

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : See Distribution

DATE: May 28, 1976

FROM : TA/AGR, Leon Hesser *LH*

SUBJECT: Project Appraisal Report--Rural Unemployment and Underemployment -
Southern University 211 (d) Grant in Agricultural Economics

Attached is the Project Appraisal Report prepared as a result of the on-site Comprehensive Review of the 211 (d) grant program in agricultural economics at Southern University March 25 - 26 1976.

Southern University's grant was designed so that the University could contribute to the resolution of problems confronting the unemployed and underemployed in rural areas of developing countries by increasing its competence and strengthening its capacity in economics/agricultural economics. Southern was to evaluate its domestic experiences in these problems areas and seek to adapt, test and determine the applicability of these experiences to similar conditions in developing countries.

The team selected to review this grant, which was comprised of senior AID officers as well as outside experts, found that Southern University has increased its competence and strengthened its capacity in economic development. However, this capacity has been engaged primarily in domestic research work and has had limited overseas experience and exposure which the grantee was expected to obtain. The review team has recommended that the grant to Southern University not be extended beyond its present expiration date. They also recommended that Southern University prepare a work plan mutually agreeable to AID and the University for the remaining period under the grant, and that Southern, with assistance from TA/AGR, identify opportunities within AID and LDCs to utilize the capacity generated by the grant.

TA/AGR plans to re-assess the progress Southern has made towards the grant objectives January 1977, for the purpose of determining the most appropriate utilization of the University's multidisciplinary approach and capacity in economic development, and therefore will defer making any decisions regarding this grant until then.

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TA/AGR/ESP:AHarding:mmb:5/28/76

Project Appraisal Report (PAR)
(For the period July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976)

Project Title: Rural Unemployment and Underemployment - A 211 (d)
Grant in Agricultural Economics

Grantee: Southern University

Contract No: AID/csd-3414

Project No: 931-11-140-140

Contents

- I. PAR Face Sheet
- II. Narrative
- III. Comprehensive Review Team Report

PROJECT APPRAISAL REPORT (PAR)

PAGE 1

1. PROJECT NO. 931-11-140-140	2. PAR FOR PERIOD: July 1975 TO June 1976	3. COUNTRY Worldwide	4. PAR SERIAL NO.
5. PROJECT TITLE Rural Unemployment and Underemployment: A 211 (d) Grant to Increase Competence in the Economics of Agricultural Development in Less Developed Countries			
6. PROJECT DURATION: Began FY <u>72</u> Ends FY <u>77</u>		7. DATE LATEST PROP June, 1972	8. DATE LATEST PIP
			9. DATE PRIOR PAR December, 1975
10. U.S. FUNDING	a. Cumulative Obligation Thru Prior FY: \$ <u>500,000</u>	b. Current FY Estimated Budget: \$ <u>- 0 -</u>	c. Estimated Budget to completion After Current FY: \$ <u>- 0 -</u>

11. KEY ACTION AGENTS (Contractor, Participating Agency or Voluntary Agency)

a. NAME	b. CONTRACT, PASA OR VOL. AG. NO.
Southern University	ATD/csd-3474

I. NEW ACTIONS PROPOSED AND REQUESTED AS A RESULT OF THIS EVALUATION

A. ACTION (X)			B. LIST OF ACTIONS	C. PROPOSED ACTION COMPLETION DATE
<u>USAID</u>	AID/W	HOST		
		S.U.	The attached report substitutes for a regular PAR covering the period from 7/1/75 to 6/30/76 inclusive.	
X			Develop a work plan mutually agreeable to the University and TA/AGR (with input from the technical offices in the Africa Bureau) for the remaining period under the present grant.	May, 1976
	X		Assist grantee in identifying opportunities in AID, LDC's etc. to utilize the capacity generated by the grant.	Sept. 1976
	X		Hold another review to determine progress Southern has made towards grant objectives and most appropriate utilization of the University's capacity.	January, 1977
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D. REPLANNING REQUIRES						E. DATE OF MISSION REVIEW	
REVISED OR NEW:	<input type="checkbox"/> PROP	<input type="checkbox"/> PIP	<input type="checkbox"/> PRO AG	<input type="checkbox"/> PIO/T	<input type="checkbox"/> PIO/C	<input type="checkbox"/> PIO/P	
PROJECT MANAGER: TYPED NAME, SIGNED INITIALS AND DATE				MISSION DIRECTOR: TYPED NAME, SIGNED INITIALS AND DATE			
Alfred Harding <i>RFH</i> 5/19/76				Leon F. Hesser <i>L.F.H.</i>			

