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Tropical Foreign Assignment Summaries- (chronological order, most recent listed first)

Bangladesh- Greenhouse Vegetable Consultant. Working with a consortium of USAID contractors, a series of field training sessions were conducted. Information and demonstrations on soilless vegetable production, in containers, was provided. Organic fertilization methods and pest management options were presented.

Dominican Republic- Greenhouse Vegetable Specialist. Provided on-site evaluation of greenhouse vegetable operations and made recommendations for improvements. Also, made presentations to government and producer associations on needs of greenhouse producers. Production training seminars were conducted throughout the country. Earlier assignment- contracted by the Inter-American Development Bank, I provided a detailed desk study evaluation of a multi-million dollar private greenhouse project. An analysis of the proposed systems, costs and suitability were all addressed.

Nigeria- Greenhouse Vegetable Consultant- Contracted consultant providing desk study analysis of greenhouse proposals and recommendations for a one acre operation.

Qatar- Greenhouse Vegetable Consultant. Contracted consultant providing desk study analysis of conceptual plans for a 235 hectare greenhouse vegetable complex.

Bahrain and Saudi Arabia- Greenhouse Vegetable Consultant. Contracted consultant providing desk study analysis and due diligence on large scale hydroponic greenhouse project.

Paraguay – Greenhouse Vegetable Specialist- Contracted by ACDI/VOCA/USAID. - Provided on-site evaluation of cooperative farms, diagnosed problems, provided recommended solutions, including construction of low-cost tropical greenhouses. Also conducted formal training on improving vegetable production techniques.

Jamaica- Greenhouse Vegetable Consultant- Contracted by the Citizens Development Corps / USAID. These 12- 21 day projects involved the preparation, organization and presentation of 5-10 day greenhouse vegetable seminars to 60 agricultural field officers of the Ministry of Agriculture. Based on pre/post testing and evaluations, the seminars were successful.

Malawi- Greenhouse Vegetable Specialist- This assignment involved working with the largest vegetable farming group in the country. Training and printed material distribution was provided to local farm managers and support personnel.

Fiji- Greenhouse Consultant- Provided a desk study evaluation of a greenhouse vegetable project, and supplied detailed recommendations based on local climate and soil conditions. This included planting methods, greenhouse ventilation, seed sources and yield expectations.

Mexico- Greenhouse Vegetable Consultant – Contracted by the Inter-American Development Bank, I provided an on-site evaluation of a 375 ha (926 acre) corporate greenhouse tomato project. Also prepared terms of reference, research reports, technical recommendations and other horticultural aspects of due diligence.

Honduras- Greenhouse Vegetable Specialist- Working with a consortium of agencies including- USAID, Winrock International, TechnoServe, Florida International University and APROPI (local farmers organization), this project covered tropical greenhouses. I designed a low-cost, efficient, local material, greenhouse for tropical conditions to reduce both rain damage and insect infestations. After sourcing all the materials locally, I coordinated and supervised local farmers in the successful completion of the greenhouse. Crops that can now be grown in the winter (rainy) season include tomato, cucumber, pepper and strawberry.

Egypt- Horticultural Specialist- Working with a consortium of agencies, I conducted vegetable farm evaluations in 6 regions of the country. Also made recommendations for newly reclaimed areas on vegetable production. Provided informal trainings for farmer association members on production of existing and new crops. Conducted two formal seminars for university staff, government farm agents and local farmers. Completed market research for potential new vegetable crops. On a return visit I worked with the farmers and university staff on the design, construction and management of greenhouses for the production of vegetables.

Guyana – Greenhouse Vegetable Specialist- Through field visits, farmer meetings and formal seminars, I taught tropical greenhouse vegetable design, construction and production. Detailed handout materials were developed and distributed to farmers, agriculture agents from the Ministry of Agriculture and faculty of the University of Guyana. Other agencies involved in Guyana farmer programs were also personally contacted and provided with my handout materials.

El Salvador- Greenhouse Vegetable Specialist – Working with a Women’s Farm Cooperative, I designed and built a pilot greenhouse for the production of tomatoes. Expected outcomes include marketable produce for local markets and income for the cooperatives 12 families. I also taught basic greenhouse production seminars to area groups. Developed production manual and greenhouse design plans. Four months after completion, the project was a success, with tomatoes being produced in the greenhouse.

Lebanon- Greenhouse Vegetable Specialist- Worked with staff of newly established demonstration greenhouses and individual greenhouse farmers. Provided technical advice, conducted seminars, prepared and distributed greenhouse vegetable production manual for local conditions. Conducted market analysis for greenhouse produce, both for local sales and export. Follow-up assignments- Designed, prepared equipment list, supervised installation, made on-site modifications to hydroponic- bag culture greenhouse vegetable demonstration greenhouses. Conducted USAID, UNDP and US Embassy-Lebanon education tours.

Nicaragua – Greenhouse Vegetable Specialist – Working with a new demonstration farm, I provided detailed greenhouse structure, planting system and plant production information. Special efforts were made to encourage the organic production goals of the project and locally available materials were used in most modifications recommended. I also prepared a 30-page production manual, in Spanish, for the use of the farm agronomists and other farmers in the country. Despite having to recommend several major changes to the existing systems, major improvements were made and a successful project is now underway. Follow-up assignments verified success and helped solve additional problems with pest management, irrigation, and greenhouse ventilation.

Mozambique – Extension Specialist. Provided training in rural extension to faculty and students of Universidade Catholica Mozambique- Faculty of Agriculture, Cuamba. Topics included extension principles, methods, communication, and applied research. A series of daily seminars was conducted on each of these topics. I recommended to the faculty the establishment of a pilot Farmer Advisory Service and provided details for completion.

Jordan - Greenhouse Vegetable Specialist - Based on extensive farm visits and consultations with Jordanian producers, I prepared a detailed production publication for greenhouse melons in the Jordan Valley. Presented seminars to area farmer and advisor groups on all aspects of melon production, including techniques to reduce use of pesticides. Worked with local produce market representatives on methods to promote Jordanian melons in European markets.