Consultative Group Meeting  
May 23-25, 1984  
Rome, Italy

MAIN CONCLUSIONS REACHED AND DECISIONS TAKEN

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) held a mid-term business meeting from May 23-25, 1984 at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome. The attached paper contains a summary of the main conclusions reached and decisions taken at the meeting.

The Secretariat will make available on request a transcript of the proceedings of the Rome meetings on microfiche.

Attachments

Distribution:

CGIAR Members
TAC Chairman, Secretariat, and Members
Center Board Chairmen
Center Directors
Other Participants
Observers
Consultative Group Meeting  
Rome, May 23-25, 1984

1. A mid-term meeting of the Consultative Group was held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome from 23-25 May, 1984. The Chairman of the Group, Mr. S. Shahid Husain, presided over the meetings. A list of participants is attached in Appendix I.

2. The meeting was opened by the Director General of the FAO, Mr. Edouard Saouma, whose address to the Group is attached in Appendix II. The opening speech of the Chairman of the CGIAR is contained in Appendix III.

TAC Chairman's Report - Agenda Item 3

3. Mr. Husain announced that the Cosponsors of the CGIAR—the FAO, UNDP, and World Bank—had invited Professor Camus to undertake a second three-year term as Chairman of TAC and he had graciously accepted.

4. Professor Camus alerted members to an error in the official proceedings of the 33rd TAC meeting. On page 11, paragraph 69, line 4, the words "some aspects" should be inserted to read, "In this context he welcomed some aspects of the International Undertaking."

5. Although TAC members had 11 separate items of business on their agenda, most of their time was focussed on several outstanding issues from past external program reviews (EPRs) and the ongoing examination of long-term strategies for the CGIAR. The TAC Chairman noted that both IFPRI and CIAT have been reviewed so far this year and the ICRISAT review is scheduled for later this summer. The outcome of the IFPRI and CIAT reviews will be on the Group's agenda in November, and that of ICRISAT in 1985. By 1985 a pattern of two EPRs per year should be set. Only IBPGR and ISNAR are scheduled for review. Among the issues that arose out of previous reviews and required some follow-up by TAC, the Chairman reported first on CIMMYT's germplasm program. As a result of its EPR, CIMMYT was asked to set up a program for long-term conservation of maize and wheat germplasm, and advise TAC on its cost and implementation. TAC commended CIMMYT for its prompt action and expressed satisfaction with the measures it had taken. The US $270,000 required in 1985 for capital and operating expenses were consistent with other centers' experience, and should be absorbed in CIMMYT's core budget in succeeding years. On the question of inter-center responsibilities for rice, TAC expects to have a proposal for consideration at the Group's Tokyo meeting in May 1985. Professor Camus noted that TAC was just beginning to focus on the complex problem of rice in Africa. While Africa accounts for only 3% of the world area planted to rice, demand is steadily increasing.

6. By far the most complex and time consuming matter facing TAC at this time is the ongoing examination of "Strategic Considerations" for the CGIAR. A detailed progress report will be ready for the Group at ICM in November 1984 and a final report next May. Under the general heading of
strategic considerations there are two parallel studies, one on training and one on priorities for the CGIAR. The study on training in the CG system is being conducted by Dr. Hugh Bunting, U.K., and Dr. Araujo, Brazil, with assistance from two consultants. Last November the study team participated in an inter-center seminar on training organized by the TAC Secretariat. Since then the team has visited eight centers and national agricultural programs interested in centers' training in 12 countries. Six countries will be selected for in-depth case studies.

7. Since last November, at the Group's request, TAC's study of priorities has been expanded beyond an analysis of ongoing activities in the CGIAR to include the evolving world food situation, changes in national research capabilities and growth in the global system of international agricultural research. The study will try to set a course for the CGIAR over the next 10-20 years. In this context, the question of farming systems research (FSR) and inter-center cooperation was addressed. Currently, the Chairman noted, over 14% of centers' resources are allocated to FSR, yet there are considerable differences in approach and definition. He queried whether it wouldn't be useful to hold an inter-center meeting on FSR. TAC also felt it was timely to take a systematic look at collaboration among centers to ensure that centers' funds are used most efficiently and that centers serve national programs effectively. A discussion paper was drafted during TAC 33 and distributed to center directors for discussion at TAC 34. The paper proposes some guiding principles for the future and issues which need resolution. In concluding the Chairman urged more donors to participate in TAC's meetings and thanked those donors who have taken an active part in TAC's deliberations in the past.

8. A brief discussion of the TAC Chairman's report followed, with several members expressing pleasure at his reappointment. TAC's efforts to guide the Group's thinking on long-term directions and priorities for the CGIAR was especially welcomed by a number of donors. Special attention was given to the fact that lack of qualified human resources will be an even bigger problem in the future than presently, due to an ever decreasing number of biological and physical science graduates in developing and developed countries. One representative recorded satisfaction with the CGIAR's review procedures and TAC's role, in particular, which more than met that donor's requirements, thereby eliminating the need for the informal reviews they had previously conducted.

Report by Chairman of Center Board Chairmen - Agenda Item 4

9. Dr. Reed Hertford, Chairman of the Chairmen of the Boards, reported on a two-day meeting which had taken place the week before at CIAT in Colombia. This meeting had been the fourth formal meeting held by the chairmen and the agenda had been a full one. One of the main items of discussion was the draft paper prepared by Dr. Lowell Hardin on "The Roles, Relationships and Responsibilities of Trustees of International Agricultural Research Centers". Dr. Hertford stated that the document would improve understanding among trustees of their jobs, and commended Dr. Hardin for his efforts. The only substantive change made by the
chairpersons was in the description of their own role which they felt should be more detailed. Dr. Hertford said he was confident that the final version of the paper, which would be available at ICW in November 1984, would receive the strong endorsement of the chairpersons. The latter agreed to assume full responsibility for briefing new board members on their roles and responsibilities, rather than having another body in the system organize a special seminar for this purpose.

10. As a prelude to mounting more effective recruitment mechanisms and defining future needs of the boards, the chairpersons would be asking their board colleagues to fill out a two-page questionnaire in the next few months which would contain bio-data. The data would be analyzed and made available at ICW in 1984. The Cali meeting had examined the personnel policies for board members and by the next meeting Dr. Hertford would summarize the data obtained as a basis for striving for somewhat greater rationality and uniformity in personnel policies among boards of the centers. In a comment on management reviews the Chairman considered them of immense assistance to boards but also believed that it might be useful to anticipate the full-fledged reviews with mini-management reviews of critical components of a center's financial and administrative organization. The centers themselves would take the initiative to organize these reviews and it was hoped that this would help begin to build the kind of constructive dialogue that has developed through many years of experience with EPRs. On a related subject, chairpersons discussed the frequency of different reviews and their "negative impact" on the centers. The chairpersons will be gathering data for each center on the total number of scientific person years allotted in the past twelve months to reviews and program evaluations, and will present the results to the Group at ICW 1984. The chairpersons continued to follow closely the progress of negotiations for international status in those cases where changes are required.

11. Dr. Hertford stated that the chairpersons believe that more needs to be done to document and share the more noteworthy achievements of individual centers. He suggested that an Impact Digest be published once a year which would describe from genesis to realization, four or five outstanding scientific accomplishments of the centers, which carefully documents their impact. Dr. Hertford noted the strategic issues study and that an active dialogue between all components of the system would begin in June in Ethiopia at the TAC meeting at which the directors general and he, representing the chairpersons, would be present.

