

ANNEX IV

INCORPORATION OF STAP REVIEWER'S COMMENTS

The Reviewer's comment on increasing the involvement of national and regional agricultural Universities is a very valid and pertinent one. The project development process has taken this into account with both UNSAAC and UNALM being represented in the project development team. In addition, during the preparatory phase (supported by the PDF B) representatives from the Universities of Cajamarca and Ayacucho were actively involved in project design workshops.

In the current project structure the importance of strengthening on-going agricultural research programs and establishing a mutually beneficial flow of expertise and information is, in particular, reflected in component 3 wherein efforts will be made to promote courses on *in situ* conservation in agrarian Universities and strengthen existing research programs.

As pointed out by the Reviewer, there are several other project activities that could greatly benefit from the insight and experience of agrarian Universities such as those relating to training, monitoring, market research. Indeed, the present institutional structure is designed precisely to facilitate this process. Representatives from national and regional agrarian Universities will be members of the Project Consultative Committee. This committee is the primary technical advisory body to the Project Steering Committee and will be providing continual advice and guidance on the implementation of activities.

Furthermore, several of the NGOs that have played a pivotal role in project design and will be involved in future implementation of some activities already have links with agrarian Universities. These established links would be another way of ensuring that lessons learned through implementation of activities at project sites can be shared with Universities and, in turn, the expertise and experience of the latter can be incorporated into achieving project outcomes.

A case in point is the Andean Project of Peasant Technologies (PRATEC), an NGO committed to revitalizing the influence of peasants' knowledge. Since 1990 PRATEC has offered a Course on Andean Peasant Agriculture with the academic endorsement of two public Universities: the National University of San Cristobal de Huamanga in Ayacucho (1990-93) and the National University of Cajamarca (since 1994). The Course is offered at the postgraduate level leading to a second specialty for rural development technicians with different professional backgrounds. At present there are more than 100 graduates from this program working all over the country. This clearly offers a potent means for strengthening the "institutional base ... for a long-term presence in tracking genetic erosion and advocating policy and technology in the future". The experience gained by PRATEC and other NGOs through this project will therefore greatly enhance and support the knowledge base on Andean peasant agriculture that is being consolidated and disseminated through University courses and research programs. Similarly, CCTA too has links with UNALM and since 1990 has coordinated courses relating to the holistic management of watersheds or small hydrographic basins.

While INIA, the primary government institution responsible for the conservation of crop genetic resources, has in the past suffered some losses in terms of government support, the

situation over the past year and a half has changed. The initial move towards privatization of the experimental stations has been reversed in favor of renewed government support.

To summarize, the issue raised by the Reviewer namely, increased involvement of Universities in order to strengthen the institutional base for a long-term presence in tracking genetic erosion and advocating policy and technology in the future, is an important one that has been taken into consideration starting with the project development phase. Such targeted strengthening will take place through Component 3. In addition, Universities will be actively involved in all activities of the project through the Consultative Committee and through the already established links between NGOs and the academic sector. The location of the project implementation unit is mainly driven by administration issues, nevertheless the Reviewer's suggestion will be considered by the Project Steering Committee in its decision.

ANNEX V
LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT



Carta No. **895** 98-CONAM/SE
Lima, 7 de Agosto de 1998

Dra.
Kim Bolduc
Representante Residente
Programa de las Naciones Unidas
Para el Desarrollo (Pnud)
LIMA.-

Ref.: Proyecto conservación in situ de los cultivos nativos y sus
parientes silvestres en el Perú: un centro de origen global

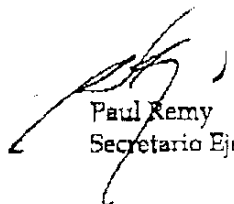
Estimada Señora:

Tengo el agrado de dirigirme a usted para remitir el endoso del
Consejo Nacional del Ambiente (Conam), Punto Focal Operacional
del Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial, al proyecto
mencionado.

El apoyo se basa no solo en la calidad del proyecto, sino también por
su contribución al desarrollo sostenible.

Agradezco la atención que merezca la presente

Atentamente,


Paul Remy
Secretario Ejecutivo