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C-2 Summary of Proceedings

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Summary of proceedings 72/74-01

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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C 2

November 18, 1974

TO: Participants in International Centers Week
FROM: Executive Secretariat
SUBJECT: Informal Summary of Proceedings

1. Attached is a new text of the Informal Summary of Proceedings of International Centers Week (July 29-August 2, 1974), reflecting comments received on the draft circulated on August 30 and replacing that draft.

2. Paragraphs 31, 48, 69, 72, 88, 89, 91 and 109 are recast from paragraphs of the draft; paragraphs 76 and 101 are new. Minor changes have been made elsewhere.

Attachment

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INTERNATIONAL CENTERS WEEK

Washington, D. C.

July 29 - August 2, 1974

INFORMAL SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. An International Centers Week was held in Washington, D. C., from July 29 to August 2, 1974, to discuss ongoing and proposed international agricultural research activities and the financing of those activities.
2. The meetings during the week were attended by representatives of 26 members of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, by members of the Group's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), by representatives of international agricultural research centers and institutes, and by observers. A list of persons attending is attached as Annex I.
3. During the week, plenary sessions and meetings of the Consultative Group, of TAC and of center personnel were held. A Schedule of Events is attached as Annex II.
4. This was the third International Centers Week held under the auspices of the Consultative Group.

TAC

5. Before Centers Week, TAC met in Washington from July 24 to 27, and met again during Centers Week. The conclusions reached at these sessions were summarized orally and informally for the Consultative Group by TAC's Chairman, Sir John Crawford, as mentioned later in these proceedings. The report of the TAC meeting will be distributed by the TAC Secretariat.

MEETING OF CENTER PERSONNEL

6. Center Directors met just before and during Centers Week to discuss matters of common interest. They decided to meet again in February 1975.

PLENARY SESSIONS

7. The Chairman of the Consultative Group, Mr. Warren Baum, opened the first plenary session with remarks concerning the world setting in which International Centers Week was taking place. How to respond to the world food crisis with ongoing programs and new initiatives, and how to find sufficient funds for these activities, he suggested, would be the key issues facing the Consultative Group over the next several years.

8. Support of programs already operating, he said, would put substantial new demands on the resources of the Group. In addition the Group was in the course of building three new centers -- ICRISAT, ILCA and ILRAD -- whose capital needs would approach \$30 million over the next three years. The estimates of the research network's needs, furthermore, were affected by continuing inflation, adding uncertainty to the planning and the financial situation of the Centers.

9. The outlook for 1975, the Chairman indicated, was that there might be a gap of as much as \$3 million between available funds and the real needs of the Centers. A situation of shortage might require the Group to consider procedures for the assessment of needs and the allocation of available funds. Shortage of funds also underlined the desirability of a procedure whereby donors could be assured that new Centers were being constructed to appropriate standards and within reasonable costs.

10. It would not be possible, he said, for the Group to undertake new initiatives without substantial new resources from present donors and the addition of new donors to the Group. The Chairman expressed confidence that the Group would rise to the challenge, but said that he wished to be sure that the nature and dimensions of the problem were in mind.

11. The plenary sessions were devoted to the presentations of programs and budgets for 1975 by the representatives of the following activities: the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI); the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA); the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA); the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT); the International Center of Tropical Agriculture (Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical -- CIAT); the International Potato Center (Centro Internacional de la Papa -- CIP); the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo -- CIMMYT); the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (Genes Board); the International Laboratory for Research on Animal Diseases (ILRAD); and the International Livestock Center for Africa (ILCA). Texts of these presentations will be circulated separately to the members of the Consultative Group.

12. A presentation also was made of the activities of the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center.^{1/}

^{1/} The Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center is not funded through the Consultative Group. It exchanges information and has other cooperative relationships with the international agricultural research programs which are supported by the Group; and it attends International Centers Week.

CONSULTATIVE GROUP

13. Meetings of the Consultative Group were held on August 1 and 2. The agenda adopted for the meetings (Agenda Item 1) is shown as the last page of the Schedule of Events (Annex II).

Consultative Group Brochure (Agenda Item 2)

14. The idea had been approved at the 1973 Centers Week meetings that a brochure should be prepared for the purpose of explaining the objectives and activities of the international agricultural research network and of the Consultative Group. Mr. Mashler of UNDP had accepted responsibility for organizing this project, and had proceeded with the help of the editorial staff of the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations.

15. Mr. Mashler reported that he now had a draft in hand and would like to have it cleared and printed in time for the World Food Conference early in November. Most of the brochure consisted of individual chapters on the international agricultural research Centers; and these had been cleared with the Centers.

16. Some concern was expressed at the length of the brochure and the content of the introduction; and it was observed that neither donors nor developing country representatives had had an opportunity to review the draft. Copies of the draft were then distributed, and participants were asked to give their comments to Mr. Mashler by August 16. The meeting confirmed that the brochure would not refer to the Asian Vegetable Center, and it was agreed that a new introduction would be provided. Mr. Mashler would take up with the co-sponsors the question of how to disseminate the publication.

Budget and Accounting Practices of Centers (Agenda Item 3)

17. The Chairman called attention to the Secretariat's draft paper of July 11, 1974, entitled "Budgeting and Accounting Procedures and Practices of International Agricultural Research Centers." This text is a revision of the June 18, 1973, paper on the same subject, amended in the light of experience in applying the recommendations of the Bell Subcommittee on Center Review Procedures.

18. The Executive Secretary explained that the paper is intended to be a statement of practices and usages as understood by the Centers and the Secretariat: it is meant to ensure that budgetary terms and practices are consistent among the Centers to the extent possible. The Chairman asked that Center directors and donor agencies give written comments on the paper to the Secretariat by September 25. It would then be determined whether it would be advisable to prepare a new text and have a discussion of of the paper at the next meeting of the Consultative Group.

Annual Center Review Procedures (Agenda Item 4)

19. The meeting turned to the annual center review procedures which had been further developed in line with the recommendations of the Bell Subcommittee made in November 1973. It was noted that the annual procedure has three aspects. First, each Center is responsible for providing certain documentation: an auditor's report; an Annual Report which, among other things, describes the scientific content of the Center's work; and a paper presenting the Center's proposed program and expenditures for the coming year. Second, the Secretariat provides an analysis of and commentary on the past and proposed expenditures of each Center. Third, TAC comments on scientific issues that may be raised in the program proposals of the Centers.

20. General satisfaction was expressed with the Center program and budget documents in their new format. There was agreement that these documents were improved in clarity, and that the greater consistency among them was helpful to donor understanding. A donor representative asked that greater care be taken to insure the complete listing of funds provided by individual donors.

21. Concerning the Secretariat's papers, the Chairman observed that these were intended as commentaries on the budgetary and administrative aspects of Center programs and not as comments on their scientific content, although it was not always easy to know where to draw the line between budget and content. Members expressed the opinion that the Secretariat papers covered the right subject matter, were well focussed and were commendable in their brevity. A desire was expressed for greater comparability in the budget tabulations appended to the Secretariat commentaries, and the Secretariat undertook to attempt more uniformity in next year's tabulations.

22. With respect to scientific issues, at a later point in the Agenda (Item 6), the Chairman of TAC said that TAC needed earlier notice of Center proposals in order to comment adequately. More time also was needed for discussion, prior to the Consultative Group meeting, between TAC and the Centers concerning programs for the forthcoming year.

23. In concluding the discussion of annual review procedures, the Chairman of the Consultative Group referred to the problem created by the short time available for consultations between Centers and the Secretariat concerning the drafting of their respective documents. A technical adviser, he reported, had been added to the Secretariat, and this increase of manpower would mitigate the problem, but would not solve it completely. The Consultative Group might wish to review this problem at some future time.

24. A speaker suggested that at some stage, consideration might be given to moving toward a two-year budget cycle, with half the Centers making presentations one year and the other half making their presentations

in the following year. The matter would have to be given careful thought and would require examination of alternative time schedules; but some such approach might not only relieve time pressures but might help increase the effectiveness of the planning and budgeting of scientific work at the Centers.

Draft Integrative Paper (Agenda Item 5)

25. The Chairman then introduced the Draft Integrative Paper, prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to the recommendation of the Bell Subcommittee that an analytical paper should be submitted to the Consultative Group which would set out the best obtainable information on the global financial requirements and availabilities for the international research system for some years to come, and would identify program and financial issues which should be addressed by the Consultative Group. The Chairman suggested that participants could give comments on Parts I and II of the paper directly to the Secretariat, and that discussion should focus on the issues reviewed in Part III of the paper and on the assessment of the medium-term financial outlook given in Part IV.

26. One representative said he felt it important to refer to the overall financial prospects of the Group early in the discussion, since this could influence thinking on how to treat the various items raised in the Integrative Paper. Starting from the indication of the paper that 1975 might be the first year in which contributions would fall short of the expanding requirements of the centers system, he pointed to the problems of inflation, the growing food shortage in the world, and the need to strengthen both national research and productivity at the farm level on the basis of the technology and farming systems which the Centers were developing. He urged donors to raise their sights with respect to support for the Consultative Group system and also with respect to direct outlays for linkages between the centers and the national programs of the developing countries. He felt that between now and the next Consultative Group meeting, donors should decide on increased support for the international research system so that the Consultative Group could report a strong program of activities to the World Food Conference in November.

27. Structure and Support of Outreach Programs.^{2/} There was extensive discussion of concepts and definitions of core programs, of outreach programs, of programs of research involving collaboration between international institutes and national authorities, and of ways of funding each of these three types of activity. The Chairman described the issues as being whether the Consultative Group wished to support a larger or smaller part of outreach activities with core funding and, if a change is desired, to determine where the line should be drawn between what is suitable for core financing and what is not.

^{2/} Draft Integrative Paper, p. 7.

28. Among the points made by various speakers were that:

a. a task undertaken by a Center on its own initiative as necessary for the execution of its mandate should be considered part of its core program, no matter where situated;

b. a task undertaken by a Center at the request of a developing country for the specific benefit of that country could be supported from other sources of finance (e.g., bilateral donors, international agencies);

c. the financing of collaborative research undertaken by a Center both for the objectives of the Center and for the specific purposes of the cooperating country, might be shared between core funding and other sources;

d. a modest amount of core funding might be provided for Center headquarters personnel concerned with management of outreach and for scientists standing by at headquarters to be available for outreach assignments.

29. The upshot of the discussion was agreement that the Secretariat should prepare a more complete paper on the subject in the form of an annex to the revised Integrative Paper which would be circulated before the next Consultative Group meeting.

30. Many speakers emphasized the vital importance of strengthening national research programs. It was pointed out that only a limited amount of funds could be made available for this purpose through the collective arrangements of the Consultative Group. Many donors, however, had bilateral funds available which could be used to support outreach programs carried out by the Centers in individual countries. Smaller donors needed to have more systematic information about outreach programs which might merit their support. It was suggested that the Secretariat might prepare a paper bringing together information on this subject in time for the next meeting of the Consultative Group.

31. Rising Prices.^{3/} The Chairman referred to the section of the Draft Integrative Paper on the methodology for calculating the effect of rising prices on center budgets. He remarked that inflation is a major preoccupation of center directors and is a subject on which it is impossible to make precise forecasts. Some of the complexities of calculating the impact of inflation were discussed, including the fact that each Center receives and disburses funds in the currencies of different countries in which prices are moving at different rates. The Chairman noted that the World Bank, in the normal course of its operations, was continually estimating price trends in its member countries, and observed that this experience could be put at the disposal of the Centers through the Secretariat.

^{3/} Draft Integrative Paper, p. 9.

32. Planning and Financing Capital Expenditures.^{4/} The need for discussion of this matter, the Chairman observed, was highlighted by the plans of the Centers to spend some \$30 million in new capital facilities in 1975-78. The draft text outlined procedures for a Center to adopt in preparing its construction program and suggested stages at which it should consult or seek the approval of the Group.

33. There was general agreement that donors should be kept informed of construction planning and cost estimates, and that there should also be a review by the donors concerned at key stages in the preparation for construction. At the same time, it was felt that rigid procedures should be avoided and that specific approval of donors should be sought only if particular difficulties were being encountered, since the Trustees have the prime responsibility for the management of Center affairs.

34. The Chairman summarized the discussion by saying that he felt there was general agreement with the procedures outlined in the Draft Integrative Paper, provided that a clear distinction was made between circulation of information to donors and actual meetings of a subcommittee of donors which would take place only in specified circumstances; namely, an initial meeting which would focus on the preliminary designs and cost estimates and which would provide an operating ceiling within which the further planning of construction would be undertaken; and, secondly, meetings of the subcommittee if important issues arose for resolution by donors. In this process, the Group recognized both the primary responsibility of the Board of Trustees of the Centers and the importance of donors working in timely fashion in commenting on or reviewing documents or cost estimates so as not to delay the planning and execution of construction.

35. Variations from Planned Expenditures.^{5/} Substantial variations have occurred between actual expenditures by some Centers and the budgets of these Centers that were accepted by the Consultative Group. The Draft Integrative Paper therefore raised the question of whether the Group wished to prescribe any form of consultation with donors or the Secretariat before Centers made expenditures varying from budget by more than some specified limit. The limit suggested by the Secretariat was 10 per cent.