Report by Chairman of the Directors General - Agenda item 5

12. The Chairman of the Center Directors, Dr. Gamble, explained that the directors had not met since the last meeting of the Group, so he would confine his comments to two themes—cooperation and reviews. He would have more to say with regard to specific issues at the next meeting of the Group in November, by which time the directors general would have met. He pointed out that there was abundant evidence that cooperation between centers was increasing as was cooperation between centers and national programs. He quoted instances of seminars jointly run by more than one center and noted that centers were beginning to organize meetings on
matters of common interest, such as the purchase and use of computers. Dr. Gamble emphasized that center directors welcomed management reviews and were in favor of both the impact study and the budget and finance study. They also particularly welcomed TAC's study on strategies and priorities. Center directors were, however, concerned by the demands made on their staff to provide information for such studies. They were also concerned that these reviews should not weaken the independence and autonomy of the centers on which the success and effectiveness of the CG system depended. Members welcomed the report and endorsed the need to maintain the individuality of the centers. As one member put it, "the centers are not clones." The view was also expressed that inter-center cooperation should include means to achieve better management techniques and procedures.

CIMMYT/IITA Maize Responsibilities - Agenda Item 6

13. The Chairman of TAC outlined the substance of an agreement between CIMMYT and IITA about the sharing of responsibilities for maize in Africa. CIMMYT will handle research coordination and training. The coordinator, currently an IITA staff member, has been jointly appointed by both centers. TAC has endorsed the arrangement, but a number of details still require final clarification. Members were gratified that the centers had reached an amicable agreement and applauded the role of TAC in the process. One member queried whether there could be too much cooperation in that an element of competition was a useful stimulus for any research program. Others pointed out that coordination did not necessarily lead to regimentation and that the agreement would avoid duplication of effort.

IITA External Program and Management Reviews - Agenda Item 7

14. Dr. Michael Arnold, the Chairman of the External Program Review (EPR) Panel, reported the opinion of his panel that IITA should have a global mandate for research in the high rainfall, low altitude tropics and that there was a danger in IITA becoming too closely identified with Nigerian problems (or even African problems). The panel also believed that IITA should have the mandate within the CGIAR system for work on soyabean, starchy bananas, and aeroids (coco yams). The EPR concluded that IITA is a vigorous institute that is beginning to turn out a series of technologies that are being adopted by farmers. Specifically mentioned by the EPR and the TAC Chairman in his comments on the review were: the progress in breeding resistance to cassava diseases, the development of biological control measures for cassava mealybug and green spider mite, high yielding weevil resistant sweet potatoes, propagation of yams by improved methods, short duration cowpea varieties that are being adopted by farmers, and genetic resistance to maize streak virus.

15. Dr. Luis Crouch presented the main findings of the External Management Review (EMR). Three areas where issues were identified were: the structure of decisionmaking, management and financial controls, and the management of human resources. In his response, the Director General of IITA, Dr. Hartmans, indicated that IITA had already moved to implement the recommendations of the EMR by instituting weekly meetings of a newly constituted Executive Management Committee, and by engaging the services of
a human resources management expert. Hiring a person to strengthen financial management was being delayed by the tight budgetary situation, but IITA was moving to find the necessary funds.

16. In his comment on the mandate issue raised by Dr. Arnold and his panel, the TAC Chairman pointed out that: (i) TAC agrees that IITA should maintain its focus on the humid and sub-humid tropics for farming systems research and for crops for which it has only regional responsibilities; (ii) IITA should adopt a "conservative" definition of sub-humid; and (iii) the number of crops on which IITA is working is large and that no changes should be made. In his comments on the EMR, the Executive Secretary of the CGIAR, Mr. Farrar, stressed the complementarity of the EPR and EMR even with their distinct focusses and findings. In IITA's case it seemed preferable for the center to pursue questions of international status on its own. Mr. Farrar also pointed out that IITA has a great number of special projects.

17. The IITA Board Chairman, Dr. McKelvey, and Dr. Hartmans commented on the issues of mandate, strategy, and decentralization and observed that there were differences between a few of the recommendations of the TAC and the EPR panel. Dr. Hartmans stressed the enormous need for assistance at the institutional and local level in Africa and the difficult position in which IITA is placed when the Group insists that it not participate in certain activities for which its client countries are requesting assistance.

18. The members of the Group addressed many of the above issues. The main points in the discussion were summed up by Mr. Husain as follows:

(i) IITA should not be involved in too many crops and should continue work on complementary crops within the African context;

(ii) cooperation with CIMMYT on maize research should be strengthened;

(iii) IITA should be cautious about over involvement in development work;

(iv) decentralization, particularly of farming systems work is needed, but within an integrated team, and should not result in dispersion of responsibility;

(v) IITA should continue to concentrate on the humid and sub-humid zones of Africa; and

(vi) there is a need for continuity of effort and sharpness of focus.

He concluded by reiterating that in the next program and budget submission IITA should review the actions it has taken on the recommendations made by the EPR and EMR reviews.
19. Dr. Blumenschein, Chairman of the External Program Review (EPR) Panel, stressed the importance of rice consumption for people in West Africa. He summarized WARDA's accomplishments in testing cultivars, training, technology assessment and transfer, but repeated that the panel was disappointed with the efficiency with which WARDA used its resources. The report details the panel's understanding of the reasons for this lack of efficiency. The panel believes that if WARDA implements the recommendations of the review and those of the external management review (EMR) it will be strengthened as an organization. He concluded that WARDA represents the initiative of developing countries who should be encouraged by donors to work together in a cooperative fashion.

20. Dr. Stifel summarized the EMR of WARDA. He prefaced his remarks with the observations that (1) the management problems diagnosed, transcend the executive leadership because they are structural; and (2) as an inter-governmental organization WARDA was fundamentally different from other CGIAR institutions. WARDA was in the midst of a severe financial crisis. Dr. Stifel identified the following factors as contributing to WARDA's problems: poor program management, lack of financial support by members, funding practices of some donors, fundamental organizational deficiencies, absence of an objective policy-making body, a highly politicized staff and ineffective financial management. WARDA's structure contributed to its problems but, Dr. Stifel concluded that the recommendations of the management panel could fundamentally improve WARDA's capacity to carry out its mandate.

21. The TAC Chairman stated that TAC was satisfied with the reports, accepts their findings and conclusions and endorses the integrated package of recommendations. He recommended a continuation of CGIAR support to WARDA on condition that the measures proposed are implemented speedily and satisfactory evidence of substantially improved program performance is provided, according to a schedule specified by TAC.

22. The Executive Secretary of the CGIAR stated that the changes recommended were deliberately made to try and approximate within the context of an intergovernmental association, the program conditions that are found in other CGIAR centers. The management panel's complete set of recommendations may take some time to implement, but some actions have already been taken in anticipation of approval of the recommendations by the Group. He concluded by urging the Group to approve the recommendations of the management review and the election of the seven members of the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) nominated by the Group (whose names follow).

Dr. Almiro Blumenschein  
Chief, EMBRAPA/CNPAS  
National Center for Research on Rice and Beans  
Goiania, Goias, Brazil
23. Dr. Leroux, Executive Secretary of WARDA, explained the changes
WARDA had so far made in response to the review, and the reasons why
recommendations regarding the deputy executive secretary and enlarging the
powers of the STC had not been followed as yet. He also outlined the
changes WARDA was making in designing an integrated program and budget, his
efforts to secure the support of the Heads of State of WARDA countries, the
international search for and designation of a financial controller, and his
commitment to improving WARDA's functioning. He thanked the Rockefeller
Foundation for providing the services of Dr. James Johnston as a special
consultant to assist in developing an integral program and budget for
WARDA.

24. The members of the Group, commenting on the presentations, made
the following points: that WARDA's problems are similar to those of many
other institutions in developing countries; that the response of the
Governing Council has been positive; that TAC has made excellent
recommendations on how to deal with WARDA; that the recommendation to
concentrate on upland rice is appropriate; that the need for an integrated
association-wide program is urgent; that the model of an intergovernmental
organization was attractive but that WARDA's poor performance with the
model was disappointing; and that the changes recommended by the management
review team provide the minimum requirements towards the type of structure
which would give the research component of WARDA a chance to succeed. The Group elected the nominees to the WARDA STC and endorsed the procedures set up by the TAC members and the CG Secretariat to monitor WARDA's progress in implementing the recommendations made by the review panels.

