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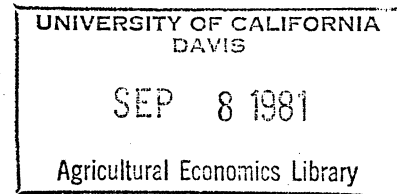
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*International
Agricultural
Cooperation*

1981



Premise:

Given the tight near term financial outlook for international involvements, a new discipline oriented institutional structure is called for that will (a) consolidate the efforts of presently isolated professionals and (b) focus limited resources on priority issues.*

Proposal:

That the International Committee of AAEA be reconstituted as the AAEA Academy on International Development.

Why:

1. That such a new discipline oriented institutional structure can more effectively program and staff long term team efforts focusing on indigenous policy issues of trade, employment, fiscal management and price options. The adaptation and in some cases, the development of new models for such policy analyses are long term, complex, costly and high risk unless effectively coordinated.
2. That such a new discipline oriented institutional structure can enhance the academic credibility of international involvement. A reversal is needed of the present condition of actual or perceived low quality

*Comments by A. J. Coutu, International Symposium, AAEA Meeting at Clemson University, July, 1981.

professional status when agr. economists work with private consulting firms, engage in interdisciplinary collaborative research support programs and participate in service type contracts with international donors.

3. That such a discipline oriented institutional structure can be more effective than individual universities or the USDA in programming and coordinating work in selected world regions and in functional areas of emphasis on graduate and non-degree training. Few universities are able to offer a set of internationally oriented courses with either a regional concentration or a functional focus on a sustained basis.
4. That such a discipline oriented institutional structure can avoid the issues that have in the past limited university coordination of international activities. The issues to be avoided are those related to protecting existing international administrative structures, choosing which university will be held responsible, deciding how overhead will be allocated, implementing rewards and promotion policies involving multiple universities, protecting existing training activities, etc.

What:

In general the AAEA International Academy would function as a contractee or grantee for international program activities. A series of activities could be outlined such as follows:

1. To structure and implement area or functionally specific degree and non-degree training programs for foreign and U. S. students centering on international development.
2. To conduct agr. economic research relating to investment feasibility studies, indigenous agr. policy options, agr. production and farm management studies, economic evaluations, etc.
3. To participate in indigenous institutional development projects focusing on national research and educational activities in the agr. economics area.
4. To participate in agr. economic technical assistance and research activities with International Agriculture Research Centers - the research might focus on choosing research thrusts, policy analyses, market options, etc.
5. To participate as resource persons for enhancing the quality of agr. economic involvement in regional bureau or central offices of USAID.
6. To participate in existing centrally funded interdisciplinary collaborative research support programs or to compete for new research thrusts under this funding mechanism.

How:

With the endorsement of the association membership a series of actions would follow:

1. Creation of a non-profit academy or corporation.
2. Establishment of an executive director position charged with

- a. establishing contractual terms for service with the Academy.
- b. establishing the roster of agr. economists by international geographic areas and functional specifications.
- c. establishing the priority educational and research thrusts of the Academy and fostering understanding of these capacities by international donor agencies.
- d. establishing acceptable terms for contractual and grant relationships with international donor agencies.
- e. establishing an Academy capacity to draft requests for proposals in areas of research, training and public service.
- f. establishing an Academy capacity to implement successful proposals.
- g. establishing an Academy capacity to provide peer reviews for all Academy participants.