II. Narrative

This Project Appraisal Report (PAR) substitutes for a regular PAR covering the period July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976 inclusive. The project, a 211 (d) grant in agricultural economics, was awarded to Southern University in 1972. The grant is designed to enable the college to increase competence and strengthen its capacity to assist AID, LDCs and other international donors in the general areas of agricultural and rural development. More specifically, the grant provides Southern University with some of the resources needed to contribute to the resolution of problems affecting the unemployed and underemployed in rural areas, particularly as applicable to similar problems in developing countries.

A Comprehensive Review of the grant program was held on-site at the Baton Rouge campus of Southern University March 25 and 26, 1976. A five-man team comprised of senior AID officials, as well as outside experts, had the difficult task of assessing and evaluating the performance of Southern University under the grant. The team was also charged with the responsibility of formulating conclusions and recommendations which the sponsoring technical office (TA/AGR) could utilize in any subsequent decisions pertaining to the grant, and submitting this information in a formal report (See Part III of this PAR - Comprehensive Review Team Report).

The review team was furnished with an issues paper developed by TA/AGR, which was the focal point for the discussions. They also received other background information on the grant program at Southern University, such as the most recent PAR, a mid-grant review conducted by TA/AGR/ESP, and the final grant agreement between AID and the University as well as a special briefing session on this grant program and the program at Virginia State College. The issues centered around progress (or lack of it) made by Southern University in the following general areas:

- a. Staff Development
- b. Curriculum Development
- c. Research
- d. Collaborative/Cooperative Efforts with U.S. and LDC institutions
- e. Efforts to seek and attract funding from other sources
- f. Utilization of the capacity generated by the grant

The review team concluded the following with regard to the grant program at Southern:

- a. Capacity in economics/agricultural economics had increased and could be attributed to the grant.
- b. However, the grant program had not focused on the problems of rural unemployment and underemployment as agreed upon by AID and the University. Moreover, the research work under the grant has concentrated on the small farmer and economic development in Louisiana, and not the adaptability, transferability and testing of hypotheses related to the domestic research work directly in developing countries exhibiting similar characteristics (also called for in the grant).
- c. Utilization of the capacity generated by the grant at Southern appears to be a problem - mainly because the grant program has concentrated on institution building and not developing response capabilities to assist AID, LDCs and other international donors. Thus, very few faculty members have had the opportunity to work collaboratively with institutions and AID missions in developing countries which helps to increase competence.

On the basis of these and other findings, the review team has recommended against an extension of the grant to Southern University beyond its present expiration date. The team has also recommended that Southern prepare a work plan mutually agreed upon by AID for the final year's activities, and that Southern, with assistance from TA/AGR, identify opportunities within AID and LDC's to utilize the capacity generated by the grant. TA/AGR believes it is in AID's best interests to reassess the progress Southern University has made towards fulfilling the grant objectives before making any decision regarding this grant. It is important to note that the emphasis of 211(d) grants changed -- from building institutional capacity to developing response capabilities -- after Southern University was awarded its grant. Equally important is the fact that there was very little management of this and other 211(d) grants in the late 60's and early 70's. Therefore, Southern University and other institutions with grants got very little information and assistance from AID in structuring and administering their programs. For these reasons, TA/AGR plans to hold a similar review in January, 1977 for the purpose of determining the most appropriate utilization of Southern's capacity.