IITA Biological Control Program - Agenda Item 9

25. Dr. Hartmans, Director General of IITA, described the origins and current status of its ongoing project designed to control two very important pests of cassava in Africa, namely the green spider mite and the cassava mealybug. Both pests, accidentally introduced to Africa in the early 1970's, have spread rapidly throughout 26 countries in Africa and are responsible for huge losses of cassava, an important staple in many countries in the region. IITA scientists have developed biological methods against both pests, which are the basis of the current project. To date, funding amounting to about US $5.3 million has been received from five principal donors. A detailed report is expected to be reviewed by all interested parties, donors and recipient countries, in early July at a meeting hosted by IFAD. Members unanimously complimented IITA on the research that has been carried out and on the results obtained to date. They were interested to note that the original proposals had been scaled down, that planned implementation was envisaged and that a separate organization was being established to implement the control program. The discussion highlighted the need for good plant quarantine arrangements, that it would be unwise to count on a spectacular and rapid control of both pests, and that the lessons learned might have application to other biological control programs in Africa in the future.

Report by CGIAR Secretariat - Agenda Item 10

26. The Executive Secretary of the CG Secretariat reported to the Group on a range of issues, namely the outcome of fiscal 1983, financial prospects in 1984 and 1985, the special activities fund, and the financial reporting and budget study. At the outset Dr. Anderson reported on the Impact Study.

27. Impact Study. Dr. Jock Anderson, Director of the Impact Study, reported on current activities and future plans for the study. He stressed that the study, in response to demands by many donors, had been designed to be broad and inclusive. The following issues would be covered: the evolution of the CG system; the contribution of CG centers to national programs; the spread and adoption of new seeds and other technologies associated with CG centers' research; the additional income and its distribution generated by new technologies, together with its effect on prices, consumption, international trade and production, as well as the impact on women; some second round effects on employment and other linkage effects of new technologies; and, a broad look at the likely impacts of "pipeline" technologies. The scientific progress made by the centers in biological nitrogen fixation, environmental stability, location specificity and related matters will also be examined. Members expressed their satisfaction with the design of the study, its terms of reference and the way in which Dr. Anderson was handling it. Several speakers stressed that
indications of actual impact on farmers and developing countries' research systems were desired, as was information to answer the critical questions of policymakers as to whether research really made a difference. Equally important are indications of the way the CGIAR centers contribute to increasing the capacity of national research programs to operate effectively.

28. Management Reviews. Three reviews have been completed (CIP, WARDA, and IITA), three will come to the Group in November 1984 (IFPRI, ICARDA, and CIAT) and three are being planned (ICRISAT, IBPGR, and ISNAR).

29. Outcome of FY 1983. For 1983 the approved bracket had been between US $172 and $182 million. Funding had been forecast at about US $170 million but actual funding had amounted to US $162 million. Centers had operated overall at about 1% below the bottom of the approved bracket.

30. Outlook for 1984. The approved bracket for the current year was between US $178 and $191 million. At the beginning of the year, contributions were estimated at US $180 to $182 million. Current estimates of contributions were somewhat lower, however, at US $176 to $178 million.

31. Outlook for 1985. It looked as if funding would be below the target baseline of US $200 million. On the other hand inflation has levelled off appreciably so that firmer estimates will be provided to the Group at its next meeting.

32. Special Activities Fund. This is in place and is being used to fund the management reviews, the impact study, and the data transfer (electronic mail) study.

33. Financial Reporting and Budget Study. This is a major study emanating from one of the recommendations of the Second Review of the CGIAR system. The study director has been engaged, an advisory panel is in place and the study is proceeding. An initial report is expected in November 1984 and a final report a year later.

FAO Report - Funding of Travel for Fixed-Term Representatives - Agenda Item 11

34. Dr. Mohammed Zehni of the FAO reported on arrangements that were made to ensure an effective participation by the selected countries, who represent their regions at the meetings of the CGIAR. The 1971 FAO Conference agreed that each of the five FAO regions should select two representatives to serve for a two-year term (later modified to a four-year term) at the CGIAR meetings. While the purpose of representation is a laudable one, the exercise has not always been successful. Prior to and after participation in the CG meeting, meetings should be held within the region, particularly with the national research programs, so as to be able to understand properly beforehand the concerns of the developing countries and afterwards to report on the discussion. The Second Review Committee
singled out one main limiting factor to the effective participation of the representatives of the regions, that is, the inability of many developing countries to pay for the travel and attendance at the CG meetings and the pre- and post-regional meetings. Due to the generosity of Australia and the UNDP, a total of almost US $25,000 has been received to fund this travel. So far, about US $20,000 has been spent or committed. The number of representatives who have applied for assistance to attend the CG meetings has varied, but for the Rome meeting six requests were received. Travel assistance has been provided only when requested. If six representatives require assistance every year, at an average of about US $2,000 for each of the two meetings, some US $24,000 is required annually to finance their attendance—without taking into account attendance at some important TAC meetings, visits to centers, and the pre- and post-CG meetings in the regions. Several speakers supported the importance of attendance of these representatives at the CG meetings and a decision was taken, based on a proposal by Dr. Gamble, that the FAO and ISNAR would try to work out a recommendation for the next meeting of the Group in November 1984. Dr. Gamble stated that ISNAR regularly organizes fora in the various regions almost every year and, therefore, in cooperation with the national programs, it should be possible for ISNAR and FAO to organize a meeting of the representatives of each region.

International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources – Agenda Item 12

35. Dr. Bommer explained that the International Undertaking for Plant Genetic Resources will strengthen the national capabilities of developing countries in their plant genetic resource activities and calls for the further development of institutions supported by the CGIAR and especially the IBPGR. The latter should pursue and develop its present activities in liaison with FAO and should keep the international situation of plant genetic resources continuously under review. The 22nd FAO Conference requested that an intergovernmental body be set up and subsequently the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources was established. FAO will service the Commission, drawing on information generated by IBPGR and others.

36. The Chairman of the IBPGR, Dr. Kahre, responded to Dr. Bommer by stressing: (1) the principle of free availability; (2) the need for a truly global program which is open to all countries without restriction; (3) that FAO and IBPGR activities should be complementary and avoid polarisation; (4) that increasing national awareness and the strengthening of national capabilities are essential; (5) that due consideration needs to be given to funding and priorities and to lines of communication between FAO and IBPGR; and (6) that since worldwide activities are constantly on the move, continuous monitoring is required. The Executive Secretary of the IBPGR, Dr. Williams, made a number of points relevant to genetic resources conservation for the information of the Group: (1) the board draws attention to the important operating principle that those genetic resources, which are not clearly under threat over a significant part of their distribution range, should not automatically be collected; (2) that genebanks should concentrate on certain categories of materials, in particular old cultivars, land races and wild and weedy relatives; (3) and that the collection work for the major staple crops will be completed by 1990 and that the needs thereafter may shift to forestry, medicinal plants and less exploited plants.
37. Members of the Group reiterated the strong support for the IBPGR which had been expressed at ICW 1983, reaffirmed the terms of reference of IBPGR, and stated that the board should continue as an autonomous independent international institution under the authority of the CGIAR and working in close collaboration with FAO. A high level of satisfaction with the accomplishments of the board was expressed. Most members of the Group also indicated that their own governments were still in the process of reviewing the Undertaking and had not yet made decisions on adherence. Funding for much increased efforts was thought to be inadequate. All discussants endorsed the principle of free exchange of germplasm.

38. TAC was requested to obtain further clarification on a number of issues, specifically what is precisely meant by placing a collection "under the auspices or jurisdiction of FAO" (Article 7(a)), and what action FAO is contemplating in the area of training, institution-building, etc. other than those which are now channeled through the IBPGR. TAC was also requested to ensure that the terms of reference of the EPR team for the IBPGR include determination of the degree of independence the IBPGR has from FAO. In response to a question, Dr. Bommer indicated that each of the centers with genebanks would relate directly to FAO and not collaborate through the governments in the countries where they happen to be located. Mr. Husain stressed that the independence of IBPGR is a central concern and that, in fact, only time will bring the issue to a conclusion, that the actions of all parties and the independent support of the IBPGR provide the basis of its independence.

