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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

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CU Cassava Study Aids Poorly-Fed

UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS

American taxpayers may be happy to hear about a CU research project in Africa. It probably won't save them any money, but may mean more effective use of U.S. tax dollars spent to aid underdeveloped countries.

The project is designed to analyze and describe the cassava-based food system in

Nigeria, and to help Nigerian decision-makers learn to use the model in working out nutritional and socio-economic problems in their country.

Although the study is being done in Nigeria, it has implications for most tropical countries which rely heavily upon the cassava plant for food. One of the leading three

food sources in the world and the basic source of calories for 300 million people, the cassava is a root plant rich in starches. Tapioca is a granular preparation of the cassava root.

The study is being conducted by Prof. David J. Rogers of environmental, population and organismic biology, Prof. Charles C. Slater and Assistant

ASUC Questionnaire Is Available; Instructor Response Termed Good

Personnel of the Associated Students of the University of Colorado (ASUC) will administer course evaluation questionnaires in the classrooms of some instructors this week. Students who have not had the opportunity to fill out the questionnaire, prepared by the ASUC, in the classroom may do so this week in the UMC loggia between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Another questionnaire was published earlier in the semester by the University Committee on Teaching (UCT). The ASUC, at that time, called for a boycott of the UCT questionnaire because the results were not to be published on a mandatory basis.

The UCT left it up to the individual departments to decide if the results should be published.

ASUC tri-executive Paul Boetcher said at that time that the UCT questionnaire was a waste of time for students.

The main difference in the two evaluations is that the ASUC questionnaire is shorter and all the results will be published.

Members of ASUC expressed hopes that the evaluations will be processed, compiled into booklet form, and ready for student use in time for fall pre-registration in the spring.

One of the editors of the ASUC questionnaire, Debbie Veals, said that efforts have been made to solicit cooperation of instructors in administering the questionnaires. The ASUC has written

many letters to individual instructors informing them about the questionnaire. Veals called the response "favorable."

"Ninety-nine per cent of the professors don't know how good this questionnaire is," said Prof. Roger Paget, chairman of the Student Relations Committee, who has been advising the ASUC in putting together the evaluation. "This isn't something that has just been thrown together, it's been long in development."

Paget also stressed that for instructors who have already administered a UCT questionnaire, this isn't an "either-or" situation. The instructor can still use the ASUC evaluation.

According to Paget, the main emphasis of the questionnaire is an evaluation of the course it-

Prof. Adjunct Jay April of business and administration and CU systems research analyst Gilbert Hersh under a one-year contract with the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) nutrition division. It is the second study by CU under AID contract. The first was of the cassava-dependent culture in Kinshasa, the Republic of Zaire (formerly Leopoldville, the Congo.)

Realizing that cassava, which Rogers notes is not in itself enough for good nutrition, is tightly connected with the social and cultural structure of the country, the team has been using a systems approach called "bionomics". It attempts to take into account all the biological and socioeconomic problems involved in getting the people to accept a better balanced diet.

Rogers reports, "most of the problems we have run into are due to the fact that the balance of diet is poor." The team has been helping Nigerian agricultural organizations and university research teams set up continuing studies of the crop's marketing to determine where in the chain of cassava's production an enriched protein can be added as a nutritional supplement. Rogers says the need for additional protein is critical, especially among the young.

How can this save money?

Slater says improving the availability of food will increase per capita income and potential production by reducing illness and lengthening the effective working years.

The team started work in Nigeria during the past summer. The first step was to find Nigerian nationals willing to work with the team. With the Nigerian co-workers helping to get the approval of their countrymen, the CU team then went to homes where the food is prepared and eaten. Visiting

homes ranging from the poorest to the richest, the researchers gathered information on the types of food purchased, where they were purchased, how they were prepared and in what order, if any, the members of the family ate the food.

Samples were purchased by research team members from the families, and analysis was done on the nutritional value of the foods. The group also followed the channels of marketing back to production, choosing selected areas for further studies to determine possible different environmental factors in the food's production.

April and Hersh will take the results of the initial data-gathering back to Nigeria in December for a full report and work session with their African co-workers. Rogers says, "We were just delighted, the Nigerians had an appreciation for what we are trying to do. We think they are attuned to the systems approach to the food problem."

In the Kinshasa study, for example, one of the suggestions made by the researchers was that a soya and corn protein supplement should be instituted in Kinshasa, which is suffering from relatively heavy food price increases and disease — especially virus mosaic — which has ravaged the cassava plantings.

Rogers, an authority on manihot, the plant to which cassava belongs, and on taxometrics, the use of a computer to store biological information.

Slater is a specialist in marketing for underdeveloped countries.

April joined the faculty this year after receiving a doctor of business administration degree from CU in December.

Hersh is a doctoral student in business administration.

US Experts Study Our Nutrition

By Chinazom Nwaukwu

A SCIENTIFIC investigation designed to study nutrition in Nigeria is now being carried out by a team of American experts.

The research is sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) office of nutrition, in co-operation with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the University of Nigeria (UNN).

The four-man team includes Dr. David Rogers, Dr. Charles Slater, Dr. Gil Hersh and Dr Jay April.

Announcing this in an exclusive interview with *The Renaissance* in Enugu at the week-end, Dr Jay April said that their investigation focuses upon cassava primarily, because it is the principal staple food of the country.

He told me that the result of the research would "enable Nigerians to get a true picture of the total system, consumption, distribution and production of cassava and enable them to carry out similar investigations into

cassava and hopefully, other foods if they so desire."

He said they had earlier carried out a similar study in Zaire Republic (Congo) in 1971 and their mission out in Nigeria is the second of its kind.

Dr April disclosed that the result of their investigation might enable the country to better understand the system of cassava.

In December this year, Dr April said, the International Society for Roots and Tubers would hold its world conference at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Ibadan, Western State of

Nigeria, when the result of their findings would be announced.

The week-long conference which is expected to be attended by representatives from various countries in the world would be chairmanned by Dr Magoon of India who is the president of the society.

The last conference of the society held in Hawaii, was attended by scientists from more than 40 nations, including Asia, America and Africa.

The research team has already visited the Western and Mid-Western States and is now in the East Central State. The team is expected to visit the Northern states of the federation before returning to the United States in August, this year.

NEWS



David Rogers
EPO Biology
Hale Science Bldg

Revised

Written: Durham
Sept. 28, 1973

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rogers Publishes Works On Manihot

More than 20 years of research by Prof. David J. Rogers of the University of Colorado Department of Environmental, Population and Organismic Biology has gone into two recent publications about one of world's leading food resources for people in underdeveloped countries.

The publications include a 272-page Flora Neotropica monograph on "Manihot and Manihotoides (Euphorbiaceae)," published by Hafner Publications, New York, and a 114-page monograph in Economic Botany of "Manihot esculenta." The latter publication was co-authored by former CU research botanist Henry S. Fleming.

Rogers, a CU faculty member since 1967, is a world authority on Manihot, a plant genus which includes cassava (tropical tapioca), the major food source for people in the world's tropical areas. Supported by a National Science Foundation grant, Rogers has completed a description and location for each of the genus' 85 species, correlating his own field notes and specimens from many expeditions over the past three decades to areas where the plants grow with other information from throughout the world.

Camera
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