

Quarterly Report-I
(October 1 - December 31, 2002)

**Sustainable Development of Drylands in Asia and
the Middle East**

A Cooperative Agreement (No. EEE-A-00-02-00050-00)

between

the U.S. Agency for International Development

and

the International Arid Lands Consortium

February 6, 2003

Activities Summary (October 1 – December 31, 2002):

- The project was presented by Congressman Jim Kolbe, and Dr. John Wilson, USAID-Washington, during the IALC board meeting and international conference in Tucson, Arizona on Oct 2002.
- The presentation was followed by an initial meeting with IALC members from the University of Arizona, Dr. Kenneth Foster, and Mr. Robert Freitas; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Dr. Earl Kellogg; the Badia Research and Development Programme of the Higher Council of Science and Technology, HH Sharifa Zein bint Nasser; and with participation by Dr. Wilson, USAID. Initial activities and visits to both Jordan and Pakistan were discussed and timeframes established.
- Recruitment of members for the project Technical Advisory Committee was initiated.
- Co-directors Dr. John Santas and Dr. Oval Myers, for the UIUC led effort for the Afghanistan-Pakistan component, initiated the contacts in Pakistan. Discussions have begun to establish the field office at the Northwest Frontier Province – Agricultural University. Pakistan field office Director, Dr. Abdul Qayyum Khan has been selected.
- In November, Mr. Freitas, Project Director for the IALC at the UofA, and Dr. Wilson, USAID-ANE, traveled to Jordan to establish the key contacts for the project in that country. Discussions were held with USAID-Amman, the Badia Programme, Higher Council of Science and Technology, the University of Jordan, the Jordan University of Science and Technology, and the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Environmental Commission.
- Sub-contracts were drafted and sent in November to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and to the Badia Programme for review. The sub-contracts are to support work on the Afganistan-Pakistan and Jordan project components, respectively. USAID-Washington was also copied on these drafts.
- Mr. Freitas submitted a detailed report in December on the visit to Jordan and received suggestions for corrections and improvements from USAID-Amman, the Badia Programme and USAID-Washington.
- In December, comments were received on the sub-contracts and corrections and additions were made and re-submitted with copies sent to USAID-Washington. Following approval of the sub-contract by the Badia Programme, it was submitted to the UofA Contracts Office.

- The Technical Advisory Committee composition was completed in December with six members from four IALC member institutions agreeing to serve. The members are as follows:

Dr. Earl Kellogg, Chairman
 Dr. Dwayne Beck, South Dakota State University
 Dr. Jeffrey Dawson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 Dr. James Fisher, New Mexico State University
 Dr. Peter Ffolliott, University of Arizona
 Dr. James Norwine, Texas A&M University - Kingsville

Activities Summary for the following period (January 1 – March 31, 2003):

- Completion of the sub-contracts for UIUC and the Badia Programme is expected.
- Completion of Technical Advisory Committee members' independent contractor agreements.
- Reception of initial needs relating to technical assistance for Jordan as identified by the Badia Programme, the Jordan University of Science and Technology, and USAID-Amman.
- Identification of faculty willing and able to travel to Jordan for provision of technical assistance, as well as faculty willing and able to provide instruction, guidance or hosting for Jordanian study tour participants.
- Field office for the Afghanistan-Pakistan component set-up and functioning at the NWFP-AU.
- Meeting with Technical Advisory Committee and USAID-Washington in early March in DC.
- Initial travel to Pakistan and, possibly, to Afghanistan, by U.S.-based IALC project personnel (Santas, Myers and Freitas) with USAID-Washington (Wilson) to establish key contacts. Clearance for the travel is required.
- Completion of a capability training statement for the NWFP-Agricultural University.

Following are sections of the report submitted by the two primary project components, for Afghanistan-Pakistan, by UIUC, and for Jordan by the Badia Programme with UofA participation.

Afghanistan-Pakistan Activities
Quarterly Report-I
Sustainable Development of Drylands Project
IALC-UIUC

Introduction:

The first half of calendar year 2002 witnessed a steadily expanding discussion about using the Northwest Frontier Province-Agricultural University (NWFP-AU) in Peshawar, Pakistan as a readily available source of the training and education that would be needed in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) had spent 10 years and millions in USAID support to upgrade that university, leaving it one of the best agricultural institutions in the region when the project known as TIPAN ended in 1994. As this discussion continued, several meetings were held with USAID to explore the possibility of working with the International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC) to develop the human resource base needed by the agricultural sector in Afghanistan.

