

THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Forty-Third Meeting, ILRAD, Nairobi, Kenya, 22-30 June 1987

FUTURE REVIEWS:

COMMODITY REVIEW ON ROOTS AND TUBERS

(Agenda Item 11 (c))

Objectives of the Discussion

At TAC 42 the Committee decided to initiate steps for a Commodity Review on Roots and Tubers in the CGIAR. Preliminary terms of reference are attached for consideration and further elaboration by the Committee.

TAC SECRETARIAT

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

June 1987

COMMODITY REVIEW ON ROOTS AND TUBERS

Introduction

In its review of CGIAR Priorities and Future Strategies, TAC observed that among the root and tuber crops in the CGIAR, cassava and potato were ranked first and second respectively (6.9% and 5.6%) in the proportion of funds directed to commodity research in 1983. ^{1/} Sweet potato and yams were similar at 0.4%, followed by cocoyam at 0.1%.

The regional breakdown in production using the best available data were (a) cassava: 40% - Sub-Saharan Africa, 35% Asia, 25% Latin America; (b) potato: 77% Asia, 12% Latin America, 9% North Africa/Near East, and 2% Sub-Saharan Africa; (c) sweet potato: 91% Asia, 6% Sub-Saharan Africa, and 3% Latin America; and (d) yam: no reliable production data but over 90% of the global area under yam is said to be in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In the short term, TAC has recommended a slight shift of effort from Latin America to Sub-Saharan Africa, while maintaining the current levels in Asia. CIAT and IITA are both taking steps to intensify their activities on cassava. A world-wide market study of cassava organized by CIAT is now nearing completion. TAC intends to make firm recommendations for the longer term when the results of the study become available.

With respect to the potato, TAC has recommended continuation of current efforts (in 1983 dollars) and strategies in the short and medium terms.

The recommendation on sweet potato was for a substantial increased research effort in production and post-harvest research. CIP is actively developing a sweet potato program while IITA has decided to phase sweet potato out of its operational mandate.

Terms of Reference

The purpose of the review is to suggest means by which current research effort on roots and tubers in the CGIAR could be more effectively organized to meet regional and global needs taking into account current and projected demands. Special consideration should be given to the following:

1. Assess the adequacy of data on production and consumption, including background information relating to economics, policy and trade on the root and tuber crops supported by the CGIAR.
2. Collect, collate and analyze information on research and related activities on roots and tubers at the CGIAR Centers and certain other Centers, as well as at relevant advanced institutions.
3. Describe the evolution and present status of research on roots and tubers in developing countries, and identify the major

constraints to increased production and consumption, including post-harvest aspects.

4. Itemize and discuss current and future research needs on roots and tubers in developing countries and assess the NARS capacity to meet them.
5. Describe the present status of research and future strategies at the CGIAR Centers (including AVRDC on sweet potato).
6. Define and recommend appropriate roles in research and related activities on roots and tubers for the CGIAR Centers.
7. Discuss and recommend the sharing of responsibilities among Centers in the System and identify areas of possible collaboration with Centers outside the System such as AVRDC.

Issues and Concerns

A list of specific issues and concerns to be developed for each commodity.

Timing and Program

To be worked out in cooperation with Centers involved.
Tentatively proposed period, late 1988/early 1989.

Review Team Composition

A panel of three plus Chairman is proposed: economist, agronomist, plant breeder. Consultants may be needed to provide special inputs.