SOIL CLASSIFICATION IN TAIWAN

E. P. Whiteside

A detailed soil survey of the agricultural lands in Taiwan was recently initiated as a cooperative enterprise of the National Chinese Government (JCRR), the Provincial Government (TARI), the National University at Taipei (NTU), the Taiwan Sugar Corporation (TSC) and the Provincial Taiwan Chung Hsing University (PTCHU) in Taichung. It was my privilege to serve as a soils advisor to this cooperative group from December 8, 1962 to March 15, 1963, as a part of the Michigan State University Advisory Group to China under our national AID program. The soil survey work in Taiwan is under the direction of Mr. L.C. Hsi of JCRR and a part time professor of soils at Chung Hsing University. He is ably assisted by two experienced party chiefs, Mr. C. C. Chen and Mr. S. C. Wang of TARI. Mr. T. M. Lai, soil scientist of the Taiwan Sugar Experiment Station, is also a consultant and advisor in this undertaking. Mr. Hsi, Mr. Wang and Mr. Lai have all studied soil science in the U.S.A.

Four recent male graduates of Chung Hsing University, a young soil scientist from the Taiwan Sugar Experiment Station and a recent graduate of National Taiwan University are being trained in field survey techniques and are helping initiate the detailed soil survey. A recent female graduate of Chung Hsing is doing laboratory work for the survey in the Soils and Fertilizer Division of that University under Dr. C. Y. Sheng.

My duties while in Taiwan included the following: (1) assisting with the development of field legends and initiation of descriptive legends for Changhua and Tainanhsiens where surveys are now in progress, (2) assisting with the training of young soil scientists in field survey methods, (3) cooperating in the studies of the relationships of the soil series and soil types to the yields of rice on fertilizer trial plots of TARI and sugar caneyields on fields of the TSC mill farms and (4) assisting with the design of experiments to study the relationship of the classification units, soil tests,