36. Donors indicated that they would not wish Centers to move funds back and forth among capital, core and special project activities. It was pointed out that the budgeting and accounting paper already expressed the understanding of the Centers and the Secretariat that such transfers would not take place.

37. It was agreed also that within core activities, donors would be concerned by any re-allocation of funds that would represent a substantive change of program, rather than a temporary speeding up or slowing down of activities already approved by the Trustees of a Center and accepted for funding by the

^{4/} Draft Integrative Paper, p. 10.

^{5/} Ibid., p. 11.

Consultative Group. It was further agreed that the Secretariat should have prompt notice of changes made when Centers, as is the practice, revised their budgets early in the program year.

38. Members were opposed, however, to the prescription of rules which would confine budgetary variations within arbitrary limits. The suggestion was accepted that the Secretariat would prepare a further paper on this subject.

39. With respect to the problem of dealing with over-all shortages of funds that might face the research network, reference was made to the suggestion in a previous Consultative Group meeting that the Group might wish to establish a finance committee to consider what allocations should be made among the Centers. Speakers generally expressed a reluctance to formalize the procedures of the Group to this extent. The Executive Secretary observed that it already was the custom to consider the matter of allocations, on a quite informal basis, by small meetings of donors between the time of International Centers Week and the session of the Consultative Group later in the year.

40. Planning and Fiscal Management.^{6/} The Chairman said that this section recorded the impressions of the Secretariat on the state of planning and programming procedures in the Centers. The Secretariat would continue to work with the Centers in strengthening their capacity to plan their work and to measure the financial implications of such planning.

41. Reserve Funds.^{7/} The Chairman referred to the practice of according Centers a working capital fund equal to 40 days' cash requirements and noted the impression recorded in the Draft Integrative Paper that this was more than required. Some participants felt, however, that any proposal for reduction should take into account the need not to apply excessive financial pressure on the Centers. The Chairman said the Secretariat would discuss with the Center Directors the feasibility of reducing the provision for working capital fund and also would take up the question of adopting some form of uniform practice with respect to the creation of contingency funds.

42. Outlook for Finance.^{8/} The Chairman introduced Part IV of the Draft Integrative Paper by saying that for the first time in its short history, the Consultative Group faced the prospect of possible deficit, although it did not appear an unmanageable one. For 1975 the deficit could be as high as \$6 million, as presented in the paper, though it appeared that it could be reduced to about \$3 million by deferring expenditures or making reductions in budget items without actually interfering in any serious way with the programs of the centers. The shortfall of \$3 million would exist before any decision was made whether to accept new programs for funding in 1975 as might be recommended by TAC (Item 9).

6/ Ibid., p. 13.

7/ Ibid., p. 14.

8/ Ibid., p. 14.

43. If it were necessary to defer some items in the center programs for 1975, the Chairman said, the Group would want the guidance of TAC in deciding priorities.

44. With respect to new proposals, careful consideration would have to be given to their financial implications, including the availability of new donors. Decisions would have to be made as to the speed at which the Consultative Group should undertake new lines of activity. Moreover, it should not be assumed that donors could automatically increase their contributions to meet the rising costs which the centers faced; there could be some lag in response to increasing center requirements even for maintaining existing programs.

TAC Review Program (Agenda Item 6)

45. The Chairman of TAC, Sir John Crawford, presented TAC's proposals with respect to the in-depth scientific review of Center programs. The program of reviews would begin in 1975; the reviews would be on a five-year and not on a three-year basis; TAC would provide the leadership of each review mission and up to three of the five or six people required for any mission. The others would be consultants.

46. In deciding the composition of the mission, its terms of reference and timing, TAC would consult the Center Directors. The Center operations would be reviewed as a whole, including one or two special projects or outreach projects in each case, regardless of sources of financing. After its report had been drafted, the mission would review its findings with TAC; there would then be discussions with the Center management before the findings were presented to the Consultative Group. The first review would be of IRRI; the Director of that Institute had concurred with this choice. It would be late 1975 before the mission would be in the field.

47. There was general support for the program proposed by Sir John but some concern was expressed that the first report, on IRRI, would not reach the Consultative Group until two years had passed, in July 1976. Sir John confirmed that the late 1975 mission to IRRI would report to the February 1976 TAC meeting, would then have discussions with the Center and report to the mid-1976 Centers Week meeting. At its meeting next February, TAC would also draw up its review program for 1976.

48. One representative pointed out that it would be 1981 before some Centers were reviewed; it would be seven years before the first-round coverage of existing Centers was completed. Speakers stressed the desirability of accelerating the program in 1976 and 1977, perhaps by increasing the manpower available. Sir John replied that he would like to accelerate the process but there were limitations on the capacity of TAC members to carry out more than two reviews per year. Already this would call for more of members' time than they presently gave to TAC matters, though there would now be some respite from the consideration of new programs. The second limitation was the budgetary one which the Consultative Group would have to resolve. Sir John said he would review the program with the desirability of acceleration in mind.

49. On the increased costs of operating the TAC program, the Chairman of the Consultative Group suggested that the three co-sponsors should make a recommendation to the next meeting of the Group.

Discussion of Center Programs for 1975 (Agenda Items 7 & 8)

50. The Chairman of TAC reported the results of TAC's consideration of the activities and program proposals of the existing international agricultural research centers.

51. Sir John emphasized the need for more time both for the presentations by Center Directors and for review within TAC before presenting findings to the Consultative Group at the end of Centers Week. He noted the high standard of the Center presentations. A general point was that at its February 1975 session, the TAC would give particular attention to the relationship among the programs of the international Centers and regional and national research activities. He would ask the Secretariat of TAC to provide a working paper on this subject and ask for Center Directors' comments in advance of the meeting.

52. With respect to IRRI's program, Sir John commented on three aspects. First, he referred to the machinery program which IRRI proposed to include in its core operations. TAC had received no early notice of this proposed change and was not yet prepared to give an opinion. He proposed that the program should be extended without commitment until TAC could review it, and said that in order to avoid undue delay he would try to arrange a special review of the mechanization program. Meanwhile, it should either be continued as a special project of USAID or financed from core funds, without prejudice to further advice from TAC. In later discussion, a number of donor representatives expressed support for the proposal that the machinery project should be added to IRRI's core program.

53. Secondly, Sir John referred to IRRI's large capital expansion program for 1975. If it were necessary to phase the expansion owing to shortage of funds, TAC would suggest that first priority be given to new land development, second to expansion of laboratory space and third to training facilities.

54. Finally, the TAC Chairman referred to the need for ensuring the safety of the germ plasm housing at IRRI.

55. Concerning the CIMMYT program, the TAC Chairman mentioned two points which could have financial implications for future activities. One was CIMMYT's proposal for expanding its "regional services" to national programs; this was part of the general question of the relation between Centers and national programs which TAC would consider at its meeting in February 1975. Secondly, Sir John referred to an impression that CIMMYT should be doing more to assist wheat production in Latin America.

56. On CIP, there was one comment: TAC would question the value of any major program to extend potato research activities to the lowland humid tropics.

In later discussions, donors supported CIP's subcontracting of research to institutions in developed countries; CIP did not pay the salaries of the senior staff involved in the research institutes in the developed countries but contributed the marginal expenses of technicians and related costs. There was therefore an element of subsidy to CIP which was not recorded in the budget. It was pointed out that similar support of an unrecorded nature was made by various bilateral donors for the core programs of other centers as well. The importance was stressed of TAC's obtaining adequate information on parallel research activities as part of the base for judging the research programs of the Centers and for considering system-wide priorities.

57. Concerning CIAT's program, the Chairman of TAC made two comments. First, in discussion in TAC and with the Center Director, it had been agreed that a regional system should be established for coordinating bean research. CIAT had been asked to be the coordinating center; a new center would not be created. CIAT had agreed, but would need to come back to TAC with a specific proposal on the organizational structure for the regional system and on its likely cost; it was TAC's understanding that the proposal would be made next year. Secondly, Sir John referred to the striking improvement in animal fertility, based particularly on better forage, achieved in the beef program in CIAT. Noting CIAT's concern about the narrow genetic base of its work in forage legumes and grasses, Sir John expressed the hope that this matter would be referred to the Genes Board for consideration.

58. TAC, said Sir John, supported the proposal of IITA to establish a substation in a high-rainfall area of Nigeria which would give a wider application to IITA's work. TAC was not sure, however, if the proposal had been adequately prepared and whether the proposed staffing was adequate. IITA relationships with CIMMYT, IRRI and WARDA, said Sir John, once again raised the question of Center relationships to each other and to regional activities. This matter, Sir John repeated, would be studied by TAC in February; and the TAC Secretariat would be asked to prepare a discussion paper on the subject.

59. Sir John endorsed the proposal to add groundnuts to the mandate of ICRISAT. He expressed the hope that, in view of the other organizational tasks facing it, the Institute would develop the program cautiously. In the meantime, there was high-priority work to be done in consolidating and increasing the collection of groundnut germ plasm, and in continuing work on inter-specific crosses.

60. With respect to the livestock centers, ILCA and ILRAD, work programs were still at an early stage and TAC had no suggestions to make. One representative raised the question of how far these two centers would have links beyond Africa. Problems of disease, range management and animal use were often similar to those found in the Middle East or South Asia. Sir John replied that TAC had not specifically discussed any world-wide framework for the work of ILCA; but the impact of its program should be maximized, and special linkages with the proposed Middle East center would particularly be needed.

61. Concerning the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources, the Chairman of TAC recalled that the work program was still being prepared and would be submitted to TAC for ratification. TAC did not wish to hold up the important work of the Board, until, for example, the next Centers Week. He suggested that, when the Executive Committee of the Genetics Board drew up its program later this year -- assuming the program was within the scope originally recommended by TAC and involved reasonable budgetary proposals -- he would propose to obtain the reaction of TAC members to the program by mail so that the Board could proceed promptly with its 1975 program.

62. Sir John prefaced his remarks concerning the need for a review of the WARDA program with the comment that he fully supported the concept of the program as one way of helping to raise the standards of national research efforts. TAC was not satisfied, however, that the research was yet of adequate standard in terms of the quality expected of an international center. TAC would continue to insist on adequate scientific capability and competent scientific control and direction of the research program; the Committee was not satisfied on either count. It believed that the problems were soluble; but if they proved not to be, it was possible that TAC would come to the conclusion that it should withdraw its support from WARDA.

63. Sir John accepted the suggestion that the new technical adviser of the Consultative Group Secretariat should review the WARDA program in the field, accompanied by a member of the TAC Secretariat if possible, to work out ways and means of meeting the suggestions that TAC had made. He would expect that the report of this mission would be given to TAC; the Chairman of the Consultative Group added that the report could be included in the agenda of the Group's next meeting.

64. One representative, in endorsing this proposal, said that he felt that Consultative Group funds should be devoted to centers which were developing new knowledge and doing more than could be done within strictly national programs. It was therefore important for the Secretariat review to examine whether assistance to WARDA was simply making up for shortfalls of bilateral funds or whether WARDA research was developing new knowledge.

65. Another representative said that the WARDA case embodied important principles. WARDA was a case of true collaboration with beneficiary countries. It involved a program of limited scope and duration which could be carried out by existing rather than new institutions. He felt there would be a parallel in the proposals for the ICRISAT linkages with regional and national research programs in Africa. For all these reasons, it was important to find solutions to the problems presented by WARDA.

Discussion of New Proposals (Agenda Item 9)

66. The Chairman of TAC indicated that TAC had been considering nine new proposals: a Near East and North Africa research center; an International Plant Nutrient Institute; a Food Policy Research Institute; a Latin American bean network; action to strengthen linkages with national research; an

aquaculture institute; tropical fruits; the CARIS research information system; and research on water buffaloes.

67. Three proposals being brought forward by TAC would involve expenditures for 1975: the Middle East Center, aquaculture, and CARIS.

68. While he felt that TAC was coming to the close of its first developmental stage, Sir John said he was mindful that there were still new proposals coming forward, in particular the Middle East Center and proposals on plant nutrient research. Nevertheless, in general, he felt that TAC could now give more time to the scientific programs of the Centers and related institutions and to assessing the impact of the centers' system on agricultural productivity. He felt that the TAC's work up to the present, including the proposal on the Middle East Center, ensured that the Consultative Group system would now be making a major contribution to the research needs of each region of the world.

Middle East Center

69. The Chairman of TAC said that further study in TAC and by its special subcommittee following the Skilbeck mission of 1973 reaffirmed the position of TAC of a year ago that there was a strong case for a substantial international agricultural research center being established in the Near East and North Africa for semi-arid zones of winter rainfall. The main research work would be done at a headquarters in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon where the rainfall variations were adequate and land appeared to be available; but the Center also would have to have rainfed land for its range crops and farming systems research, for which a location in Syria would be suitable. Finally, there would be a need for the early establishment of associated centers in two regions. One would be in the cold winter zone; TAC would welcome an expression of interest by Iran in this part of the proposal. The other would be in North Africa, with its true Mediterranean climate, perhaps in Algeria. The Chairman emphasized that the whole research structure should be conducted as a single operation under one board covering the work in the three locations.

70. The Center would deal with crop improvement for the staple crops of the region (wheat, barley, broad beans, lentils and possibly oilseeds and cotton); soil and water management and conservation (there would be no basic work on irrigation); sheep farming and movement from fallow to fodder crops, as components of improved farming systems and intensified land use in the region. A strong training and seminar program would be developed. Relay relationships would be established with CIMMYT on maize and with ICRISAT on sorghum, millet and chick pea research.