Future Meetings - Agenda Item 13

39. The next meeting of the Group, International Centers Week, will take place in Washington from November 5-9, 1984. The Executive Secretary of the CGIAR urged members to reserve accommodation very early since November 6 is the date of the Presidential Election in the United States. The planned date for the May meeting in 1985 had been May 22-24 when the Group accepted the invitation of the Government of Japan to meet in Tokyo. The Government, however, has proposed new dates of 29-31 May 1985 in Tokyo. Preceding the Tokyo meeting there would be a two-day visit to the Tsukuba Center which would include a seminar on the work of the centers in relation to scientific work being conducted in Japan and other developed countries. Furthermore, preceding the visit to Tsukuba, IRRI will invite the Group and others to celebrate its 25th anniversary from May 23-25 at Los Banos in the Philippines. International Centers Week in 1985 is again planned for Washington, D.C. from October 28 to November 1. The Group approved these arrangements.

40. The dates of the mid-year meeting for 1986 were approved from May 21-23. The Executive Secretary of the CGIAR noted that the Director General of CIAT had invited the Group to attend a meeting at that center and the Government of Colombia had indicated its agreement with this proposal. At the same time, in 1986, Canada celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Farm Experimental Act and will be inviting eminent groups of a scientific, or research and agricultural nature, to meet in Canada that year. The Canadian Government had identified the CGIAR...
as a prime candidate to hold its meetings in Canada. The Canadian
delegation indicated that they would place their invitation to host the
1986 mid-year meeting in a secondary position, to be held in reserve until
final decisions were taken by the Group about whether to meet at a center,
and specifically at CIAT, in May 1986. Very tentative dates proposed for
ICW 1986 were November 3-7, and the meeting is tentatively scheduled for
Washington, D.C. The Group agreed that it would postpone a decision on the
1986 meetings until next November.

Other Business - Agenda Item 14

41. A delegate raised three issues of a policy nature. The first
concerns the questions of the longer-term funding arrangements for the
CGIAR, to which the Chairman stated that a discussion about longer-term
funding arrangements should inevitably flow from work on the future of the
CG system. After the Group had a chance to consider the strategic issues
study being done for TAC, it would then be possible to examine the whole
structure of funding-associated issues of core, non core, and special
programs. The Chairman agreed that it was a very important issue for the
Group to consider in the future and decided it would be placed on the
agenda of one of the future meetings.

42. The second issue was how to provide linkages between the
international centers and the national programs. Donors, in their
bilateral programs, were interested in exploring ways of supporting
national level research and would, therefore, be interested in discussing
whether linkages could be created to enable them further to assist the
national programs. The Chairman proposed that the Director General of
ISNAR, as Chairman of the Center Directors, should prepare a paper which
would be the basis for further discussion.

43. The third subject was how to deal with all the other institutes
that held their meetings on the fringes of the CG meetings. The
representative stated that governments would probably be interested in
contributing to some of the institutions, but from a management point of
view it was difficult to deal with these institutes individually,
particularly those that were of a very small size. Furthermore, there were
more than seven such organizations meeting at the time of the CG meeting in
Rome and there could well be more at other meetings. The Executive
Secretary of the CGIAR stated that the question would be examined at least
in a preliminary fashion in the Integrative Report, which was being
produced by the CG Secretariat for the Group meeting in November 1984.
Another speaker stated that they welcomed the notion that the status of
so-called associates and associated centers should be included on a future
agenda.

Chairman's Closing Remarks - Agenda Item 15

44. In his concluding remarks the Chairman highlighted the basic
issues of the meeting. He referred to the discussions on IITA and WARDA,
both institutions in Africa, and concluded that the issues of mandate and
broad objectives were obviously important. However, for the system to be
effective, institutions would constantly have to ask how these broad mandates were translated into effective plans, concrete programs, and how management systems are kept in place to use the resources that are put at the disposal of these centers effectively and efficiently. The objective should be to ensure the resources are utilized so that the constituents of the system are convinced that the resources that they provide are put to best use. Since donors face very difficult decisions on priorities that they should attach to the several claims on aid funds, it is essential that the CG survive on the basis of efficiency. Outstanding results have been produced in the past, but the future is always more difficult because the easier things are done in the earlier stages of any process. There must be ways of constantly evaluating the system. The challenge is how to continue evaluating the issues and adapting ourselves and our methods and approaches to see the issues as they come. The issues will never remain the same but will keep on changing. Mr. Husain ended by expressing his deep gratitude to the Italian authorities for the attention they had paid the CC and for their support to the system, to the FAO for hosting the meeting, and particularly, to the astute leadership of Dr. Bommer at the meeting. He also thanked the Cosponsors for their guidance and leadership.
Consultative Group Meeting
Rome, May 23-25, 1984

List of Participants

Chairman
Mr. S. Shahid Husain
Senior Vice President, Operations Policy
World Bank
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

A. DELEGATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP

African Development Bank

Mr. G.R. Nanthambwe
Operations Adviser
Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Asian Development Bank

Dr. Kunio Takase
Director, Irrigation and
Rural Development Department
Manila, Philippines

Australia

Dr. Denis G. Blight
Head, Research for Development Section
Australian Development Assistance
Bureau (ADAB)
Canberra City, Australia

Mr. David R. Gregory
Counsellor (Agriculture) and
Alternate Permanent Representative
to FAO
Rome, Italy

Dr. Gabrielle J. Persley
Australian Centre for International
Agricultural Research (ACIAR)
Canberra City, Australia
Canada

Ms. Carolyn McAskie
Deputy Director
U.N. Programs Division, CIDA
Hull, Quebec, Canada

Dr. Greg Spendjian
Senior Programme Officer
U.N. Programs Division, CIDA
Hull, Quebec, Canada

Dr. Jean-Jacques Jasmin
Director General, Research Branch
Agriculture Canada
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Dr. Robert Sallery
Alternate Representative to the FAO
Rome, Italy

Commission of the European Communities (EEC)

Mr. J. L. Chiltz
Principal Administrator
Agriculture Division
Directorate-General for Development
Brussels, Belgium

Denmark

Dr. Carl C. Thomsen
Professor in Agricultural Policy
Economic Institute
The Royal Veterinary & Agricultural University
Copenhagen, Denmark

Mr. Norman Christensen
Head of Section
DANIDA
Copenhagen, Denmark

Finland

Prof. Peter Tigerstedt
University of Helsinki
Department of Plant Breeding
Helsinki, Finland

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr. Edouard Saouma
Director-General
(For Welcome Address)

Professor Dieter F. R. Bommer
Assistant Director General
Agriculture Department
Rome, Italy

Dr. Mohammed Zehni
Director, Research and Technology Development Division
Rome, Italy

Dr. John H. Monyo
Chief, Research Development Centre
Research and Technology Development Div.
Rome, Italy
Ford Foundation

Dr. Norman Collins
Program Officer-in-Charge
Rural Poverty and Resources Program
New York, U.S.A.

Dr. Ralph W. Cummings
Consultant
Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A.

