

Possible Objectives, Composition, and  
Organizational Structure of an  
International Agricultural Research Consultative Group

A. Objectives

1. The main objectives of a Group as envisaged by FAO, IBRD and UNDP would be:

- (i) to examine the immediate needs for agricultural research in, or on behalf of, the developing countries and, over time, to study in depth the longer-term priorities;
- (ii) to attempt to ensure maximum complementarity of international and regional efforts with national efforts in financing and undertaking agricultural research in the future;
- (iii) to review the financial and other requirements of those international and regional research activities which the Group considers of high priority, taking into account the need to ensure continuity of research over a substantial period. <sup>1/</sup>
- (iv) to undertake, with the help of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a continuing review of priorities and research networks related to the needs of developing countries, to enable the Group to adjust its support policies to changing needs, and to achieve economy of effort; and
- (v) to suggest feasibility studies of specific proposals on the advice of TAC, to reach mutual agreement on how these studies should be undertaken and financed, and to exchange information on the results.

B. Composition

2. The co-sponsors of the Group would be FAO, IBRD and UNDP. Its membership, in addition to the co-sponsors, would be composed of representatives of interested donor countries, the regional development banks, and private foundations which have supported, or are interested in supporting, international agricultural research in or for the developing countries. Other interested parties might be invited to join or to participate as

---

<sup>1/</sup> It is expected that, in the first instance, financial support by the Group would probably be directed towards expanding the activities of existing international and/or regional research institutes as required to meet urgent needs.

observers, as decided by the members. The Chairman and Secretary of the Group would be provided by the IBRD, and its base would be in Washington; but the venue of its meetings would be decided from time to time by its members.

C. Supporting Services

(a) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

3. It is suggested that a Technical Advisory Committee be created by the Consultative Group, composed of technical representatives nominated by the Group, plus a limited number of advisers with special expertise, invited on an ad hoc basis to assist on particular problems. TAC would report to the Consultative Group.

4. TAC's terms of reference would be prescribed by the Consultative Group. As presently envisaged, TAC would, acting either upon reference from the Consultative Group or on its own initiative:

- (i) advise the Consultative Group on the main gaps and priorities in agricultural research, both in the technical and socio-economic fields, based on the broad experience of its members;
- (ii) recommend to the Consultative Group feasibility studies designed to explore in depth how best to organize and conduct agricultural research on priority problems, particularly those calling for international or regional effort;
- (iii) examine the results of these or other feasibility studies and present its views and recommendations for action for the guidance of the Consultative Group;
- (iv) advise the Consultative Group on the adequacy of specific international research programs; and
- (v) maintain a continuing review of needs and priorities in agricultural research, and submit to the Consultative Group such proposals as appear feasible to facilitate rational planning of effort in, or for, the developing countries to meet those needs.

5. It is envisaged that the Technical Advisory Committee would normally meet in Rome, and that its Secretary would be provided by FAO. FAO might also provide its chairman, or alternatively, a distinguished international scientist might be nominated by its members, or the chairmanship rotated amongst its members. It is hoped that agreement can be reached amongst the members of the Consultative Group to limit the size of the TAC in the interests of efficient working relations.

(b) The Secretariat

6. The Secretariat would be composed initially of the Secretary of the Consultative Group and the Secretary of the Technical Advisory Committee. Arrangements would be worked out to ensure liaison and collaboration between the two wings of the Secretariat.

D. Financial Arrangements

7. IBRD is prepared to pay for the personal services and travel costs of the Secretary of the Consultative Group, and FAO is prepared to pay for the personal services and travel costs of the Secretary of the TAC.

8. The co-sponsors are prepared to finance jointly the per diem and travel expenses of the special advisers to the TAC, but it is assumed that expenses of regular members of TAC would be covered by their respective countries or organizations.

9. Arrangements for financing future feasibility studies would be made by the Consultative Group or by individual members on an ad hoc basis.