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WORKING

WITH

PEOPLE

*Examples of U.S. Technical Assistance*

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### INTRODUCTION

Our country is committed to the proposition that its own security and welfare can be assured only by our working for peace in concert with the other free nations of the world. To this end, the United States has devoted a portion of its resources to the mutual security program—a program which has greatly increased the ability of friendly nations to contribute to our common defense and which has created conditions under which their economies can prosper.

Technical assistance is an important part of that program. Through our technical assistance efforts we help relatively underdeveloped countries acquire the skills and knowledge they need to plan and carry out sound programs for their economic development. These programs assume increased significance in the light of the current economic offensive of the Soviet bloc, which seeks to use

technical assistance as an instrument for political penetration of the newly developing nations.

Two-thirds of the people of the world live in these newly developing areas. Their need for adequate food, improved health, and education creates pressure on their governments to provide a better economic environment. The United States is a leader among the world's nations able and willing to share with these economically underprivileged peoples our technological and developmental experience.

Technical assistance is primarily a program of people working with people. For this reason these programs account for the efforts of almost 85 percent of the employees of the International Cooperation Administration, the organization through which this part of the mutual security program is administered. Currently the United States is working directly with over 50 free nations and dependent territories on technical cooperation programs involving almost 5,000 U.S. technicians overseas.

This booklet describes briefly how a number of these projects in various parts of the world are contributing to the economic growth of the newly developing countries, creating firmer bonds of friendship between their peoples and ours.

## **VIET-NAM—Leadership Gets Results**

An American agricultural engineer and his Vietnamese counterpart have organized a number of rural communities into self-help construction teams that in 2 years have constructed more than 100 small dams and irrigation systems in several areas of Viet-Nam. In September of 1958 they enlisted 10,000 farm people in one of these self-help projects in which a 2-mile irrigation canal, 11 feet deep and 23 feet wide, was dug by hand in less than 24 hours. The canal enables the farmers to irrigate 850 acres of two-crop rice land plus 120 acres of land for corn, beans, tobacco, and other crops.

## **CHILE—Demonstrations Pay Off**

An ICA-sponsored area development project had for its goal an increase in agricultural production. Fourteen farm tractors were used in six provinces to demonstrate soil and water conservation practices. These tractors have built farm ponds and catch basins to provide water for more than 20,000 acres of hitherto unirrigated land. The operation, maintenance, amortization, fuel, grease, oil, and operators' wage costs were charged on an hourly basis to the farm owner who was benefiting. The value to Chile of increased pro-

duction from this land is estimated by U.S. agricultural economists at \$5 million.

As a direct result of these demonstrations, and the acceptance of these ideas by the landowners, 200 American crawler-type tractors, valued at \$5 million, have been purchased by the Chilean Development Corporation, with Export-Import Bank financing.

## **LIBYA—Farmer's Income Multiplied Ten Times**

An ICA agricultural technician in 1954 persuaded Ali Salim Ghenidi, an Arab farmer, to work his farm as a demonstration of what more efficient methods could do to raise rural standards of living. He was loaned the money to buy a steel walking plow and improved seeds. He was shown how to plant and irrigate his crops in rows instead of using the traditional broadcast seeding and basin irrigation method. He was also persuaded to abandon the practice of growing a single crop of barley in favor of more diversified crops, including peanuts, potatoes, tomatoes, and corn.

He dug new wells, cleaned out an old reservoir, and built a new one to increase his water supply. He was taught to prune his fruit trees and shown how to plant a fast-growing windbreak to protect his crops from the destructive desert winds.

In 4 years his average annual cash income has risen from about \$50 to more than \$500, and in the past 3 years many other farmers from miles around have copied his practices and added substantially to their income.