France

Mr. Louis Caudron
Chef du Departement R.C.D.
Ministere de l'Industrie et de
la Recherche
Paris, France

Mme. O. Jouanneau
Charge de Mission
Ministere de l'Industrie et de la
Recherche
Paris, France

Dr. Jean-Pol Neme
Attache Scientifique et de Cooperation
Rome, Italy

Germany

Dr. Hans-Joachim de Haas
Agricultural Officer
Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation
Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany

Dr. Klaus Lampe
German Agency for Technical
Cooperation (GTZ)
Eschborn, Federal Republic of Germany

Dr. Klaus Klenert
German Foundation of International
Development
Food and Agriculture Section
Feldafing
Federal Republic of Germany

Mr. Roberto L. Lenton
Program Officer
New Delhi, India

Mr. Rene Lissarre
Charge de Mission
Ministere des Relations Exterieures,
Services de la Cooperation
Paris, France

Mr. Guy Valleeys
President de la Commission Francaise
de la Recherche Agricole
Paris, France

Mr. Ulrich von Poschinger-Camphausen
Scientific Secretary
German Council for Tropical and
Subtropical Agricultural Research
Braunschweig
Federal Republic of Germany

Dr. Gerhard V. Gloey
Head, Research Planning and Coordination
Federal Ministry of Agriculture
Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany
**Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Reuben Sternfeld</td>
<td>Special Representative in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Luciano F. Barraza</td>
<td>Chief, Agricultural and Forestry Development Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Project Analysis Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Washington, D.C., U.S.A.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Montague Yudelman</td>
<td>Director, Agriculture and Rural Development Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Washington, D.C., U.S.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. John K. Coulter</td>
<td>Agricultural Research Adviser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agriculture &amp; Rural Development Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Washington, D.C., U.S.A.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Joseph H. Hulse</td>
<td>Vice President, Research Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ottawa, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. H. G. Zandstra</td>
<td>Director, Agriculture Food and Nutrition Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ottawa, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Barry Nestel</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Redhill, Surrey, England</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Moise Mensah</td>
<td>Assistant President, Project Management Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Naima Al-Shayji</td>
<td>Director External Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Abbas Kesseba</td>
<td>Senior Technical Adviser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. A. Austin Mescal</td>
<td>Chief Inspector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Department of Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dublin, Ireland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ireland**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. A. Austin Mescal</td>
<td>Chief Inspector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Department of Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dublin, Ireland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Italy

Counselor Carlo Calia
Dipartimento per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Rome, Italy

Dr. Andrea Mogni
Economist
Department of Technical Cooperation to Development
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Rome, Italy

Professor Giuseppe Rognoni
Professor and Director
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
University of Milan
Milan, Italy

Professor Gian Tommaso Scarascia-Mugnozza
Rector
University of Tuscia
Viterbo, Italy

Japan

Mr. Tetsuo Ito
Director
Multilateral Cooperation Division
Economic Cooperation Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Tokyo, Japan

Mr. Satoshi Nakajima
Assistant Director
Multilateral Cooperation Division
Economic Cooperation Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Tokyo, Japan

Leverhulme Trust

Dr. Ronald C. Tress
Director
London, England

Mexico

Dr. Carlos Garcia de Alba
Asesor
Mexico, D.F., Mexico

Netherlands

Mr. Kees Soels
Head Section for Research and Technology Development
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Hague, Netherlands

Mr. Jaap J. Hardon
Directorate for Agricultural Research
Ministry of Agriculture
Wageningen, Netherlands

Norway

Professor A. Njoes
Rector
Agricultural University of Norway
Aas, Norway

Ms. Ravn
Embassy Secretary
Royal Norwegian Embassy
Rome, Italy
Philippines
Dr. Horacio Carandang
Philippines Permanent Representative
to FAO
Rome, Italy

Rockefeller Foundation
Dr. Alva A. App
Director, Agricultural Sciences
New York, U.S.A.

Saudi Arabia
Dr. Mustafa Mahdi
Alternate Representative to FAO
Rome, Italy

Spain
Mr. Francisco Javier Garcia Ramos
Asesor Tecnich
Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agrarias (INIA)
Madrid, Spain

Sweden
Dr. Ake Wellving
Research Officer (SAREC)
Agriculture and Rural Development
Stockholm, Sweden

Switzerland
Prof. J. Von Ah
Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture
Berne, Switzerland

United Kingdom
Mr. Andrew T. Wilson
Under Secretary
Overseas Development Administration
London, England

Mrs. A. E. Ray
Overseas Development Administration
London, England
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr. William T. Mashler
Senior Director
Division for Global and Interregional Projects
New York, U.S.A.

United States

Dr. Nyle C. Brady
Senior Assistant Administrator for Science and Technology
Bureau of Science & Technology
USAID, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Dr. John Robins
Agency Director for Food and Agriculture, USAID
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Dr. Dana Dalrymple
Agricultural Economist
USAID
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Dr. Mark Smith
USAID Mission in Monrovia
Liberia

Dr. Dana Dalrymple
Agricultural Economist
USAID
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Dr. Mark Smith
USAID Mission in Monrovia
Liberia

B. FIXED-TERM MEMBERS REPRESENTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Representing Asia and Far East

Pakistan:

Dr. Amir Muhammed
Chairman, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council
Islamabad, Pakistan

Mr. Tanwir Ahmed
Pakistan Agricultural Research Council
Islamabad, Pakistan

Representing Africa

Senegal:

Dr. Moctar Toure
Directeur des Recherches Agricoles et Agro-Industrielles
Dakar, Senegal

Tanzania:

Dr. Jonah N. R. Kasembe
Director General
Tanzania Agricultural Research Organization (TARO)
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Representing Middle East and South Asia

Iraq:

Dr. Alladin Ali
Director General of State Board for Applied Agricultural Research
Baghdad, Iraq

Libya:

Dr. Bashir M. Said
Representative of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Tripoli, Libya
Representing Southern and Eastern Europe

Greece:

Mr. Christos Alexandridis
Livestock Research Division
Ministry of Agriculture
Athens, Greece

C. OBSERVERS

Argentina

Mr. Diego White
Alternate Representative of Argentina
to FAO
Embassy of Argentina
Rome, Italy

International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)

Dr. Björn Lundgren
Director
Nairobi, Kenya

International Irrigation Management Institute (IIMI)

Dr. Thomas Wickham
Director General
Colombo and Kandy, Sri Lanka

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

Dr. Kenzo Hemmi
Chairman, Board of Trustees

D. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTERS

Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo (CIMMYT)

Dr. Robert D. Havener Dr. Clive James
Director General Deputy Director General

International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR)

Dr. Lennart Kahre Dr. J. Trevor Williams
Chairman Executive Secretary

Prof. Edmond de Langhe
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

Dr. John J. McKelvey, Jr.  
Chairman

Dr. Ermond H. Hartmans  
Director General

Dr. Eric M. Sicely

Mrs. Remi Enahoro

West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA)

Dr. Hyacinthe Leroux  
Executive Secretary

Dr. Kouame Miezan

Mrs. Victoria J. Cooper

E. OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Dr. Michael H. Arnold  
Panel Chairman, IITA External Program Review  
Plant Breeding Institute  
Trumpington, Cambridge, England

Dr. Almiro Blumenschein  
Panel Chairman, WARDA External Program Review  
Director, Centro Nacional de Pesquisas, Arroz e Feijao  
Goias, Brazil

Mr. Luis Crouch  
Panel Chairman, IITA Management Review  
Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana

Dr. Maxwell F. C. Day  
Panel Chairman, IBPGR External Program and Management Reviews  
Sydney, Australia

Dr. Laurence D. Stifel  
Panel Chairman, WARDA Management Review  
Vice President & Secretary  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
New York, U.S.A.

Dr. Robert K. Cunningham  
WARDA S.T.C. Nominee  
London, England
Budget and Finance Study

Dr. Richard L. Clifford
Financial Officer
CIMMYT
Mexico D.F., Mexico

CGIAR Impact Study

Dr. Jock R. Anderson
Study Director
University of New England
Armidale, Australia

F. CHAIRMAN OF BOARD CHAIRMEN AND OF CENTER DIRECTORS

Center Board Chairmen

Dr. Reed Hertford
Chairman
Director, International Agricultural and Food Program Office
Cook College, Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Center Directors

Dr. William K. Gamble
Director General
International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR)
The Hague, The Netherlands

G. OFFICIALS

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Professor Guy Camus
Chairman

Mr. Alexander von der Osten
Executive Secretary

Dr. P. Roberts-Pichette
Deputy Executive Secretary

Mr. L. H. J. Ochtman
Senior Agricultural Research Officer

Dr. Karl O. Herz
Senior Agricultural Research Officer
G. OFFICIALS (contd.)

