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OCM - 1st Mtg. of Consultative Group on  
International Agricultural Research,  
IBRD - Bd.Rm. - Wed., May 19, 1971

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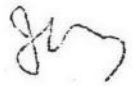
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May 25, 1971

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR

THRU: EXSEC

FROM: AA/TA, Joel Bernstein 

SUBJECT: Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

The first meeting of the new Consultative Group -- jointly sponsored by the IBRD, FAO and UNDP -- was May 19 and went well.

The main developments were:

- 16 countries and organizations became members, and 10 are observers or are still considering whether to become members (See list in Appendix A); several are expected to do so;
- a formula was worked out for developing country participation in the Consultative Group, in addition to major involvement of LDC experts in the technical Advisory Group structure; the five FAO regional caucuses of developing countries will be asked to designate one member each to represent them in the CG, as an interim arrangement for the first two years;
- a statement of objectives, composition and organizational structure was approved (Appendix B); it and the discussion stressed the building of networks of research to tie together DC, LDC and international institutions in ways that will build the LDCs research capabilities -- a point stressed by A.I.D. in the preparatory meeting in January; also there was a clear consensus on the need to avoid interference by the CG structure with the management autonomy and responsibilities of the Boards and administration of the international institutes;
- the initial membership of the Technical Advisory Committee was appointed by the CG (Appendix C);
- a very heavy agenda was recommended for consideration of the TAC and its Chairman, involving not only deliberation on how the TAC should play its role but also getting on quickly to consider the array of proposals already pending for new international agricultural research activities, so that the CG could have TAC recommendations on the most urgent initiatives in time to consider them at its second meeting, agreed for the first week of December; the plan is for the TAC to meet the last week of June and again in September/October;

The proposal for designation of LDC representation on the CG via the FAO representation structure means that it is likely that one designee will be an Iron Curtain country from Eastern Europe (not the USSR). This could be quite useful for the substantive purpose of the CG structure. I have checked this out with Assistant Secretary DePalma, who assures me that this prospect presents no problem for the USG.

It is doubtful that the Bellagio Group will meet again on international agricultural research needs, the responsibility for identifying major needs for donor support having been picked up by the new CG. That the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations take the new structure seriously was evidenced by the attendance and active participation of George Harrar and Dave Bell at both the organizing meeting in January and this first regular meeting.

It is of course too early to estimate the effectiveness of the new CG/TAC structure. However, if it is well led and staffed by IBRD/FAO, it could become one of the most significant institutional innovations for international cooperation of the decade. It has a unique combination of a major functional orientation, a combination of representative and expert structures, joint IBRD/FAO/UNDP sponsorship and staff support, and a radically new range of membership -- private institutions as well as governments, regional development financing organizations, and LDC's in a donor consultative forum. We should continue to provide full encouragement and support.

APPENDIX A

Status of Interested Countries and  
Organizations, as of May 19, 1971

MEMBERS

Canada  
Denmark  
France  
Germany  
Netherlands  
Sweden  
United Kingdom  
United States

World Bank Group  
GAO  
UNDP  
Ford Foundation  
Rockefeller Foundation  
Kellogg Foundation  
International Research Development Center (Canadian  
African Development Bank

OBSERVERS (those with asterisks are considering early move to membership)

Australia  
Belgium  
Finland  
Italy  
Japan \*  
New Zealand  
Norway \*  
Switzerland

Asian Development Bank  
Inter-American Development Bank \*

Objectives, Composition and Organizational Structure of the  
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

A. Objectives

1. The main objectives of the Consultative Group (assisted as necessary by its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) described in Part C below) are:

- (i) on the basis of a review of existing national, regional and international research activities, to examine the needs of developing countries for special effort in agricultural research at the international and regional levels in critical subject sectors unlikely otherwise to be adequately covered by existing research facilities, and to consider how these needs could be met; <sup>1/</sup>
- (ii) to attempt to ensure maximum complementarity of international and regional efforts with national efforts in financing and undertaking agricultural research in the future and to encourage full exchange of information among national, regional and international agricultural research centers;
- (iii) to review the financial and other requirements of those international and regional research activities which the Group considers of high priority, and to consider the provision of finance for those activities, <sup>2/</sup> taking into account the need to ensure continuity of research over a substantial period;
- (iv) to undertake a continuing review of priorities and research networks related to the needs of developing countries, to enable the Group to adjust its support policies to changing needs, and to achieve economy of effort; and
- (v) to suggest feasibility studies of specific proposals, to reach mutual agreement on how these studies should be undertaken and financed, and to exchange information on the results.

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<sup>1/</sup> Research is used in this document in a broad sense to include not only the development and testing of improved production technology, but also training and other activities designed to facilitate and speed effective and widespread use of improved technology.

