

## CHAPTER 4

### Technical Recommendations to the Project

#### General:

1) Hold an initial village meeting to introduce the extension worker to all villagers. Project activities and policies should be explained, and questions answered.

2) It was found that the Project did not always contact the headman and many residents of the larger villages had no knowledge of the Project or had misconceptions about Project policies, such as believing that participants had to be Christian. This problem was evident in the home villages of the extension workers, where nepotism was found.

3) Have extension workers hold training clinics in plant care and fertilizer\pesticide application. Many farmers claimed lack of knowledge for crop failure or loss of trees.

4) In training pay special attention to educating women. Since women do a large share of the farming, methodologies should be devised to overcome their reticence and to get them to understand the new farming techniques being taught. Making use of the collective wisdom of Emily Ballard and Bina Sawyer is urged.

5) Workers should have specific job descriptions instead of performing many different functions. This would motivate the workers to be more responsible and to accomplish more. For example, one person could be in charge of water systems and another in charge of plant clinics.

6) Because of the limited knowledge\experience of some Project workers, government agencies from a given district could be asked to lead a training session. Thus, a plant protection officer could lead a seminar on care of fruit trees or on pests associated with a new crop like soybeans. Care should be taken, however, to make sure that translation is provided so that the villagers will understand all that is taught.

7) The Project might want to consider a sliding scale of assistance, by which the smaller, poorer villages get more help.

8) Make a follow-up trip six to ten months after a water project or similar activity is completed and recontact previously disinterested villagers and villages in the vicinity. Having seen the benefits their neighbors received from certain projects, many expressed renewed interest. This might be a good job responsibility for one extension worker.

9) For those farmers adopting the practices in the demonstration sites, the Project should be willing to help provide barbed wire to fence off the area from cattle as an incentive. Villages such as Huay Chai Yong, Oh Loh Ta, and Ee We Jo encountered problems because they lacked fencing.

10) It might be necessary to increase the number of staff to accommodate all the tasks.

11) Occasional visits to non-participating villages should be made. As Project successes become apparent, word of mouth spreads the news and villagers who formerly showed no interest may well want to join later on.

#### Water\Pipeline Systems:

1) Use higher quality materials for the spigots when they are used centrally by many people (ball-joints). The extra cost would be negligible in terms of total Project costs, villagers would not be faced with having to buy replacement parts soon after the system was established, soil erosion around the spigots would be reduced, and more water would be stored in the holding tanks.

2) Encourage villagers to set up embankments for erosion control around their water spigots and simple roofs over their holding tanks. Visual aids by means of pictures of villages where this has become a problem would be a simple way of getting the point across.

3) Have projects to build at least a few toilets if a water line is put in. Perhaps a single latrine could be funded by the Project as a gift to the village.

4) Make a follow-up trip two or three months after the installation of a water system to address problems and to supervise the proper cleaning of the filter and tanks. Not a single village visited had cleaned the system properly.

5) For a fixed system that will not be expanded, make sure all pipes are properly glued. Many loose pipes tied together with string were encountered, water pressure alone causing them to separate easily.

6) A reworking of the filtering system should be considered. There was too large a separation in the size of the small stones and the sand level. Sand often flowed into the pipes, resulting in the villagers often having to remove all the stones and sand from the first filter in order to get at the pipe. The result of this was that the water was not being filtered. One village used the blue mesh to separate the sand level. This may be a solution which would also facilitate cleaning the system as well. Two lengths of mesh should be used, one to hold the sand level separating it from the stones and another to cover the filter top.

#### Seeds and Seedlings:

1) The timing of seed loans should be made to coincide with fertilizer loans as well as with training on the proper care and planting of what is brought to the villagers.

2) Before planting seedlings, expose them gradually to the new environment. Make sure enough water will be present and training sessions are conducted.

#### Demonstration Sites:

1) The alley farming demonstration sites for the most part did not do well. The villagers saw this failure as stemming from a lack of time invested in tending the sites. With too many other activities to perform, the demonstration sites were probably not viewed as a priority by the Project workers because of the time required to make the site work and produce the desired results.

2) Demonstration sites should be established in remote areas more than in areas close to roads where the villagers have more options for earning income.