

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Report by the Chairman of the African Livestock Subcommittee
to the Chairman of the Consultative Group on the results of
the fourth meeting of the African Livestock Subcommittee,
held in Paris, October 23, 1972

The fourth meeting of the African Livestock Subcommittee was held in Paris on October 23 at the request of several members of the Subcommittee.

BACKGROUND

The Subcommittee was set up by decision of the Consultative Group at its meeting on December 4, 1971, to arrange for negotiations looking toward the establishment of an animal disease laboratory, which might ultimately be integrated into an African livestock production research center; and to arrange for a task force to undertake studies recommended by the TAC, including a review of past and current research, with a view to determining the feasibility of establishing such an African livestock center.

In its report to the Consultative Group, TAC had recommended that after having reviewed the report of the African Livestock Production Task Force, as presented by the Rockefeller Foundation,

"two parallel efforts in international research should be developed. Firstly, a highly specialized laboratory should seek immunological solutions to the two most serious "killer diseases" of cattle, East Coast Fever and Trypanosomiasis; secondly, combined studies of animal health and production should be supported in the main ecological zones, based where possible on the existing national research facilities."

With respect to the disease laboratory, TAG had recommended that negotiations should be undertaken with the East African Community with a view to obtaining facilities at Muguga for this laboratory. If, however, the East African Community should be unable to agree to release facilities at Muguga, then the offer of support of the Kenya Government including the provision of land at Kabete should be accepted.

With respect to an international project for research on animal production and health, TAG had requested more information and more adequately worked-out proposals; it had recommended that a comprehensive study should be undertaken.

ILRAD

The African Livestock Subcommittee held its first meeting on January 21, 1972. During this meeting the Rockefeller Foundation was asked to act as executing agency for negotiating the establishment of ILRAD at Muguga, Kenya, with the East African Community. After discussion with the Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation set up an executive team which made several visits to Eastern Africa and presented its report for the establishment of ILRAD to the Subcommittee on May 8, 1972. The executive team's proposals for the establishment of ILRAD were discussed at a meeting of the Subcommittee on June 21, 1972, following which the leader of the executive team was asked to continue negotiations with the East African Community.

At a meeting of the EAC Council on July 20, a decision was taken, however, indicating that the Community could not host an autonomous institution as proposed, and that the invitation to establish ILRAD within the Community was withdrawn.

At the time of the third meeting of the Subcommittee on August 3, there were some indications that the decision of the EAC might not necessarily be final. The Subcommittee agreed therefore that it should wait for an official letter of the EAC as to what its final position towards ILRAD would be before taking any further decision.

No official letter has been received from the EAC, but following several inquiries by the Chairman of the Subcommittee the Minister of Communications and Research of the EAC has confirmed by cable that the Community has in effect withdrawn its invitation to host ILRAD.

At its fourth meeting on October 23 in Paris, the Subcommittee discussed next steps which should be taken with regard to ILRAD following the decision taken by the East African Community.

The Subcommittee confirmed that the alternative of establishing ILRAD at Kabete with the support of the Kenya Government should now be pursued. The first step should be to reopen negotiations with the Kenya Government, through the medium of a letter from the President of the World Bank, Mr. McNamara, to President Kenyatta. In the letter, reference would be made to the earlier correspondence in which President Kenyatta had expressed his great interest in research on animal diseases in Eastern Africa and had offered facilities and support of the Kenya Government. The letter would mention that if and when a comprehensive animal production and health center should be established for tropical Africa, there would be the possibility of a link between or even the integration of these two centers. The Subcommittee agreed that, in the event that President Kenyatta should respond favorably, the Rockefeller Foundation be asked to continue as executing agency in close consultation with the Bank and the Subcommittee.

As for the financing of ILRAD, it was the consensus of members of the Subcommittee that if it was confirmed that the Kenya Government would be willing to host ILRAD an initial fund of some \$500,000 be created, as in the case of ICRISAT, to cover the initial expenditures for the establishment of ILRAD. The representative of the Rockefeller Foundation repeated an earlier statement that his organization had available \$500,000, minus some minor funds already incurred for expenditures by the ILRAD executive team, subject to appropriate financial support being forthcoming from other governments and agencies. The representatives of Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States stated that once the decision of the Kenya Government was known and the Rockefeller Foundation had adapted the ILRAD proposal to the new situation, these Governments would be willing to confirm financial support for this undertaking.

In the event that the decision of the Kenya Government should be that it was not now in a position to host the laboratory, the Subcommittee agreed that the Rockefeller Foundation be asked to explore further alternatives and to report its findings to the Subcommittee.

ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND HEALTH RESEARCH

The Subcommittee had also before it the report of the Task Force on Animal Production and Research in Tropical Africa, dated September 1972, which had been prepared by Professor Tribe and his task force. The Task Force began its work in March 1972 and since then had pursued its investigations through discussions with governments and organizations in North America and Europe and through visits to countries of Western, Central and Eastern Africa.

The report was presented to the Chairman of the Subcommittee on September 29 and distributed immediately to members of the Subcommittee. It was also circulated at the same time to members of TAC. Sir John Crawford, TAC's Chairman, invited TAC members to express their preliminary views on the report before the meeting of the Subcommittee on October 23, and pending the more detailed discussion of the report which will take place at TAC's next meeting, scheduled for the end of January, 1973.

At its meeting in Paris the Subcommittee agreed to take the opportunity for a very preliminary exchange of views, bearing in mind that both the Subcommittee and the Consultative Group itself would wish to await the full review and recommendations of TAC before reaching definitive conclusions.

Following its preliminary exchange of views, the Subcommittee agreed to inform the leader of the Task Force of the comments made during the meeting and to invite his reactions and clarifications, which together with the Subcommittee's comments, would be forwarded to TAC before TAC's meeting in January 1973.

The Subcommittee agreed that it would be undesirable to attempt at this stage to reach a decision as to the relationship between ILRAD and a possible comprehensive livestock center. While ILRAD might be established fairly soon if the Kenya Government's reply was favorable, it was likely to take some more time to decide whether, and if so, in what form, to establish the more comprehensive center. The Subcommittee at its second meeting on June 21, 1972, had discussed various alternative possibilities for linkage or integration of the two efforts and negotiations for the establishment of ILRAD should be conducted with these in mind.