CGIAR Secretariat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Curtis Farrar</td>
<td>Executive Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Doreen Calvo</td>
<td>Senior Program Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Peter Greening</td>
<td>Deputy Executive Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Olivia Vent</td>
<td>Information Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Robert W. Herdt</td>
<td>Scientific Adviser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Monica M. Stillwell</td>
<td>Staff Assistant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING
Rome, May 23-25, 1984

FAO Director General's Opening Remarks (Verbatim)

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL (FAO) (Interpretation): Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I should like first of all to extend a most cordial welcome to all of you who have come here to FAO today. I am addressing myself particularly to the members of CGIAR, to the representatives of donor countries, to the representatives from our co-sponsors, to the representatives of developing countries and of international centers and also, of course, to the members of the Secretariat of the CGIAR and TAC.

I should also like to welcome most particularly your Chairman, Mr. Shahid Husain, Vice-President of the World Bank. This is the first session that you will be holding under his chairmanship. I have already had the pleasure in the past of getting to know Mr. Husain and I am sure that he will be a most outstanding Chairman for your meeting and he can certainly count on FAO's unconditional support.

I should also like to welcome Professor Camus, Chairman of TAC, an old friend of FAO with whom we have been having fruitful contact for several years.

This is the first meeting that you have held in FAO and we are very proud to welcome you here. Today, too, is the first time that I am able to address you personally on behalf of FAO and I am doing so with great pleasure. I am speaking, of course, on behalf of one of the three co-sponsors (in French we say "parent", but do not think that this means "godfather", which has other connotations!) and I am going to speak very informally. This is our tradition in the House, that in this kind of meeting we try to be informal, open, and I shall be as open and frank as possible, as is my want, without falling into the trap of self-satisfaction.
FAO is one of the three co-sponsors of your system. What does that mean exactly? Of course it means that we fully subscribe to the purposes of your Group and that we recognize the quality, the importance and the impact of the results achieved by international research centers, but this is not a mere blessing or a sort of unconditional kind of underwriting. No, we follow very closely what is being done by your Group and we feel it is our duty to take part in the working out of policies, of priorities and of programs. At the level of your Group we have been represented for years by Dr. Bommer, one of our Assistant Directors General in FAO. We are also represented and take an active part in the work of TAC, the Group of Wise Men, where the developing countries have good representation, are broadly represented, and for which we provide the Secretariat which relies largely on the technological services of FAO.

We are also represented at the international centers within the framework of their Board of Directors and we are represented at their technical meetings. This co-sponsorship means that we have the greatest responsibilities for the agricultural development in the Third World and we are determined to impart to the CGIAR a view and dimension which goes beyond that of a mere heaping together of bilateral interests. It is the duty of these co-sponsors to guarantee the balance and the fairness of the Group while respecting the interests of all member nations and, in particular, of all those for whose benefit this Group was specially set up.

However, this is not one-way traffic. It is important that the consultative group and the centers should know what is said and what is done at FAO. After all, FAO is an organization which brings together 156 member nations, which holds every year over 224 technical meetings, which prepares and publishes agricultural statistics and others, and unique kinds of studies on a global, regional and national basis. It is an organization which carries forward over 2,200 technical assistance projects which generate over $2 billion worth of investments every year. I want to stress, therefore, that it is very important for FAO to take part in the dissemination of new technologies and other research results coming out of international centers. We have 1,800 experts round the world working in something like 120 countries. We also have some 74 FAO country representatives, in other words our representatives, in developing countries and five regional offices.
So we have to make progress in both senses and our relations with you go beyond sponsorship or the right to be informed about what goes on. Our concern is to be best informed mutually and to consult one another so that we may work in a complementary way. FAO works both by supplying you with statistics and studies of problems and by taking advantage of what you generate by applying research to development.

It is in thinking of what we can give you that I should draw your attention to the world food and agriculture situation as we see it at the present time.

Of course, we are aware of it, but it is a good thing to remind ourselves of it before discussing priorities and programs for international agricultural research. The global situation is a cause for concern, although not alarmingly so. World grain reserve stocks run the risk of falling below the minimum security levels which are estimated at 18 percent of annual consumption. However, wheat stocks have, in fact, increased.

There are two dangers facing us. The first is that short falls in production may again occur and prices may, therefore, go up and, secondly, that recession may continue and reduce even further the capacity of the poorest countries to pay for their food imports. As you know, Mr. Chairman, we have declared a state of food scarcity in 24 African countries. This is due to a number of factors, basically prolonged drought, but also crop and livestock diseases, brush fires and so on. This time it is not just countries in West Africa, but also in East Africa and even in Southern Africa that are affected by this situation. Grain import requirements for these countries are increasing all the time. We estimate that 5.4 million tons of grains will be needed for the current crop year, of which 3.2 million tons have to be covered by food aid, and that is 800,000 tons over and above present pledges.

I must mention also the problems of logistics that arise in those countries in actually moving the food even when it gets there to where it is needed, whether they have imported it and paid for it or whether it is food aid. The cost of storage is, of course, very high as well as the distribution involved for these foodstuffs.
I have launched several appeals calling for help for these 24 African countries, twice at the United Nations itself and several times here in FAO and we are continuing our efforts to mobilise further aid for these African countries.

The Secretary General of the United Nations himself has concerned himself with this problem very seriously, he has visited several African countries at the beginning of the year and he intends to take some measures in this connection, because as far as he is concerned, it is not just these 24 countries in Africa but it is all the 50-odd African countries which are concerned. So I hope that your Group will give even more importance to the research being done and to be done in Africa, because Africa is the continent which has the direct need of aid. This is recognized by the World Bank, which gives it a great priority and by UNDP and by the bilateral donors themselves.

Here in FAO over 40 percent of our resources are currently being devoted to Africa. Now I do not want to dwell too long on the problems of debt servicing for the Third World countries, their growing cost of energy and the very low prices they get for their agricultural raw materials which are their source of income, which means a worsening of the terms of trade for those countries. I do not need to go into that in any detail, but after these very brief comments on the world food and agricultural situation I just wanted to draw particular attention to the problems of Africa. I would now like to tell you about the recent developments in FAO which I think are of particular relevance to your consultative group.

First, I would like to refer to the most recent FAO Conference session which was presided over by the US Secretary of Agriculture and which brought together 156 member nations and there were 97 Ministers of Agriculture represented here, so this was a world summit of the Ministers of Agriculture here in Rome.

At that session of the Conference a new broad concept of food security was adopted by the Conference, it had already been adopted by ECOSOC before that and by the World Food Council and by the FAO Council. Now this new approach is not simply restricted to the problems of reserve stocks to cope with the generalized failure of crops, but it also includes all production, that is all factors from production to consumption, including the question of agricultural prices, the relationship between import and exports, the
purchasing power of consumers and also, of course, food aid. On the basis of this new conception the purpose of world food security is to ensure that everyone everywhere can have material and economic access to the basic food needed for human beings, taking into account all the factors which have an influence on the capacity of the country and of an individual to produce and also to purchase what he needs to eat.

The three specific targets which must be pursued are to guarantee sufficient production, to stabilize to the maximum degree the flow of supplies and to make it possible for those who need it to have access to those supplies.

The new concept stresses the need, especially in food deficit countries, to increase production, not only in the case of grains but for other stable foods such as root and tubers, also legumes. I might add that increased outside assistance for agriculture, including agricultural research, is absolutely necessary for this purpose.

During this last session of the Conference we also submitted an important study on population load which lands can bear. For the first time, Mr. Chairman, a country by country analysis has been carried out on the possibilities and limitations for food self-sufficiency at different technological levels. It is an original study by FAO which has no precedent and this study shows that certain countries have already reached a population density which goes beyond the capacity of their land to feed local populations, with a low level of inputs. If these countries remain at this low technological level, the number of the countries so affected could be some 64 by the year 2000 and of those, 29 would be in Africa, 15 in the Near and Middle East, 14 in Central America and 6 in South-East Asia.

