

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Consultative Group Meeting

November 8-10, 1978

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening Remarks by Chairman
- ✓ 2. Adoption of Agenda
- ✓ 3. The 1978 Integrative Report
- ✓ 4. CGIAR Responsibility for International Agricultural Research not Directly Funded by It
- ✗ 5. Report of the Task Force on International Assistance for Strengthening National Agricultural Research
- ✗ 6. Application of International Food Policy Research Institute for CGIAR Sponsorship
- ✓ 7. TAC Chairman's Report on the 18th, 19th and 20th Meetings of TAC
- ✗ 8. Priorities for International Agricultural Research - TAC Progress Report
- ✗ 9. Conduct of Quinquennial Reviews
10. Approval of 1979 and 1979/80 Programs and Budgets of the International Centers and Programs
11. Donor Indications of Financial Support in 1979 and Thereafter
- ✗ 12. Report and Discussion on Farming Systems Research, and Future Stripe Analyses
- ✗ 13. Report on the "Costs and Benefits of Agricultural Research: State of the Art and Implications for the CGIAR"
14. Other Business
15. Future Program of Work and Meeting Schedule
16. Time and Place of Next Meeting

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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Consultative Group Meeting

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Eugene Black Auditorium, Room C1114, World Bank
Washington, D.C.

Annotated Provisional Agenda

Item 1 - Opening Remarks by Chairman

Item 2 - Adoption of Agenda

Item 3 - The 1978 Integrative Report

The Integrative Report provides an overview of the system of research supported by the CGIAR. As a guide to the potential of this research, it examines in broad terms the observable impact of the research already done on rice and wheat and draws some implications for the future. For the system as now comprised, it sets out the financial needs for 1979 in detail and for 1980 in outline. It discusses trends, particularly the growth of the centers' "off-campus" activities, often carried out by staff posted in beneficiary countries.

Discussion of the Report will provide members an opportunity to comment generally on the scope and thrust of the research and associated activities being supported and on whether the strategies and programs of the international centers, taken as a whole, are appropriately in line with the objectives of the Group as seen by its members.

Item 4 - CGIAR Responsibility for International Agricultural Research not Directly Funded by it

This question, in one form or another, has been before the Group for some time. One aspect of it -- "associate status" -- was aired at the CG meeting a year ago. It was agreed that the Group would return to the subject at its meeting in 1978. The Secretariat has prepared a paper which attempts to put the whole question in broad perspective and to identify the main options.

With the period of consolidation drawing to a close next year and a rising number of activities presenting themselves to the Group for recognition and support, members may feel the time has come to establish a policy on the

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question. The objective of the discussion would be to arrive at a consensus on what the policy should be.

Item 5 - Report of the Task Force on International Assistance for
Strengthening National Agricultural Research

On the recommendation of TAC, the Group decided to establish a Task Force to study the question of international assistance for strengthening national agricultural research. The Task Force was established and has completed its work. Its Report has been circulated by the Secretariat. It recommends establishing an international service to strengthen agricultural research. At its meeting in Paris September 20-22, TAC considered the Task Force Report. A report of TAC's conclusions, which generally endorse the recommendations of the Task Force, is being circulated to the members of the Group by the TAC Secretariat.

The purpose of the discussion on this subject is to decide whether to accept the recommendations of the Task Force, and, if so, how to go about implementing them.

Item 6 - Application of the International Food Policy Research Institute
for CGIAR Sponsorship

The three sponsors of IFPRI -- The International Development Research Centre, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Ford Foundation -- have requested the Group to resume consideration of including IFPRI in the system sponsored and funded by the CGIAR. A letter from the three sponsors addressed to the Chairman of the Group and a copy of a resolution of IFPRI's Board of Trustees have been circulated to members.

The question of establishing a food policy research institute as part of the CGIAR System was discussed first at the Group's meeting in July 1974 and again at the meeting in October 1974. No action was taken at that time, but it was envisaged that the three sponsors might establish such an institute and that the Group might be prepared to reconsider the question of sponsorship in the future.

The purpose of the discussion will be to decide whether the Group is prepared now to reconsider adding IFPRI to its system of sponsored and funded research institutions and, if so, how to proceed with this reconsideration, including whether the members wish to ask TAC to review IFPRI's application and make a recommendation.

