

TWO-WAY HELP FOR OUR SOUTH AMERICAN NEIGHBORS

by

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In 1967, the people in Pueblo Nuevo de Colan asked Southwest Texas State College, for technical assistance in the improvement of their farming program, and elevating their standard of living. The principle group of people making the request for help was the Agricultural Cooperative of Pueblo Nuevo de Colan. This request was brought to the United States by Reverend Father Robert Rebert, who was referred to Southwest Texas College by the Texas Partners and the Alliance for Progress.

The name "Co-Ayuda" was suggested for this project by Father Rebert when he sought the co-operation of the Southwest Texas State College Agriculture Department. He said the name would signify "two way help". The letters of the title would signify "Companeros Agricolas Y Universitarios Desarrollando La Agricultura de la Valle Chira — Partners—The Farmers and Graduates for Farm Development in the Chira Valley".

The idea behind such a study or project as Co-Ayuda is that perhaps a "people to people" contact, on a local basis, might be effective in helping these people to improve their standards of living and earning a better livelihood.

ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The request for help specified a need for an agronomist, a horticulturist, a farm manager, and assistants in other fields of agriculture.

Since much of the area of help requested was in the fields of study taught by Dr. Cecil M. Gregg of the Agriculture Department at Southwest Texas State College, he was selected to be the leader of the study group. His wife, Mrs. Louie P. Gregg, who is a teacher in the San Marcos elementary schools, was selected to assist in school and community work. Juan Valera was selected on the team to assist in the field of the animal sciences, and also to serve as interpreter for the group. Jay Thompson was selected to go as poultry and plant science specialist. Juan Valera was valuable as an interpreter because Lima, Peru was formerly his home. Thompson had had previous training for the Peace Corps; this training and his natural enthusiasm and drive made him very useful on the team.

The plan was for the team to fly to Lima, Peru where the members would be interviewed and briefed by leaders of the Peru Partners officials, and by leaders of other groups there who would be interested in such a project. This was to include leaders in the AID work, Peace Corps, and others. These meetings were to last three days, after which the team was to fly to Piura, where Father Rebert and others of Pueblo Nuevo de Colan would meet them.

Mrs. Gregg was to deliver a check to the San Martin school in Piura before the team journeyed, by Jeep and Land Rover, the 75 kilometers into the desert to Pueblo Nuevo de Colan.

In Pueblo Nuevo de Colan the men of the Agricultural Coop were to provide suitable living quarters for the team. They were also to provide transportation about the area, and to be responsible for having the local people prepared to cooperate with and learn from the team. Also, they were to provide a suitable place for group meetings.

The team members were to make a survey of the agricultural situation of the Chira River Valley area farmed by the people in Pueblo Nuevo de Colan, and of the problems of the community in which they live. Also, the team would meet with the Coop members and attempt to assist them in the solution of problems presented. It was the intention that the team members should give instructions on various existing problems as there was opportunity in the assemblies. In the visitations about the community

the team members were to hold individual and group conferences with the farmers on the land where the problems exist.

Another objective of the team was to make contact with the Agricultural University in Piura and to offer any assistance possible that they might request.

Mrs. Gregg was to visit the various schools in the community and deliver some school aids, such as pencils, paper, crayolas, map colors, and rulers to the children in these schools. These supplies were to be taken as a present from the school children of Texas to the school children of Pueblo Nuevo de Colan.

ACTUAL PROCEDURE OF WORK

The activities of the team went about as had been planned, except that there was very little briefing procedure in Lima. All of the briefing done could have been accomplished in one day.

The team took along a portable soil testing kit to run tests on the soils of the area. As the team visited with the farmers they gave instructions on the proper procedures for taking soil samples. The farmers were then invited to collect representative samples from their lands and bring them to the testing laboratory set up in one of the rooms where the team lived. The soils were tested and a report form was filled out in Spanish for each soil sample tested. Also each farmer was invited to visit the team headquarters for a personal conference on his soil problems at which time the farmer was given a copy of his soil test report.

The team members were surprised at the great number of different kinds of crops that were grown in the Chira Valley.

Each member of the Coop wanted the Co-Ayuda team to visit on his individual farm. The valley was divided into community areas and a leader appointed for each community with the responsibility of escorting the team to the farms in his area. The Coop would rent a pickup truck to transport the team to the community, but travel from farm to farm was by walking since there were not many roads that the automobile could travel. Horses were provided for the team to ride on two occasions.

While the Co-Ayuda team was in Pueblo Nuevo de Colan, the Coop met each Tuesday night. In the Coop meetings the team members were present in an advisory capacity. Also, at each meeting some member or members of the team were asked to give a discussion on some problem topic of the community. It was from one of these discussions that a broiler growing project was planned and started.

Twenty members of the Coop and Mrs. Gregg each contributed seventy soles (26.5 soles equals \$1.00) peruvian money to finance a broiler project. One hundred broiler type chicks were bought for the project. The chicks were housed in an outside room of the house where the Co-Ayuda team lived. Proper beginning and growing rations of feed were bought from the purina feed store in Piura. The needed vaccination materials for the chicks were secured. The people of the community were invited to assist with vaccinating and de-beaking of the chicks when they had been in the place for three days. Equipment used in this project was simple. The farmer could build any equipment used except the common kerosene lantern used to supply needed heat at night and some light. The lantern was purchased in a local store. There was great interest in the broiler project and many of the people visited to help with the chores and were greatly impressed by the results of the project.