71. TAC recommended that work on barley breeding and germ plasm collections should gradually be shifted to the Middle East Center, with CIMMYT conducting adaptive research in Latin America. Bread wheat would remain the main responsibility of CIMMYT, with relay relationships with the Middle East Center. For durum wheat the work would remain for the time being with CIMMYT; the possible desirability of transferring this work to the middle East Center could be discussed later between CIMMYT and the new center. Organization and staffing would be important matters for the management of the new center to define.

72. Donor representatives raised the question of the funding of the center (whose operating costs might rise to \$6-8 million annually after five years) and the likely sources of funding, given the oil income of some countries of the Middle East and the financial stringency facing the Consultative Group. Mr. Baum, the Chairman of the Group, observed that in exploratory talks held so far with potential donors in the region an effort had been made to enlist support not simply for the Middle East Center but for the Consultative Group research system as a whole. A number of Middle East countries had benefited from the outreach activities of the Consultative Group network; and it was not in the interest of the Group for a situation to arise in which donors of a particular region would support some parts of the system but not others. Donors in the region should therefore be encouraged to support not only the prospective Middle East Center but other aspects of the work of the Consultative Group.

73. It was agreed that a subcommittee would be established and would hold a preliminary meeting before the October meeting of the Consultative Group. The subcommittee would concentrate on two objectives: to advance the technical planning for the center on the basis of the work already done by TAC; and to explore the interest of potential donors in the region. The Chairman of the Consultative Group invited interested donors to serve on the subcommittee and a number indicated their desire to do so. The Chairman of TAC added that the Subcommittee might find it useful to have one or two members of TAC present at its first meeting in view of the preparatory work for which TAC had been responsible.

International Plant Nutrient Institute (IPNI)

74. The TAC Chairman turned to the recent and proposed work of TAC on chemical fertilizers, biological fixation of nitrogen and organic fertilizers, and to the proposal by the United States to establish a non-profit corporation which would have access to the staff and facilities of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and would help develop research in new fertilizers adapted to tropical conditions. TAC welcomed this proposal and looked forward to a more detailed presentation of it to TAC.

75. Sir John referred to the February 1974 TAC meeting which had emphasized the need to improve the effectiveness of fertilizer use and had asked that the attention of the World Food Conference be directed to the cost and supply of fertilizers for developing countries. He said that TAC would establish a working party on plant nutrients, to examine the best way of mobilizing existing experience, including TVA's, of monitoring work being done at the Centers and elsewhere, and of stimulating new research adapted to tropical regions. TAC had concluded that there was need for some sort of instrument of coordination and support for increased plant nutrient research both in the international agricultural research centers and in other agencies; TAC had not concluded that there was need for a comprehensive new center. It would discuss the fertilizer question in February, and for the moment was not making a proposal requiring financial support from the Consultative Group.

76. The TAC Chairman noted that concern had been expressed by a member of the Group that the efforts of the research network to develop high-yielding varieties of plants might not be relevant in conditions of limited fertilizer availability. He observed that, in fact, locally adapted dwarf varieties of wheat and rice, at low or even zero fertilizer application, can give higher yields than traditional tall strains because they are able to devote more of their total dry matter to the production of grain. The plant breeding work of the Centers therefore remained highly relevant.

77. Sir John also referred to the related shortage of pesticides which depressed the effectiveness of fertilizers and of the seeds of high-yielding plant varieties. The FAO representative anticipated a shortfall of as much as 40 per cent in pesticide availability and again offered the cooperation of FAO in obtaining the help of research institutes and of private industry in focusing research and production efforts on key pesticides.

78. In summarizing the discussion, the Chairman of the Consultative Group welcomed the establishment of the TAC working party to take up the broad aspects of plant nutrient problems and the research initiative to be undertaken by the U. S. It was agreed that the co-sponsors should arrange to inform the World Food Conference on the status of the Consultative Group's consideration of the fertilizer problem.

Food Policy Research Institute

79. Sir John Crawford reported that TAC recommended to the Consultative Group the establishment of an International Food Policy Research Institute to undertake studies in key policy issues relating to world agricultural development, particularly to food problems. Such an institute would be designed to complement and reinforce the activities of other agencies concerned with the gathering of information and the discussion of policies affecting world agriculture.

80. Sir John pointed out that the subject had arisen in the context of TAC's review in the last three years of economic work at the Centers and of the socio-economic aspects of agricultural research. Many of the problems raised were problems for national policy makers. There was a need for better information as a basis for policy decisions on managing the world's food and policy resources, and also a need for policy studies of problems affecting groups of countries or even the over-all pattern of world agriculture. Such studies could lead to better management of the world's food and agriculture resources, help to mitigate or overcome recurrent famine, scarcity of critical inputs, price fluctuations and other crises, all of which could be lessened by international management.

81. The institute would provide guidance to TAC and the Consultative Group, but would be designed primarily to make advice on food policy issues available to the governments of developing countries. TAC envisaged the terms of reference of the proposed institute as follows:

(a) To keep the global food and agriculture situation under independent review and analysis with respect to such matters as supply and demand, stocks, supply of inputs, price and trade developments and prospects. It would use the primary data gathered by the FAO, World Bank, US Department of Agriculture and other major agencies, together with information from the international agricultural research system.

(b) To select key policy issues for analysis. The Institute would examine major agricultural policies and trade problems relating to food, particularly those involving sensitive relationships between governments (for example, the distribution of fertilizer and other inputs in short supply). Such studies would help national planners to assess the possible impact on their own economies of conditions arising outside their own countries and to formulate appropriate policies.

(c) To identify research needs which bore on world food production and use; for example the use of the land resources of South America for meat production, and the opening of new territories such as the Amazon basin.

(d) To transmit its findings to policy makers, among other means, by seminars and workshops.

(e) To work largely through task forces and subcontracting of research projects. The central staff would provide guidance on priorities and methodology for the various task forces. The Institute would therefore need to have close relationships with existing research institutes so as to develop teams which would work on particular problems.

82. TAC envisaged a professional staff of about 12, half of whom would be senior staff. A number of the staff would come from the less developed countries working on a rotation basis and then returning as principal advisers and policy makers to their own countries. The staff of the international centers would be closely associated with the work of the Institute.

83. There would be no construction costs. There would be outlays for equipment and for rental space, as well as operating costs such as staff salaries and travel and consultancy fees for task forces working on particular problems.

84. Concerning the funding of the Institute, TAC left open the option whether it should be submitted to the Consultative Group or whether it should have a more private orientation and be arranged independently of the Group. Either way, the Institute could be established for a trial period such as 5 years.

85. On the location of the proposed Institute, TAC did not have a final recommendation. It recognized the need for strong working relationships with important institutions in Rome (the FAO) and in Washington (the World Bank and the U.S. Department of Agriculture). Geneva was also considered a possibility.

86. TAC recommended that an international board be set up to establish the institute and to provide close relationships with the agencies concerned. It suggested the establishment of a steering committee to examine such questions as the level and type of staffing and the location of the institute, and also to open negotiations for the establishment and appointment of the proposed international board.

87. In the discussion which followed there was considerable recognition of the work already done in FAO in providing information and of FAO's strong interest in research on agricultural development problems. The FAO representative referred to the strengthened work on data collection, food security analysis, and early warning systems recently undertaken by FAO and the need for an effective and close working relationship with any proposed institute so as to avoid duplication. He asked that FAO be consulted in the establishment of the proposed international board. The discussion recognized that the independence of the institute would make it easier to make public its analysis, particularly on controversial questions.

88. A number of speakers supported the TAC proposal. They believed that the world would continue for some time to be intermittently on the edge of extremely serious food situations. Data concerning food supply and prospects were improving, but it would be of great value to have a source of highly professional analytical advice publicly available. The proposed institute should be small (like the highly respected Institute of Strategic Studies), should be independent of government influence, and should be completely non-political. It was further suggested that the institute might be established and supported during an experimental period by non-governmental organizations which are members of the Consultative Group.

89. Other speakers expressed skepticism about the desirability of establishing the institute. They pointed out that many organizations already were working in the field proposed by TAC, doing work of varying quality and producing hundreds of reports. It was doubtful that an institute of the size proposed could make an outstanding contribution. No convincing reason had been given for supposing that this institute could succeed where so many others had failed to establish pre-eminence or perform useful work. It also seemed desirable not to take a decision in this matter outside the framework of the forthcoming World Food Conference.

90. The Chairman of the Consultative Group concluded that there was support for the establishment of a research institute with an international board which would have responsibility for focusing on world food policy matters, linked to other agencies and centers doing research in this field. At the same time, the Chairman recognized the diversity of views expressed and said he would not ask the Group as a whole to endorse any specific proposal. Nor would he commit the Consultative Group to take any action until there was a further opportunity to discuss the subject, in principle at the Consultative Group meeting shortly before the World Food Conference.

91. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chairman said that he believed that the matter of establishing the institute should continue to be

considered within the framework of the Consultative Group; and it was agreed that a steering committee should explore the matter further before the next meeting of the Group. The Chairman suggested that there were two ways of pursuing the question of the relationship to the work of the World Food Conference: it might be pursued by the steering committee or by the Consultative Group Secretariat, but in either case the procedure should be quite informal.

Latin America -- Bean Network

92. The Chairman of TAC reported once more that CIAT had agreed to coordinate a Latin American bean network. It remained for CIAT to make a specific proposal to TAC, so that a final report could not be given by TAC at this stage.

93. The Chairman of TAC said that his Committee was continuing to study national research, not with a view to recommending large expenditures but with a view to suggesting ways and means by which national research could be strengthened. In this connection, he said, TAC felt a need for more information about the assistance being given by bilateral donors to national and regional research efforts.

Aquaculture

94. Sir John said that TAC had been presented with a proposal for a large expenditure on aquaculture research. TAC had, however, reconfirmed its preliminary views of last February that it should proceed cautiously and begin with recommendations for modest expenditures for one or two specific research projects. TAC was impressed by the considerable capital investments in aquaculture research in various countries and on the other hand by the lack of staff to make adequate use of these facilities. TAC would therefore wish to propose one or two sites where research is already going on and where it would be helpful to provide additional financing for particular research problems and at the same time promote the training of staff. He envisaged an expenditure of up to perhaps \$500,000 per annum.

95. One representative referred to a recent meeting at the Rockefeller Foundation of donors interested in funding aquaculture projects. Sir John suggested that the Consultative Group Secretariat should work with persons whom he would nominate to prepare a report for the October meeting of the Consultative Group, suggesting the lines of action which might be taken. He also suggested that this process should be coordinated with the donors who had discussed the subject at the meeting at the Rockefeller Foundation.

Tropical Fruits

96. The Chairman of TAC said that reports were still being prepared and that TAC would defer this matter to its February 1975 agenda.

Water Buffaloes

97. A proposal for support of an institute for research related water buffaloes had recently been received by TAC but without due time for consideration. This item would be deferred to the February 1975 agenda.

CARIS

98. Sir John referred to a project which FAO had carried out for West Africa as a pilot for the proposed establishment of CARIS, a computerized service for making information available about agricultural research activities. The information collected in this project had been made widely available, and the project itself had been evaluated by a Canadian organization. TAC now recommended that the Consultative Group support a CARIS project somewhat scaled down from the original proposal and linked to FAO's AGRIS program, which is designed to make research documents more readily accessible to scientists. It would be understood that the Group would support the project only for a year or two, until the project was absorbed into the regular activities of FAO, during that organization's 1976-1977 biennium. The representative of FAO said that his agency would provide estimates of cost by the time of the Consultative Group's next meeting.

Donor Indications of Financial Support (Agenda Item 11)

99. The Chairman of the Consultative Group asked members of the Group to indicate their intentions concerning grants for international agricultural research in 1975 and 1976. Few donors were able to give any quantitative indications for 1975. Their intentions for 1975 are shown in the table which is attached as Annex III.

100. The table shows available finance of about \$40.3 million, as against program requirements of about \$47 million. Noting that some donors had made only partial declarations of their intentions, the Executive Secretary said that he thought actual availabilities might later prove to be around \$44 million.

101. The Chairman of the Consultative Group observed that the gap between requests and resources seemed to be about \$3 million, before taking account of some requirements not yet quantified, as in the case of CARIS, and of finance that might be made available by new donors. He speculated that the gap might not be unmanageable. It was agreed, on his suggestion, that the Secretariat should work with Centers to see what expenditures in their programs might be held in Europe and North America to do the complicated matching of available funds with the requirements of individual Centers.

Matters Introduced by Center Directors (Agenda Item 10)

102. On behalf of the Directors of the international agricultural research centers, Dr. Cummings, the Director-General of ICRISAT, summarized the comments which the Center Directors wished to bring before the meeting, using a paper prepared by Dr. Brady, the Director-General of IRRI.

103. The Directors emphasized the need for closer collaboration between donors and boards of the centers and the need to establish a continuing dialogue as a basis for mutual understanding. Dialogue between Center scientists and the

scientific community in the donor countries would open up opportunities for collaborative research with laboratories in those countries.

