

DISTRICT DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
MARIANAS DISTRICT

	<u>Fiscal Years</u>					
	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Operations...\$	378,600	\$ 404,400	\$ 430,400	\$ 456,200	\$ 492,700	\$ 529,200
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Totals....\$	378,600	\$ 504,400	\$ 430,400	\$ 556,200	\$ 492,700	\$ 529,200
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1/ Re.CIP card priority Hos. 13, 18 and 19.

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Marianas Agriculture Division is primarily concerned with the development of the agricultural economy of the islands. The chief emphasis at present includes educating the farmers to use the facilities that have been installed and to assist them to produce and market their crops. Rota and Tinian have irrigation systems that are functionable and will be extended as the farming population requires additional areas. Tinian farmers have utilized 50% of the area within the irrigation system. No additions to the present system are required in the next two years. In FY-74 and FY-75 a four acre reservoir will be build on Rota to provide irrigation water for the latter part of the dry season. Saipan is still plagued by water shortages. Minimum water use system will be fitted for Saipan in the Kagman area and extended to other areas as land for reservoirs is acquired or farmers request assistance for construction of reservoir for their use. These reservoirs will be build for livestock water and irrigation of vegetable crops. Rota and Tinian also have two 8' X 20' chill reefers and one freeze reefer of the same size to hold their produce until it is shipped to Guam. The Division has account 2.555 available to pay the farmers in cash for produce shipped to purchasers who will accept weights and grading by agriculture inspectors. AAFB is presently using this account. Rota and Saipan also have certified government slaughterhouses that permit them to export pork and beef. Tinian livestock producers can have their livestock slaughtered in the M. D. C. slaughterhouse. To further assist the farmers, the Congress of Micronesia, District Legislature and EDLF and PDLF has provided funds. These funds will make it possible for the farmers to buy equipment and not be dependent on Government services. The budget can not increase enough to provide service as the farmers develop. The funding should be increased to \$300,000.00 and then the farmers will be able to function without the present delays.

The farmers now have the tools to produce and market their crops. The greatest need in the next few years is increased extension service. Two (2) employees, one each from Tinian and Rota, will be sent to California for a two year course in a practical agriculture school.