

NEWS



Consultative Group
on International
Agricultural Research

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International Agricultural Research Group to Discuss Potential Expansion

Washington, D.C.—Expanding the reach of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) by supporting more research centers, and launching a program of forestry/agroforestry research, will be key topics of discussion when leading agricultural researchers and donor members of the CGIAR meet here October 29 - November 2.

The annual meeting will be held at the auditorium of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Wilfried P. Thalwitz, Chairman of the CGIAR and the World Bank's Senior Vice President for Policy, Research, and External Relations, will preside.

The CGIAR is an informal association of over 40 governments, international organizations, and private foundations that was established in 1971 to support a system of agricultural research and development around the world. The World Bank, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are its cosponsors. Currently, the CGIAR funds 13 international agricultural research centers providing more than \$200 million annually for food crop and livestock research to benefit developing countries.

Officials of the 13 CGIAR centers and representatives of countries and organizations that fund the research will attend the annual meeting. Observers from other research institutions doing related work will also be present.

The core agenda of the meeting will cover:

- the CGIAR in the global food context,
- the scope of CGIAR support for research and related activities, and priorities for existing as well as possible new areas of effort,

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- the mandates, research goals and priorities of potential new institutions as well as existing CGIAR centers, and
- any other matters relevant to a comprehensive analysis of the future of a potentially-expanded CGIAR.

At its 1988 mid-term meeting (Berlin, May 16-20) the CGIAR decided to "launch an examination of the potential for expanding the system to include a number of non-associated centers," i.e., international agricultural research centers outside the CGIAR system. Subsequently, 10 non-associated centers were chosen for review.

The research centers examined include several that conduct research in such areas as water management, soil fertility, and agroforestry, as well as vegetable production and fisheries. The CGIAR is a working partner of the Geneva-based Centre for Our Common Future, and encourages research oriented toward sustaining the environment as well as increasing productivity.

In other CGIAR business, five CGIAR centers will make presentations to the Group on past and ongoing research programs. Funding requirements of nearly \$296 million for the 13 centers currently supported by the CGIAR will be outlined, and donors will announce their pledges for the coming year.

Biological control work that produced a dramatic decrease in the destruction of food crops in Africa by the cassava mealybug will be honored when the CGIAR King Baudouin Award is presented to the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) of Ibadan, Nigeria, and the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT) of Cali, Colombia. The award will be made on Friday, November 2, 1990 during the final afternoon session of the CGIAR meeting.

M.S. Swaminathan, former Director General of the International Rice Research Institute and first winner of the World Food Prize, will present the Crawford Memorial Lecture on Thursday, November 1 in the World Bank "H" Building Auditorium (H B1-201), 600 19th Street, N.W., at 6:00 p.m. The public and members of the media are invited to attend. The lecture, "The Changing Nature of the Food Security Challenge and its Implication for Agricultural Research and Policy," is sponsored by the Australian government in honor of the late Sir John Crawford, an eminent agriculturalist, educator, and statesman, who was the first chairman of the CGIAR Technical Advisory Committee.

The CGIAR provided \$224.5 million for research and training in 1989. The CGIAR spends approximately 40 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa, 30 percent in Asia, 19 percent in Latin America, and 11 percent in North Africa and the Middle East. Training and other programs strengthening national research capabilities absorbed a fifth of the budget in all regions.

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