

EvSum324

UK AID FOR GRAIN STORAGE IN SRI LANKA, 1978-1983: AN EVALUATION

[The Project](#) - [The Evaluation](#) - [The Main Findings](#) - [Lessons](#)

The Project

The project built six go-downs for the Paddy Marketing Board (PMB), supplied pest control equipment and vehicles to the same Board and to the Food Commission, and provided a three-year Technical Cooperation Officer (TCO) Grain Storage Adviser responsible for scientific research and training to these organisations and others. Training was also given at the Tropical Development and Research Institute (TDRI), Slough, to a number of personnel. The project cost slightly less than £1m at current prices: £1.4m in 1984 prices.

The Evaluation

The evaluation was conducted by a team of three including a Consulting Engineer, an Entomologist, and an Economist. A field visit was made in March 1985.

The Main Findings

- The main findings were that as an exercise in implementation the project was a model for both TCO and capital components and demonstrates the professionalism of TDRI in these aspects. Unfortunately changes in the rationing system and the liberalisation of grain trading profoundly affected the role of the PMB in the grain economy.
- The timing and significance of these changes was such that, with hindsight, they made a review of the capital project, mid-implementation, desirable but this review was probably beyond reasonable expectation at the time of construction.
- It is very unlikely that an acceptable rate-of-return on the capital investment can be achieved. A low positive rate should be. Training and scientific inputs, the direct responsibility of TDRI, were well organised, relevant and effective.

Lessons

The project achieved a successful implementation and based on this it is recommended:

- That the full role played by TDRI Storage Department in this respect should be carried forward to other grain storage projects.
- That sound project management with specific and formally identified responsibilities, as found in this project, should be ensured by ODA in other projects.

- That a full understanding of the capability of local contractors is necessary prior to making project agreements. Again this project provides a model to be followed.
- The project experience warns of the need for greater sensitivity to changes of policy environment amongst project monitors and Aid Secretaries in Posts.