B. Experimental and Farm Results

The inchoate goal of the project from a Korean vantage point seems to have been rice self-sufficiency. The project purpose however, was confined to increasing the yields of specified crops both on the experimental stations and on farmers' fields and to improving the cropping system. These objectives were stated over a ten-year period--a period not due to end until 1984.3/ Yet there are now some definitive conclusions that can be drawn from the existing results.

The targets set for the project were often spurious and simplistic, as were the baseline data. Yield increases on experimental plots and on the farms were based on general averages, but these average yields from experiment station plots were practically meaningless. For each crop (rice and barley, for example) many, sometimes dozens, of selections, strains, or varieties were tested for yield performance. Thus, experiment station average yields did not do justice to the complexity of the problem. On the other hand, Korea's agricultural statistics, those garnered from the farmers, were complete and detailed These reliable data could be used to make valid judgments on farm productivity targets used in the project paper.

The project also took no note of pricing, labor and other requirements, other crops such as vegetables, or social attitudes toward consumption that affected production and productivity. More important, there were no project targets for national production nor for self-sufficiency in food, both of which were important aspects of national policy that affected what varieties would be stressed by the extension service.

Further, by the time the project started significant increases in yields had already been achieved. What was more important than yield breakthroughs (which did not occur although they were specifically called for in the project paper) was the need for continuous adaptive research on other issues, such as resistance to cold, lodging, diseases, and insects, as well as for a shortening of the growing period which would allow for more doublecropping throughout a larger area of the country. These other issues were mentioned, but more attention was paid to production increases with its obvious political impact.

Rice production was to climb from 4.79 to 6.0 metric tons per hectare (MT/ha) on experimental stations and from 3.25 to 4.5 MT/ha on farms from 1973 to 1983. Yet experimental station results of the new strains of rice (Tongil indica-japonica) already were 5.06 MT in 1970, three years before the project started.4/ On a national average, the new

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3/ The Project Paper was prepared in 1973, so the decade was supposed to end in 1983. Since the project began in 1974, the ten-year period should terminate in 1984.

4/ Office of Rural Development, The Effectiveness of Tongil Rice Diffusion in Korea, Suwon: 1975, p. 9.