Agenda Item 2d

INTSOY

(International Soybean Resource Base)

The attached draft paper was prepared by the Secretariat after consultations with USAID and the University of Illinois, in accord with the decision taken at the Consultative Group meeting on August 2, 1973.

Attachment
INTSOY PROPOSAL

1. At a meeting of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) in August, 1973, the Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reported on a proposal that an International Soybean Resource Base (hereinafter referred to as INTSOY) be established at the University of Illinois, at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, U.S.A. INTSOY is proposed to be developed from the existing AID-funded international soybean program at the University of Illinois and the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus, and would draw upon the expertise available at the University of Illinois as a result of its major domestic research program in soybeans and its existing involvement in soybean research programs in several developing countries. INTSOY would, however, have its own identity, program and budget and its own Director. Its purpose would be to strengthen national and regional soybean programs in the developing countries, through research, training, communications and technical assistance.

2. The Chairman of TAC noted that this proposal was in response to an earlier TAC recommendation that some means be developed for drawing on the soybean potential of the University of Illinois. TAC had reviewed the proposal and now recommended that it be approved, in principle, by the CGIAR, provided that arrangements could be made for INTSOY's work to be subject to appropriate international review and for insulation of INTSOY's activities, through contractual agreements or otherwise, from intervention by the Board of Trustees of the University. TAC further recommended that, if a mutually acceptable agreement could be worked out with the University of Illinois, the proposed arrangement be remanded to TAC for further consideration in view of the importance of the proposal as a possible precedent for other cases.

3. After some discussion by the Consultative Group, it was decided that the Secretariats of the CGIAR and of TAC should consult with the University of Illinois and with USAID, which was the principal sponsor of the INTSOY proposal, on how best to organize the proposed INTSOY program so that the interests of all parties concerned (developing countries, CGIAR members, and the University of Illinois on behalf of INTSOY) were satisfied. Such consultations were held on September 14 and resulted in preliminary agreement on the arrangements outlined in this memorandum. Those arrangements are, of course, subject to approval by the CGIAR and by the Board of Trustees of the University.

4. The consultations with the University proceeded on the assumption that the core budget of INTSOY, covering research activities conducted in the United States (including Puerto Rico), would be financed by the University with funds from USAID, interested U.S. foundations, and possibly other interested donors, and that the CGIAR would not be asked to mobilize funds for the core budget. It was further recognized that outreach activities are
normally financed either by the beneficiary government or organization out of its own funds, or else out of bilateral aid funds which the donor and recipient both agree should be used for this purpose. This method of financing has generally been regarded as providing the best means of assuring that outreach assistance is genuinely needed and wanted by the recipient. It was agreed in the consultations that INTSOY outreach activities should be similarly financed and that, with the exception noted in paragraph 5(g) below, there should be no need for the CGIAR to seek to mobilize funds to finance INTSOY outreach activities directly.

5. Despite the fact that INTSOY will not be looking primarily to the CGIAR for its financing, it was agreed at the consultations that there would be substantial advantages, both to INTSOY and to the CGIAR, for INTSOY to be accepted formally by the Consultative Group as the recognized International Resource Base for research, training and outreach activities designed to increase and improve soybean production and utilization in the developing countries, and, as such, to become part of the network of international agricultural research activities sponsored by the Consultative Group. To this end, the following arrangements are contemplated:

   a. INTSOY, in consultation with the Chairman of the CGIAR and of TAC, will select a group of international experts to serve as an International Advisory Board. This Board will meet at least once a year. It will be consulted on senior personnel appointments as well as on program and policy issues. Copies of any reports made by the Board will be forwarded to TAC.

   b. INTSOY's performance and program will be reviewed by the TAC in the same manner as TAC reviews the performance and program of the International Agricultural Research Centers, and INTSOY will also be subject to whatever other review procedures the Consultative Group adopts from time to time. This will include periodic in-depth reviews by external review panels at 3-5 year intervals.

   c. INTSOY will be invited to participate in International Centers Week and will make a report at that time in the same manner as the International Centers. The Director of INTSOY will also be invited to participate in such meetings as are held from time to time among the Directors of the International Agricultural Research Centers.

   d. INTSOY will be the principal resource base within the CGIAR system for international soybean programs and will assume the leadership role in this area among the network of International Agricultural Research Centers. If and when an International Agricultural Research Center decides to engage in soybean research, whether as part of its work on cropping patterns or otherwise, INTSOY will, if so requested and to the extent practicable, provide assistance to the Center through stationing a team of experts at the Center or in such other manner as may be agreed. The scope of the services to be provided by INTSOY to such Center will be specified in the contract between the Center and INTSOY, and the cost of the services to the Center will be included in the core budget of the Center.
e. Similarly, in those cases where the Government of a developing country wishes assistance from INTSOY in its national soybean program, this will be the subject of a contract with INTSOY made either by the recipient Government or by a donor which has agreed with the Government to provide or finance these services. Financing will be arranged directly by the recipient Government or by the donor concerned with INTSOY. As a last resort, it would be possible to have an institution, such as the IBRD, act as fiscal agent if the conclusion of direct contractual arrangements for such an outreach program should not prove feasible, but this need is not presently foreseen.

f. Training costs will be borne partly by INTSOY's core budget which the USAID is prepared to strengthen so as to expand the training available. It is also contemplated that direct arrangements will be made between INTSOY and recipient and/or donor countries specifying training programs to be provided and the means for their financing; such arrangements may often be part of a more comprehensive outreach contract. Again, if necessary as a last resort, financing might be channelled through a fiscal agent such as the IBRD.

g. It would be desirable for INTSOY to have a small working fund of a revolving nature to facilitate the formation of a pool of trained staff for outreach and training programs. The need for this working fund arises because of the costs involved in unavoidable time lags between the recruitment of staff and their assignment to specific programs, as well as in similar time lags between assignments. An initial fund of $300,000 should suffice for this purpose. It is hoped that some members of the Consultative Group will contribute to the establishment of such a fund. The fund would be replenished from charges included in the cost of outreach and training contracts. INTSOY would provide the CGIAR annually with a detailed accounting of its use of the fund.

6. The foregoing arrangements would be subject to termination at any time upon reasonable notice by either the CGIAR or INTSOY.

7. This memorandum has been reviewed by representatives of the University of Illinois and is acceptable to them. If the arrangements described herein are approved by the Consultative Group, similar approval will be sought from the Board of Trustees of the University.