104. The Directors were in general agreement with TAC on the procedures and purposes of the five-year scientific reviews. These would of course be supplemented by ad hoc reviews if there were substantive changes in programs in the meantime. The center directors saw the TAC reviews as having the dual purpose of helping the centers improve their programs and of assuring the Consultative Group donors of the quality of the programs in question.

105. The directors appreciated the informal nature of working relationships developed with the Consultative Group Secretariat and raised the question of the best way of keeping in touch with TAC. The Directors felt that it would be appropriate to use the Consultative Group Secretariat as the channel of communication. It was agreed that this would be done, and in addition that copies would be sent directly to other parties in question. The TAC Secretariat would communicate directly with the centers, particularly on the proposed center reviews.

106. The Directors expressed satisfaction that they had not been asked to agree to a 10 per cent limitation in flexibility of budget allocations by category within the total budget for a given year. It was agreed that if there were a major change in proposed expenditures or in program content which would imply commitments for future years, the Consultative Group Secretariat should be informed and some form of clearance might be desirable. A donor representative raised the question of a clearer definition of what was meant by a "major" change in expenditures, and it was agreed that this should be included in the revised discussion of budget variations in the integrative paper which would be prepared for the next Consultative Group meeting.

107. The center directors felt that March 1 was too early for the audit reports to be submitted and felt that April 1 would be a more realistic deadline.

108. The directors found they had a very short time to circulate their final budget following approval by their trustees, usually in late May, in time for the meeting of the Consultative Group at the end of July. This entailed heavy air mail costs and they requested the Secretariat to review the number of copies of the various documents which should be sent to participants in the Consultative Group meetings in July.

Other (Item 12)

109. The subject was raised of how best to exchange information among donors and with the Centers concerning research projects supported by the donors (see also paragraph 93 above). The purpose would be to discover opportunities for coordinating projects and for reinforcing the work of the Centers in ways that would enhance the impact of these projects and of the Centers in developing countries. It was agreed that donors willing to make project information available should provide it to the Secretariat and to each other before the next meeting

of the Consultative Group. The Group at that meeting could then discuss what an appropriate time would be for a gathering of Centers and donors to review the information and the courses of action that might flow from it.

Time and Place of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 13)

110. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Consultative Group would be held in Washington on October 30 and 31, 1974.

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN CENTERS WEEK

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Mr. Warren C. Baum
Vice President, Projects Staff
World Bank

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Deputy Director General

Dr. U. J. Grant
Director General

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Leader, Training and
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Miss M. Caryl Jones

Miss Ethel Starck

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Laboratory

United Nations Environment Programme

Dr. R. A. Frosch
Assistant Executive Director
United Nations Environment Programme
Nairobi, Kenya

INTERNATIONAL CENTERS WEEK

July -- August, 1974

Schedule of EventsJuly 24 - Wednesday (9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

TAC - all day (closed)

ROOM

IBRD BOARD ROOM
A 1100July 25 - Thursday (9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

TAC - all day (closed)

A 1100

July 26 - FridayMorning (9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

TAC (open)

A 1100

- a. Plant Nutrition
- b. Strengthening National Research Capabilities

Center Personnel - with other participants as invited by
Center Directors

E 1053

Afternoon (2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)TAC and Center Directors - Seminar on World Food
Situation

A 1100

July 27 - Saturday

TAC - Morning Session (closed)

A 1100

Center Personnel - all day

E 1053

July 29 - Monday

Morning Plenary Session

Chairman: Mr. Warren C. Baum,
Chairman, Consultative
Group

E 436

9:15 - 9:30

Opening Statement by Chairman

9:30 - 10:15

IRRI Presentation

10:15 - 11:15

Discussion on IRRI

11:15 - 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 - 12:00

WARDA Presentation

12:00 - 12:45

Discussion on WARDA

12:45 - 2:15

Luncheon

Afternoon Plenary Session

Chairman: Mr. J. F. Yriart, FAO,
Assistant Director-
General, Development
Department

E 436

2:15 - 3:00

IITA Presentation

3:00 - 4:00

Discussion on IITA

4:00 - 4:15

Coffee Break

4:15 - 5:00

ICRISAT Presentation

5:00 - 6:00

Discussion on ICRISAT

July 30 - Tuesday

Morning Plenary Session

Chairman: Mr. W. T. Mashler, UNDP,
Director, Division for Global
and Inter-regional Projects.

E 436

9:15 - 10:00

CIAT Presentation

10:00 - 11:00

Discussion on CIAT

11:00 - 11:15

Coffee Break

11:15 - 12:00

CIP Presentation

12:00 - 1:00

Discussion on CIP

July 30 - Tuesday (Cont.)

Afternoon Plenary Session

Chairman: Sir John Crawford E 436
Chairman of the Technical
Advisory Committee of the
Consultative Group

2:15 - 3:00

CIMMYT Presentation

3:00 - 4:00

Discussion on CIMMYT

4:00 - 4:15

Coffee Break

4:15 - 4:45

Genetic Resources Presentation

4:45 - 5:30

Discussion on Genetic Resources

6:00 - 8:00

Reception by Consultative Group
Chairman

IBRD
PATIO

July 31 - Wednesday

Morning Plenary Session

Chairman: Mr. M. Yudelman, IBRD, E 436
Director, Agriculture
and Rural Development
Department

9:15 - 9:45

ILRAD Presentation

9:45 - 10:30

Discussion on ILRAD

10:30 - 10:45

Coffee Break

10:45 - 11:15

ILCA Presentation

11:15 - 12:00

Discussion on ILCA

12:00 - 12:30

AVRDC Presentation

12:30 - 1:00

Discussion on AVRDC

Afternoon (2:30 - 6:00)

TAC - Meeting with Center Directors A 1100
(closed)

August 1 - Thursday

TAC - Morning Session (closed) (9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

C 100b

Consultative Group (TAC and Center Personnel invited)
(9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. -- 2:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

E 436

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Preparation and Publication of CG Brochure
3. Budget and Accounting Practices of Centers
4. Annual Center Review Procedures
5. Integrative Paper
-- financial assumptions for future planning
of CG/TAC
6. Report of Chairman of TAC on five-year scientific
review program.

August 2 - Friday

Consultative Group (continued) (9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

A 1100

7. Statement by Chairman of TAC on Center Programs
8. Discussion of Center Programs
9. Report of Chairman of TAC on status of other proposals under consideration:
 - a. Middle East Center
 - b. Plant Nutrient Institute
 - c. Food Policy Institute
 - d. Latin America - bean network
 - e. National research
 - f. Aquaculture
 - g. Tropical Fruits
 - h. CARIS
 - i. Other.
10. Matters introduced by Center Directors
11. Donor indications of financial support of Group-endorsed activities, 1975 & 1976-8
12. Other
13. Time and Place of next meeting.

CGIAR ALLOCATIONS, 1975 (\$ million)

	Total	CIAT	CIMMYT	CIP	ICRISAT	IITA	IRRI	ILCA	ILRAD	Genes	WARDA
Australia	x						x				
Belgium	x					x					
Canada	3.800y	.800	.525	.320	x	.850			.400		.100
Denmark	.250			.200				.050			
Ford	3.000	x	x			x	x				
France	.025										.025
Germany	1.640y		.200	.080	.560	.760	.040	x	x	x	
IDB	4.000	x	x	x							
IDRC	1.015y		.065	x	.350		.600	x			
Japan	x						x				
Kellogg	.290	.290									
Netherlands	.850										
Norway	.730				x						
Rockefeller	3.000	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	
Sweden	2.130			x	x			x		x	
Switzerland	.450	.115		.115	.220						
U.K.	2.190	.090	.090	.115	.480	.575	.460	.090	.230	.060	
UNDP	1.650y		.810		.840			x	x		
U.S.	10.500y	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
World Bank	4.800										
TOTAL	40.320y	1.295y	1.690y	.830y	2.450y	2.185y	1.100y	.140y	.630y	.060y	.125

x - Interest indicated, but no total specified.
y - Incomplete total.

September 4, 1974

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FROM: The Secretary

September 19, 1974

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Attached, as requested by a number of Directors, is the text of the statement at the Department Directors' Meeting on September 16, 1974, by Mr. Baum on International Centers Week and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

M. P. Shivnan
Secretary
Department Directors' Meeting

International Centers Week and the CGIAR

Statement by Mr. Warren C. Baum
at the Department Directors' Meeting
on Monday, September 16, 1974

Last month the Bank again hosted International Centers Week, a series of activities revolving around the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, of which the Bank is co-sponsor together with FAO and UNDP and for which the Bank supplies the Chairman and the Secretariat. The original international agricultural centers were established by the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations, and when the continuing financial responsibility for their support became too large, a decision was taken to find international funding for them through the device of a Consultative Group.

The system of internationally-sponsored agricultural research has expanded rapidly over the last 3 - 4 years since that decision was taken, and is receiving greater attention as result of mounting world food problems. There are two first-generation centers - CIMMYT in Mexico concerned with wheat and maize, and the home of Norman Borlaug who won the Nobel peace price for his work on dwarf varieties; and IRRI in the Philippines concerned with rice. These two centers are generally credited with having produced the so-called "miracle" seeds which led to the Green Revolution. To these two centers have been added two others in Latin America - one on potatoes in Peru (CIP) and one working on tropical agriculture and located in Colombia (CIAT). Tropical agriculture is also the responsibility of a new center in Nigeria (IITA) now entering full activity. Three centers are in the planning stage or beginning construction - one concerned with the semi-arid tropics and located in Hyderabad, India (ICRISAT) and two African livestock units - a livestock disease laboratory in Kenya (ILRAD) which is to be associated to a general livestock center in Ethiopia (ILCA). The Consultative Group is also financing a system of rice field trials in West Africa, and is setting up a network for collecting

and storing germ plasm. This brings to ten the number of activities sponsored and financed by the international group. Some are crop oriented and intended to serve all of the developing world, while the others are concerned with research on all crop and farming problems on a regional basis.

Centers Week gives an opportunity for Center Directors to report to donors and other centers on the progress of their research efforts. CIMMYT, for example, is developing a high protein maize which is also high yielding, and has moved beyond the experimental stage with triticale, the first man-made grain in recorded history - a cross between wheat and rye - which is also high in protein content and suitable to a variety of growing conditions. IRRI is developing new rice strains more resistant or tolerant to diseases and pests than their predecessors and is experimenting with rice varieties under rain-fed as well as irrigated conditions. Similar types of progress are reported from other centers. All centers are focussing on the development of varieties suitable for small farmers, for whom breeding plants that combine good yields with pest and disease resistance are important in view of the high costs of chemical protection. Another important point in view of the fertilizer shortage is that the new varieties, while responding best under controlled fertilizer use, are not dependent on fertilizers to be superior in yield to traditional local strains.

The gap between what modern research and technology has now made possible and actual output in most of the developing world has become very large. Average yields, even in countries like Mexico and the Philippines which have benefitted directly from the location of the first-generation centers in their territories, are only a small fraction of what is demonstrably possible from field trials. All centers are therefore giving greater attention

to what they call outreach -- linkages to national research programs -- and to research on farming systems and the socio-economic conditions which constrain the rate of adoption of the new technology by small farmers. The Bank also has an important, and so far largely neglected role to play here, in financing national research programs, not only in the context of specific agricultural or rural development projects, but also as projects in their own right.

Centers Week is also the occasion for a meeting of the Consultative Group itself, where among other things new initiatives are considered. Three major ones were on the agenda this year. One is a Mid-East Center, the last of the major regional centers which the Consultative Group is likely to consider, at least for the time being. It would be concerned broadly with the systems of land use and farm production in semi-arid zones of winter rainfall. Its location in the region has been a matter of some controversy since a number of countries would like to host it. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which is headed by Sir John Crawford and serves as the technical arm of the Consultative Group, has recommended that the main research work be at a headquarters in Lebanon, linked to a smaller station in Syria. There would be two associated centers to complete the coverage of ecological and climatic conditions in the region - one in Iran and one in Algeria; all would be managed by one Board of Directors as a single operation. The Consultative Group approved the proposed new center in principle, and a Steering Committee has been set up to move it forward.

Another new initiative is a proposal from the United States for an International Fertilizer -- more precisely Plant Nutrient -- Research Institute,

to deal with the three topics of chemical fertilizers, biological fixation of nitrogen, and organic fertilizers. TAC has this proposal still under study. But the United States has already made a generous offer to convert some of the staff and facilities of the TVA installation at Muscle Shoals into a non-profit corporation with an international board of directors doing research into new chemical fertilizers adapted to tropical growing conditions.

The third new proposal is for an International Food Policy Research/Institute. It would undertake studies of key policy issues relating to world agricultural development, especially food. The Policy Institute would be intended to complement the work of other agencies in the data gathering, information and policy fields, acting rather like an Institute of Strategic Studies for Agriculture. It would make its advice on food policy matters available in particular to LDC governments. The proposal was initiated by the private foundations, who are prepared to finance it but would like to have it come under the umbrella of the Consultative Group system. Several donors have raised questions about the relationship of the proposed Institute to the work of FAO, and as a result, the status of the Institute - particularly in its relations to the CG system - is still being worked out.

