

## Agriculture faculty working overseas

The University of Nebraska is traveling abroad.

University faculty members from the NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources are involved in three agricultural programs on five continents.

A program to assist Colombia with technical advice and assistance began in 1966 and will end in July. A study of different types of wheat is being conducted by NU and the Mexican government. A third program developing sorghum is a joint effort by NU, India, Lebanon, Mexico and countries in Southeast Europe and in Africa.

The Colombian program is financed by the U.S. State Dept., the Agency for International Development (AID) and grants by the Kellogg and Ford foundations. About 25 University personnel are participating in the program, said Howard W. Ottoson, director of the Lincoln Agricultural Experiment Station.

Other midwestern universities participating in the Colombia program are: Colorado State University, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, the University of Missouri and Oklahoma State University.

### Four objectives

The Columbia program has four

objectives, Ottoson said.

"One objective was to increase the research capability of the Colombian people," Ottoson said. "We wanted to build on the program already started by the Rockefeller Foundation and fill in some of the gaps."

Ottoson explained that NU faculty members helped establish research programs in veterinary science, agricultural engineering and agronomy. University personnel also helped establish teaching programs in agricultural economics and home economics, he said. "A second objective was to develop an agricultural extension program somewhat on our model," he said.

### Model after NU

The third objective was to develop a teaching program and organize a college of agriculture modeled after NU's college, Ottoson said. He added that the National University of Colombia already had a program of agricultural study, but that NU staff members helped add courses.

The fourth objective was to train Colombian students in the United States at the various universities participating in the program, Ottoson said. About 250 Colombians attended NU from 1967 to 1975, said Malena Komarek, a staff assistant in the Department of

Entomology.

### No state tax dollars

Ottoson said no state tax dollars were spent on any aspect of the Colombian program. The University took the lead in implementing the program at the urging of AID, he said.

The two other international programs are primarily research-oriented, Ottoson said.

About seven staff members are participating in the wheat program, said John W. Schmidt, professor of agronomy and one of the participants in the program. He said the Ford and Rockefeller foundations also have given grants to the program, but said he was not sure how much money has been provided.

The program is an exchange of information between Mexican and American agronomists to develop better varieties of wheat, Schmidt said.

Sorghum is being studied to increase its yield, Ottoson said, and to adapt it to high altitudes.

The sorghum program is supported by AID, the Rockefeller Foundation, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and private seed companies, said Jerry D. Eastin, professor of agronomy and coordinator for the program, said. Five NU faculty members are researching for the program.

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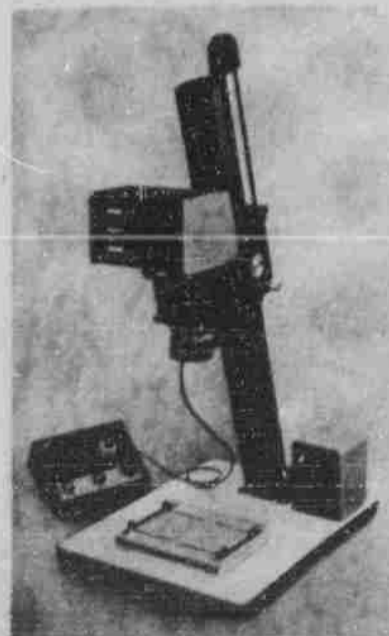
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