## **TURKEY—Roads to Progress**

As a result of the mutual security road program in Turkey, total road mileage has increased from 9,000 miles to approximately 17,000 miles. One ICA-sponsored project is a national highway system, the development of which has made a substantial contribution to the Turkish economy. Another project is a farm-to-market system that connects with the national roads, thus opening the way for hundreds of villages, especially in eastern Turkey, to participate in the country's trade and national life. A total of 2,800 Turkish nationals received on-the-job training, and more than 100 Turkish engineers and management personnel were brought to the United States for training.

This road development program has strengthened the economic, political, social, and military position of Turkey, a vital NATO partner on the eastern flank of Europe.

## **LIBERIA—Modernizing Agriculture**

Shortly before the United States established a mutual security program mission in Liberia, the Liberian Government's annual expenditure for agricultural equipment, salaries, and travel was very small. Today Liberia boasts a modern Department of Agriculture specializing in research, extension, forestry, fisheries, and farm credit. The Liberian extension service is unique in that it is designed for people who cannot read or write. Tribesmen have been trained as "clan aides" at agricultural substations which serve as demonstration and nursery farms. Liberian agriculture is experiencing an evolution from the primitive to the modern. This is reflected in higher health and living standards.

## **TAIWAN—Quemoy Fishermen Learn Farming**

Five years ago the island of Quemoy was a sand and rock waste occupied by some 45,000 people engaged in fishing. A few families grew some beans and vegetables, but each year it was necessary to import 6,000 hogs and more than 20,000 tons of vegetables and other foods.

An American-trained agricultural extension worker was sent to the island. Organizing the youth in 4-H Clubs he demonstrated the island's agricultural potential. Soon the fishermen started to farm—on the days when fishing was not too good. They began raising hogs and poultry, growing windbreaks, developing irrigation channels—and planting crops. The Government on Taiwan loaned them money for farm equipment and fertilizers.

Today on Quemoy there are more than 600 4-H Club members working on their agricultural projects and about 2,000 adult farmers. Prior to the Chinese Communist attack on August 23, 1958, they were producing enough hogs, poultry, and vegetables so that the civilian population of the island was self-sufficient in food production and there was even a surplus to sell to the army garrison.

## **IRAN—Breeding Improves Cattle and Poultry**

Seven years ago under the mutual security program a herd of Brown Swiss bulls was imported into Iran for breeding purposes. Since then, as a result of an ICA dairy-cattle insemination project, more than 100,000 native cattle have been bred, and today 30,000 crossbred cows are produc-

ing three times as much milk as the native cows in this country which has always before had a shortage of dairy products. Similarly, success has been achieved in breeding chickens from imported U. S. poultry.

These projects have improved the health and nutritional standards of the Iranian people by bettering the quality and increasing the quantity of milk, eggs, and meat.

## **CAMBODIA—Villagers Build a New Life**

The first ICA community development worker to enter the town of Cheung Kreav in November of 1956 found the entire population of 392 families suffering from trachoma and other contagious ailments spread by use of polluted river water. Only a few of the 1,345 inhabitants could read or write.

A year later the villagers, with ICA technical help, had constructed more than 7 miles of access roads, constructed a community center, put in 10 wells, dug pit privies, built 450 compost pits for fertilizer, planted 90 vegetable gardens, organized a crop storage cooperative with 192 families as members, and started a marketing cooperative of 382 families. Inoculations resulted in better health. More than 120 adults were enrolled in a reading class. Three handicraft industries had been established.

## EL SALVADOR—Progress Is Contagious

ICA sanitarian Vernon R. Scott drove into the little city of Jiquilisco in May of 1957 at the suggestion of Dr. José Maria Ticas, regional health officer, who had reported the city's need for advice on sanitation. Scott found garbage-littered streets teeming with millions of flies—carriers of chronic intestinal and other diseases. His first action was to get a construction outfit to donate 50 old oil drums which were then placed about the town for garbage collection. A Community Betterment Committee that had just been organized to seek extension of electric power to the town offered its services, and in a few weeks the entire city had been cleaned up. Then at Scott's suggestion a mass meeting was called, and in 4 hours donations of \$6,000 worth in labor and materials were obtained to build a health center.

