To:        Members of the ICARDA Subcommittee
From:     Secretary
Subject:  Draft Minute of October 29, 1975 Meeting

1. Attached is the Draft Minute of the Sub-committee meeting which was held on October 29, 1975. It would be appreciated if any comments or corrections could reach the Secretary by December 19, 1975.

2. Attention is drawn particularly to paragraph 19 indicating that nominations for the position of Director General of ICARDA should be submitted as soon as possible to the Executive Secretariat, for the attention of the Executing Agency.

Attachment
Meeting of the Subcommittee on the International
Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Washington, D.C.

October 29, 1975

DRAFT MINUTE

1. The fourth meeting of the ICARDA Subcommittee of the CGIAR was held on October 29, 1975 at the headquarters of the World Bank in Washington, D.C. Mr. Harold Graves presided as Chairman. Mr. Daniel Ritchie served as Secretary.

2. Seventeen governments and organizations were represented at the meeting. A list of participants is attached as Annex A.

3. The meeting was held primarily (1) to hear from the Executing Agency (the International Development Research Centre-IDRC) regarding the selection of sites, adoption of the Charter for ICARDA and negotiation of agreements with the host countries and (2) to select the initial Board of Trustees for the Center. The agenda is attached as Annex B.

4. Mr. Graves welcomed the participants, including representatives from New Zealand which had just joined the Consultative Group and the Subcommittee, and from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, attending as an observer.

Report of the Executing Agency (Agenda Items 1 and 2)

5. The Executing Agency's report on progress since the July 1975 Subcommittee meeting was made by Dr. Ömard Solandt, senior consultant of IDRC. As a result of two visits to the area by IDRC since the July meeting, the status of these arrangements were as follows:

(a) Site selection - Suitable sites had been identified in Lebanon, Iran and Syria, and their acquisition by ICARDA had been agreed in principle with the three governments. Satisfactory alternate sites had also been selected in the event that the first choice sites could not be acquired. The sites chosen were as follows: (i) Iran - A dual site for the Iranian station was recommended by the Executing Agency. The principal site would be near the town of Aynnadin, 65 km. from Tabriz on the main road to Teheran. About 600 - 800 ha would be provided in an area of about 1500 meters elevation with an average annual rainfall of about 350 mm.
A second site, some 15 to 30 km. from the main station, would provide 300-400 ha of land above 1800 meters which would be typical of the high plateau country. Staff would reside in Tabriz. An alternate site had been selected at Akinabad, 52 km from Tabriz, with characteristics similar to the Aynnadin site.

(ii) Syria— the site selected was at Tel Haddya, 25 km. south west of Aleppo on the main road to Damascus. Up to 1000 ha would be made available. Average rainfall is 350 to 400 mm. An alternative site in the same vicinity had also been identified.

(iii) Lebanon — A site of 300 to 400 ha at Talia, 65 km. from Beirut, in the Bekaa Valley had been chosen. Average rainfall is 435 mm. A back-up site in the same vicinity had also been selected.

Authorities of the three governments had indicated that there was a reasonable possibility that the sites could be acquired for the use of ICARDA.

(b) Charter — The draft Charter had been accepted in principle by the three host countries, and the Executing Agency advised that the Charter would be signed shortly.

(c) Legal Agreements — The Executing Agency advised that substantial agreement had been reached with each of the host countries, and that signature on at least two of the agreements might be possible in November/December, with the third to follow shortly thereafter. The ratification process differed slightly in each country. In Iran, the parliamentary procedure would require about 40 days for final approval, as would the process in Lebanon. In Syria, ratification by the Council of Ministers would probably be sufficient, although the agreement might also be submitted to parliament. Signature and ratification would likely proceed most quickly in Iran. In Lebanon, signature might be possible immediately, but ratification would depend on parliament being in session, which could not be assured under the prevailing conditions. In Syria, the ICARDA agreement was on the agenda of the Council of Ministers, but with several pressing economic and political matters occupying the Government, the Executing Agency could not estimate when the question might be considered.