Much of the summer was used to prepare a proposal which presented our ideas as to why the NWFP-AU was uniquely qualified and positioned to meet the immediate and near-term training needs of Afghan Agricultural Scientists. The ideas in our proposal were contributed by Illinois faculty, who were veterans of the TIPAN project, by NWFP-AU faculty who have given dedicated and effective leadership to that University for the past 20 years, and by faculty at the University of Arizona. The process of committing our ideas to paper and guiding our proposal through channels was led by Earl Kellogg, Associate Provost for International Affairs at Illinois and the UIUC representative to the IALC Board of Directors.

Activities of this period (October 1, 2002 – December 31, 2002):

Having received a positive response to our proposal, the next step was a Preliminary Implementation Plan, which was prepared in time for the IALC Board Meeting in Tucson in October. Congressman Kolbe and AID/Washington Representative, Dr. John Wilson were present at the board meeting and made the official announcement that the IALC had been awarded a contract to work in Jordan on water-related issues and to train Afghans at the NWFP-AU. Dr. Earl Kellogg and IALC Project Director, Mr. Robert Freitas, used the board meeting as an opportunity to hold an initial round of project planning meetings.

Noteworthy progress was made this quarter in assembling the team to manage this training project. Because it seemed essential to Illinois-based personnel that a Field Office should be established in Pakistan to implement this project, our early challenge was to identify the right individual to serve as the Field Office Director. We were fortunate to secure the services of Dr. Abdul Qayyum Khan, who had been employed by AID/Islamabad for many years prior to the closing of that mission in the mid 1990s. More specifically, Dr. Qayyum had oversight responsibility for the TIPAN project during the last half of that ten-year project. This experience and knowledge of the institutions

involved, made him ideal as Director of the Field Office. Dr. Qayyum has made a commitment to be part of the team and held a mid-December series of meetings with NWFP-AU Vice Chancellor, Dr. S. Iqbal Shah, to outline plans for the training programs that are so critically needed by agricultural scientists in Afghanistan.

The Home Office in Illinois will be managed by John Santas and Oval Myers. Dr. Myers knows the NWFP-AU exceptionally well and commands the respect of their faculty as a result of his service as Leader of the Resident Illinois Technical Assistance Team during the last half of the TIPAN Project. Dr. Santas managed the highly-rated participant training component of the TIPAN Project during the entire 10 year life of that project. In this capacity, he developed working relationships and close friendships with a total of 215 NWFP-AU faculty from on-campus departments as well as from the province-wide network of research stations, who were sponsored for advanced degree and specialized short-term training by the TIPAN project.

Another member of the Illinois-based project management team will be Associate Provost Kellogg, in a technical advisory capacity. Marcia Miller is also a member of the home office team in Illinois, serving as Accountant/Business Manager. The process of assembling this team and getting the right individuals “on-board” required considerable time and long-distance negotiating during this quarter. During this reporting period, the IALC subcontract with Illinois was received and submitted to our Grants and Contracts Office for review and will be returned shortly to the University of Arizona to complete contract execution. We are well positioned for on-the-ground work in Pakistan.

Activities Planned for the following period (January 1, 2003 – March 31, 2003):

A major piece of our plans for the first quarter of 2003 will be work on the ground in Pakistan. This has been tentatively scheduled for late February and early March. Our plan is to send a team of four to the field. That team will consist of IALC-based Project Director Bob Freitas, Oval Myers and John Santas, along with John Wilson, the USAID Project Officer who is based in AID/Washington, Bureau for Asia and the Near East. If we stay with plans to depart on February 21 or 22, a considerable amount of planning and work on logistics will be necessary so that our time can be productively used during visits to USAID/Islamabad and the NWFP-AU in Peshawar. Dr. Qayyum has offered to make the necessary arrangements and set up appointments. A central reason for this visit is so we can have a large block of time with Dr. Qayyum to get the Field Office established and operating. Soon after that, students and trainees should begin arriving in Peshawar.

