

Mr. Scott

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

هيئت انكشاف بين المملی اضلاع مسحدة امریکا
کابل افغانستان

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

دفتر رییس

MAR 29 1977

Mr. Abdul Mohd. Sherzai
Governor of Helmand Province
Lashkar Gah

Dear Governor Sherzai:

The subject of this letter is the establishment of the Socio-Economic Research and Project Monitoring Unit within HAVA, a precondition of the Project Agreement for Phase II of the Central Helmand Drainage Project. I feel that the work of this unit will be very important and useful to the project. Without such an activity, there will be little basis upon which to select specific drainage activities and to measure achievements of the project as they directly affect the farmer. There has been considerable thought, discussion, experience and analysis given to the proposal for the unit.

The recent letter from Mr. Ghulam Farouq of HAVA to Mr. Richard Scott of USAID dated January 15, 1977, fairly well outlines the consensus of thought at the present time on the proposed activities. Attached is an outline of the proposed activities, as well as proposed inputs from HAVA and USAID.

This Research Unit is envisioned as a branch of the Planning and Statistics Office presently under Mr. Farouq. Obviously that office has many other responsibilities than those outlined in the attachment, as will the Research Unit after its establishment. I have outlined only those expected activities that relate to the Helmand Drainage Project. One final point should be stressed, however, relating to the proposed activities of the Research and Monitoring Unit. As distinct from the Planning and Statistics Office, the Research Unit's responsibility should end with the collection and analysis of data gathered. It should not be conceived of as an implementing or action unit. The collection and analysis of reliable information, and the activity of the farmer information program, which should be the domain of the Agriculture Extension Service, should remain separate so that the research may be unbiased.

USAID considers the activities of this Research Unit as important as the engineering aspects of the project, but considerably less expensive to implement. Thus we propose to support the activities with a total budget not to exceed \$35,000; the details outlined in the attachment. As noted, HAVA would also be expected to have a major budgetary input in the activity.

The field research activities are considered the responsibility of HAVA and would not be reimbursable under the project agreement. However, USAID will support the activities through commodity support noted in the attachment, and in part-time advisory skills in the office and in the field. Since both USAID and HAVA will benefit from the data collected in monitoring the project activities and for future evaluations, there will be a need for a truly cooperative and joint effort to be instituted in the field and office activities, similar to but more effective than the situation under which the Farm Economic Survey was accomplished. USAID would not furnish salary supplements, however, as was practiced under the Farm Economic Survey. I understand that the 1356 budget for Planning and Statistics does not currently provide for the activities of such a unit. As part of the Project Agreement negotiations with Ministries of Plan, and Water and Power, USAID will be seeking to have HAVA's budget increased to provide adequately for this function as well as others needed in Phase II.

What I have described is present USAID and, I believe, HAVA thinking relative to the establishment of the Socio-Economic Research and Monitoring Unit within HAVA. I would like to stress the importance which USAID places on the establishment of this unit in the very near future to carry out Phase II of the project.

The USAID staff with experience in implementing this kind of research activity stands ready to advise, help with on-the-job training of personnel, and be involved in implementing any aspect of this proposed activity at your request.

Sincerely,



Frederick H. Sligh
Acting Director

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a/s

Attachment

IIAVA Socio-Economic Research and Monitoring Unit

I. Proposed Activities:

1. Pre-selection socio-economic surveys of proposed work areas to insure that they meet the criteria for selection;

2. Baseline socio-economic surveys of selected work areas with a one-year later follow-up survey to measure effectiveness of drainage work;

3. Surveys of farmer attitudes and monitoring these attitudes and their changes through time toward the project and its actions. This information would be of use to the farmer information program and a means of evaluating its effectiveness;

4. Other socio-economic research and monitoring activities as they relate to the project.

II. Inputs:

1. USAID

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| a. Two vehicles assigned to the Research Unit | \$ 20,000 |
| b. Six calculators (4 basic and 2 advanced models) | \$ 1,000 |
| c. Books and reference materials | \$ 1,000 |
| d. Contingency (e.g. this might include funds for the 1980 Farm Economic Survey data processing) | \$ 13,000 |

2. HAVA

- a. Vehicle fuel and maintenance
- b. Personnel (as outlined by Mr. Farouq)
 - (a) An engineer with assistant
 - (b) An agriculturalist with assistant
 - (c) An agricultural economist with assistant
 - (d) An English-speaking secretary
- c. Office space and supplies