

March 13, 1991

TELEFAX

Dr. Richard A. Jefferson
Executive Committee
Centre for the Application of
Molecular Biology to International
Agriculture
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AUSTRIA, VIENNA

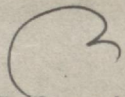
Fax No : + 43 - 2243 - 86908

Dear

Will be reaching London on March 19th and will be
staying until the 24th. My accommodation has been
arranged at the Forum Hotel, Cromwell Road, London,
Telephone : 071-370-5757; Fax : 071-373-1448.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,


M.S. Swaminathan

Back to me

CAMBIA

Center for the Application of Molecular Biology
to International Agriculture

Date: 3/10/91

To: M.S. Swaminathan

Company: M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation

Fax Phone Number: 0091 44 478 148

CC:

From: Richard A. Jefferson

Subject:

of Pages (including this cover sheet): 4

Message:

Dr. Swaminathan,

Please see the appended letter regarding our upcoming meeting in London, and the Commentaries for the Plant Cell and Bio/Technology. My warmest regards to Vineeta, Raji and your entire staff!

Looking forward to seeing you after the CABI meeting.

Best Wishes,

RAJ

*Discussed on
the phone
D.S. Brunk
23/3*

If you do not receive all pages, please call back immediately.

Voice/Fax: +43-2243-86908

CAMBIA

CENTER FOR THE APPLICATION OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY TO INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan
M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation
Madras, India

by fax

Dear Dr. Swaminathan,

I'm writing to confirm our meeting in London immediately after the CABI Board Meeting, on March 23. Since my visit to Madras, I have been rather busy, and have not completed the outlines for the invited Commentaries for Plant Cell and Bio/Technology, but I hope to have something ready to discuss in London. I'm also hoping that we can arrange the Steering Committee for CAMBIA in the mean time, so that the Commentaries may have some additional substance.

Peter Day has enthusiastically agreed to co-chair the steering committee for CAMBIA, and raised the interesting possibility of scheduling the initial meeting to be coincident with or immediately after the Keystone Dialogue Plenary Session in Oslo, since both he and yourself, and a number of other candidates for the committee are scheduled to attend that meeting. I have invited a subset of the potential participants to join the committee, but look forward to discussing the representation of the larger group with you in London, or before that meeting, by fax. I have invited Bob Rabson, the Director of Energy Biosciences for the U.S. Department of Energy, and he has graciously accepted. Bob is largely responsible for the vast majority of plant molecular biology competitive grant funding (\$US 22 million per year) in the U.S. A., and is well attuned to the science and funding world of this type of work in Washington and throughout the USA. On our behalf, he is inviting his friend Charlie Hess, the current Asst. Secy for Science and Technology of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as well. I have sent out invitations to Alain Deshayes, Deputy Director for Crop Production of INRA in France, Lous van Vloten-Doting, the Deputy Director for Research, Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture (she was just promoted a few weeks ago) and Lukas Brader, now D.G. of IITA.

Regarding the suggestion of Dr Momtaz from ARC in Egypt for a role on our committee, I recently heard from some colleagues at USAID that he has just been relieved of his position there, apparently under less than pleasant circumstances. They felt his participation at this time might be inappropriate.

Interestingly, since we last spoke, Cornell University has expressed again their interest in hosting CAMBIA, and have invited me to present CAMBIA to their new Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD) in May. This Institute was recently formed at Cornell from an anonymous donation of \$US 7.5 million. While the offer in Wageningen still stands, there are some very interesting possibilities and potential advantages to location of CAMBIA in the U.S., and in particular at Cornell. I look forward to your feedback about this, as there some other issues relating to FAO's involvement and endorsement that this might raise (both pro- and con-).

I have submitted my resignation to FAO effective 30 April, after which time I will be working full time on the establishment of CAMBIA, albeit without a paycheck. My resignation was done in such a manner that it should encourage future interactions with FAO rather than otherwise. I shall be going to Rome at some point after our meeting in London to meet with the new ADG for the Agriculture Department, Hartwig de Haen, who is likely to be in place in FAO well after Saouma leaves. Hence support from him (and a possible role on the Steering Committee) might have some value and provide potential continuity. The Gene Bank component of CAMBIA has attracted alot of attention both within FAO and outside, as a very viable and obvious route by which to secure such endorsement; the plant molecular biology community also seems keen to see such a development. I've been talking over the last few days to some of the people from the Keystone Dialogue series, including John Duesing from Ciba-Geigy, and they feel that it would be a very tangible recommendation to be included in the Dialogue.

I've also spent part of the last several days with Steve Rogers of Monsanto, and with John Duesing, discussing the possible Corporate involvement in CAMBIA. They are both of the opinion that it would be very valuable to both their companies to participate, and that a consortium type of arrangement may be favorable. This is another issue that can be discussed in London, and subsequently with the Steering Committee.

I was considering inviting Dr. Ganguly, from Unilever, to the Ccmmittee as one of our private sector participants. I had hoped that he would be at the meeting in Madras, and was somewhat disappointed that he could not come. I have heard very good things about him from my colleagues in Unilever and from Hindustan/Lever. Do you feel he could be interested?

When your schedule for the next few weeks, including the specifics of the meeting in London are available, would you be kind enough to let me know? I have spoken to Gabrielle Persley about sitting in on our meeting in London, and she seemed quite willing. I was going to call Don Mentz, but I have not yet found the time. If you should be in touch with him in the meantime, please let him know of the impending meeting.

Looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest ccnvenience,

With best personal regards,

Richard Jefferson

P.S. Do you or Vineeta know if there is likely to be any progress towards reimbursement of the travel and hotel costs ensuing from my participation in the Madras Dialogue?

