

## 5 | INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS PARTICIPATION

The faculty made significant contributions to the International Programs of the University and its affiliated organizations during the past 75 years. The first formal involvement came in 1952 with Deane G. Carter's appointment to the College of Agriculture Committee on Foreign Programs. In this capacity he visited Indian Institutes at Allahabad and Kharagpur to make recommendations on agricultural engineering education in India.

In 1954, quite likely as a result of Carter's recommendations, Ralph Hay accepted a two-year assignment to serve as group leader of the Illinois Engineering Team and head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) at Kharagpur. Hay was the first head of the department at IIT and it was his responsibility to develop the Department. Today IIT Kharagpur is recognized as having one of the strongest Agricultural Engineering programs in India. It has added M.S. and Ph.D. programs over the years to now provide a full range of educational programs for student engineers.

In 1956, Carter was appointed coordinator of International Cooperation Administration (ICA) Programs in the Office of the Provost of the University. He served in this role until his retirement in 1958. In 1958, Hay was selected to succeed Carter as Coordinator of ICA Programs. He was a logical choice because the major responsibility of

ICA was to administer three USAID/U of I contracts for programs in agriculture and engineering in India. Hay continued as coordinator until he resigned that post in 1962 to accept a two-year assignment as advisor to the dean of the College of Engineering at U.P. Agricultural University, Pant Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, India.

The early involvement of the department was not limited to India. In January 1954, Keith H. Hinchcliff began a two-year assignment in Indonesia while on loan to the USDA Housing and Home Finance Agency. His responsibility was to help develop a self-help shelter program for the Indonesian counterpart agency to the USDA.

### ***India Project***

In February 1960, John W. Matthews began an eighteen-month assignment as agricultural engineering advisor to Balwant Rajput College, Agra and Bichpuri, India. Balwant Rajput College was one of eleven colleges of agriculture and veterinary science cooperating with the University of Illinois in its Technical Cooperation Mission program involving the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in North Central India. His major responsibility was with Balwant Rajput College and Rural Higher Institute although he had some contact with several of the other ten institutions. The main college campus was in Agra, but most of the agriculture was taught at Bichpuri, some seven miles away near the 433-acre college farm.

Agricultural engineering was taught at B. R. College program in the Department of Agronomy. The Rural Institute offered a four-year course in rural services and a three-year diploma course in civil and rural engineering.

Matthews described some of his experiences as follows:

In addition to some teaching and advising, I worked on improving the curricula and facilities, particularly in the workshop area. I also spent considerable time in improving the drainage and irrigation on the college farm, including the building of a bund former and a land plane. These were tractor operated. Each improvement seemed to bring forth additional problems. The tractor maintenance program was inadequate, particularly in the handling of diesel fuel, so I constructed a system where fuel could be stored and pumped into the tractors with minimum exposure to dust and dirt.

A major effort was directed to developing improved bullock drawn implements including a potato planter and harvester. Finally, I developed what we called the "Balwantpuri Versatool." It was a bullock drawn frame on wheels with a three-point hitch and a set of interchangeable attachments to plow, plant, and cultivate crops.

At the end of a tour such as mine, one must ask some sobering questions. Was anything accomplished that may have made some lasting impressions on the problems of rural India? What changes, if any, were wrought in the people with whom I was associated? One thing sure is that I learned more than I could possibly have taught.

The Department did not always have the appropriate faculty or staff needed to fulfill the objectives of university contracts. In such instances it employed persons outside the department to accept overseas assignments. Notable among this group was Donald J. Minehart who was employed for four years (1965-69) as advisor on land and water development and who helped develop the research farms at UPAU at Pant Nagar and at JNAU at Jabalpur.

From November 1965 to March 1966, Frank B. Lanham served as advisor to the director of research at the J. Nehru Agricultural University at Jabalpur. This was part of the university's contract to help Madhya Pradesh develop educational programs similar to its sister state, Uttar Pradesh.

In July 1967, Elwood F. Olver began a two-year assignment as chief of party at J. Nehru Agricultural University at Jabalpur. By this time in the UI/USAID contract, the team had grown to seven scientists in addition to Olver. Olver's responsibilities, in addition to coordination, were to serve as advisor to the dean of the College of Agricultural Engineering and to two vice-chancellors responsible for JNAU programs. Major needs of the university at that time were the development of laboratory materials and the research farms. JNAU was in the process of developing six satellite campuses which also required attention.

In 1968, Errol D. Rodda joined the faculty to accept a two-year assignment as agricultural engineering advisor and advisor to the dean of what was then called G. B. Gant University of Agriculture and Technology at Pant Nagar. Rodda's major responsibilities were to develop graduate programs, assist in new building design and construction, and to develop the outreach function (extension).

### ***Other Programs***

In 1975, Walter D. Lembke went to Indonesia as part of a team from the Midwest Consortium for International Agriculture (MUCIA) to teach an upgrading course in the fundamentals of soil and water engineering to college teachers in Indonesia. One of the teachers, Seododo Hardjoamidjojo, subsequently came to the university and received a M.S. degree from the department. Now he is dean of the College of Agriculture at Bogar Agricultural University.

In 1985, Rodda again accepted a two-year assignment, this time to the North West Frontier Province Agricultural University at Peshawar, Pakistan. Rodda was team leader and institutional development specialist and worked with the vice chancellor and other senior administrators on restructuring the university and the provincial agricultural network.

During his tenure as associate dean of the College of Engineering, Howard L. Wakeland was largely responsible for the development of a number of programs for students to study abroad. The college established programs in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, France, Germany, Japan, Portugal and Russia. If a student wanted more extensive involvement in the international community an international minor was available. Following retirement, Wakeland continued to nurture the programs making a number of overseas trips to foster better working relationships.

### ***Worldwide Research and Education***

In recent years, ongoing research projects have called for on-site data collection overseas. Notable in this area has been the grain quality studies conducted within the Agricultural Experiment Station, in which Shove and Paulsen and some of their graduate students have participated. These studies have taken them to Japan, China, Columbia, and to European countries. Earlier, the dairy automation studies took faculty to the UK and other European countries.

Seventeen faculty have taken short term, three months or less, assignments as part of university programs. These assignments have taken them to fourteen countries scattered all over the world. In addition, faculty have accepted consulting assignments for such organizations as World Health Organization, World Bank, U.S. Feed Grains Coun-

cil, National Pork Producers Council, University of Guadalajara, Mexico, Council for Agricultural Planning and Development, Taiwan, USDA, US Information Agency, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, American Soybean Association, and Farming Systems, Kenya. These assignments have taken them to forty different countries.

A few faculty have taken sabbatical leaves overseas; Goering, Mitchell, Reid, and Siemens traveled to South Africa; Bloome to Australia and New Zealand; Muehling went to European and Scandinavian countries twice and once to Australia; Puckett and Lembke went to the United Kingdom; Reid to Switzerland; Rodda to China; and Yoerger to Germany. Also the department has hosted a number of faculty on sabbatical leave from overseas universities.

Finally, because research knows no political boundaries, more and more faculty have participated in international symposia and meetings of professional societies such as CIGR.

