

PROGRAM SCHEDULE SHAMALON UNIT (31,399 ACRES)

A Report of Contract Services Performed
for the
U. S. Agency for International Development
(Contract: AID/nesa - 141 - Afghanistan)
and the
Helmand-Arghandab Valley Authority
Royal Government of Afghanistan

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SUMMARY

The accompanying schedule and this descriptive report cover work of the Program Scheduling Specialist of The J. G. White-Engineering Corporation for the two-year period starting November 10, 1965, completing scheduling services for the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under Contract AID/nesa - 141 (Afghanistan), as amended, and the Helmand Arghandab Valley Authority (HAVA), Royal Government of Afghanistan (RGA).

The schedule shows the major elements of projected operations thought by most to be necessary in the Shamalon Unit for achieving full irrigation development and early economic returns. The projected operations and programs are tabulated in the left column of the schedule with bar lines superimposed on the seven-year quarterly-divided calendar to the right showing when each particular action is to take place.

The Shamalon Unit is located on the west bank of the Helmand River in the Helmand Arghandab Region, in the vicinity of Lashkar Gah in Southern Afghanistan. It consists of 31,399 acres of irrigable land on the first and second terrace levels bordering the river in a gross area approximately 40 miles long by 2-1/2 miles wide.

The schedule has two phases dealing with development of the Shamalon Unit. Phase I is concerned with the physical betterment of lands, including construction, resettlement of the developed lands following construction, and the operation of the irrigation system. Phase II deals primarily with programs for implementation after construction and resettlement are complete, so that prompt and effective utilization of the developed land may be made.

Unresolved Issues. Certain issues remain to be resolved. The issues consist of a broad complex of political, social and economic matters all of which are important to the success of agricultural and rural development in the Shamalon area. While the issues are described in more detail elsewhere in this report, in general they involve population displacement during construction, charges for land improvement, delivery of water to farmers and assessments against users, settlement policies, public health, education, and rural women's activities. The most pressing need is for a sound plan for moving and relocating the rural population before construction begins in early 1968, but preparing such a plan may be difficult to do without solving other related issues.

It is obvious that expanded activity lies immediately ahead for HAVA and RGA in which significant increases in personnel, facilities, and budget will be required.

Recommendations. Because the many unresolved issues are tied up with Afghanistan laws, customs, and regulations it is felt that solutions can best be made by HAVA and RGA. For this reason, it is recommended that the Program Scheduling Committee (described later in the report) be given the continuing responsibility to study the unresolved issues in a thorough, systematic manner and develop early specific recommendations for concurrence by RIA and others.