initiative.

Objective 2 To strengthen the Home Economics/Human Nutrition Programs at the Bunda College of Agriculture and U.S. institutions of higher education

Sub-objective 1 To develop curriculum in Home Economics and Human Nutrition at BCA at the bachelors level

This objective was completed during the first eighteen months of the linkage and current activities include the on-going evaluation and revision of the curriculum. Funding permitting, additional materials provided.

Sub-objective 2 To develop an M.Sc. Program in Food Science/Human Nutrition at BCA.

A major proposal for a new M.Sc. program in Home Economics and Human Nutrition was submitted to the Bunda faculty senate earlier this past year; however, it was not approved. Necessary revisions are in the process of being performed and it is accepted that the proposal will be re-submitted by December of 1997.

Sub-objective 3 To develop food processing and food analysis capabilities at BCA.

All budgeted equipment and supplies have been obtained and shipped to BCA. John Lu of TU and James Leklem of OSU have installed, calibrated and tested the equipment and effective the date of their departure all equipment was functional.

C DESCRIPTION OF PROGRESS/BARRIERS AFFECTING THE ACHEIVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

The major constraints generally fit into two categories The first is resource access and the second is culture

Access to adequate resources has been a continual issue Requests to complete planned activities have always been tempered with constraints in both people availability and the financial resources to support them

The second underlying constraint that has held an omnipresent place in this project has been cultural Gender expectations are different in the U S and Malawi These issues have lead to confusion and a blockage in forward progress on many occasions The Principal Investigator continually played the role of mediator for the BCA Rural Development and Home Economics Departments This constraint is directly related to administrative structure of this linkage project and the personalities at BCA.

D DESCRIPTION OF PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABILTY

Excellent progress has been made in this area A five year Memorandum of Understanding in Distance Education is being worked towards An additional Memorandum of Understanding with ICRAF and OSU is in progress (BCA will be included under the OSU umbrella) Four Fullbright scholars are expected to continue research activities and multiple discussions are occurring regarding independent research projects between BCA and the collaborating U S institutions

E QUANTITATIVE OUTPUTS OF LINKAGE ACTIVITIES

Objective 1 To strengthen the Extension Education Program at the Bunda College of Agriculture and U S institutions of higher education.

Outputs related to this objective include

- 1 A Ph.D earned by BCA faculty member Charles Masangano
- 2 Various research projects and proposals
- 3 B S and M.Sc degrees by BCA participants
- 4 Memorandums of Understanding
- 5 Short Courses for BCA faculty and staff

Objective 2 To strengthen the Home Economics/Human Nutrition Programs at the Bunda College of Agriculture and U S institutions of higher education

Outputs related to this objective include

- 1 Training programs or BCA faculty and staff
- 2 Various research projects and proposals
- 3 B S and M Sc degrees by BCA participants
- 4 Memorandums of Understanding

F IMPACT ON INTERNATIONALIZATION OF PARTICIPANT INSTITUTIONS

This linkage has had a significant impact on OSU, WSU and TU students and faculty. BCA students and faculty are all highly supportive and in many cases directly involved in this linkage. Four specific seminars were given at OSU on this linkage and generated many requests for additional information related to faculty research agendas.

G ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON BUNDA'S CAPABILITIES TO MEET ITS SOCIAL NEEDS

BCA now offers the only B.S. and M.Sc. degree programs in Rural Development and Home Economics in Malawi. These programs include research in extension methods and nutrition in a country in which nutrition is a major cause of infant mortality.

II. Financial Reports

The following forms are attached:

- A. SF 269 Financial Status Report, July 1, 1996 – September 30, 1997
- B. SF 272 Federal Cash Transactions Report, September 1, 1997 - September 30, 1997

III. Training Report

A. Number of Trainees 3

B. Information Regarding Trainees

Name	Charles Masangano
Citizenship	Malawi
Gender	Male
Training Site	Michigan State University
Dates of Training	8/94-10/97
Purpose/Type of Training	Ph.D -Rural Development
Funding Source	USAID

Name	Agnes
Citizenship	Malawi
Gender	Female
Training Site	Oregon State University , Tuskegee University
Dates of Training	8/96-12-96, 1/97-5-97
Purpose/Type of Training	M.Sc Human Nutrition
Funding Source	USAID

Name	Alex
Citizenship	Malawi
Gender	Male
Training Site	Oregon State University , Tuskegee University
Dates of Training	8/96-12-96, 1/97-5-97
Purpose/Type of Training	M.Sc -Food Science
Funding Source	USAID