

For Rufus' Washington Trip

Our Forestry

Tree Planting Program

7/1 MONTHLY REPORT

Date : July 15 - August 15, 1963

Station : Hue (Forestry)

IVS Team Member : Herbert W. White

The majority of work of the hue Station in the past two months has concerned the strategic hamlet planting program of the division of forestry, and the use of U.S. surplus foodstuffs as incentive payments to the people who are planting the trees. The following is a description of the progress up to date in the five provinces of Forestry Region V.

Quang Tri : Early discussions about the program in this province indicated that there was little hope for using surplus foodstuffs for incentive payments for tree planting. It appeared that no one was interested in tree planting unless they were payed money, even if the trees were to become their property. Even after Mr. Kieran's first visit to the province agreements for supplying foodstuffs to only two hamlets were made. But in recent weeks considerable progress has been made, especially after Mr. Do Huu Nho's visit to the province. All but 40,000 of the 25,000 trees being grown in the forest service nurseries will be planted with the use of surplus foodstuffs for incentive payments. All but 40,000 of the 235,000 trees being grown in contract nurseries will be planted with the use of foodstuffs. This program will result in tree planting in four districts of the province, and 15 or more villages. Although we still do not have enough information to draw up the agreement for supplying the foodstuffs, this work should be completed within the second week of the next reporting period.

Thua Thien : This province has the largest program of Region V. Here there was never any great problem concerning the use of surplus foods. Early in the reporting period several members of the provincial forestry office made a survey of all the districts in the province in order to find out how many people would want to plant trees if they were supplied free by the forest service, and the trees would become the property of the people. The demand for these trees was far greater than the supply, despite the fact that one and a quarter million trees were allotted for strategic hamlet planting. The final plan for the program is now being typed and should be finished by the third day of the next reporting period. Once it is complete we will draw up the agreement for supplying the foodstuffs.

Quang Nam : Although 610,000 trees have been allotted for the Strategic Hamlet Planting Program in this province, a definite program has yet to be drawn up, and thus no agreement has been made for supplying foodstuffs. Mr. Nguyen Tri Phuong of the Region V forestry office and IVS hope to visit this province during the first week of the next reporting period to see if any further work can be done here.

Quang Tin : This was the first province that completed its planting plan. In mid June, five hamlets in the vicinity of Tam Ky were visited and asked if they wanted to plant trees under the conditions of the program. Four of the hamlets agreed to receive the 100,000 trees that were to be supplied by the forest service nurseries, and plant them as instructed. Soon after an agreement was drawn up to supply foodstuffs, and the USOM provincial representative also agreed to supply a truck for transporting the trees out to the hamlets. Recently, the forestry chief indicated that he wants to change the plan and include more hamlets. Mr. Nguyen Tri Phuong and IVS are going to Quang Tin on the first day of the next reporting period to revise the first agreement.

Quang Ngai : This province also completed its plan early and even had planned to use foodstuffs as incentive payments before IVS or USOM had made any direct contacts. In late July an agreement was drawn up to supply 10 hamlets with foodstuffs that are planting trees under the strategic hamlet planting program. 170,000 Casurina trees, which are all being grown in forest service nurseries, are to be supplied to the ten hamlets. The USOM representative in Quang Ngai, has indicated that he would like to enlarge the program if possible, by supplying more trees to the forest service with funds that he has available. IVS hopes to supply him with at least 150,000 more Casurina trees from another province if he can obtain the necessary funds.

It has been interesting to see the change of attitude that people of all levels have had concerning this planting program in the past three months. At first nearly everyone was against the idea of planting trees, using surplus foods as incentive payments rather than cash. Recent trips throughout various districts have shown that the people of many hamlets are extremely interested in this work. Recently in Hai Lang district in Quang Tri we were asked for four times the number of trees that we had available. People in a number of village offices would present very long arguments why they should receive more trees than the quota we allotted them. In some hamlets there seemed to be little interest in the surplus foods as long as they could receive the number of trees they wanted.

During the first week of June a trip was made to Saigon on the occasion of the IVS Agriculture Team Meeting. During this time a visit was made to the agricultural machinery compound with Mr. Kernan and Mr. Hiep of the Division of Forestry to discuss the possibilities of using

some of the small John Deere tractors for forestry planting work. Later it was agreed that IVS would supply a machinery technician to teach a number of the forestry personnel in Hue how to drive and maintain the machinery when it was sent up to Hue.

During Mr. Kernan's and Mr. Hiep's (Division of Forestry) trip to Hue on the occasion of the 4T meeting in Quang Tri, a trip was made through the mountaineer refugee villages on the road to Cay Sanh. Here a planting program was discussed where Eucalyptus trees would be planted by the mountaineers for the forest service. There was considerable discussion as to whether or not the Eucalypts could compete with the brush and high grass. Nothing definite was settled at the time. Recently, during Mr. Nho's visit, we had a meeting with the chief of province, and it was decided to supply 50,000 Eucalypts for this program. The mountaineers will be paid twenty piasters a day plus surplus foodstuffs. USOM is hoping to supply transportation for carrying the trees from the nursery to the planting area.

Mr. Do Huu Nho, from the Ministry of Rural Affairs visited Forestry Region V from July 22 until August 9. His work was concerned with the strategic hamlet planting program in Thua Thien and Quang Tri. IVS worked with him. During Mr. Nho's visit, a great number of difficulties were remedied,. His work in Quang Tri gave us a concrete program to work with, that otherwise would have been a long time in coming. IVS hopes to work with Mr. Nho when he visits Quang Nam province in the near future and it is expected that as many problems that were solved in Thua Thien and Quang Tri will also be solved here.