

THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-Sixth Meeting, Ibadan (Nigeria), 23-30 June 1981

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT

RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Progress Report - June 1981

(Agenda Item 10)

*This Progress Report is for information of the Committee. <sup>1/</sup>*

*The Chairman of the CGIAR, in response to TAC's request, has proposed to convene an ad hoc meeting on 20 July 1981 in Washington.*

*The meeting will discuss what further steps should be taken to provide TAC with adequate guidance as to how to proceed further in addressing this subject.*

*The Committee may wish to refer to the ad hoc meeting any further questions in addition to those which were formulated at the 25th TAC meeting.*

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<sup>1/</sup> Joint session with Centre Directors.

TAC SECRETARIAT

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

June 1981

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT  
RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Progress Report - June 1981

1. Reference to TAC Recommendations at its 25th meeting 1/

*"Some members expressed regret that the CGIAR at Manila did not indicate in more specific terms the nature of their reactions to the TAC proposal. Also, interested donors had not provided TAC with sufficient guidance as to how to proceed further. Meanwhile, following the CGIAR meeting, there had also been limited and insufficiently specific response to the TAC Secretariat's request for comments and guidance from CG members who had expressed interest to be associated with the further development and formulation of the proposal."*

*"It was stressed, however, that both in the CGIAR and in TAC there is general agreement on the importance of water management, further supported by the interest shown in TAC's proposal by some developing countries with extensive irrigation projects, and the interest already shown by some donors. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Chairman of TAC suggest to the Chairman of the CGIAR to convene under the Group's auspices an ad hoc meeting of interested donors and other interested parties. The purpose of this meeting would be to discuss the issues involved, and to assess further the level of interest of CG members and the degree of their commitment to a water management proposal. The meeting should be asked to elaborate their reactions to and observations on TAC's proposal. The meeting should also indicate the direction in which the institutional approach should be developed, so as to give TAC better guidance as to how to proceed further in addressing it. It was further suggested that the Chairman of TAC and one member of TAC's water management subcommittee should represent TAC in this meeting and provide background on past deliberations of TAC on this subject to the participants."*

2. Follow-up

In his letter dated 3 April 1981 addressed to the Chairman of the CGIAR, the Chairman of TAC indicated that for the present at least, the Committee continued to recommend the principles set forth in its proposal presented to the Group in Manila and had requested the convening, under CGIAR auspices, of an ad hoc meeting of interested donors and other interested parties for the following purposes:

- (i) to discuss the issues involved;
- (ii) to assess the level of interest of CG members and the degree of their commitment to a water management proposal;

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1/ Report of 25th TAC meeting, paras. 78 and 79

- (iii) to indicate the direction in which the institutional approach should be developed;
- (iv) to give TAC better guidance as to how to proceed further in addressing this subject.

The Chairman of the CGIAR, in response to TAC's request, has proposed to convene such an ad hoc meeting on 20 July 1981 in Washington prior to the CGIAR Review Committee meeting on 21-24 July. In view of this, the CG Secretariat has issued a note to the members of the Group, Centre Directors and members of TAC, providing i.a. the background information which led to the convening of the ad hoc meeting. It also states 1/ :

*"At the meeting will be discussed precisely what further steps should be taken to study water management in more detail. Current thinking is that a small team of specialist consultants should be engaged to undertake the work, the objective being for the team to present a report to TAC at the 27th TAC meeting in February 1982. The TAC itself should then be able to present a final report to the Group in time for consideration at International Centers Week in November 1982."*

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1/ CGIAR Secretariat note of 22 May 1981 "Water Management Meeting Washington, D.C., July 20, 1981" para. 4

# CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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May 22, 1981

FROM: Secretariat

## Water Management Meeting Washington, D. C., July 20, 1981

1. Water management has been studied by the TAC for several years since it has been generally regarded as having a high priority for the Group's support. At Centers Week in November last year TAC presented a report on the subject to the Group. It reviewed water management issues at some length and tentatively recommended the establishment of an international institute, with two smaller subsidiary centers, to provide research and training facilities. While the Group agreed on the importance of research and training on water management, the particular proposal tentatively put forward by TAC was questioned by the Group, which requested TAC to continue its study. Several members agreed to help in the study.

2. The subject was discussed at the 25th Meeting of TAC in February of this year. At that meeting TAC concluded that, before studying water management further, it wished to know in more detail what the Group perceived as the shortcomings in TAC's proposal, and which of various alternative administrative arrangements for an international initiative was most likely to be favored if the matter was examined again in more detail. Consequently, TAC requested that an ad hoc meeting of potential donors and other interested parties be convened soon to consider the question and suggest how to proceed.

3. After consultation between the Chairman of TAC and the Chairman of the Group it is now proposed that a meeting on water management be held. It would take place at the World Bank in Washington on July 20 of this year. The venue and timing has been chosen to coincide with the third meeting of the Committee engaged in the Second Review of the CGIAR system which will also be held in Washington at the World Bank from July 21 to 23. We trust that all those likely to be interested in the subject would find this time and place convenient.

### Distribution:

CG Members  
TAC Members  
TAC Chairman  
TAC Secretariat  
Center Directors

/....continued

4. At the meeting will be discussed precisely what further steps should be taken to study water management in more detail. Current thinking is that a small team of specialist consultants should be engaged to undertake the work, the objective being for the team to present a report to TAC at the 27th TAC meeting in February 1982. The TAC itself should then be able to present a final report to the Group in time for consideration at International Centers Week in November 1982.

5. This memorandum is being circulated to acquaint all members of the Group with what is proposed. Would members wishing to be represented at such a meeting please notify the Secretariat as soon as possible, preferably by telex, whether they would be able to be represented at a meeting if it were held July 20 in Washington.