

THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Forty-First Meeting, Washington, D.C., 29 October-1 November 1986

TAC'S FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND WORKING PROCEDURES

(Agenda Item 3)

Proposed Objectives of the Discussion

The new TAC Standing Committee met in Rome at the end of July 1986. It agreed to recommend for TAC's consideration the attached Classification of TAC Activities and Concerns. The Committee may wish to consider and comment on these activities and note the new Working Procedures.

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF TAC ACTIVITIES AND CONCERNS

### FUNCTIONAL

1. Monitoring of Implementation of CGIAR Priorities and Strategies Recommendations
  - The Group has requested a paper describing the monitoring procedures. The paper should contain TAC's tools, e.g. use of periodic P&B reviews; visits to Centers by TAC members and TAC Secretariat staff; EPRs/EMRs, etc. in monitoring the implementation of the CGIAR Priorities and Future Strategies recommendations.
2. Study of the External Review Process
  - As a follow-up to the Ruttan study, a TAC "Position Paper" is required on Center reviews, plus new Terms of Reference for reviews.
3. Development of New P&B Procedure
  - Work with the CG Secretariat on implementation of procedures and development of guidelines - implementation paper required.
  - Annual update of guidelines and actual procedure(s) used for periodic P&B reviews (June TAC meetings).
4. Mandates and their Interpretation
  - Cross-System Study needed in view of CGIAR Priorities and Strategies recommendations which call for the rationalization of Centers operational mandates as appropriate.
5. Continuing Review of Priorities and Strategies
  - Preparation of special papers.
  - Organization of seminars or round-table discussions.
6. Program and Activity Reviews
  - IRRI & CIMMYT EPRs in 1987.
  - Activity reviews?

### TECHNICAL

7. Sustainability Issues
  - "Position Paper" requested by CGIAR on System's approaches. The policy paper should contain references to all the items below and may also require the preparation of separate papers on many of them.

- (a) Role of agroforestry/role of FSR
- (b) Approaches to common factor research
  - within CG Centers
  - in collaboration with IIMI, IBSRAM, IFDC, ICIPE, etc.
- (c) Agroclimatology, agroecological classification
- (d) Intensification of agriculture/crop/livestock integration/FSR
- (e) Utilization of production residues
- (f) Other

8. New Ventures

- Tropical Vegetables, Aquaculture, Coconut
  - Types of mechanisms (alternatives)
  - Role of IARCs
  - etc.

9. Regional Issues

- Relative Strengths, Needs: Africa, Asia, Latin America, North Africa/Near East
- For immediate future confined to Africa and the CGIAR Task Force

10. Plant Genetic Resources in the CGIAR

- CGIAR position on Plant Genetic Resources

11. Global Development Issues and their significance for Agriculture

Trade, Poverty, Income Generation, Scientific Advances, Non-Food Crops, etc. perhaps best addressed through organization of seminars, periodic consultants papers, etc.

RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVING IARCs

(Networks, contractual and other joint activities)

12. Collaboration between IARCs and NARS/Developing Countries

- (a) IARCs and Stronger NARS - (Research sharing)
- (b) IARCs and Weaker NARS - (Networking, Training, etc.)
- (c) IARCs and Universities/Advanced Institutions - (Research/Training)
- (d) Modes of collaboration

13. Collaboration between IARCs and Non-CG Centers

- (a) Research (Basic, Strategic, Applied)
- (b) Contract, Collaboration, Cooperation Modes
- (c) Training

14. Relationships between IARCs and Developed Country Institutions

- (a) Universities and Institutes of Basic/Strategic Research
- (b) Bilateral and Multilateral Donor Agencies.

## B. WORKING PROCEDURES

The TAC Chairman has established a new Standing Committee which will be smaller than the previous one. The functions and responsibilities of the Standing Committee will be to work closely with the TAC Chairman in planning the program and activities of TAC; provide a think tank for TAC; propose assignment of responsibilities and monitor the activities of the Continuing Sub-Committees (CSCs) of TAC and provide inputs through interactions with the CSC Chairpersons; and continually review TAC's working procedures.

After consultation with the Standing Committee, he has established three Continuing Sub-Committees with the following general functions and responsibilities: elaborate detailed draft proposals on assigned topics and specifically prepare draft Position Papers for consideration by TAC; ensure necessary contacts outside and inside the CG System appropriate for fulfilling its responsibilities; foster interaction with IARCs and NARS Scientists through their involvement, in a personal capacity, in discussions of the Sub-Committee; propose suitable candidates to serve as resource persons for specific studies of interest to the Sub-Committee; and assume leadership for discussion of topics for which the Sub-Committee has the main responsibility in TAC.

The following specific responsibilities have been given to each of the three CSCs:

### Role of CGIAR Centers in the Global Context (CSC I)

- (a) Sharing of responsibilities among Centers.
- (b) Sharing of responsibilities between IARCs and NARS.
- (c) Collaboration between CG and non-CG Centers.

### Expected tasks of CSC

With reference to (a):

- Assess formal mandates, operational mandates and evolving collaborative agreements among Centers.
- Sort out the issues involved in a more systematic manner.
- Make recommendations on how to harmonize Center operational mandates with CGIAR priorities and to enhance complementarities among Centers.

With reference to (b):

- Assess present modes of collaboration between IARCs and NARS.
- Make recommendations as to how the collaboration could be strengthened, taking into account the different capacities of NARS to assume activities currently undertaken by the Centers.

With reference to (c):

- Assess the present collaboration between CG and non-CG Centers (including regional organizations) and define areas and modes to enhance this collaboration where required.

#### Sustainability of Production Systems (CSC II)

The basic issue to be addressed by the CSC is whether the Centers are doing enough work to ensure sustainability of production systems. The following issues are suggested:

- a) Role of trees and shrubs.
- b) Approaches to research on common factors of production.
- c) Approaches to research with a farming systems perspective, including the socio-economic components.
- d) The role of policy research in fostering sustainability.

#### Expected tasks of CSC

With reference to (a):

- Assess the research activities outside the CG System and determine the proper role of CG Centers including their co-operation with non-CG centers.

With reference to (b) and (c);

- Assess the activities of the CG Centers with particular reference to the question of whether they are sufficiently balanced and determine areas which need further strengthening.
- Make recommendations on the action required in order to ensure that research results will lead to sustainable production systems.
- Determine the modes of co-operation best suited to bring about the desired results.

With reference to (d):

- Determine the importance of policy decisions in encouraging the evolution of sustainable production systems and the role of policy research within the CGIAR to create awareness among policy decision makers.

#### Implementation and Review of CGIAR Priorities and Strategies (CSC III)

- a) The mechanisms for implementing priorities and strategies.
- b) Assessment of the adequacy of current mechanisms for monitoring and recommendations for their improvement.

c) Continuing review of priorities in the light of issues identified by the monitoring process. In reviewing priorities account should be taken of regional balance, the usefulness of analytical models as well as the implications of global economic and environmental changes. The impact of Center activities should also be monitored under this item.

The main aim of the new procedure is to improve the efficiency of TAC, to delegate more responsibilities to TAC Members and involve every TAC Member more effectively in the affairs and concerns of the Committee. A number of activities will continue to be handled in the traditional way, i.e. TAC meetings, commissioned studies and Secretariat staff work.