

Quarterly Activity Report: April 1st to June 30th 2004
IALC Sustainable Development of Drylands in Asia and the Middle East Project
Yemen Component – Human Resource Development

Principal Contact: Octavio A. Ramirez, New Mexico State University
E-mail: oramirez@nmsu.edu, Phone (505) 646-3215

Progress Made this Quarter:

1. During this quarter, we received news that USAID/Yemen and the IALC agreed to commit funding in the amount of U.S. \$600,000 for our work in Yemen from October 1 2004 to September 31 2007. As hinted in the e-mail correspondence cited in our previous quarterly report, USAID/Yemen now wants us to expand the scope of activities beyond the University of Sana'a, to technically strengthen and support the faculties of agriculture of Thamar, Ibb and Aden Universities as well. They requested that we undertake a second fact-finding and planning mission to that effect. The Scope of Work provided by USAID for that mission is attached.

It is important to point out that we proposed to USAID/Yemen that during that second mission, in addition to working on the fact-finding and planning, we carry out the following activities:

- a. Training workshops on the development and use of crop budgets for agricultural research, extension, and the making of better farm management decisions.
- b. A curriculum development workshop using the Department of Agricultural Economics of the University of Sana'a as a model, but involving Deans, Department Heads and select faculty members from Sana'a and the three other faculties of agriculture through a final day of presentations summarizing the major steps undertaken in the curriculum development process and discussing the conclusions and outcomes from this effort.
- c. The testing of videoconferencing capabilities and potentially carrying out videoconferencing meetings between NMSU/Las Cruces and the at least two of the four Universities now involved in the program.

However, USAID/Yemen reiterated that the focus of the visit should be to fact-finding and planning towards involving all Yemeni faculties of agriculture in our program.

Therefore, most of our work this quarter involved preparation and execution of a second mission to Yemen, following the Scope of Work provided by USAID. The visit took place from June 17th through June 30th 2004. The mission involved intensive work visits with the four faculties of agriculture and culminated with meetings to present conclusions and recommendations and a tentative three year plan of activities (see schedule and PowerPoint presentation attached). The plan of program activities was well received by the formal representatives of the four faculties and by the USAID/Yemen officials involved with our program.

Activities Planned for Next Quarter (July 1st to September 31st 2004)

1. Preparation of a three year work plan and budget. These will be based on the information and discussions that took place during the June 2004 mission, which are summarized in the attached PowerPoint presentation. As specified in the second mission's Scope of Work, they will be delivered to USAID/Yemen (with copies to the IALC Sustainable Development of Drylands in Asia and the Middle East Project Director) by July 15th 2004.
2. Development of a detailed implementation plan for year one (October 1 2004 to September 31 2005). As specified in the second mission's Scope of Work, they will be delivered to USAID/Yemen (with copies to the IALC Sustainable Development of Drylands in Asia and the Middle East Project Director) by July 31st 2004.

Finally, we report that the USAID/Yemen decision to expand our program activities beyond the University of Sana'a, to include the faculties of agriculture of the Universities of Tamar, Ibb and Aden implies that many of the specifics of the IALC/NMSU/Yemen Cooperative Agreement need to be amended, as this was developed assuming that the institutional strengthening of the University of Sana'a would be the main goal of IALC/NMSU work in Yemen.