TO: Members of the Consultative Group
    Members of the Sub-committee on Genetic Resources
    Members of the Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: B.N. Webster, Secretary
      Sub-committee on Genetic Resources

The Consultative Group Sub-committee on Genetic Resources met at
FAO Headquarters in Rome on 1-2 October, 1973. The draft report, cleared
by the Rapporteur and the Chairman of the Sub-committee now circulated for
your review and comments prior to formal consideration by the Group at its

Comments received prior to the meeting will be taken into account
in presentation of the report.

In order to ensure consideration of your comments prior to the
Group meeting, you are kindly requested to forward these to the Executive
Secretary of the Group, Mr. Harold Graves, at the IBRD, 1818 H Street, N.W.,
to the address above.

Your collaboration will be greatly appreciated.

Enclosures
1. The First Meeting of the Sub-committee on Genetic Resources of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) was held at the Headquarters of FAO in Rome on 1-2 October 1973. Mr. R. H. Demuth, Chairman of the Consultative Group, was in the Chair. Mr. J. F. Yriart, Assistant Director-General, Development Department, FAO, welcomed participants on behalf of the Director-General of FAO.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of 10 governments, international agencies and private foundation, and by a representative of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to the CGIAR, who also represented his government. Seven observers and resource personnel also attended. The Secretariat was provided by the secretariat of the TAC. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

3. A list of documents provided to the Sub-committee is attached hereto as Annex II.

4. The Agenda as adopted is attached hereto as Annex III.

5. The Chairman requested Dr. G. de Bakker (Netherlands) to act as Rapporteur with the assistance of the Secretary.

Discussion of the programme and administrative questions. (Agenda Item 2 and 3)

6. The Sub-committee endorsed in principle the establishment of a coordinated network of genetic resource activities and discussed in detail the administrative questions inherent in the establishment of a coordinated programme. It came to the conclusion that an International Board for Plant Genetic Resources should be created and specifically proposed the following Terms of Reference, Mode of Operation and Membership for such a Board.

7. International Board for Plant Genetic Resources

a) Terms of Reference

The International Board for Plant Genetic Resources shall, under the authority of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, have responsibility for recommending policies and developing programmes in close collaboration with and with the help and advice of FAO, to meet the objectives set out below:

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i) To identify general and specific needs for exploration, collection, evaluation and conservation of plant genetic resources with particular reference to species of major economic importance and their wild and cultivated relatives, to determine priorities among them, and to ensure to the fullest possible extent that the materials conserved are made available for plant breeding and other scientific activities as required;

ii) To establish standards, methods and procedures for exploration and evaluation and to determine minimum standards for conservation and renewal of stocks of both seeds and vegetative material;

iii) To arrange for replicated storage of seed and vegetative stocks;

iv) To promote technical meetings;

v) To promote training activities at all levels;

vi) To develop a world-wide network of institutions, organizations and programmes able and willing to contribute to the above objectives;

vii) To promote the articulation of ongoing programmes so as to avoid unnecessary duplication and to fill in gaps;

viii) To strengthen the programmes of existing institutions and to encourage the establishment of new organizations, institutions and programmes to the above ends, where necessary, particularly in areas of major genetic diversity;

ix) To promote the dissemination of information and material among centres and institutions, and to encourage, within existing resources and possibilities, the establishment of inventories of collections;

x) To make appropriate recommendations with respect to computerized information storage and retrieval systems, taking into account their suitability for an effective international genetic resources network, and their compatibility with existing systems already in operation at some regional and national centres;

xi) To estimate the annual financial requirements of those parts of genetic resources programmes not already adequately covered.

b) Mode of Operation

i) The Board will be expected to draw as fully as possible for technical advice on the knowledge and experience of scientists in relevant disciplines throughout the world in developing as well as developed countries. In particular the Board will be expected to ask FAO to provide the guidance of its Panels of Experts on Plant Exploration and Introduction and on Forest Genetic Resources.

ii) The Board shall recommend financing for appropriate institutions and organizations, national, regional and international, including FAO, for the furtherance of its priority programmes and projects. It shall have at its disposal a central fund, contributed by the members of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, both to meet its own budgetary expenses and to help carry out programmes which it has recommended, and shall make appropriate arrangements with an international organization, e.g. FAO, for the administrative of such a fund.
iii) In response to a suggestion from the CGIAR that a substantial role should be played by FAO in any global genetic resources programme, the Director-General of FAO has proposed that FAO's capability in this field should be strengthened. Given appropriate approvals, this will enable FAO to provide the secretariat and other central services to the Board, and, if necessary, the Board may arrange that additional resources be provided to FAO for that purpose from the special fund referred to in par. 2 above.