The financial requirements of the system have grown rapidly - five fold over the last four years, from \$9 to \$46 million. There are now 20 donors: 13 Governments, 4 private foundations, the Bank, UNDP and IDB. The financial requirements will continue to grow, especially with inflation, and some of the original donors such as the foundations, although strong supporters, will have trouble in increasing their contributions. So we are looking for more support from some of the newer donors, such as Japan and Australia, and in particular from the Mid-East oil producers who will benefit from the new center and have already benefitted from the work of the existing ones. We

would like to avoid a system of regionally-financed centers, which would introduce a centrifugal force into the CG operations, and would therefore look to these new donors to support the system as a whole. Iran has already been approached in this vein. Romania has also expressed interest in joining, and we have sent out feelers to the USSR, so far without response although a Russian scientist is on the germ plasm Board. Venezuela is another potential donor.

I think it is fair to say that the CGIAR is a unique and to date highly successful venture in international cooperation on a combined public and private basis. The system has operated so far with a great deal of flexibility and informality, drawing on the good will of donors and the general respect for what the centers - which on the whole have been well managed - have been accomplishing. But as it expands, there is growing concern on the part of donors to ensure that the funds they appropriate are used properly by the Centers for agreed purposes, that research priorities among and within centers are well established, and that the capital plans of the new centers are properly vetted for design and costs before they are launched. In part these are responsibilities for TAC, notably with respect to scientific research priorities, but mostly they devolve upon the Secretariat which the Bank provides. The Secretariat, for example, has established accounting and financial reporting standards, conducts annual reviews of the programs and budgets of each of the centers, and prepares an integrated paper on the financial outlook and problems of the system as a whole. This gives me a chance to close by paying tribute to Harold Graves, who has been very effective as Executive Secretary over most of the young life of the CGIAR, and to welcome Mike Lejeune who will replace Harold when he retires.

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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August 30, 1974

TO: Participants in International Centers Week
FROM: Executive Secretariat
SUBJECT: Draft Informal Summary of Proceedings of
International Centers Week

1. Attached is a draft informal Summary of Proceedings of the International Centers Week held from July 29 through August 2, 1974.
2. Annex III, consisting of the presentations by center directors of their 1975 programs and budgets, will be circulated at a later date.
3. Participants having amendments to or suggestions about the Summary are asked to give them to the Executive Secretary not later than October 4.

Attachment

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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INTERNATIONAL CENTERS WEEK
Washington, D. C.
July 29 - August 2, 1974

Draft

INFORMAL SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

1. An International Centers Week was held in Washington, D. C., from July 29 to August 2, 1974, to discuss ongoing and proposed international agricultural research activities and the financing of those activities.

2. The meetings during the week were attended by representatives of 26 members of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, by members of the Group's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), by representatives of international agricultural research centers and institutes, and by observers. A list of persons attending is attached as Annex I.

3. During the week, plenary sessions and meetings of the Consultative Group, of TAC and of center personnel were held. A Schedule of Events is attached as Annex II.

4. This was the third International Centers Week held under the auspices of the Consultative Group.

TAC

5. Before Centers Week, TAC met in Washington from July 24 to 27, and met again during Centers Week. The conclusions reached at these sessions were summarized orally and informally for the Consultative Group by TAC's Chairman, Sir John Crawford, as mentioned later in these proceedings. The report of the TAC meeting will be distributed by the TAC Secretariat.

MEETING OF CENTER PERSONNEL

6. Center personnel met just before and during Centers Week to discuss matters of common interest. They decided to meet again in February 1975.

PLENARY SESSIONS

7. The Chairman of the Consultative Group, Mr. Warren Baum, opened the first plenary session with remarks concerning the world setting in which International Centers Week was taking place. How to respond to the world food crisis with ongoing programs and new initiatives, and how to find sufficient funds for these activities, he suggested, could be the key issues that would face the Consultative Group over the next several years.

8. Support of programs already operating, he said, would put substantial new demands on the resources of the Group. In addition the Group was in the course of building three new centers -- ICRISAT, ILCA and ILRAD -- whose capital needs would approach \$30 million over the next three years. The estimates of the research network's needs, furthermore, were affected by continuing inflation, adding uncertainty to the planning and the financial situation of the Centers.

9. The outlook for 1975, the Chairman indicated, was that there might be a gap of as much as \$3 million between available funds and the real needs of the Centers. A situation of shortage might require the Group to recognize procedures for the assessment of needs and the allocation of available funds. Shortage of funds also underlined the desirability of a procedure whereby donors could be assured that new Centers are being constructed to appropriate standards and within reasonable costs.

10. It would not be possible, he said, for the Group to undertake new initiatives without substantial new resources from present donors and the addition of new donors to the Group. The Chairman expressed confidence that the Group would rise to the challenge, but said that he wished to be sure that the nature and dimensions of the problem were **in** mind.

11. The plenary sessions were devoted to the presentations of programs and budgets for 1975 by the representatives of the following activities: the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI); the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA); the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA); the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT); the International Center of Tropical Agriculture (Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical -- CIAT); the International Potato Center (Centro Internacional de la Papa -- CIP); the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo -- CIMMYT); the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (Genes Board); the International Laboratory for Research on Animal Diseases (ILRAD); and the International Livestock Center for Africa (ILCA). Texts of these presentations are attached as Annex III.

12. A presentation also was made of the activities of the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center.

CONSULTATIVE GROUP

13. Meetings of the Consultative Group were held on August 1 and 2. The agenda adopted for the meetings is shown as the last page of the Schedule of Events (Annex II).

Consultative Group Brochure (Agenda Item 2)

14. The idea had been approved at the 1973 Centers Week meetings that a brochure should be prepared for the purpose of explaining the objectives and activities of the international agricultural research network and of the Consultative Group. Mr. Mashler of UNDP had accepted responsibility for organizing this project, and had proceeded with the help of the editorial staff of the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations.

15. Mr. Mashler reported that he now had a draft in hand and would like to have it cleared and printed in time for the World Food Conference early in November. Most of the brochure consisted of individual chapters on the international agricultural research Centers; and these had been cleared with the Centers.

16. Some concern was expressed at the length of the brochure and the content of the introduction; and it was observed that neither donors nor developing country representatives had had an opportunity to review the draft. Copies of the draft were then distributed, and participants were asked to give their comments to Mr. Mashler by August 16. The meeting confirmed that the brochure would not refer to the Asian Vegetable Center, and it was agreed that a new introduction would be provided. Mr. Mashler would take up with the co-sponsors the question of how to disseminate the publication.

Budget and Accounting Practices of Centers (Agenda Item 3)

17. The Chairman called attention to the Secretariat's draft paper of July 11, 1974, entitled "Budgeting and Accounting Procedures and Practices of International Agricultural Research Centers." This text is a revision of the June 18, 1973, paper on the same subject, amended in the light of experience in applying the recommendations of the Bell Subcommittee on Center Review Procedures.

18. The Executive Secretary explained that the paper is intended to be a statement of practices and usages as understood by the Centers and the Secretariat: it is meant to ensure that budgetary terms and practices are consistent among the Centers to the extent possible. The Chairman asked that Center directors and donor agencies give written comments on the paper to the Secretariat by September 25. It would then be determined whether it would be advisable to prepare a new text and have a discussion of the paper at the next meeting of the Consultative Group.

Annual Center Review Procedures (Agenda Item 4)

19. The meeting turned to the annual center review procedures which had been further developed in line with the recommendations of the Bell Subcommittee made in November 1973. It was noted that the annual procedure has three aspects. First, each Center is responsible for providing certain documentation: an auditor's report; an Annual Report which, among other things, describes the scientific content of the Center's work; and a paper presenting the Center's proposed program and expenditures for the coming year. Second, the Secretariat provides an analysis of and commentary on the past and proposed expenditures of each Center. Third, TAC comments on scientific issues that may be raised in the program proposals of the Centers.

20. General satisfaction was expressed with the Center program and budget documents in their new format. There was agreement that these documents were improved in clarity, and that the greater consistency among them was helpful to donor understanding. A donor representative asked that greater care be taken to insure the complete listing of funds provided by individual donors.

21. Concerning the Secretariat's papers, the Chairman observed that these were intended as commentaries on the budgetary and administrative aspects of Center programs and not as comments on their scientific content, although it was not always easy to know where to draw the line between budget and content. Members expressed the opinion that the Secretariat papers covered the right subject matter, were well focussed and were commendable in their brevity. A desire was expressed for greater comparability in the budget tabulations appended to the Secretariat commentaries, and the Secretariat undertook to attempt more uniformity in next year's tabulations.

22. With respect to scientific issues, at a later point in the Agenda (Item 6), the Chairman of TAC said that TAC needed earlier notice of Center proposals in order to comment adequately. More time also was needed for discussion, prior to the Consultative Group meeting, between TAC and the Centers concerning programs for the forthcoming year.

23. In concluding the discussion of annual review procedures, the Chairman of the Consultative Group referred to the problem created by the short time available for consultations between Centers and the Secretariat concerning the drafting of their respective documents. A technical adviser, he reported, had been added to the Secretariat, and this increase of manpower would mitigate the problem, but would not solve it completely. The Consultative Group might wish to review this problem at some future time.

24. A speaker suggested that at some stage, consideration might be given to moving toward a two-year budget cycle, with half the Centers making presentations one year and the other half making their presentations

in the following year. The matter would have to be given careful thought and would require examination of alternative time schedules; but some such approach might not only relieve time pressures but might help increase the effectiveness of the planning and budgeting of scientific work at the Centers.

Draft Integrative Paper (Agenda Item 5)

25. The Chairman then introduced the Draft Integrative Paper, prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to the recommendation of the Bell Subcommittee that an analytical paper should be submitted to the Consultative Group which would set out the best obtainable information on the global financial requirements and availabilities for the international research system for some years to come, and would identify program and financial issues which should be addressed by the Consultative Group. The Chairman suggested that participants could give comments on Parts I and II of the paper directly to the Secretariat, and that discussion should focus on the issues reviewed in Part III of the paper and on the assessment of the medium-term financial outlook given in Part IV.

26. One representative said he felt it important to refer to the overall financial prospects of the Group early in the discussion, since this could influence thinking on how to treat the various items raised in the Integrative Paper. Starting from the indication of the paper that 1975 might be the first year in which contributions would fall short of the expanding requirements of the centers system, he pointed to the problems of inflation, the growing food shortage in the world, and the need to strengthen both national research and productivity at the farm level on the basis of the technology and farming systems which the Centers were developing. He urged donors to raise their sights with respect to support for the Consultative Group system and also with respect to direct outlays for linkages between the centers and the national programs of the developing countries. He felt that between now and the next Consultative Group meeting, donors should decide on increased support for the international research system so that the Consultative Group could report a strong program of activities to the World Food Conference in November.

27. Structure and Support of Outreach Programs.^{1/} There was extensive discussion of concepts and definitions of core programs, of outreach programs, of programs of research involving collaboration between international institutes and national authorities, and of ways of funding each of these three types of activity. The Chairman described the issues as being whether the Consultative Group wished to support a larger or smaller part of outreach activities with core funding and, if a change is desired, to determine where the line should be drawn between what is suitable for core financing and what is not.

^{1/} Draft Integrative Paper, p. 7.

28. Among the points made by various speakers were that:

a. a task undertaken by a Center on its own initiative as necessary for the execution of its mandate should be considered part of its core program, no matter where situated;

b. a task undertaken by a Center at the request of a developing country for the specific benefit of that country could be supported from other sources of finance (e.g., bilateral donors, international agencies);

c. the financing of collaborative research undertaken by a Center both for the objectives of the Center and for the specific purposes of the cooperating country, might be shared between core funding and other sources;

d. a modest amount of core funding might be provided for Center headquarters personnel concerned with management of outreach and for scientists standing by at headquarters to be available for outreach assignments.

29. The upshot of the discussion was agreement that the Secretariat should prepare a more complete paper on the subject in the form of an annex to the revised Integrative Paper which would be circulated before the next Consultative Group meeting.

30. Many speakers emphasized the vital importance of strengthening national research programs. It was pointed out that only a limited amount of funds could be made available for this purpose through the collective arrangements of the Consultative Group. Many donors, however, had bilateral funds available which could be used to support outreach programs carried out by the Centers in individual countries. Smaller donors needed to have more systematic information about outreach programs which might benefit from their support. It was suggested that the Secretariat might prepare a paper bringing together information on this subject in time for the next meeting of the Consultative Group.

31. Rising Prices.^{2/} The Chairman referred to the section of the Draft Integrative Paper on the methodology of calculating the effect of rising prices on center budgets. He remarked that inflation is a major preoccupation of center directors and is a subject on which it is impossible to be precise. Some of the complexities of calculating the impact of inflation were discussed, and it was agreed that the Bank, through the Secretariat, should make available its experience on price and exchange rate trends in

^{2/} Draft Integrative Paper, p. 9.

various countries which would help center directors in the preparation of their budget estimates, taking into account the different center locations and currencies in which they received or spent their funds.

32. Planning and Financing Capital Expenditures.^{3/} The need for discussion of this matter, the Chairman observed, was highlighted by the plans of the Centers to spend some \$30 million in new capital facilities in 1975-78. The draft text outlined procedures for a Center to adopt in preparing its construction program and suggested stages at which it should consult or seek the approval of the Group.

33. There was general agreement that donors should be kept informed of construction planning and cost estimates, and that there should also be a review by the donors concerned at key stages in the preparation for construction. At the same time, it was felt that rigid procedures should be avoided and that specific approval of donors should be sought only if particular difficulties were being encountered, since the Trustees have the prime responsibility for the management of Center affairs.