6. In response to a question, the Executing Agency indicated that agreement in principle on sites, on the charter and on the agreements had been reached at the Ministerial or Deputy Ministerial level in each country. The representative of Iran at the Sub-committee meeting, Mr. Mirheydar, strongly reaffirmed his government's official endorsement of the ICARDA station in Iran.
7. There was considerable discussion on the direction and rate of future action toward the establishment of ICARDA, in the light of the prevailing political uncertainties in Lebanon and the possibility of some delay in Syria. Some speakers urged caution in the conclusion of agreements until the outlook appeared clearer. Others felt that the momentum gained should be maintained, and that the Executing Agency should proceed with the program, as agreed by the Consultative Group in July, until and unless an obstacle was reached which could not be reasonably overcome. That point clearly had not been reached.

8. From the discussion there emerged a strong consensus that the Executing Agency should continue to move toward the establishment of ICARDA within the general plan previously approved by the Sub-Committee, recognizing the political uncertainties in the area. The Sub-Committee agreed to the commencement of the start-up phase to the extent possible, including the initial engagement of staff, procurement of equipment, acquisition of sites and other activities (see paragraph below). Agreements with the host countries should be concluded as the opportunities arise and it was clear that the parliamentary procedures could be completed. In the meantime, the governments and organizations represented in the Sub-committee requested the Executing Committee, FAO UNDP and the World Bank to sign the Charter in their behalf.

9. It was further agreed that the Sub-Committee might meet again in three or four months time, to assess the situation and consider how best to proceed within the prevailing circumstances. At that time, the question of when the Sub-committee should hand over responsibility to the Board of Trustees, the subject of considerable discussion at the meeting, could be considered further.

Information on ICARDA Capital Budget (Agenda Item 3)

10. The Chairman reported that following the July meeting of the Sub-committee and the Consultative Group, the Executing Agency had studied in greater detail the cost estimates for the capital construction program of ICARDA. He confirmed that the notional estimates used in the July presentation to the Consultative Group remained valid for present purposes.

Use of Funds by ICARDA (Agency Item 4)

11. The Chairman noted that the initial contributions to ICARDA had been made to the preparatory fund maintained by the World Bank. The original letters exchanged between the C. G. Secretariat and the donors regarding the Special Fund for ICARDA had indicated that the funds were to be used for exploratory and preparatory purposes.

12. Now that ICARDA was moving from preparatory to start-up activities, the Chairman suggested, and members agreed, that the remaining balance in the preparatory fund could be applied to start-up activities. It was also agreed that the same arrangements would be used for the 1976 contributions to ICARDA, in which the World Bank would be asked to serve as receiver and custodian of funds, and the Executing Agency would proceed with start-up of operations as are considered desirable and feasible, until the initial phase of development had been completed and responsibility transferred to the Board of Trustees.
13. Regarding the Special Account, the Chairman reported that about
$315,000 had been pledged to the preparatory fund, of which $215,000 had
actually been paid in to the World Bank. Of this, $100,000 had been ad-
vanced to the Executing Agency, and some additional expenditures incurred
by the World Bank in relation to the Chairman's and Secretariat's expenses,
had been deducted by the Bank directly from the ICARDA account. About
$65,000 is likely to have been spent by the end of 1975, leaving a balance
of about $280,000 to be carried over to 1976 for start-up activities.

Selection of Board of Trustees (Agenda Item 5)

14. The Sub-Committee agreed, after some discussion, to proceed with
the selection of members of the Board of Trustees of ICARDA. The Chairman
reminded members that the Charter provided for a Board of 15 members, of
which three would be designated by the host governments and the Director
General would serve ex officio. This would leave 11 members to be selected
by the Consultative Group. Following some discussion, it was agreed that
eight members would be chosen at the meeting, leaving three to be nominated
later by the Consultative Group in consultation with the Board of Trustees,
after the composition and specialities of the rest of the Board had been
determined. This would give the Consultative Group and the Board some flex-
ibility in filling in "gaps" which might develop in the initial selection
process.

15. It was agreed that four of the initial eight members chosen
should come from the Middle East region and that four should come from other
areas.

16. Selection of nominees was made from the list of candidates pre-
pared by the Executing Agency containing all nominations submitted by Sub-
Committee members. In response to several questions, the Executing Agency
explained that the technique of using a nominating committee or preparation
of a short list had not been used in the case of the ICARDA, to avoid the
concern expressed by some members in previous elections that there had not
been adequate opportunity for choice.

