

## IMPROVED QUALITY ASSURANCE IN RADIATION THERAPY (ARCAL XXX)

(RLA/6/032) E2 New

MODEL PROJECT

### CORE FINANCING

YEAR	Experts		Group Activity	Equipment	Fellowships		Scientific Visits		Group Training	Sub-Contracts	Misc. Comp.	TOTAL
	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	m/d	US \$	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
1997	0/15	6,600	32,750	160,000	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	0	199,350
1998	4/15	62,775	26,500	170,000	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	0	259,275
1999	5/0	73,500	0	0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	0	73,500
2000	5/0	77,250	0	0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	0	77,250

First Year Approved: 1997

**OBJECTIVES:** This project seeks to further the regional development objective of upgrading health care delivery and effectiveness through improvements in the quality of radiotherapy treatments. The project's specific objective is to provide radiotherapy centres with equipment and trained personnel to implement quality assurance programmes for radiotherapy equipment and treatment procedures.

**BACKGROUND:** The medical and biological (clinical) aspects of quality assurance in radiation therapy (QART) aim at improving tumour diagnosis, prescribing and evaluating treatment, and following it up. The physical and technical aspects of QART aim at improving (i) the control and dosimetry of radiation sources; (ii) patient dose calculations; and (iii) the accuracy and safety of radiotherapy treatment. Areas common to the clinical and physical aspects of QART include patient planning and film review, and very often accreditation and training of radiation oncologists and medical physicists. In the Central American and Caribbean subregion, there are approximately 20 radiotherapy centres, involving one linear accelerator, 31 Co-60 teletherapy units, and

**PROJECT PLAN:** Expert missions to define the fresh fruit and/or vegetables that are under quarantine restrictions will be carried out as well as expert meetings to revise the regulations already in place. These regulations will be modified to become acceptable to all participant countries.

**NATIONAL COMMITMENT:** National authorities will provide the necessary infrastructure and human resources to host meetings and carry out other project activities. The total cost for the participant countries is estimated at US \$156,900. Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela are participating.

**AGENCY INPUT:** Support for meetings and expert services.

**PROJECT IMPACT:** The use of irradiation for quarantine treatment of commercial fresh fruit exports will open international markets and thus enable better exploitation of fruit, avoiding post-harvest losses and enabling more and better quality fruit to be supplied.