34. The Chairman summarized the discussion by saying that he felt there was general agreement with the procedures outlined in the Draft Integrative Paper, provided that a clear distinction was made between circulation of information to donors and actual meetings of a subcommittee of donors which would take place only in specified circumstances: namely, an initial meeting which would focus on the preliminary designs and cost estimates and which would provide an operating ceiling within which the further planning of construction would be undertaken; and, secondly, meetings of the subcommittee if important issues arose for resolution by donors. In this process, the Group recognized both the primary responsibility of the Board of Trustees of the Centers and the importance of donors working in timely fashion in commenting on or reviewing documents or cost estimates so as not to delay the planning and execution of construction.

35. Variations from Planned Expenditures.^{4/} Substantial variations have occurred between actual expenditures by some Centers and the budgets of these Centers that were accepted by the Consultative Group. The Draft Integrative Paper therefore raised the question of whether the Group wished to prescribe any form of consultation with donors or the Secretariat before Centers made expenditures varying from budget by more than some specified limit. The limit suggested by the Secretariat was 10 per cent.

36. Donors indicated that they would not wish Centers to move funds back and forth among capital, core and special project activities. It was pointed out that the budgeting and accounting paper already expressed the understanding of the Centers and the Secretariat that such transfers would not take place.

^{3/} Draft Integrative Paper, p. 10.

^{4/} Ibid, p. 11.

37. It was agreed also that within core activities, donors would be concerned by any re-allocation of funds that would represent a substantive change of program, rather than a temporary speeding up or slowing down of activities already approved by the Trustees of a Center and accepted for funding by the Consultative Group. It was further agreed that the Secretariat should have prompt notice of changes made when Centers, as is the practice, revised their budgets early in the program year.

38. Members were opposed, however, to the prescription of fixed rules for dealing with budgetary variations. The suggestion was accepted that the Secretariat would prepare a further paper on this subject.

39. With respect to the problem of dealing with over-all shortages of funds that might face the research network, reference was made to the suggestion in a previous Consultative Group meeting that the Group might wish to establish a finance committee to consider what allocations should be made among the Centers. Speakers generally expressed a reluctance to formalize the procedures of the Group to this extent. The Executive Secretary observed that it already was the custom to consider the matter of allocations, on a quite informal basis, by small meetings of donors between the time of International Centers Week and the session of the Consultative Group later in the year.

40. Planning and Fiscal Management.^{5/} The Chairman said that this section recorded the impressions of the Secretariat on the state of planning and programming procedures in the Centers. The Secretariat would continue to work with the Centers in strengthening their capacity to plan their work and to measure the financial implications of such planning.

41. Reserve Funds.^{6/} The Chairman referred to the practice of ad-
cording Centers a working capital fund equal to 40 days' cash requirements and noted the impression recorded in the Draft Integrative Paper that this was more than required. Some participants felt, however, that any proposal for reduction should take into account the need not to apply excessive financial pressure on the Centers. The Chairman said the Secretariat would discuss with the Center directors the feasibility of reducing the provision for working capital fund and also would take up the question of adopting some form of uniform practice with respect to the creation of contingency funds.

42. Outlook for Finance.^{7/} The Chairman introduced Part IV of the Draft Integrative Paper by saying that for the first time in its short history, the Consultative Group faced the prospect of possible deficit, although it did not appear an unmanageable one. For 1975 the deficit could be as high as \$6 million, as presented in the paper, though it appeared that it could reduce to about \$3 million by deferring expenditures or making reductions in budget items without actually interfering in any serious way with the programs of the centers. The shortfall of \$3 million would exist before any decision was made whether to accept new programs for funding in 1975 as might be recommended by TAC (Item 9).

43. If it were necessary to defer some items in the center programs for 1975, the Chairman said, the Group would want the guidance of TAC in deciding where to decelerate the increase in the research system. TAC in that event would have to recommend priorities between various components in center programs.

44. With respect to new proposals, careful consideration would have to be given to their financial implications, including the availability of new donors. Decisions would have to be made as to the speed at which the Consultative Group should undertake new lines of activity. Moreover, donors would not automatically increase their contributions despite the rising costs which the centers faced; there could be some lag in response to increasing center requirements even for maintaining existing programs.

TAC Review Program (Agenda Item 6)

45. The Chairman of TAC, Sir John Crawford, presented TAC's proposals with respect to the in-depth scientific review of Center programs. The

^{5/} Ibid., p. 13.

^{6/} Ibid., P. 14.

^{7/} Ibid., p. 14.

program of reviews would begin in 1975; the reviews would be on a five-year and not on a three-year basis; TAC would provide the leadership of each review mission and up to three of the five or six people required for any mission. The others would be consultants.

46. In deciding the composition of the mission, its terms of reference and timing, TAC would consult the Center directors. The Center operations would be reviewed as a whole, including one or two special projects or outreach projects in each case, regardless of sources of financing. After its report had been drafted, the mission would review its findings with TAC; there would then be discussions with the Center management before the findings were presented to the Consultative Group. The first review would be of IRRI; the Director of that Institute had concurred with this choice. It would be late 1975 before the mission would be in the field.

47. There was general support for the program proposed by Sir John, but some concern was expressed that the first report, on IRRI, would not reach the Consultative Group until two years had passed, in July 1976. Sir John confirmed that the late 1975 mission to IRRI would report to the February 1976 TAC meeting, would then have discussions with the Center and report to the mid-1976 Centers Week meeting. At its meeting next February, TAC would also draw up its review program for 1976.

48. One representative pointed out that it would be 1981 before some Centers were reviewed; it would be 7 years before the first-round coverage of existing Centers was completed. The question was raised whether the program in 1976 and 1977 could be accelerated by increasing the manpower available. Sir John replied that he would like to accelerate the process but there were limitations on the capacity of TAC members to carry out more than two reviews per year. Already this would call for more of members' time than they presently gave to TAC matters, though there would now be some respite from the consideration of new programs. The second limitation was the budgetary one which the Consultative Group would have to resolve.

49. On the increased costs of operating the TAC program, the Chairman of the Consultative Group suggested that the three co-sponsors should make a recommendation to the next meeting of the Group.

Discussion of Center Programs for 1975 (Agenda Items 7 & 8)

50. The Chairman of TAC reported the results of TAC's consideration of the activities and program proposals of the existing international agricultural research centers.

51. Sir John emphasized the need for more time both for the presentations by center directors and for review within TAC before presenting findings to the Consultative Group at the end of Centers Week. He noted the high standard of the Center presentations. A general point was that at its February 1975 session, the TAC would give particular attention to the relationship among the programs of the international Centers and regional and national research activities. He would ask the Secretariat of TAC to provide a working paper on this subject and ask for Center Directors' comments in advance of the meeting.

52. With respect to IRRI's program, Sir John commented on three aspects. First, he referred to the machinery program which IRRI proposed to include in its core operations. TAC had received no early notice of this proposed change and was not yet prepared to give an opinion. He proposed that the program should be extended without commitment until TAC could review it, and said that in order to avoid undue delay he would try to arrange a special review of the mechanization program. Meanwhile, it should either be continued as a special project of USAID or financed from core funds, without prejudice to further advice from TAC. In later discussion, a number of donor representatives expressed support for the proposal that the machinery project should be added to IRRI's core program.

53. Secondly, Sir John referred to IRRI's large capital expansion program for 1975. If it were necessary to phase the expansion owing to shortage of funds, TAC would suggest that first priority be given to new land development, second to expansion of laboratory space and third to training facilities.

54. Finally, the TAC Chairman referred to the need for ensuring the safety of the germ plasm housing at IRRI.

55. Concerning the CIMMYT program, the TAC Chairman mentioned two points which could have financial implications for future activities. One was CIMMYT's proposal for expanding its "regional services" to national programs; this was part of the general question of the relation between Centers and national programs which TAC would consider at its meeting in February 1975. Secondly, Sir John referred to an impression that CIMMYT should be doing more to assist wheat production in Latin America.

56. On CIP, there was one comment: TAC would question the value of any major program to extend potato research activities to the lowland humid tropics. In later discussions, donors supported CIP's subcontracting of research to institutions in developed countries; CIP did not pay the salaries of the senior staff involved in the research institutes in the developed countries but contributed the marginal expenses of technicians and related costs. There was therefore an element of subsidy to CIP which was not recorded in the budget. It was pointed out that similar support of an unrecorded nature was made by various bilateral donors for the core programs of other centers as well. The importance was stressed of TAC's obtaining adequate information parallel research activities as part of the base for judging the research programs of the Centers and for considering system-wide priorities.

57. Concerning CIAT's program, the Chairman of TAC made two comments. First, in discussion in TAC and with the Center Director, it had been agreed that a regional system should be established for coordinating bean research. CIAT had been asked to be the coordinating center; a new center would not be created. CIAT had agreed, but would need to come back to TAC with a specific proposal on the organizational structure for the regional system and on its likely cost; it was TAC's understanding that the proposal would be made next year. Secondly, Sir John referred to the striking improvement in animal fertility, based particularly on better forage, achieved in the beef program in CIAT. Noting CIAT's concern about the narrow genetic base of its work in grasses, Sir John expressed the hope that this matter would be referred to the Genes Board for consideration.

58. TAC, said Sir John, supported the proposal of IITA to establish a substation in a high-rainfall area of Nigeria which would give a wider application to IITA's work. TAC was not sure, however, if the proposal had been adequately prepared and whether the proposed staffing was adequate. IITA relationships with CIMMYT, IRRI and WARDA, said Sir John, once again raised the question of Center relationships to each other and to regional activities. This matter, Sir John repeated, would be studied by TAC in February; and the TAC Secretariat would be asked to prepare a discussion paper on the subject.

59. Sir John endorsed the proposal to add groundnuts to the mandate of ICRISAT. He expressed the hope that, in view of the other organizational tasks facing it, the Institute would develop the program cautiously. In the meantime, there was high-priority work to be done in consolidating and increasing the collection of groundnut germ plasm, and in continuing work on inter-specific crosses.

60. With respect to the livestock centers, ILCA and ILRAD, work programs were still at an early stage and TAC had no suggestions to make. One representative raised the question of how far these two centers would have links beyond Africa. Problems of disease, range management and animal use were often similar to those found in the Middle-East or South Asia. Sir John replied that TAC had not specifically discussed any world-wide framework for the work of ILCA; but the impact of its program should be maximized, and special linkages with the proposed Middle East center would particularly be needed.

61. Concerning the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources, the Chairman of TAC recalled that the work program was still being prepared and would be submitted to TAC for ratification. TAC did not wish to hold up the important work of the Board, until, for example, the next Centers Week. He suggested that, when the Executive Committee of the Genetics Board drew up its program later this year, TAC should be so informed. Assuming the program was within the scope originally recommended by TAC and involved reasonable budgetary proposals, he would propose to obtain the reaction of TAC members to the program by mail so that the Board could proceed promptly with its 1975 program.

62. Sir John prefaced his remarks concerning the need for a review of the WARDA program with the comment that he fully supported the concept of the program as one way of helping to raise the standards of national research efforts. TAC was not satisfied, however, that the research was yet of adequate standard in terms of the quality expected of an international center. TAC would continue to insist on adequate scientific capability and competent scientific control and direction of the research program; the Committee was not satisfied on either count. It believed that the problems were soluble; but if they proved not to be, it was possible that TAC would come to the conclusion that it should withdraw its support from WARDA.

63. Sir John accepted the suggestion that the new technical adviser of the Consultative Group Secretariat should review the WARDA program in the field, accompanied by a member of the TAC Secretariat if possible, to work out ways and means of meeting the suggestions that TAC had made. He would expect that the report of this mission would be given to TAC; the Chairman of the Consultative Group added that the report could be included in the agenda of the Group's next meeting.

64. One representative, in endorsing this proposal, said that he felt that Consultative Group funds should be devoted to centers which were developing new knowledge and doing more than could be done within strictly national programs. It was therefore important for the Secretariat review to examine whether assistance to WARDA was simply making up for shortfalls of bilateral funds or whether WARDA research was developing new knowledge.

65. Another representative said that the WARDA case embodied important principles. WARDA was a case of true collaboration with beneficiary countries. It involved a program of limited scope and duration which could be carried out by existing rather than new institutions. He felt there would be a parallel in the proposals for the ICRISAT linkages with regional and national research programs in Africa. For all these reasons, it was important to find solutions to the problems presented by WARDA.

Discussion of New Proposals (Agenda Item 9)

66. The Chairman of TAC indicated that TAC had been considering nine new proposals: a Near East and North Africa research center; an International Plant Nutrient Institute; a Food Policy Research Institute; a Latin American bean network; action to strengthen linkages with national research; an aquaculture institute; tropical fruits; the CARIS research information system; and research on water buffaloes.

67. Three proposals being brought forward by TAC would involve expenditures for 1975: the Middle East center, aquaculture, and CARIS.

68. While he felt that TAC was coming to the close of its first developmental stage, Sir John said he was mindful that there were still new proposals coming forward, in particular the Middle East center and proposals on plant nutrient research. Nevertheless, in general, he felt that TAC could now give more time to the scientific programs of the centers and related institutions and to assessing the impact of the centers' system on agricultural productivity. He felt that the TAC's work up to the present, including the proposal on the Middle East center, ensured that the Consultative Group system would now be making a major contribution to the research needs of each region of the world.