Item 7 - TAC Chairman's Report on the 18th, 19th and 20th Meetings of TAC

The Chairman of TAC will report on items considered by TAC in its last three meetings which are not covered under other items on the CG agenda. (TAC's views on the programs of individual centers will have been reported by the Chairman during the discussion of each center's presentation.) He

will give a brief progress report on quinquennial reviews in progress and in prospect, and will indicate the various subjects which have come to TAC's attention, but which, pending completion of TAC's work on priorities, are yet to be considered within the context of the priorities determined.

Item 8 - Priorities for International Agricultural Research
-- TAC Progress Report

The Chairman of TAC will report on the current status of TAC's consideration of priorities. TAC expects to have a draft revision of the Priorities Paper ready for the Group in the spring of 1979.

TAC would welcome some guidance on such things as the weight which should be given to income generation, equity and access to food in addition to the acknowledged goals of increasing the supply and quality of food in the LDCs. It would also welcome the members' views on factor and input research.

Points brought out in discussion of this item (as well as of some of the previous items) will be useful to TAC in its further deliberations on priorities.

Item 9 - Conduct of Quinquennial Reviews

The function and conduct of quinquennial reviews was discussed in the CG meetings in September and November last year. TAC has now drawn up revised terms of reference and new guidelines for the conduct of the reviews. These have been circulated to the members for information. If members have any further questions or comments, they may be made under this item.

Item 10 - Approval of 1979 and 1979/80 Programs and Budgets of the
International Centers and Programs

The programs and budgets of the individual research centers being funded by the Group will have been discussed following the presentation made by each center director during the presentation days of Centers Week. This item of the agenda of the Consultative Group itself is the occasion for signifying official approval of the programs of the centers and their funding as recommended by the Secretariat in its budget Commentaries, subject to any changes resulting from the discussion following each presentation. The Secretariat will briefly restate the amount of funding recommended for each center and the aggregate amount required for 1979. The members will then be asked to give their approval to the whole package. This will be the opportunity for any member to raise any remaining question on the size of a center's budget before the Group's official approval is signified.

Item 11 - Donor Indications of Financial Support in 1979 and Thereafter

Each donor will be asked to give an indication of its intended financial contribution in 1979. For the sake of brevity, only the total amount should be indicated verbally, together with any special or unique features of contributions which should be brought to the attention of the Group and the international centers.

The Secretariat has asked each donor to submit separately a statement of the details of its contribution.

Item 12 - Report and Discussion on Farming Systems Research,
and Future Stripe Analyses

The Chairman of TAC will introduce the report of the Farming Systems Research Review Team and of the Farming Systems Workshop which have been circulated for information. The workshop chairman and a review team member will assist in responding to any questions and comments from the Group.

The cooperative programs of the international research centers together with their "off-campus" activities are being considered for the next Stripe Review. Since reviews of this kind are an innovation, members' views of the FSR study and the appropriateness of the next topic tentatively selected would be welcomed.

Item 13 - Report on the "Costs and Benefits of Agricultural Research:
State of the Art and Implications for the CGIAR"

This report, commissioned at the request of the Group, has been circulated for information together with a memorandum from the Secretariat summarizing the main points and recommendations and drawing a general conclusion.

The evaluation of research is a complex subject. Members may not feel the need for a far-reaching technical discussion on this occasion, but they may wish to make general comments on the report and the application of evaluation procedures to the research programs of the centers.

Item 14 - Other Business

There will be an opportunity for members to raise at this time any matters they wish to bring before the Group. The Secretariat would appreciate being informed in advance of anything a member wishes to raise.

A press release is usually issued at the end of the autumn meeting. The Chairman will propose a draft release for comment and approval.

Item 15 - Future Program of Work and Meeting Schedule

The Secretariat has circulated a paper on this subject. It suggests that the amount of business before the Group warrants a meeting of the Group in the spring of 1979. Under this item members are invited to decide, in principle, whether to have two meetings in 1979, the first in the spring.

Item 16 - Time and Place of Next Meeting

Taking into account the decision on the previous item, the Group will decide the precise date and place of its next meeting.