

Appendix C

**SAMPLE LETTER TO STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS
REQUESTING STUDY PARTICIPATION**



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Cooperative State
Research, Education,
and Extension Service

Washington, DC
20250

June 23, 1997

State Extension Director
State Cooperative Extension Service
Address
City, State, Zip

Dear Salutation:

From local extension boards to university administrators to the U.S. Congress, people are increasingly asking the same question concerning foreign assistance: "What's in it for the U.S.?" A survey going out soon to personnel from your university who took part in USDA's Polish-American Extension Project (PAEP) should soon help all of us answer that question better.

From 1990 to 1996, our International Programs office coordinated the PAEP - a technical assistance effort that drew upon the tremendous resources of the U.S. Cooperative Extension System to aid in restructuring and revitalizing the extension service in Poland. More than 100 extension professionals from 32 land-grant university systems collaborated to make this a very successful and sustainable development effort.

The success of the PAEP in assisting the Polish extension system has been documented, but little has been reported concerning the impact that participation in this project has had on the Americans who served overseas, many of whom referred to their assignments as the highlight of their career. Nor has adequate consideration been given to the effect that this experience has had on the individuals' institutions, their co-workers, community, and clientele.

This survey is one component of a study we are undertaking in cooperation with The Pennsylvania State University and Michigan State University to measure the benefits to the U.S. that result from programs abroad. Using the PAEP as a case study, this assessment will take an in-depth look at the impact that working overseas had on U.S. extension personnel and how that experience helped them to make a difference here in the U.S.

We hope that the ensuing results will provide evidence in support of the argument that international development assistance truly is a mutually beneficial activity and the investment that we make, both in terms of time and money, will continue to pay off for years to come.

We are enclosing a list of project participants from cooperating universities nationwide. The majority of these individuals served on 6-month assignments at provincial-level agricultural advisory centers in Poland. The survey will be sent to these people within the next couple of weeks. We will send you the results of the study when it is finished later this year. In the meantime, please contact our office if you have any questions or comments concerning this study or our international program activities.

Thank you for your support in the past. We are confident that this study will help reaffirm your belief in international participation and provide you with valuable documentation to use when considering the merits of such involvement in the future.

Sincerely,

Michael J. McGirr
International Programs Specialist

enclosure