Middle East Center

69. The Chairman of TAC said that further study in TAC and by its special subcommittee following the Skilbeck mission of 1973 reaffirmed the position of TAC of a year ago that there was a strong case for a substantial international

agricultural research center being established in the Middle East and North Africa region for semi-arid zones of winter rainfall. The main research work would be done at the headquarters in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon where the rainfall variations were adequate and land would be made available by the Government; but the Center also would have to have rainfed land in Syria for its range crops and farming systems research. Finally, there would be a need for the early establishment of associated centers in two regions. One was the cold winter zone, preferably Iran. The other was North Africa, with its true Mediterranean climate, preferably Algeria. The Chairman emphasized that the whole research structure should be conducted as a single operation under one board covering the work in the three locations.

70. The center would deal with crop improvement for the staple crops of the region (wheat, barley, broad beans, lentils and possibly oilseeds and cotton); soil and water management and conservation (there would be no basic work on irrigation); sheep farming and movement from fallow to fodder crops, as components of improved farming systems and intensified land use in the region. A strong training and seminar program would be developed. Relay relationships would be established with CIMMYT on maize and with ICRISAT on sorghum, millet and chick pea research.

71. TAC recommended that work on barley breeding and germ plasm collections should gradually be shifted to the Middle East center, with CIMMYT conducting adaptive research in Latin America. Bread wheat would remain the main responsibility of CIMMYT, with relay relationships with the Middle East center. For durum wheat the work would remain for the time being with CIMMYT; the possible desirability of transferring this work to the middle East Center could be discussed later between CIMMYT and the new center. Organization and staffing would be important matters for the management of the new center to define.

72. Donor representatives raised the question of the funding of the center (whose operating costs might rise to \$6-8 million annually after five years) and the likely sources of funding, given the financial stringency facing the Consultative Group and the oil income of some countries of the Middle East. A consensus emerged that the center should be sponsored on a normal basis by the Consultative Group but that a special effort should be made to interest some countries in the region in the financing of this and other Centers of the research network. A number of countries in the region already benefit from outreach programs of such centers as CIMMYT.

73. It was agreed that a subcommittee would be established and would hold a preliminary meeting before the October meeting of the Consultative Group. The subcommittee would concentrate on two objectives: to advance the technical planning for the center on the basis of the work already done by TAC; and to explore the interest of potential donors in the region. The Chairman of the Consultative Group invited interested donors to serve on the subcommittee and a number indicated their desire to do so. The Chairman of TAC added that the Subcommittee might find it useful to have one or two members of TAC present at its first meeting in view of the preparatory work for which TAC had been responsible.

International Plant Nutrient Institute (IPNI)

74. The TAC Chairman turned to the recent and proposed work of TAC on chemical fertilizers, biological fixation of nitrogen and organic fertilizers, and to the proposal by the United States to establish a non-profit corporation which would have access to the staff and facilities of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and would help develop research in new fertilizers adapted to tropical conditions. TAC welcomed this proposal and looked forward to a more detailed presentation of it to TAC.

75. Sir John referred to the February 1974 TAC meeting which had emphasized the need to improve the effectiveness of fertilizer use and had asked that the attention of the World Food Conference be directed to the cost and supply of fertilizers for developing countries. He said that TAC would establish a working party on plant nutrients, to examine the best way of mobilizing existing experience, including TVA's, of monitoring work being done at the Centers and elsewhere, and of stimulating new research adapted to tropical regions. TAC had concluded that there was need for some sort of instrument of coordination and support for increased plant nutrient research both in the international agricultural research centers and in other agencies; TAC had not concluded that there was need for a comprehensive new center. It would discuss the fertilizer question in February, and for the moment was not making a proposal requiring financial support from the Consultative Group.

76. Sir John also referred to the related shortage of pesticides which depressed the effectiveness of fertilizers and of the seeds of high-yielding plant varieties. The FAO representative anticipated a shortfall of as much as 40 per cent in pesticide availability and again offered the cooperation of FAO in obtaining the help of research institutes and of private industry in focusing research and production efforts on key pesticides.

77. In summarizing the discussion, the Chairman of the Consultative Group welcomed the establishment of the TAC working party to take up the broad aspects of plant nutrient problems and the research initiative to be undertaken by the U.S. It was agreed that the co-sponsors should arrange to inform the World Food Conference on the status of the Consultative Group's consideration of the fertilizer problem.

Food Policy Research Institute

78. Sir John Crawford reported that TAC recommended to the Consultative Group the establishment of an International Food Policy Research Institute to undertake studies in key policy issues relating to world agricultural development, particularly to food problems. Such an institute would be designed to complement and reinforce the activities of other agencies concerned with the gathering of information and the discussion of policies affecting world agriculture.

79. Sir John pointed out that the subject had arisen in the context of TAC's review in the last three years of economic work at the Centers and of the socio-economic aspects of agricultural research. Many of the problems raised were problems for national policy makers. At the same time they were problems with respect to which many governments had little basis for complete understanding or for formulating policies. There was a need for policy studies of problems affecting groups of countries or even the overall pattern of world agriculture. Such studies could lead to better management of the world's food and agriculture resources, help alleviate or overcome recurrent famine, scarcity of critical inputs, price fluctuations and other crises, all of which could be lessened by improved national and international management.

80. The institute would provide guidance to TAC and the Consultative Group, but would be designed primarily to make available advice on food policy issues to the governments of developing countries. TAC envisaged the terms of reference of the proposed institute as follows:

(a) To keep the global food and agriculture situation under independent review and analysis with respect to such matters as supply and demand, stocks, supply of inputs, price and trade developments and prospects. It would use the primary data gathered by the FAO, World Bank, US Department of Agriculture and other major agencies, together with information from the international agricultural research system.

(b) To select key policy issues for analysis. The Institute would examine major agricultural policies and trade problems relating to food, particularly those involving sensitive relationships between governments (for example, the distribution of fertilizer and other inputs in short supply). Such studies would help national planners to assess the possible impact on their own economies of conditions arising outside their own countries and to formulate appropriate policies.

(c) To identify research needs which bore on world food production and use, for example the use of the land resources of South America for meat production, and the opening of new territories such as the Amazon basin.

(d) To transmit its findings to policy makers, among other means, by seminars and workshops.

(e) To work largely through task forces and subcontracting of research projects. The central staff would provide guidance on priorities and methodology for the various task forces. The Institute would therefore need to have close relationships with existing research institutes so as to develop teams which would work on particular problems.

81. TAC envisaged a professional staff of about 12, half of whom would be senior staff. A number could be staff from the less developed countries working on a rotation basis and then returning as principal advisers and policy makers to their own countries. The staff of the international Centers would be closely associated with the work of the Institute.

82. There would be no construction costs. There would be outlays for equipment and for rental space, as well as operating costs such as staff salaries and travel and consultancy fees for task forces working on particular problems.

83. Concerning the funding of the institute, TAC left open the option whether it should be submitted to the Consultative Group or whether it should have a more private orientation and be arranged independently of the Group. Either way, the institute could be established for a trial period such as 5 years.

84. On the location of the proposed institute, TAC did not have a final recommendation. It recognized the need for strong working relationships with important institutions in Rome (the FAO) and in Washington (the World Bank and the U.S. Department of Agriculture). Geneva was also considered a possibility.

85. TAC recommended that an international board be set up to establish the institute and to provide close relationships with the agencies concerned. It suggested the establishment of a steering committee to examine such questions as the level and type of staffing and the location of the institute, and also to open negotiations for the establishment and appointment of the proposed international board.

86. In discussion there was considerable recognition of the work already done in FAO in providing information and of FAO's strong interest in research on agricultural development problems. The FAO representative referred to the strengthened work on data collection, food security analysis, and early warning systems recently undertaken by FAO and the need for an effective and close working relationship with any proposed institute so as to avoid duplication. He asked that FAO be consulted in the establishment of the proposed international board. The discussion recognized that the independence of the institute would make it easier to make public its analysis, particularly on controversial questions.

87. One of the principal points of discussion was the question of the need for such a center in view of the large number of existing institutes, concern with the proliferation of documents, and the question of acting before the World Food Conference had taken a position on such matters. While it was agreed that existing institutions could be improved in terms of broadening their information coverage or improving their staff quality, it

was felt that they often were of low standard and were not conducting applied research of relevance to policy making. It was recognized that if the seminars, workshops and publications of the institute were not of sufficiently high standard to become an integral part of the decision making process of governments, then the institute would cease to be useful. Some participants felt that the Preparatory Committee of the World Food Conference should be consulted before the type of institute was determined and that the establishment of the institute should perhaps await the outcome of the Food Conference. Others felt that work towards establishing the institute might well proceed while at the same time inviting comments from the World Food Conference Preparatory Commission and the November conference itself.

88. The Chairman of the Consultative Group concluded that there was support for the establishment of a research institute with an international board which would have responsibility for focusing on world food policy matters, linked to other agencies and centers doing research in this field. At the same time, the Chairman recognized the diversity of views expressed and said he would not ask the Group as a whole to endorse any specific proposal. Nor would he commit the Consultative Group to take any action until there was a further opportunity to discuss the subject, in principle at the Consultative Group meeting shortly before the World Food Conference.

89. In the meantime, the Chairman proposed that a steering committee should take two steps. One was to explore with the World Food Conference planners their views on the appropriateness of the Consultative Group initiative in this matter; the second was to explore options with respect to organizing the proposed institute, particularly concerning private sponsorship on an international basis as against sponsorship by the Consultative Group. He proposed that this be done in an informal way with contacts being established through the Secretariat of the Consultative Group.

Latin America -- Bean Network

90. The Chairman of TAC reported once more that CIAT had agreed to coordinate a Latin American bean network. It remained for CIAT to make a specific proposal to TAC, so that a final report could not be given by TAC at this stage.

National Research

Measures for strengthening national research constituted a continuing item on the TAC agenda.

Sir
John said that he was not looking to increased expenditures by the Consultative Group but to devising ways and means of strengthening national research. A particular need which he felt on behalf of TAC and indeed of the developing countries, too, was for information on the bilateral relations between donors and national and regional research efforts.

Aquaculture

92. Sir John said that TAC had been presented with a proposal for a large expenditure on aquaculture research. TAC had, however, reconfirmed its preliminary views of last February that it should proceed cautiously and begin with recommendations for modest expenditures for one or two specific research projects. TAC was impressed by the considerable capital investments in aquaculture research in various countries and on the other hand by the lack of staff to make adequate use of these facilities. TAC would therefore wish to propose one or two sites where research is already going on and where it would be helpful to provide additional financing for particular research problems and at the same time promote the training of staff. He envisaged an expenditure of up to perhaps \$500,000 per annum.

93. One representative referred to a recent meeting at the Rockefeller Foundation of donors interested in funding aquaculture projects. Sir John suggested that the Consultative Group Secretariat should work with persons whom he would nominate to prepare a report for the October meeting of the Consultative Group, suggesting the lines of action which might be taken. He also suggested that this process should be coordinated with the donors who had discussed the subject at the meeting at the Rockefeller Foundation

Tropical Fruits

94. The Chairman of TAC said that reports were still being prepared and that TAC would defer this matter to its February 1975 agenda.

Water Buffaloes

95. A proposal for support of an institute for research related to water buffaloes had recently been received by TAC but without due time for consideration. This item would be deferred to the February 1975 agenda.

CARIS

96. Sir John referred to the trial operation which had been conducted in West Africa for the computerization of information on agricultural research activities. The report on the trials had been widely circulated and had been specifically evaluated by a Canadian agency. TAC proposed to recommend a modified version of the operation before its next meeting, which would be less ambitious but would be of value to scientists particularly in the developing countries. It would describe the main lines of work being undertaken at various research stations without going into full detail. TAC also recommended relating the CARIS project to the FAO's AGRIS project which is designed to make research documents more readily accessible to scientists.

97. Sir John estimated that about \$500,000 would be necessary to develop the CARIS program further until it could be brought within the FAO's budget for 1976-77. The Chairman said he would expect to submit a report from TAC before the next Consultative Group meeting, together with a statement from FAO on the estimated cost for the interim period.

Donor Indications of Financial Support (Agenda Item 11)

98. The Chairman of the Consultative Group asked members of the Group to indicate their intentions concerning grants for international agricultural research in 1974 and 1975. Few donors were able to give any quantitative indications for 1975. Their intentions for 1974 are shown in the table which is attached as Annex IV.

99. The table shows available finance of about \$40.3 million, as against program requirements of about \$47 million. Noting that some donors had made only partial declarations of their intentions, the Executive Secretary said that he thought actual availabilities might later prove to be around \$44 million, so that the gap between funds and budget requests might be about \$3 million.

Matters Introduced by Center Directors (Agenda Item 10)

100. On behalf of the Directors of the international agricultural research centers, Dr. Cummings, the Director-General of ICRISAT, summarized the comments which the Center Directors wished to bring before the meeting, using a paper prepared by Dr. Brady, the Director-General of IRRI.

101. The Directors emphasized the need for closer collaboration between donors and boards of the centers and the need to establish a continuing dialogue as a basis for mutual understanding. Dialogue with the scientific community in the donor countries and organizations would open up opportunities for collaborative research with laboratories in donor countries.