So if we do not give them more fertilizer, improved seed and so on, and if we do not have more irrigation in those countries, this will be the situation by the year 2000, it is a very worrying figure for those 64 countries, because in the meantime the population is increasing in those countries. I need not say that we have not put the names of those countries in the report, we did not want to hurt anybody's feelings or to make any problems, but we can discuss this matter with the governments
concerned and carry out more detailed studies if they so desire. In any case it is quite clearly very urgent, not only to achieve technological progress -- thanks to research -- but also to disseminate the broadest possible examination in those countries through the techniques which already exist and to increase the level of inputs, that is essential. However, even if we could apply the most advanced technology, which is available at the present time, it is estimated that by the year 2000, whatever we may do, there would still be 19 countries which could not feed their populations. These are growing populations. We cannot increase agricultural production, even if we put in four times more fertilizer or other inputs, it would be physically impossible for those countries, so it is very important to speed up research efforts especially in food crops.

The study which I have mentioned was undertaken together with the United Nations Population Fund and, in fact, they financed the study. I should like to take this opportunity to tell you that our last session of the Conference decided to establish a new division in FAO, which is the division for the development of research and technology. Now this does not reflect a new priority, it is not something suddenly thought up, but it is a regrouping and consolidation of those programs and units which already existed in various parts of the organization and it is to have a more effective and better co-ordinated operation with a broader horizon, including research, environment, energy and remote sensing. The TAC secretariat has now been located in this new division, and this should make it possible for us to intensify our support for TAC and also our support for your consultative group.

The Conference also approved International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. This a moral undertaking, because governments thought that this matter is no longer just the concern of specialists but must also become the serious concern of governments themselves. This undertaking should strengthen the action already started by FAO in the sixties, which has been continued and carried on by your own group and, in particular, by IBPGR.
The preservation of this heritage of mankind should not depend only on the clear sightedness and devotion of a group of specialists and on the generosity of donors, it should not be dependent on the fluctuations of the budgets of national and international institutions, it is necessary for the governments themselves to commit themselves and to participate so that everyone may profit from these plant and energy resources by having free access to these resources. There is no question, therefore, of taking over from or duplicating IBPGR, which, as you know, is an FAO child, but the point is, firstly, to mobilize all governments to ensure progress; secondly, to keep all governments fully informed; thirdly, to make it possible for governments to express their needs and to tell us of other priorities in these fields as in others.

So this undertaking is also an invitation to all international centers concerned not to remain aside but to take part in this collective effort. It would be open to political misunderstanding too, but it is a unique occasion for international centers to strengthen international co-operation which they have already developed in this field.

As far as possible, I shall discuss, personally, with the help of my colleagues, the possibility to ensure that the international report on plant genetic resources which has been established does not encroach on the activities of IBPGR. On the contrary, I very much hope that this new board on genetic resources will support the work of IBPGR and give it all the political support it may require and, why not, financial support. It is just a matter of explaining quite clearly to the committee the remarkable task which has been achieved by IBPGR in the past and the extreme usefulness for IBPGR to developing countries.

I would now like, Mr. Chairman, in a constructive spirit to offer some comments, which I phrase in the form of questions and they are quite simply on the future of your consultative group. If some of these remarks appear to be somewhat critical, remember this criticism is aimed also at FAO. First of all, there is the participation of the developing countries in the system. CGIAR is a very difficult acronym to pronounce and I cannot get my
tongue round it at all, so that is why I keep on calling you the Group. The Group has been aware of this problem for a long time but considerable progress has been made. FAO has substantial responsibility there since our regional conference takes place every two years which elects representatives of developing countries to serve on your consultative group.

Today, after 13 years of life, the consultative group is still basically a donors club. There are only six developing countries among 40 donors or members of the group; representatives are elected by FAO at the present time for four years but they do not participate sufficiently. The developing countries' members of the group have to pay a very high membership fee, it is, I think, very high anyway, $500,000 to become and remain members of the club. However, the representatives of developing countries are much more active in TAC in the technological committee and I think it is right this should be so.

Now let us look at the centers, three directors out of 13 come from developing countries. However, the Boards of Directors have now achieved a better balance as regards to the representation from developing countries.

The beneficiary countries have now increased considerably. China now takes part in the activities. Many small countries -- LDCs, including the Portuguese and French-speaking countries, seem to receive little although they should be given high priority according to their needs. There are many amongst the least developed countries which seek to benefit. It is the most advanced developing countries which continue to be privileged partners of those international centers. We must think about this. We must try and achieve more universal suffrage. I know of course that the donors in the group are very much aware of these problems. Certain developing countries tend to feel that they are observers rather than full members of this system, which in fact is working for them and is useful. They do recognize that it is useful. It works for them but not really with them.
There is also another way of increasing the participation of developing countries in the group system and that is through training. Excellent work has been done and is being done by the centers in this connection. They have high quality programs, which are sometimes perhaps a bit too specialized but are often very practical and very effective. But the demand for training is tremendous. We have just carried out a study on training requirements in Africa, which shows that requirements are truly enormous. We must try and find ways and means of extending the benefits of training to the greatest possible numbers, not only to technicians and research workers but also to the intermediate and lower levels for research, training and for extension work, and this especially in Africa.

I also think that direct assistance from the donors for the development of national agricultural research in the developing countries is necessary. It is already there of course, but they need more of it. First, the developing countries must give the necessary priority to the strengthening of the national agricultural research. Then it is neither FAO nor ISNAR which can meet their requirements. One needs massive direct aid from the donors within the framework of their bilateral programs.

I raise a question there. Perhaps it is not very much to the point. I wonder, for instance, how much Lome II included by way of aid for the strengthening of agricultural research in Africa. How many African countries are asked to give more help with research within the framework of the second Lome treaty? Soon we shall be holding a third one. To what extent these countries have asked, part of those credits could be reserved for agricultural research. Of course, the beneficiary Governments will have to decide. Perhaps the European Community could nudge them a bit in that direction and encourage request for this purpose. I would say the same thing of course for USAID, dollar bilateral aid, from Germany, France, the Netherlands and so on. Perhaps bilateral aid should focus more on this need to strengthen agricultural research in developing countries provided that the Governments are willing to do so. Obviously we shall not be paternalistic.
This aid -- bilateral or even multilateral -- must not, on the other hand, set up institutional or super structures which are excessively sophisticated or too specialized. I have seen in certain countries agricultural research councils housed in vast buildings with a lot of staff, all looking very wonderful, the purpose of the staff being to harmonize, co-ordinate, evaluate, assess, and so on. But the people doing the real work are the specialized institutions working out in the field. I have seen these enormous buildings, big white buildings in the capital, with a lot of officials co-ordinating what others do. It is the others who work and the officials control them, assist them, and evaluate them. They sit in luxurious offices. They have all sorts of funds. They travel all over the world. They are the super co-ordinators. I think that there is a bit too much of it, sometimes, perhaps. Yet this is the kind of aid which is encouraged from outside, from abroad. Such projects are always encouraged by bilateral sources: I do not think quite so much by multilateral sources. We must not help them build ivory towers. We must be pragmatic and concrete, specific. We must set up things which will cost little money and be effective. National research must be firmly aimed at practical applications, extension work, development programs and agricultural services.

Another idea I have is that one should concentrate the efforts of national research more on the more disadvantaged regions of the world and on the more disadvantaged crops -- food crops. We know where we have the great food shortages. We know where famine strikes time and again. We ask ourselves "What do people eat in these areas where there is famine and scarcity?" It is not always grains. We feel that the food crisis in Africa and other countries is only just starting. It has been with us for years, of course but it is getting worse. We think that it is going to get even more severe in the years to come, because there is a considerable population growth in Africa and because there is a continued tendency for people to go away from the country to the towns. In the towns, people are not producing any food. They have to be fed. They want to eat bread, so you need wheat, which cannot be grown in many of those countries. Infant mortality is fairly high but it is going down in Africa. Life expectancy is increasing. Food production is going down. So we are moving towards a
very, very difficult situation in Africa. We can find the proof this very year with 24 countries suffering from acute food shortages. Who could have expected Southern Africa and Zimbabwe, which have always had surpluses, grain surpluses, maize in particular -- South Africa is the largest exporter of white maize, and Zimbabwe three years ago had difficulty in finding markets to export 1-1/2 million tons. Now Zimbabwe for the past 2 years is a debtor country. They have to import grains. There is something going wrong with the climate in Africa. It is a fact. We discussed it yesterday.

