



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 - ROME

Cables: FOODAGRI ROME

Telex: 61181 FOODAGRI

Telephone: 5797

Ref.

Dear Sir,

The International Rice Commission Newsletter, as you know, has been an effective instrument of communication among the research workers in the rice-growing countries. During the period of its circulation over the past 25 years, significant changes have taken place in the global rice research/development system. Several international institutes and organizations (IRRI, IITA, CIAT and WARDA - West Africa Rice Development Association) are engaged in research on rice and have effective media of communicating research results. The research programmes in several countries have begun to make a major contribution to research and crop improvement in their countries. Several new scientific periodicals which devote considerable space to rice have come into circulation.

Considering the above developments, and taking into account that the mandate of the IRC is not limited to research but is much broader, it was felt necessary to revise the format and subject matter content of the Newsletter. The former style of publishing the original articles has doubtless limited the number of communications in one particular issue. It was therefore felt that the reporting of pre-publication abstracts would provide more communication room in the Newsletter.

While the communication of research results from the international centres to various rice-growing countries is reasonably satisfactory, it was felt that communication among the various national programmes needed greater attention. Similarly, greater scope for reporting the activities of FAO/UNDP/TF field projects in which national scientists and foreign experts are engaged in cooperative efforts, has been recognized.

The idea is not to totally dispense with full-length articles but to be more selective in the identification of topics of wide international significance and interest (not merely informative but provocative); and of an inter-disciplinary and synthetic type which do not normally find a place in the scientific periodicals or institute reports. Your suggestions on such topics are most welcome. The format of the proposed Newsletter will be as under:

1. Lead articles - by invitation only.
2. Short research communications in different disciplines relating to production (breeding, agronomy, physiology), protection (entomology, pathology), soils and fertilizers, water management, mechanization etc.
3. Production Programmes - success stories in the transfer of technology.