The community sponsored dances, socials, and sporting events to raise more funds; and men, women, and children contributed their labor. In less than a year a modern community health center had been completed. In addition, the public market was modernized, a new church was started, a daily garbage pickup was established, and electric power was brought to the city.

## **THE PHILIPPINES—Industrial Gains Demonstrated**

Increased industrial productivity, energetically pursued through a mutual security program project undertaken in more than 200 small and medium sized industrial plants in the Philippines, has resulted in foreign exchange savings, or dollar earnings, of over \$60 million a year.

This ICA-sponsored project has provided for the people of the Philippines and neighboring countries a striking example of the technological progress which can be achieved in a free democratic economic system.

## **LIBYA—Trainees in Great Demand**

In Benghazi ICA is helping to run a trade school that got its start just prior to Libyan independence while the British Army was still in the country. The British had gathered together a number of street urchins, mostly illiterate, and started teaching them carpentry, tin-smithing, and other trades. Since ICA joined in the sponsorship, providing instructors, equipment, and texts, attendance has risen to more than 300 boys and girls in the day school and over 100 others at night, and there is a long waiting list of youngsters

seeking admission. The demand for those who have learned skills in this school is so great that thus far no student has graduated—before they can complete the 3-year course they are lured into private jobs by offers of good pay.

### **ECUADOR—New Spray Kills Banana Blight**

In 1954 Ecuador's banana industry, which accounts for almost half of all Ecuadoran exports, was threatened by a serious disease called Sigatoka or Banana Leaf Spot. As the result of experimentation and tests carried out under the U. S. technical cooperation program, there was developed a chemical formula for a new spray that controls the disease at a fraction of the cost of the old spray. Five gallons of the new spray will do the work of 500 gallons of the old.

During 1957 less than 3,000 acres of bananas were sprayed for Sigatoka control—and one-third of these were for research and demonstration projects. By March 1958, as word of the improved formula spread, an estimated 60,000 or more acres were being treated with the new chemical spray.

This ICA-sponsored project benefits particularly the small farmer, who is now able to grow disease-free crops and make a profit instead of incurring a loss. Of all the results of cooperation

between Ecuador and the United States, a thriving banana industry is the most important to the farmers of Ecuador and to the U. S. consumer.

## **ETHIOPIA—Mechanics Trained for Farm Machinery**

Until recently, few Ethiopian youngsters had had any opportunity to work with the machines and gadgets that every American boy takes for granted. In January 1955 a repair shop and storage center was set up on the outskirts of Addis Ababa as a part of the ICA training program. Since then hundreds of Ethiopian boys have been trained to introduce modern machinery into the agricultural economy of the country. To date, trainees have learned how to repair and operate tractors, plows, disc harrows, grain seeders, seed treaters, hay balers, mowing machines, hay racks, and cement mixers. Equally important, they have learned to train other Ethiopian young men in these skills. In the shop they have learned forging, acetylene welding, cutting, soldering, use of special tools, machine storage, and shed construction.

## **TAIWAN—Farm Production Gains**

During the past 8 years the Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction on Taiwan, a committee sponsored by the mutual security program, has helped to finance more than 2,000 rural reconstruction projects ranging from health to crop improvement and water use control. Projects are undertaken only in response to the initiative of local groups. A significant indication of the results obtained is the fact that agricultural production on Taiwan today is 40 percent higher than it was in 1950 when the program was initiated.

## **INDIA—Training Electric Power Linemen**

“Hot line” maintenance is one of the most important, delicate, and dangerous jobs handled by electric power linemen. It is dangerous because it means working on and repairing high tension lines without shutting off the power. It is extremely important because a shutdown of electricity for even a short time may result in a protracted interruption of industrial production.

