

THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-Seventh Meeting, Los Baños (Philippines), 9-17 March 1982

UPLAND RICE

PROGRESS REPORT - MARCH 1982

Agenda Item 12

Proposed Objectives of the Discussion

*At its 26th Meeting, TAC reviewed the Progress Report prepared by its Secretariat which summarized the outcome of the different meetings related to upland rice, which had taken place in late 1980 and early 1981. TAC also considered the request made by IRRI to establish a post of upland rice coordinator. TAC deferred a decision in this respect and instructed its Secretariat to assist in facilitating the necessary cooperative arrangements between institutions dealing with upland rice.*

*The attached paper does not seem to call for a particular decision by TAC, but provides information on the state of preparation of an upland rice Conference to take place in Ivory Coast in the fall of 1982.*

TAC SECRETARIAT

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

February 1982

## UPLAND RICE

### Progress Report by the Secretariat

(March 1982)

#### Preamble

1. TAC, at its 26th Meeting (Ibadan, June 1981), examined a Progress Report prepared by the Secretariat on the meetings which had been held in 1980 and 1981 on upland rice. It considered also, in reviewing the 1982 Programme and Budget of IRRI, the request made by the Centre to have an upland rice coordinator post created at IRRI. The Committee *"felt that research scientists working on upland rice should be encouraged to meet in order to come forward with collaborative plans. It was decided that the TAC Secretariat should explore the depth of interest and the willingness of relevant institutions to cooperate in upland rice research with the location of an upland rice coordinator at IRRI and assist in facilitating the necessary cooperative arrangements."*

#### Progress made

2. It was thought that the 1981 Centers Week/CGIAR Meeting would be a good opportunity to have the several Centre Directors to meet on the subject and the following representatives met at the World Bank on 10 November 1981 for a working lunch: Dr. J. Greenland (IRRI), Chairman; Drs. M. Vega (IRRI), J. Nickel (CIAT), S.V.S. Shastry (IITA), S. Coulibaly and B.A.C. Enyi (WARDA), G. Vallaeys (IRAT), D. Plucknett (CGIAR Secretariat), R.W. Cummings (TAC), A. Tanaka (TAC), S. Risopoulos (TAC Secretariat). The TAC Secretariat was asked to write a preparatory note on the subject, which was later cleared by the above participants (Annex I). Following subsequent contacts made by Dr. G. Vallaeys, it appeared that the Minister for Scientific Research of Ivory Coast, Dr. Balla Keita, had agreed to an upland rice meeting being held at Bouaké, Ivory Coast; the Meeting will be co-sponsored by the Ivory Coast "Institut des Savanes" (IDESSA), IRRI and IRAT. A Steering Committee for the preparation of the Conference will include WARDA and IITA and others to be coopted. Dr. Greenland was to meet Dr. Vallaeys in Paris on 22 February 1982. A first meeting of the Steering Committee, originally thought to be held at end February, will likely be held in April 1982 in the framework of IRRI's Annual Research Meeting.

TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON UPLAND RICE

A Preparatory Note

Background

Rice can be grown in several ways: upland rice represents the production of rice with the assistance of pluvial water only and generally at the lowest possible level of inputs. Upland rice is, however, grown over a total of 19 million has. in Asia, Latin America and Africa; if its average yield per ha. is generally low (often below 1 t/ha. and frequently about half that amount), it represents the staple food of millions of small farmers and its demand tends to increase fast; it is also a pioneer crop and because of the above it has been termed a frontier crop. i.e. susceptible to potential major advances in yield as well as in areas cropped. Four international centers of the CGIAR system are concerned with the improvement of upland rice production: IRRI, which has a global mandate on rice, WARDA as upland rice is the most extensive way of producing rice in West Africa, IITA as rice is a fast growing commodity in tropical Africa and CIAT as upland rice has impressive potential development possibilities in Latin America. Developing countries as diverse and distant as Brazil, Ivory Coast, Liberia, India and Indonesia, to mention a few, have an increased interest in the improvement of upland rice production. Among research assistance programs, IRAT of France has devoted, together with Ivory Coast and other African states, sizable resources to upland rice research.

The Technical Advisory Committee of the CGIAR examined in early 1980 the possibilities to improve among the IARCs concerned the coordination of efforts on upland rice research and has made several suggestions to this effect.

Following this, and at the general initiative of IRRI, several technical meetings took place in 1981 on the major constraints facing upland rice production, sometimes associated with regional strategies; IRRI organized with the Brazilian Government a workshop on upland rice with emphasis on the problem of blast disease; IRAT organized a technical conference on blast at Montpellier; IRRI organized two meetings at its Headquarters, one on resistance to drought and to water stress, and the other on weeds and rice; WARDA organized a workshop on the definition of possible upland rice production strategies for West Africa.

Objectives of a Technical Conference on Upland Rice

It is proposed to have a technical conference on upland rice coordination, which would have a triple purpose:

- to summarize and discuss the information generated by the previous meetings, particularly as they relate to cooperative proposals, and the definitions and features of the environments in which upland rice is grown;
- to complete this information as regards the situation of upland rice research and production in West Africa;
- to develop work plans for continuing collaborative research which could be conducted in a defined number of research centers, national as well as international and to develop coordinated programs as appropriate on upland rice research.

Proposed Venue, Programme and Date

Field visits will be organized in Nigeria, Liberia and Ivory Coast. The "Institut des Savanes" at Bouake, Ivory Coast, will be a suitable location for the conference proper, which will include discussions on the African conditions for upland rice growing and the results of the field tour; discussions of the 1981 technical meetings related to upland rice production; and discussions on the development of workplans for upland rice research and coordination of programmes as appropriate. The field visits and conference will be held at the end of September/beginning October 1982, dates to be agreeable to the host country and compatible with the IRC 1/ meeting proposed to be held in Sierra Leone at about the same time.

Organization

It is proposed that IRRI and the Ivory Coast Government, through its "Insitut des Savanes", organize jointly the technical conference. It is proposed also to invite WARDA, CIAT, IITA, IRAT and representatives from selected national services, as well as appropriate institutions and donors. The total number of participants is expected to be about 70 - 80. It is agreed that Mr. Guy Vallaeys, IRAT Deputy Director, will informally approach the Ivorian Minister of Scientific Research; IRRI subsequently will contact officially the Government should the first approach be favourably received. IRRI will then prepare a draft budget and programme with the assistance of a steering group on which the other institutions involved are represented; this could be convened sometime in February; alternatively - or subsequently - preparations could be finalized during the IRRI annual rice research conference in April 1982. This would include the definition of actions to be taken prior to the conference and other organizational and financial arrangements.