

# Merger Aimed at Aiding Third World Agriculture

By KATHLEEN TELTSCH

Three private United States aid organizations involved in promoting agricultural assistance to poorer countries are merging to form a new nonprofit organization especially geared to helping the third world.

The merged organization, to be called the Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, will become the world's largest private, nonprofit undertaking involved in promoting agricultural development abroad, said William M. Dietel, president of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, a foundation created by five Rockefeller brothers.

Mr. Dietel, who led the two-year merger effort, said that the institute would begin with a \$28.5 million endowment and with prospects of expanding to \$80 million within three years. It will make its headquarters in Morrilton, Ark., on a 200-acre tract adjacent to the ranchlands developed by Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller, now dead. There will be a subsidiary office in Washington.

"It is essential that agricultural development be accelerated if we are to provide adequate diets for the growing population in the third world countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America," Mr. Dietel said in an interview, noting that projections for the year 2,000 indicated 80 percent of the world's six billion people would be living in these countries.

## More Effective Program

Mr. Dietel said the merger was dictated by the three aid groups' recognition that although they had commonality of interests, it was no longer practical for each to have a relatively narrow specialization and that a single organization with increased resources and a wide-reaching program would be more effective.

The new institute will undertake research and education and training as well as food policy analysis and assistance in mobilizing resources. While its focus will be on assistance to the developing countries of the third world, Mr. Dietel said, the evolving institute will be looking also for an unfilled "niche" in American agriculture where it could be useful.

He argued that there would be other long-term benefits for American farmers evolving from the merged program. "In the short run, markets for United States farm output primarily will be in the Soviet Union and Europe, but the developing countries have the

potential to become big markets. The future of United States agriculture is inextricably linked with the third world."

The largest of the three merged partners, the Winrock International Livestock Research and Training Center, was founded in 1975, two years after the Governor's death by his friends and agricultural specialists who maintained that livestock was not receiving adequate research or investment resources.

## Renowned Livestock Operation

The center was set up on Petit Jean Mountain in central Arkansas, where the Governor spent years building a world-renowned livestock operation. At the outset, the center was aided by a substantial grant from the Winthrop Rockefeller Charitable Trust, but it now receives more than 60 percent of its operating budget in the form of contracts from government and private sources or from donations.

Alone among the three merging groups, it operates in the United States and has been working here on agroforestry: establishing a relationship between livestock and forest lands.

The center's conference facilities and other property are to be transferred to the new merged institute. The center has no organizational link to the adjacent Winrock Farms, which operates as a business, marketing live-

stock, seed and farm products.

The two other merger partners are the International Agricultural Development Service of Arlington, Va., set up by the Rockefeller Foundation and currently working in 17 countries helping to strengthen agricultural research and to train agrarian experts, and the Agricultural Development Council of New York. The council was founded 31 years ago by John D. Rockefeller 3d, oldest of the five sons of John D. Rockefeller Jr.

The \$28.5 million endowment of the new Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development comes from the three merged partners. The institute also has received a conditional grant of \$15 million from the Winthrop Rockefeller Charitable Trust, which it must match from other sources. Mr. Dietel said about half the sum already appeared pledged by foundations and expressed confidence that the balance would be available.

An 18-member board of directors has been appointed. In addition to Mr. Dietel it includes Norman E. Borlaug, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in improving agriculture in the third world; Lowell S. Hardin, chairman of the Agricultural Development Council, and Clifford M. Hardin, former United States Secretary of Agriculture. The president of the new institute is to be appointed within a few weeks, Mr. Dietel said.

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