“Hot line” maintenance is a routine and commonplace job for American linemen who have the necessary training and equipment. But until a few years ago it was something entirely new to power company employees in India. At the request of

the Indian Government an American technician and instructor was sent to Bangalore to help set up a school to teach the skill of "hot line" maintenance. A few weeks ago Indian Government officials and ICA representatives attended the first graduation ceremony. Soon the time when "the lights go out" will be as rare in India as in the United States.

## **VIET-NAM—"Do-It-Yourself" Stretches Aid Funds**

In free Viet-Nam ICA has helped organize 44 fishermen's cooperatives with a membership of more than 7,000, mainly Christian refugees from Communist-held north Viet-Nam. Refugees were aided in self-help housing activities, supplied with cotton twine to make fish nets, and given materials to build boats.

Although ICA was asked to help one large refugee group to buy 50 fishing boats, the refugees insisted they could get more boats for the money through a do-it-yourself project. They sawed their own timber, bent keels and ribs over charcoal fires, and even made their own nails and calking materials as well as sails. They wound up building 143 very good, seaworthy fishing boats in 4 months for less than the cost of the proposed purchase of 50 boats.

## **PAKISTAN—Learning Through Pictures**

The success of a diesel locomotive training center in Pakistan, established with assistance from the U.S. mutual security program, proves that a picture is worth a thousand words. Since many of the trainees could neither read nor write English, and since many languages and dialects are spoken in Pakistan, about 80 percent of the instruction at the center is visual, carried on with the aid of moving pictures, colored slides, and charts. Equipped to train about 90 men every 10 weeks, the center provides trained personnel for the diesel locomotives used on the Pakistani railways.

## **INDONESIA—New Doctors and Surgeons**

Raising the standard of living of a newly developing nation involves more than just increasing food supplies. It includes improvements in health and education as well. In 1949, at the time Indonesia became independent, the country had only one doctor for each 100,000 of her 80 million people. In addition, facilities for training personnel had been wiped out by war.

The medical school at Djakarta lacked the faculty to give the 6 years of modern training that Indonesia wanted for her new doctors and surgeons. Help was requested from ICA, and in 1954 six

American doctors were obtained through a contract with the University of California. Two of them already spoke Indonesian—the other four soon learned the language.

The school now has 950 students and is graduating 140 doctors a year. Six other medical schools have been established in which young American-trained Indonesians will pass on their newly acquired knowledge of modern medicine.

## **CHILE—Self-Help Housing in Chile**

In one of the most effective accomplishments of technical cooperation in the field of housing, the United States has helped the Chilean Government establish an “aided self-help housing program” in a Santiago slum. Four additional self-help housing projects, totaling 2,000 new homes, have also been initiated.

When the program was started in Chile, many had doubts that unskilled people could do the work needed to build homes of concrete block construction. One night a Chilean official went out to inspect the job—work on the homes was done after regular working hours, often by floodlight. Here was a man using a trowel and doing beautiful work. The official said to him,

“You must be a mason.”

"No, sir," replied the worker, "I'm a tailor."  
The official remarked, "But this is very good work."

"Señor, it's my own home I'm building," explained the worker.

## **ETHIOPIA—New Processing System Boosts Value of Ethiopian Coffee**

The market value of some Ethiopian coffee has been substantially increased as a result of a new processing system introduced under the U.S. mutual security program.

The flavor and quality of Ethiopian coffee beans, called cherries, are improved if the beans can be processed the same day they are picked from the bushes. Under a system introduced by an ICA agricultural technician, many processing units are located near the coffee growing areas rather than having the cherries brought to one large central plant. While a central plant costs about \$30,000, ten work units cost only about \$3,000 and can process a combined volume equal to the capacity of a central plant.

During the last harvest season 15,000 quintals (1 quintal = 220.46 lbs.) of coffee were processed under this new system. It sold for \$14.40 to \$52.80 more per quintal than coffee processed by the old methods.

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