102. The Directors were in general agreement with TAC on the procedures and purposes of the five-year scientific reviews. These would of course be supplemented by ad hoc reviews if there were substantive changes in programs in the meantime. The center directors saw the TAC reviews as having the dual purpose of helping the centers improve their programs and of assuring the Consultative Group donors of the quality of the programs in question.

103. The directors appreciated the informal nature of working relationships developed with the Consultative Group Secretariat and raised the question of the best way of keeping in touch with TAC. The Directors felt that it would be appropriate to use the Consultative Group Secretariat as the channel of communication. It was agreed that this would be done, and in addition that copies would be sent directly to other parties in question. The TAC Secretariat would communicate directly with the centers, particularly on the proposed center reviews.

104. The Directors expressed satisfaction that they had not been asked to agree to a 10 per cent limitation in flexibility of budget allocations by category within the total budget for a given year. It was agreed that if there were a major change in proposed expenditures or in program content which would imply commitments for future years, the Consultative Group Secretariat should be informed and some form of clearance might be desirable. A donor representative

raised the question of a clearer definition of what was meant by a "major" change in expenditures, and it was agreed that this should be included in the revised discussion of budget variations in the integrative paper which would be prepared for the next Consultative Group meeting.

105. The center directors felt that March 1 was too early for the audit reports to be submitted and felt that April 1 would be a more realistic deadline.

106. The directors found they had a very short time to circulate their final budget following approval by their trustees, usually in late May, in time for the meeting of the Consultative Group at the end of July. This entailed heavy air mail costs and they requested the Secretariat to review the number of copies of the various documents which should be sent to participants in the Consultative Group meetings in July.

Other (Item 12)

107. Discussion followed on a recommendation that information on bilateral assistance to national research programs should be made available to the international Centers and discussed with them. Questions arose on the content of the information to be provided, on the timing of any meeting between donors and center directors, and on the interest of TAC in the subject, especially in view of TAC's decision to take up at its next meeting the question of strengthening research linkages between the centers, the developing countries and research institutions in the donor countries.

108. At the suggestion of the Consultative Group Chairman it was agreed that donors should circulate in advance of the October Consultative Group meeting a list of their research activities related to the centers' work programs. It was agreed that the Secretariat should give some guidance on the content of these statements without trying to develop a standardized format. It was further agreed that the Centers should make available information concerning outreach programs which might be of interest to donors. It was also agreed that after considering the information papers provided, the Consultative Group could decide whether it would be desirable to have a meeting with Center Directors somewhat later to discuss how the research efforts in the developed countries and Center research activities could be better integrated.

Time and Place of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 13)

109. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Consultative Group would be held in Washington on October 30 and 31, 1974.

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INTERNATIONAL CENTERS WEEK

July -- August, 1974

Schedule of Events

	<u>ROOM</u>
<u>July 24 - Wednesday (9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)</u>	
TAC - all day (closed)	IBRD BOARD ROOM A 1100
<u>July 25 - Thursday (9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)</u>	
TAC - all day (closed)	A 1100
<u>July 26 - Friday</u>	
<u>Morning (9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)</u>	
TAC (open)	A 1100
a. Plant Nutrition	
b. Strengthening National Research Capabilities	
Center Personnel - with other participants as invited by Center Directors	E 1053
<u>Afternoon (2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)</u>	
TAC and Center Directors - Seminar on World Food Situation	A 1100
<u>July 27 - Saturday</u>	
TAC - Morning Session (closed)	A 1100
Center Personnel - all day	E 1053

July 29 - Monday

Morning Plenary Session

Chairman: Mr. Warren C. Baum,
Chairman, Consultative
Group

E 436

9:15 - 9:30

Opening Statement by Chairman

9:30 - 10:15

IRRI Presentation

10:15 - 11:15

Discussion on IRRI

11:15 - 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 - 12:00

WARDA Presentation

12:00 - 12:45

Discussion on WARDA

12:45 - 2:15

Luncheon

Afternoon Plenary Session

Chairman: Mr. J. F. Yriart, FAO,
Assistant Director-
General, Development
Department

E 436

2:15 - 3:00

IITA Presentation

3:00 - 4:00

Discussion on IITA

4:00 - 4:15

Coffee Break

4:15 - 5:00

ICRISAT Presentation

5:00 - 6:00

Discussion on ICRISAT

July 30 - Tuesday

Morning Plenary Session

Chairman: Mr. W. T. Mashler, UNDP,
Director, Division for Global
and Inter-regional Projects

E 436

9:15 - 10:00

CIAT Presentation

10:00 - 11:00

Discussion on CIAT

11:00 - 11:15

Coffee Break

11:15 - 12:00

CIP Presentation

12:00 - 1:00

Discussion on CIP

July 30 - Tuesday (Cont.)

Afternoon Plenary Session

2:15 - 3:00

3:00 - 4:00

4:00 - 4:15

4:15 - 4:45

4:45 - 5:30

6:00 - 8:00

Chairman: Sir John Crawford
Chairman of the Technical
Advisory Committee of the
Consultative Group

E 436

CIMMYT Presentation

Discussion on CIMMYT

Coffee Break

Genetic Resources Presentation

Discussion on Genetic Resources

Reception by Consultative Group
Chairman

IBRD
PATIO

July 31 - Wednesday

Morning Plenary Session

9:15 - 9:45

9:45 - 10:30

10:30 - 10:45

10:45 - 11:15

11:15 - 12:00

12:00 - 12:30

12:30 - 1:00

Afternoon (2:30 - 6:00)

Chairman: Mr. M. Yudelman, IBRD,
Director, Agriculture
and Rural Development
Department

E 436

ILRAD Presentation

Discussion on ILRAD

Coffee Break

ILCA Presentation

Discussion on ILCA

AVRDC Presentation

Discussion on AVRDC

TAC - Meeting with Center Directors
(closed)

A 1100

August 1 - Thursday

TAC - Morning Session (closed) (9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

C 1006

Consultative Group (TAC and Center Personnel invited)
(9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. -- 2:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

E 436

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Preparation and Publication of CG Brochure
3. Budget and Accounting Practices of Centers
4. Annual Center Review Procedures
5. Integrative Paper
-- financial assumptions for future planning
of CG/TAC
6. Report of Chairman of TAC on five-year scientific
review program.

August 2 - Friday

Consultative Group (continued) (9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

A 1100

7. Statement by Chairman of TAC on Center Programs
8. Discussion of Center Programs
9. Report of Chairman of TAC on status of other proposals under consideration:
 - a. Middle East Center
 - b. Plant Nutrient Institute
 - c. Food Policy Institute
 - d. Latin America - bean network
 - e. National research
 - f. Aquaculture
 - g. Tropical Fruits
 - h. CARIS
 - i. Other.
10. Matters introduced by Center Directors
11. Donor indications of financial support of Group-endorsed activities, 1975 & 1976-8
12. Other
13. Time and Place of next meeting.

CGIAR ALLOCATIONS, 1975 (\$ million)

	Total	CIAT	CIMMYT	CIP	ICRISAT	IITA	IRRI	ILCA	ILRAD	Genes	WARDA
Australia	x						x				
Belgium	x					x					
Canada	3.800y	.800	.525	.320	x	.850			.400		.100
Denmark	.250			.200				.050			
Ford	3.000	x	x			x	x				
France	.025										.025
Germany	1.640y		.200	.080	.560	.760	.040	x	x	x	
IDB	4.000	x	x	x							
IDRC	1.015y		.065	x	.350		.600	x			
Japan	x										
Kellogg	.290	.290					x				
Netherlands	.850										
Norway	.730				x						
Rockefeller	3.000	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	
Sweden	2.130			x	x			x		x	
Switzerland	.450	.115		.115	.220						
U.K.	2.190	.090	.090	.115	.480	.575	.460	.090	.230	.060	
UNDP	1.650y		.810		.840			x	x		
U.S.	10.500y	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
World Bank	4.800										
TOTAL	40.320y	1.295y	1.690y	.830y	2.450y	2.185y	1.100y	.140y	.630y	.060y	.125

x - Interest indicated, but no total specified.

y - Incomplete total.

PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN CENTERS WEEK

July 30, 1974

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AGR 71-10/1

FROM: The Deputy Secretary

February 1, 1972

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON
INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Corrigendum

1. Attached are revised Pages 5 and 6 of the Summary of Proceedings of the second meeting of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, held in Washington, D. C., on December 3 and 4, 1971 (AGR 71-10, dated December 29, 1971).
2. The corrigendum corrects the first sentence of Paragraph 17 on Page 5 in which the Rockefeller Foundation should be mentioned rather than the Ford Foundation. The sentence would then read as follows:
"Representatives of Belgium and of the Rockefeller Foundation stated a willingness to contribute to the cost of the pilot project."

Distribution:

All Participants, Consultative Group
Members, Technical Advisory Committee
Executive Directors and Alternates
President
President's Council
Department Heads

14. At the suggestion of the Chairman of the TAC, the Ford Foundation was asked to act as agent of the Consultative Group in carrying forward the proposal. The representative of the Ford Foundation agreed to do so, provided that there were indications of financial support sufficient to cover the capital costs and perhaps five years of operating costs for the institute. This might be of the order of \$16-18 million. The Chairman of the Consultative Group was asked to name a subcommittee to act in an advisory capacity to the Foundation. The Foundation's representative noted the importance of clearly defining the relationship between, and the respective responsibilities of, the Foundation and the advisory group. He also suggested that, in view of the proposal that the new institute be located in India, the Government of India should be invited to be associated in some way with the advisory group. It was agreed that the Government of India should be invited to participate in the work of the advisory group. Members of the Consultative Group were asked to inform the Chairman if they wished to be appointed to the advisory group.

15. Representatives of the United Kingdom, the United States, the UNDP and the IBRD expressed willingness, subject to necessary approvals, to contribute \$100,000 each toward the \$500,000 estimated to be required initially, and to consider favorably long-term financial support. (UNDP assistance would not be available for capital expenditures.) A number of other delegations also expressed interest in the proposal. The President of the IBRD, attending the meeting as an observer, urged that the advisory group give prompt attention to the matter of funding the new institute. The representative of the Ford Foundation said that he hoped that the IBRD would act as fiscal agent for the initial fund of \$500,000.

c) Computerized Agricultural Research Information Center (CARIS)

16. The TAC had had before it a proposal of FAO for collecting and indexing information on agricultural research activities being undertaken in all the developing countries, and for evolving links to information systems in the developed countries. Although it recognized the importance of improving communications concerning agricultural research activities, the TAC had some reservations about the extent of demand and the cost justification in relation to the demand. It had therefore recommended support for a pilot project, estimated to cost about \$79,000, covering some 14 countries in West Africa and limited to certain commodities, which should enable it to reach a conclusion regarding the potential usage and user requirements of a wider system. The proposal for the pilot project, described in FAO document PAB:IAR 71/22, was distributed at the meeting.

17. Representatives of Belgium and the Rockefeller Foundation stated a willingness to contribute to the cost of the pilot project. Representatives of France and the United States expressed interest, but wishes to study the proposal further. The Chairman requested members wishing to contribute to support of the pilot project to communicate directly with FAO.

Review of Programs Under Study by the TAC (Agenda Item 5)

18. The Chairman of the TAC, invited to comment on other proposals under study, noted that the TAC had to keep priorities in mind, recognizing the financial constraints on total activities. It was endeavoring to establish a standard of approach which would enable it to be sure of its ground when it made recommendations to the Consultative Group. In a number of instances, where it felt the need for additional information, it was establishing a working group, out of its own budgetary resources, to review the problem and advise it. This was the case with respect to proposals put to the TAC for conservation of world genetic resources, which ranged from the fairly modest to the extremely costly. The working group would review available material and prepare a proposal for action at the international level. A working group was also being created to consider whether the TAC should recommend adding work on particular legumes to the programs of existing institutes, or whether a centralized effort in the field was needed.

19. The TAC proposed to convene a seminar on aquaculture, to advise it on the possibilities of developing technologies enabling fisheries to be cultivated as a source of protein. The Chairman of the TAC noted that this raised the question whether the TAC's terms of reference could be interpreted to extend to fisheries; a similar question had arisen in the TAC discussions concerning forestry. While there was general agreement that the TAC might appropriately concern itself with fisheries, it was agreed that the question whether other subjects were within the purview of the TAC should be taken up in the context of the strategy paper (see para. 5(e), above). In connection with the reference to forestry research, the representative of the Ford Foundation called attention to the importance of taking account of the environmental aspects of proposals on the TAC agenda.

20. The TAC will probably consider proposals on water use and management and on the research needs of the Near East/Mediterranean region at its April meeting. The latter had been deferred in the belief that FAO, with support from SIDA, would be fielding a mission to undertake a preliminary review and would make the results available to the TAC; that plan had been dropped. The TAC was awaiting a specific proposal for support for the new Asian Vegetable Research Institute, and one from IRRI concerning research on rain-fed rice.

Review of Five-Year Financial Requirements for Programs Recommended by the TAC (Agenda Item 6)

21. The meeting took note of document AGR71-8, dated November 24, 1971, projecting estimated financial requirements for the period 1972-76. The Chairman called attention to the statement in the document that the figures were intended to suggest orders of magnitude, and that in indicating that core budget and capital requirements might rise from \$16 million in 1972 to about \$27 million in 1976, no provision had been made for changes in the volume or scope of existing or planned programs.