On a closing note, our efforts are receiving public attention. A news release, prepared and distributed by the University of Illinois News Bureau, can be found at:

www.news.uiuc.edu/ii/02/1121/afghaneconomy.html .

**Jordan Activities
Quarterly Report-I
Sustainable Development of Drylands Project
IALC-BRDP**

Introduction:

Due to the active involvement of the International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC) for cooperation in the Middle East region, particularly in the fields of academic and technical assistance, considerable success was achieved in pulling together resources for arid lands development. The concept of technological applications based on scientific principles with the involvement of academia for the development of arid lands will be achieved through the funding by the USAID, the major development agency for the United States. On a long term basis, this is a strategic step towards bridging the gap between good science and development, for which the IALC and its member institutions are well known. Eventually, tangible results are expected given for the concentration of the activities by scientists involved in this sustainable development project.

Focusing on the project, IALC members, including the Badia Research and Development Project (BRDP), have been given a suitable opportunity to contribute knowledge and experience to contribute to basis for sustainable development and technology transfer. An important outcome of the project should be the positive impacts on the livelihoods of the poor and peace for communities devastated by conflicts and deprivation.

Activities of this period (October 1, 2002 – December 31, 2002):

Since the project was approved the following activities were achieved:

1. The project was presented by Congressman Jim Kolbe, and Dr. John Wilson, USAID-Washington, during the IALC board meeting and international conference in Tucson, Arizona on Oct 2002. During this time Congressman Kolbe met with HH Sharifa Zein bint Nasser, Badia Programme, and Dr. Ken Foster, IALC President. It should be noted that their leadership and commitment were essential in obtaining financing for this project. Additionally, acknowledgement should be given to the important role played by Dr. Earl Kellogg in the formulation of the concept and communications with USAID in the preparation of the project document.
2. Mr. Robert Freitas, Project Director, and Dr. Wilson visited Jordan in November for coordination and exploration of potential pilot project sites. In conjunction with the Badia Programme, their visit was coordinated by Amal Hijazi, USAID-Amman. New ideas and approaches were discussed during their visit. A visit program and report was documented by Mr. Freitas.

3. The BRDP board has approved the sub-contract associated with support of project activities in Jordan. The contract document is being prepared for signing for the total sum of \$50,000, to be executed in during the Sustainable Development of Drylands project contract period.

Activities Planned for the following period (January 1, 2003 – March 31, 2003):

1. The Wadi Musa reclaimed water reuse sub-contract will be signed in January with PA consulting (USAID-Amman funded). A separate sub-contract with the IALC (USAID-Washington funded) will facilitate support for the additional studies required within the dry lands sustainable development project. Presently the Wadi Musa site is under going vegetation and socioeconomic surveys. Reports of these surveys will be ready by early February. The surveys will provide direction to of the expected activities on the Wadi Musa site, particularly the integration of the local community in the reclaimed water reuse. Plans are being made to start work on the 5 ha. demonstration site which has been surveyed topographically. The demonstration site will house the project personnel and will serve to carry out activities such as: training, extension and monitoring of the local people and their cropping activities.
2. Regarding the Sustainable Development of Drylands (SDD) project, a technical team will be designated to formulate and execute activities related. This team will be composed of BRDP staff and academia with one of the tasks being the coordination at national and international levels of on-going activities. Very importantly there is a need to identify a set of priority areas to work with the IALC technical assistance teams in Jordan. There is a need to coordinate with the Reclaimed Water Reuse managers at the three pilot areas in Jordan, which are: Wadi Musa; Irbid/JUST (Dr. Al-Ghazawi); and Aqaba/ASEZA (Dr. Bashir). An effort will be made to avoid overlap and inconsistencies, as well as to maximize benefits through a common approach, although each site has its own specific characteristics.
3. SDD technical assistance for the Wadi Musa project:
This item is in process, and it was found that there is a lot in common with the site at Irbid/JUST, such as:
 - a. Crop marketing studies and techniques,
 - b. Networking with a similar model elsewhere,
 - c. Trial of new cash crops,
 - d. Trial of some ornamental plants
 - e. Trial of flower cropping.

A report will be submitted to the Project Director regarding the details of these needs in order to aid the process of the IALC technical assistance team selection.