17. The Sub-Committee proceeded first with the selection of the
regional members of the Board followed by selection of four other members.
In each instance the first ballot was intended to be an informal "straw
ballot". However, four candidates in each ballot received a majority or
near majority of votes cast, and the meeting agreed to accept these ballots
as final. Selected to the initial Board were Messrs. Doukli, Harban, Havener, Koop-
man, McWilliam, Nour, Obeid, and Solandt. A list of the Board members
selected, with titles and addresses, is attached as Annex C. Dr. Bokali of
Tunisia received the next highest number of votes in the ballot for regional
members, and was designated as alternate candidate in the event Dr. Doukli
could not serve. Dr. Qassem of Jordan, with the next highest vote tally,
would be the back-up for the other selected members. In the non-regional
balloting, Professor Scarascia of Italy and Dr. Breucke of Germany were
selected as first and second alternates, respectively, to replace any non-regional members who could not serve.

18. The Chairman said that the Chairman of the Consultative Group would notify the members of the Board of their selection and urge them to accept the position. He hoped that the members of the prospective Board might meet on an informal basis, as soon as possible, perhaps mid December or early January, for a briefing regarding the initiation of activities such as selection of a Director-General. The Executing Agency indicated it would prepare a comprehensive briefing session for the first meeting.

Other Business (Agenda Item 6)

19. The Chairman reminded members to submit nominees for the position of Director-General as soon as possible. Nominations should be sent to the C. G. Secretariat in Washington for the attention of the Executing Agency.

20. If another meeting of the Sub-committee proved to be desirable, the Chairman suggested that it should take place in late January or early February, 1976. The meeting would consider the questions of ICARDA's future development, and the assumption of responsibilities by the Board of Trustees.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p. m.
ANNEX B

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Meeting of the Subcommittee
on ICARDA

Washington, October 29

Provisional Agenda

1. Report of the Executing Agency on Negotiations of Charter and Host Country Agreements

2. Report of the Executing Agency-Site Selection

3. Information on ICARDA Capital Budget

4. Use of Funds by ICARDA
   a. from Preparatory Fund
   b. from Subscription

5. Selection of Board of Trustees

6. Other

7. Next meeting
International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Board of Trustees Selected by the ICARDA Subcommittee
October 29, 1975

Dr. Nourreddine Boukli
Secretary-General of Agriculture
Algiers, Algeria

Dr. Adnan Hardan
President of Applied Agricultural Research Centre
Baghdad, Iraq

Mr. Robert D. Havener
Director, Arid Land Agricultural Development Program (ALAD)
Ford Foundation
Beirut, Lebanon

Dr. Gerrit Jan Koopman
Deputy Director
Department of Agricultural Research
Royal Tropical Institute
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Dr. J. R. McWilliam
Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy and Soil Science
University of New England
Armidale, N.S.W., Australia

Dr. Mohamed A. Nour
Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative
FAO
Cairo, Egypt

H.E. Taher Obeid
Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Water
Saudi Arabia

Dr. Omond M. Solandt
Senior Consultant to ICARDA;
Former Chairman of the Science Council of Canada
ANNEX A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman: Mr. Harold Graves
Secretary: Mr. Daniel Ritchie
Australia: Mr. B. Cheek
Belgium: Mme. S. Vervalcke
Canada: Messrs. S. Ladouceur, F. Mes
CGIAR: Messrs. Daum, Lejeune, Coulter, Cavino
FAO: Dr. M. Mour
Ford Foundation: Messrs. E. Dell and C. Hardin
France: Mr. H. Vernede
Germany: Mr. O. Rohner
IBRD: Messrs. J. Franssen, J. Griffith
IDRC: Messrs. J. Hulse, D. Daniels, R. Havener, T. Marley
       J. Pfeifer, O. Solandt and E. Zdyb
Iran: Mr. M. Mirheydar
Italy: Prof. T. Scarascia-Magnozza
Netherlands: Messrs. G. J. Koopman, and G. de Bakker
New Zealand: Mr. W. A. E. Green
Rockefeller: Dr. J. Pino
UK: Dr. A. Melville
US: Messrs. Baird, Dalrymple and Morrow
UNDP: Mr. W. Mashler
OTHER: Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development - Dr. N. Fadda