
Nonprofits That Cultivate Development Are Merging

Three organizations associated with Rockefeller family philanthropic activities will merge to form the largest private nonprofit organization devoted to research and education on agriculture for Third World countries. The new entity, the Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, will have its headquarters in Morrilton, Arkansas, some 70 miles west of Little Rock, on the farm owned by the late Winthrop Rockefeller, who was governor of Arkansas from 1967 to 1970.

The new institute will have an initial endowment of about \$28.5 million and the Winthrop Rockefeller Charitable Trust has announced a \$15-million challenge grant to the institute which will become available to match, dollar for dollar, funds that the institute succeeds in raising. In addition to the institute's headquarters at the Winrock farm, it will maintain offices in the Washington, D.C., area.

The three organizations being merged are the Winrock International Livestock Research and Training Center (WILRTC), the Agricultural Development Council (ADC) of New York City, and the International Agricultural Development Service (IADS) of Arlington, Virginia. The organizations together currently employ some 100 scientists and operate a variety of development and educational programs in more than 20 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In addition to work supported by their own funds, the three organizations last year operated under grants and contracts totalling about \$41 million.

According to William M. Dietel, chairman of the nine-member merger committee formed by the three organizations, discussion of the merger began 3 years ago. Dietel said the organizations saw a merger as offering the prospect of additional assets that would increase discretionary funds.

IADS has gained a reputation for assisting less-developed countries to design programs to build up their agricultural research systems. Originally set up by the Rockefeller Foundation, IADS has been highly successful in winning contracts and grants, but has been less so in raising private funds.

The ADC was founded in 1953 by

John D. Rockefeller 3rd to support the training of agricultural economists and other social scientists from Asian countries. The program is credited with training a generation of able Asian scholars who now hold influential posts in many governments, universities, and research institutions. The council has recently extended its program to China and sub-Saharan Africa and requires additional funding to support this expansion.

The Winrock livestock center conducts programs in livestock research, production, and marketing both in the United States and Third World countries. Dietel said that the center's staff are finding increasingly that to be effective in helping Third World countries with livestock problems it is necessary to integrate livestock into a total farming system. It would be advantageous for the center's staff to be able to draw on the expertise of the other organizations.

In commenting on the merger, Dietel, who is president of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, said, "The trustees of the three merging organizations believe, that with adequate financial support and strong leadership, this new nonprofit institution will, through its size, experience and recognized competence, become a major force in agricultural development whose assistance will be sought and respected throughout the world."—JOHN WALSH

Alternative Nobels for Third World Pioneers

A small international foundation has for the past 4 years been awarding "alternative Nobel prizes"—coinciding with award of the real ones—to lesser-known individuals who are working in creative ways to improve the human lot.

This year, the Right Livelihood Foundation, based in Britain, has selected four women to share the \$50,000 award: a Philippine lawyer involved in prisoner rehabilitation; a Kenyan biologist who pioneered reforestation; an Indian who organizes home-based producers; and a Beirut school teacher and peace organizer.

The creator of the foundation is Jakob von Uexkull, a Swedish-German writer and alternate member of

the European Parliament who lives on the Isle of Man. Uexkull sold his \$500,000 stamp collection to provide the initial funding. He went ahead with his plan after the Nobel Foundation rejected his suggestion that an award be created to honor work "which is ecologically responsible and does not ignore the traditional wisdom of mankind, especially the knowledge of the Third World."

The foundation receives nominations from a far-flung network of contacts, and looks for recipients whose projects are at a stage in development where the relatively modest contribution can make a significant difference.

The awards are presented in Stockholm the day before the Nobel ceremonies. Past winners include renewable-energy experts Amory and Hunter Lovins; Petra Kelly, founder of the German Greens; Hassan Fathy, author of *Architecture for the Poor*; and Chilean "barefoot economist" Manfred Max-Neef, who works on community development.

—CONSTANCE HOLDEN

Crisis Manager Dies at 38

Richard Beal, the senior director for crisis management systems and planning at the White House, died on 2 November as a result of medical complications following heart surgery. A former professor of international relations at Brigham Young University, Beal, 38, was responsible for correcting some deficiencies in the collection and analysis of data needed for presidential decision-making during national crises. Over the last 2 years, he supervised the installation of computers capable of synthesizing cable traffic, intelligence reports, and news copy for the National Security Council, and developed a mechanism for presenting policy options to the President by means of televised graphics.

Earlier this year, he told *Science* that "national security planning is a myth"; that "information uncertainty is the normal course of a crisis"; and that no one had devised a reliable system for tracking the implementation of presidential decisions in crises. He said that few White House officials have any meaningful previous experience with crises and that, as a result, virtually no one at the highest levels of