iv) The Headquarters and the Secretariat of the Board will be located at FAO headquarters in Rome.

c) Membership

i) The Board will consist of 14 members.

ii) 13 members of the Board will be elected by the Consultative Group, directly or through its Genetic Resources Sub-committee. Members will serve for a three year term, to be arranged on a staggered basis.

iii) FAO will appoint one ex-officio, non-voting member to the Board.

iv) No less than 4 members of the Board will be nationals of developing countries, and no less than 6 will be scientists.

v) Elected members will serve in their personal capacities irrespective of their professional or official affiliations.

vi) The Chairman of the Board will be elected by the members of the Board in consultation with the Director-General of FAO. He may be one of the 14 members of the Board, or from outside, and his term of office will be for three years.

Following consideration of the above proposals the Sub-Committee was informed that, subject to the approval of FAO's Governing Bodies, it would be possible for the Organisation to fulfill its anticipated role in a co-ordinated programme organized along the lines proposed by the Sub-committee.

Financing of the project. (Agenda Item 4)

(a) Creation of the proposed central fund and specification of activities to be financed by such fund.

The creation of a central fund to finance centralized operations is recommended by the Sub-Committee as included in the suggested "Mode of Operation" above. This fund, to be at the disposal of the Board, would be utilized for financing activities in the exploration, conservation, training, documentation and information services, additional secretariat assistance from FAO and for general programme support as outlined in the Budget (Item 2) of the Research Proposal.

The Sub-committee recommended that contributions to the central fund should be sought, with a minimum target of $300,000 on the basis of indications given, it was felt that $500,000 might be forthcoming, (possibly at the level of $100,000 per donor) from the Federal Republic of Germany, Netherlands, Sweden and the Rockefeller Foundation; the possibility of a contribution from the U.K. was also indicated. Any surplus should be carried over to 1975. Contributions to the central fund might be considered in future years from Canada and the U.S.A. (in addition to any bi-lateral support) whereas UNDP was more prepared to support specific programmes at national and regional centres than operations at the centre.
11. The question of an agency which could be asked to handle the funds on behalf of the Board was discussed and it was felt that, if FAO had the authority and machinery to do so, this would prove most satisfactory. Alternatively the IBRD might be approached to undertake this task as it had done during the early days of establishment of other centres.

(b) Other financial requirements.

12. Concern was expressed about funds at present available for the development of new Regional Centres and the continued servicing of existing centres. The timetable of operations approved by the TAC and recommended to the CGIAR, envisaged finances being available to commence some specified operations in 1974 and additional specified operations in 1975. Funds were now earmarked by various donors for more projects than the TAC had contemplated for 1974. It was agreed that the Board should have maximum freedom of action and that therefore financial support to any of the centres should not be specified or quantified by the CGIAR at this time. This should not however deter potential donors from continuing negotiations on a bi-lateral basis, to avoid the possibility of earmarked funds being lost. This was the more desirable because, in the light of the historical record, all operations for which funds were earmarked were likely to be considered of high priority by the Board when it was constituted.

(c) Other matters.

13. The Sub-committee considered the appointment of an executing agency for conducting the necessary further steps to be taken in the constitution of an International Board. These would include, subject to CGIAR approval of the Sub-committee's recommendations, the consideration and screening of a large number of candidates based on nominations to be called for from national and international and non-governmental agencies and organizations.

14. Following discussion it was agreed that the Netherlands and the United Kingdom (subject to the approval of their respective governments) would undertake this responsibility jointly, in consultation and with the assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation and FAO. Confirmation of acceptance of this responsibility would be communicated to the Consultative Group before its 1-2 November meeting.
CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

SUB-COMMITTEE ON GENETIC RESOURCES

Rome, 1-2 October 1973

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

SUB-COMMITTEE ON GENETIC RESOURCES

Rome, 1-2 October 1973

List of Documents


CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

SUB-COMMITTEE ON GENETIC RESOURCES

Rome, 1-2 October 1973

AGENDA

1. Adoption of agenda

2. Any further discussion desired by the Sub-committee of program of revised genetic resources project

3. Discussion of administrative questions;
   (a) scientific guidance
   (b) management control; and
   (c) FAO staff support.

4. Financing of project:
   (a) creation of proposed central fund and specification of activities to be financed by such fund; and
   (b) other financial requirements (e.g. regional centres).