Apart from the considerable population growth, we are faced with an explosive situation in Africa. Big irrigation schemes are in fact failing. The new vast irrigation schemes that are being prepared or planned may also well go wrong for reasons which I need not go into now. But this is our considered view in FAO. We say so quite openly.

So it seems to us that we should place much more stress on research in the field of rain-fed crops, rice, sorghum, millet, roots and tubers, and maize, for human consumption, and also on improving livestock production for small farmers. All these kinds of crops are in fact grown by smallholders. They are not grown in big industrial farms. I know that excellent research work has been done in this connection and is being continued in a variety of centers, but we need to do even more in this field, especially in Africa.

I ask you another question. Should we re-think the whole structure of the CGIAR system and in particular the centers? Your group has been thinking about this for quite a long time. The need for continuity in research should not lead to static institutions. Is it realistic to expect that the international center is going to serve the whole world for certain crops? Should we not rather stress more strongly the regional vocation of centers, making it possible thus for countries in the region to identify more closely with certain centers and take a more active part in them, including funding them? Has not the moment perhaps come for certain centers in certain regions to obtain regular contributions from the
beneficiary countries? I do not know. These are just questions that I am raising. There is an economic crisis at present. This may not be a very helpful idea, but there it is. As we know, the financial security of the system is still very fragile. It depends every year on the open handedness of the donors and some donors in particular. FAO is ready to promote every effort which makes it possible to give greater financial stability to the centers by means of commitments or pledges covering several years at a time and by increasing the number of donors, in particular as regards to the vital role which certain centers play in maintaining gene banks.

These are just a few remarks that I have put before you for you to think about. They show, I hope, the interest — the personal interest — which I have in your work and which FAO has in ensuring that the remarkable progress made by your consultative group can continue in this field of international agricultural research. Your efforts are not only complementary with ours but they are more and more closely associated with them. This is why I am particularly happy that you are meeting in Rome and that this time you are holding your CGIAR Spring session here.

Spring is the season of renewal. I hope this meeting will also be an opportunity for renewal in your thinking and in your research; and in your looking for solutions of the very serious agricultural and food problems which our world has to face.

I wish you every success in your work, under the wise guidance of your distinguished Chairman.
CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING
ROME, MAY 23-25, 1984

Chairman's Opening Remarks (Verbatim)

THE CHAIRMAN: It is customary at these meetings for the Chairman to offer some remarks, and I shall proceed to do that.

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research is a unique body. It is about commitment to scientific excellence in the service of humanity. It is a prime example of successful international cooperation. It is an innovation in management. I have been associated with economic development for more than twenty-five years. Never have I seen the combination of commitment, excellence and cooperation as in our system. I feel greatly honored to have been nominated to chair this Group. I succeed two great architects of the system, who worked with you and your predecessors to establish and manage this complex system. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Dick Demuth and Warren Baum for shepherding the Consultative Group through many changes that time inevitably brings to any living organism.

During the last few months I have tried to understand the system and its workings: to know well the co-sponsors, to visit as many donors as possible and a few centers, and to listen and ask questions of a variety of people both inside and outside the system. Our able Secretary, Mr. Farrar, and the Chairman of the TAC, Professor Camus, have assisted me in this and I should like to express my gratitude to them. Please bear with me if after five months I do not yet have the deep knowledge that many of you have acquired over the years. I do, however, share fully your deep commitment to the CGIAR.

Meeting in Rome today is a double delight. Italy has been a constant supporter of our system, and in the last few years this support has increased further. Our meeting in Rome should further strengthen this cooperation. I am also delighted that my first meeting as Chairman should be at the FAO -- an organization whose devotion to improving the human opportunity is un failing. I am deeply grateful to you, Mr. Director General, for the kind words to me personally, for your welcome to the
Group and for the honor you have done to us all by addressing the Group. The Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the CGIAR and the donors who finance us -- all have common objectives. We tackle separate aspects of that common objective -- which is, of course, an improvement in the quality of human life. The most basic of human needs in the poor countries is food and we all recognize that increases in food production and economic development are inseparable. The mass of the poor people in developing countries live in rural areas. They are both producers and consumers of food. If development is to have any meaning in these countries, producers of food and other agricultural commodities have to produce increasing surpluses, so that the growing urban populations can be fed and additional income generated for the rural populations.

Analyses of future food availabilities a decade hence, indicate that -- on a global basis -- the world should be able to feed its much larger population marginally better than now. This positive result will be achieved almost entirely from increased yields rather than from the expansion of cultivated areas. Because of rapid population growth and low levels of nutrition in the poorest areas of the world, combined with the imbalance of income between major food exporters and the importers in the developing world, we must guard against complacency. Current economic trends indicate that the income gap between the grain surplus regions and the consumers in the rest of the world will widen. Furthermore, food consumption at the marginally higher levels that are forecast will only be achieved in certain developing countries through imports.

While international trade in food is important and should increase in importance, problems of poverty and employment will require constant attention to the issues of production in every single developing country. Research to improve the yield of staple foodstuffs, therefore, becomes of critical importance in the attempt to feed the world's population regularly and adequately. However, research results are only of value when they are successfully transferred from the laboratory to the land; consequently, efforts to improve extension services for farmers are equally critical elements in the process.
Research programs at the institutions supported by the CGIAR have brought about technical improvements that have contributed significantly to the food production increases that have characterised the past decade. Increasingly, those contributions are being made in concert with the national research programs of the developing nations, and CG centers are playing a substantial role in helping those nations build a capacity to conduct their own research in the future. The impact study now under way will document some of these activities and contributions, and it is to be hoped will provide a guidance for the future.

Despite the increases in production that have been recorded, we are all aware that the future balance between food needs and production is precarious. Countries in Asia have recorded impressive growth in some commodities. Yet even a slight slackening in those growth rates could result in food needs far beyond the capacity of many exporting nations to meet. Similarly, Latin America has also been able to increase production at a faster rate than demand, but millions in Latin America still have too little food, and many small farmers have so few resources that they can scarcely avail themselves of the opportunities offered by new technologies.

However, Africa is the region where starvation for large sections of the population is a real possibility. Some African countries are actually producing less food per person today than they were ten years ago, and many others have barely been able to keep food production ahead of population growth. Thus, while elsewhere the challenge is to maintain the positive trend in per capita production, in Africa the challenge is to reverse a situation of zero or negative growth. Almost all CGIAR institutions give priority to research aimed at helping to solve Africa's problems. The centers have over 200 senior scientists stationed in Africa; research to solve specific African production problems is under way for maize, sorghum, pearl millet, rice, groundnuts, cowpea, potato and sweet potato, yams, cassava, and livestock. In a parallel effort, centers are assisting national programs to improve their own production research and their capacity to undertake food policy analysis.

Our efforts to increase food production in the world in general and in Africa in particular, are considerable. We face, however, a possible situation of crisis in certain parts of the developing world at a time when
the resources available to the system are limited. I have therefore very much welcomed the work being done by TAC, under the leadership of Professor Camus, on strategic issues. Because our resources are so valuable and so scarce, we must focus very sharply on the main objectives of each center and assure that any overlap in mandate is constructive and not competitive. On a related point, history teaches us that only those international initiatives that have a clear comparative advantage over national ones are effective. In this context the CC system must ensure that the international research institutions complement and not compete with national research institutions. TAC's work on strategic issues and in the streamlining of mandates is a normal stock taking operation in the course of any institution's life. I applaud it and look forward to the results.

Lastly, I should like to echo the sentiment and the thought articulated by the Director General. The key to our future will be our ability constantly to review our own performance in the past and to look at the issues ahead. It is here that we have to improve and increase our strategic work, not simply on the issues of food production and the issues of regional development, but the operation of the system itself.

An agenda has been circulated, and if there are no objections, we shall adopt it.