<sup>2/</sup> Final decisions on funding remain a responsibility of each member in connection with specific proposals.

In all of the deliberations of the Consultative Group and the Technical Advisory Committee, account will be taken not only of technical, but also of ecological, economic and social factors.

B. Composition

2. The co-sponsors of the Group are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Its initial membership, in addition to the co-sponsors, consists of the following countries, regional development banks, private foundations and other organizations interested in supporting international agricultural research related to the problems of the developing countries;

(To be filled in at time of adoption)

The following countries are participating in the Group as observers:

(To be filled in at time of adoption)

Other interested parties may be invited to join the Group or to participate as observers, as decided by the members.

Membership in the Group involves no commitment to provide funds.

The Chairman and Secretary of the Group will be provided by the IBRD and its base will be at IBRD headquarters in Washington, but the venue of its meetings will be decided from time to time by its members.

C. Supporting Services

Technical Advisory Committee

3. A small Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be created by the Consultative Group, composed of distinguished international experts from developed and developing countries, nominated by the co-sponsors and appointed by the Group. Appointments will be for three years except that in the case of the first appointees one third, selected by lot, will have one-year appointments and one third, similarly selected, will have two-year appointments. The TAC will be supplemented by advisers with special expertise, who may be invited to serve individually or on panels to consider particular problems. TAC will report to the Consultative Group.

4. TAC will, acting either upon reference from the Consultative Group or on its own initiative:

- (i) advise the Consultative Group on the main gaps and priorities in agricultural research related to the problems of the developing countries, both in the technical and socio-economic fields, based on a continuing review of existing national, regional and international research activities;
- (ii) recommend to the Consultative Group feasibility studies designed to explore in depth how best to organize and conduct agricultural research on priority problems, particularly those calling for international or regional effort;
- (iii) examine the results of these or other feasibility studies and present its views and recommendations for action for the guidance of the Consultative Group;
- (iv) advise the Consultative Group on the effectiveness of specific existing international research programs; and
- (v) in other ways encourage the creation of an international network of research institutions and the effective interchange of information among them.

These terms of reference may be amended from time to time by the Consultative Group.

5. The Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee will be appointed by the Consultative Group and its Secretary will be provided by FAO. Its meetings will normally be held at FAO headquarters in Rome.

6. As a supporting service to the TAC, FAO will endeavor to supply up-to-date information on current and proposed research activities related to the problem of the developing countries.

7. FAO will consult with TAC concerning the feasibility, method and cost of establishing a comprehensive data bank on agricultural research related to the needs of the developing countries, and the form in which this information can be made readily available to potential users and will prepare a report on this matter for the consideration of the Consultative Group.

#### The Secretariat

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

D. Financial Arrangements

9. IBRD has agreed to pay for the personal services and travel costs of the Secretary of the Consultative Group, and FAO has agreed to pay for the personal services and travel costs of the Secretary of the TAC.
10. The expenses of the members of the TAC and of its advisers will be shared equally by the cosponsors, subject to necessary budgetary authorization (Each is expected to ante \$50,000).
11. With respect to feasibility studies referred to under 1 (v), arrangements for financing will be made by the Consultative Group or by individual members on an ad hoc basis.

Washington, D. C.  
March 23, 1971

APPENDIX C

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

First Meeting - May 19, 1971

Item 4 of the Agenda

Nominations for Technical Advisory Committee on  
International Agricultural Research

1. Sir John Crawford (Economist), Chancellor, Australian National University, Canberra. To serve as Chairman. - Australia
2. Ing. Manuel Elgueta (Agronomist), Ex-Director, Chilean Agricultural Research Institute; now working with IICA as Director of proposed Turrialba Research Corporation. - Chile
3. Prof. Dr. Hassan Ali El-Tobgy (Geneticist), Under-Secretary, Agriculture & Chairman, Research Committee. - U.A.R.
4. Prof. H. Fukuda (Irrigation Specialist), Vice President International Commission for Irrigation and Drainage, Tokyo University. - Japan
5. Dr. G. Harbar (Plant Pathologist), President, Rockefeller Foundation. - U.S.A.
6. Dr. D. Hopper (Economist), President, International Development Research Center. - Canada
7. Dr. Luis Marciano (Agronomist), President Shell Foundation. - Venezuela
8. Dr. T. Muriithi (Animal Health), Director, Veterinary Services. - Kenya
9. Dr. J. Pagot (Animal Production), Directeur General, Institut d'Elevage et de Medecine Veterinaire des Pays Tropicaux. - France
10. Dr. V. Pereira (Physicist), Director, East Malling Research Station, Kent (previously Director, Central African Research Organization). - U.K.
11. L. Sauter (Agronomist), Directeur, Centre de Recherche Agronomique du Bambo. - Senegal
12. Dr. M. S. Swaminathan (Geneticist), Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. - India