



Western Center for Risk Management Education

Interim Report

Western Center 2005 Extension Risk Management Education Grants Program

Date Last Submitted: October 4, 2005

Project Name: Navajo Nation Small Farmer Risk Management Project

Project Number: RME-BZV01585

Risk Area: Production, Legal, Human

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Brief Description of Project:

This project will reduce risk in crop production, marketing, and institutional (legal) conditions for small irrigating farmers in the Navajo Nation. This risk reduction will occur with the formation of incorporated water users associations that will improve water control, open up opportunities for the marketing of a wider selection of Native American crops for local consumption, and allow for more legal independence and autonomy in local decision-making about irrigation management. The project will utilize successful water users associations located off the Navajo Reservation (i.e., in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah) as venues for training Navajo farmers how to organize, maintain and sustain a small irrigation system. The project will train 80 farmers, organize study tours for 36 farmers, publish a guidebook on improving production through irrigation associations, organize an advisory committee to inform the Navajo Nation of needed changes in policy pertaining to irrigators, conduct two workshops, videotape one workshop, and establish four water users associations.

Milestones

Project Steps					Actual	
<u>What Project Team Does</u>	<u>What Participants Do</u>	<u>When Measured</u>	<u>Done?</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>How Will You Verify</u>	
1 After completing each study tour, the project team will assist the participants in developing a report and PowerPoint presentation to give in the one-day workshop.	Study tour participants will meet in their respective groups to exchange ideas and experiences, and to decide on what things need to be communicated to farmers in the area	Completion of presentations in the workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	36	Videotape of workshop	
2 A second workshop will be organized involving the advisory committee and Navajo Nation authorities.	The advisory committee will discuss the output of the first workshop, show portions of the videotape of the first workshop, and review recommendations arrived at by the advisory committee regarding policy changes in the Navajo Nation to secure the legal status of associations to manage irrigation systems.	Upon completion of this second workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	Completion of workshop	
3 Assist farmer irrigators in the four irrigation systems where the farmers were recruited from for the study tours, to organize a water users association in each irrigation system.	Participants will convene a meeting of all irrigators in their area and establish plans to form an association.	End of first year	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Registration of associations with the Navajo Nation	

Milestones

Project Steps						
	<u>What Project Team Does</u>	<u>What Participants Do</u>	<u>When Measured</u>	<u>Done?</u>	<u>Actual Number</u>	<u>How Will You Verify</u>
4	At the end of the year, the project team will produce a report on the project, indicating successes and constraints, with an indication of how each of the four associations is progressing, what additional support is needed and how such a project as the one carried out could be improved and/or adopted in other areas where farmers lack legal water users associations. The project team would submit a report to the World Bank's Participatory Irrigation Management Program on ideas that might help the Bank in assisting indigenous peoples in other parts of the world.	The advisory committee would assist the project team in putting together a report to the World Bank.	End of year 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Report

Pending Notes

Interim Notes

Tuesday, October 04, 2005

The project has completed one study tour (August 31 - September 2), and is presently conducting a second study tour (October 5-7, 2005). A total of 13 people are participating in these first two study tours. The study tours were three day/two night trips to visit the Florida Irrigation District near Durango, Colorado; the Grand Mesa Water Users Association in Cedaredge, Colorado, and; the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District in Palisade, Colorado. All participants are writing 2-3 page reports on their study tour experiences and what they have learned. These will be collated and edited into a booklet for the planned workshops. In addition, the second study tour is being videotaped (videotaped interviews of irrigation district representatives who are providing the onsite training at their irrigation systems) and the raw footage will be brought back to Colorado State University for editing into short subject matter training films to be shown in breakout sessions at the upcoming workshops. The first two study tours were to traditional irrigation districts that are of a service area size representative of the size of water system service areas the participants are trying to form water users associations for in their home areas. A small mutual water company of about 2000 acres in service area extent, the Bonifide Ditch in Delta, Colorado, is also included in the study tour currently underway. A third study tour is being planned to the San Luis Valley, Colorado and northern New Mexico to visit traditional acequias in those areas. This study tour is being planned for mid November. These and other planned study tours will give the program trainees an opportunity to weight the costs and benefits of different kinds of organizational forms for water users associations. We are also happy to report that a contribution to the cost of the current study tour (October 5-7) was provided by the San Juan Dine Water Users Association (SJDWUA) of Shiprock, New Mexico. This water association was formed with the assistance of the Sociology Water Lab at Colorado State University about three years ago. SJDWUA has since applied for and received several small federal grants, including an education and training grant of \$2000, which it has subsequently contributed to our risk management education program to train more water users in the Shiprock, New Mexico area. The \$2000 will be used to pay for hotel lodging for the participants. Four participants from the Shiprock area are participating in the study tour currently underway (October 5-7). At the conclusion of each study tour, a debriefing is held with the participants and the staff of the Navajo Nation Water Management Branch. One meeting was held on September 19th, following the first study tour. Another debriefing meeting will be held following the return of the current study tour, probably in mid-October. These debriefing meetings are designed to: 1) obtain feedback from the participants on what they have learned and to help them with writing their 2-3 page reports, 2) evaluating the study tour experience, and 3) furthering plans on how the study tour, reports and planned workshops are to be rolled into the formation of these water users associations.