The Servicio de Investigacion y promocion Agraria (hereafter referred to as SIPA) conducted a four-day short course in Pueblo Nuevo de Colan. In this short course the "Co-Ayuda" team cooperated. The team members participated by leading three two-hour discussions. These efforts were well received by the Coop members, and the SIPA workers. The SIPA workers were very cooperative with the team's efforts.

Since the people in Peru are very patriotic, there is a two-week holiday period at the date of their Independence Celebration. Juan Valera visited his relatives in Lima during this vacation time. The Greggs took the Magic Circle tour through four South American countries. Jay Thompson chose to remain in Pueblo Nuevo during the vacation period.

The members of the team used the time after the holidays to complete the soils reports, hold farmer conferences, and visit the University of Agricultural Technology in Piura on two occasions. At one of these visits a talk was given by Cecil Gregg on the findings and recommendations of the Co-Ayuda team. Also, the team offered to work with the University in any way possible in the future.

In leaving Peru, the team realized that they had learned much from these fine people. The understanding, appreciation and rapport developed was obvious to all concerned.

FINDINGS OF THE TEAM

In the series of visitations and meetings with the farmers of Pueblo Nuevo de Colan, the Co-Ayuda team found the following:

1. The people are anxious to learn; some are already benefiting greatly from recommendations made by SIPA. Good use of nitrogen fertilizer is an example.
2. Coop members are showing use of improved farming techniques and enjoying better economic returns than non-members with the same size of farm operations.
3. Most of their crops need improvements in varieties or strains.
4. Much of the livestock at present are of unimproved breeds. Much inbreeding is in evidence even where improved breeds have been secured.
5. The feeding of balanced rations to livestock is not practiced.
6. Much of the land that is farmed does not have adequate drainage which impairs the productivity of the land and also endangers the health of the people.
7. There are inadequate supplies of irrigation water at certain times of the year and unsatisfactory allocations and distribution of the water that is available.
8. Most of the soils tested need phosphate fertilizer.
9. Most of the soils have a high base saturation because of poor drainage.
10. Organic matter content of the soil is low in most instances.
11. There is need for more effective insect control.
12. Road improvements are needed from the main highways to the pueblitos.
13. Telephone, telegraph and mail service should be greatly improved.
14. There is no local hospital service and medical service is limited.
15. There is a lack of adequate extension service to bring the farmer into close contact with improved agricultural developments and practices.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The "Co-Ayuda" project team from Southwest Texas State College feels that it was a great privilege to be allowed to live and work with the fine people of Pueblo Nuevo de Colan.

The Padres de Santiago Apostol and the members of the Cooperativa Agraria de Servicios Multiples Pueblo Nuevo de Colan had done an excellent job of getting the people ready to accept and work with the team. Also, they had arranged for very comfortable and adequate living quarters for the team. The welcome Fiesta was touching.

Good and cooperative relations were maintained throughout the period (June 10 - August 20) between the team and the people of the community. These people extended many favors and accommodations to the team members and cooperated very well in studies and work attempted. They brought many fruits and vegetables to the "Co-Ayuda" house.

In the operation of the broiler growing project the people of the community displayed great interest. They came often to see how the chicks were growing and to help with the chores of caring for them. This was pleasing to those of the team, for it gave them opportunity to do some good teaching.

In conclusion, it is the opinion of the "Co-Ayuda" work-study team that the opportunity of living in the community of Pueblo Nuevo de Colan made it possible for a "people to people" contact whereby much understanding and inspiration may result. There was much evidence of interest in the English language and the North American way of life. It would be good if a family from the United States could move into each of many communities such as Pueblo Nuevo de Colan and provide some of the leadership and assistance so greatly needed to help those people raise their standards of living.

Teaching Aids Available

The Extension Committee of the American Phytopathological Society has prepared and is selling fifteen sets of colored slides depicting common plant diseases. Seven of these sets were offered in 1958. Eight new sets have been added since then. All are high-quality slides chosen by pathologists from North and South America. The slides are in 2 x 2 inch cardboard mounts numbered and filed in plastic boxes with each set having a syllabus for identification purposes. The price is a nominal *21 cents per slide* including postage and insurance.¹

1. Single Slides available at 50c or 40c in groups of 20 or more.

Set No.	Title	No. Slides	Cost at 21c
1.	Cereal and Forage Diseases	49	\$10.29
2.	Tree Fruit Diseases	51	10.71
3.	Small Fruit Diseases	52	10.92
4.	Cotton and Sugar Beet Diseases	34	7.14
5.	Tomato and Potato Diseases	45	9.45
6.	Muck Crop Diseases (Onions, Lettuce, Celery)	24	5.04
7.	Miscellaneous Vegetable Diseases (Beans, Crucifers, Cucurbits, Peppers, Sweet Corn, Carrots, Peas)	54	11.34
8.	Turf Diseases (Bluegrass)	30	6.30
9.	Turf Diseases (Bentgrass)	32	6.72
10.	Turf Diseases (Bermuda, St. Augustine, Zoysia, Ryegrass and Fescue)	22	4.62
11.	Turf Diseases (Physiologic and those affecting seed production)	23	4.83
12.	Tree Diseases	37	7.77
13.	Shrub Diseases	25	5.25
14.	Sugar Cane and Rice Diseases	40	8.40
15.	Diseases of Tropical Crops (Mango, Papaya, Coconut, Avacado, Cacao, Coffee, Rubber, Banana)	47	9.87