

ifard

**international federation of agricultural
research systems for development**

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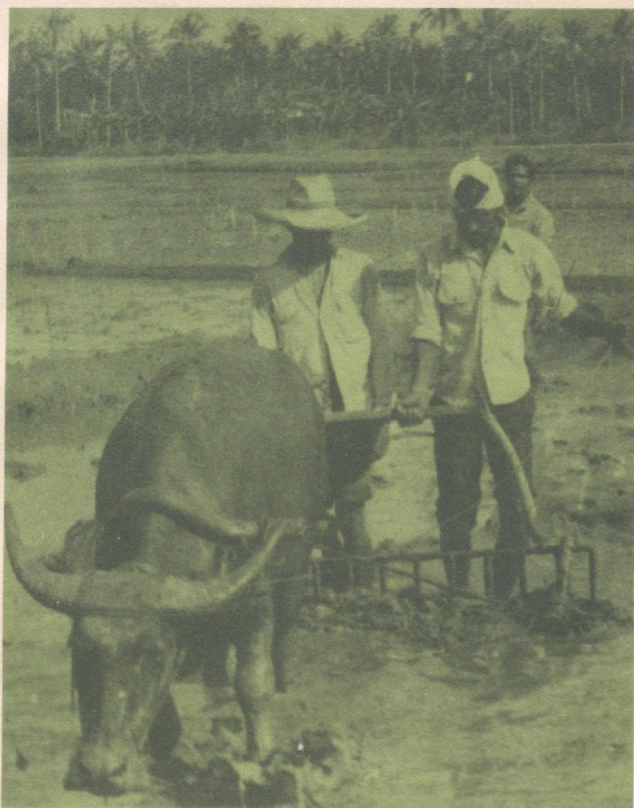
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"In the ultimate analysis, the agricultural future of developing countries would depend upon what each country itself does or does not do."



THE NEED FOR COOPERATION AMONG NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

In the early seventies, when the food problem reared more menacingly over the world, leaders in agricultural research and development in the developing countries moved to find new approaches and workable mechanisms to produce more food and accelerate the development of their countries. Immediately recognized as a fundamental requirement of rural and general economic and social progress is a strong and effective national agricultural research and development program. They also realized that research institutions should play a lead role in the establishment of development goals in each country and in the elaboration of strategies to reach these goals. Casting about for the means to achieve for their national research systems greater strength and capabilities, the leaders inevitably closed in on cooperation among research systems as the first and primary objective to work at.

This move to forge cooperation among national agricultural research systems had been preceded, and indeed placed into the limelight, by discussions in TAC/CGIAR on the need to strengthen national research systems. In an informal meeting at the invitation of the German Foundation for International Development among representatives of development assistance organizations held in Munich from April 26-28, 1977, the participants agreed that "there is the urgent need and broad international interest in providing for an international mechanism for (a) strengthening national agricultural research and development systems, (b) facilitating international support of research and training of international importance in national systems, and (c) providing certain common services to national programs to facilitate direct cooperation among the national systems for research and development on commodities and programs of mutual interest."

This consensus eventually resulted in the convening of selected directors of national agricultural research systems in Africa, Asia, and Latin America at Bellagio, Italy on October 17 to 21, 1977. They discussed the potentials of cooperation among research systems.

THE BIRTH OF IFARD

It was at the Bellagio Conference, as the meeting has since been called, that the idea of an International Federation of Agricultural Research Systems for Development (IFARD) began to take substance.

There were 7 objectives in the Conference agenda:

1. Discuss topics of mutual concern to the national agricultural research systems and determine in what specific ways their progress could be speeded through direct cooperation among them.
2. Develop a mechanism for feedback of research opportunities from national research systems flowing back to the international agricultural research center (IARC) system; and likewise to consider the reciprocal technology-transfer mechanism.
3. Focus on strategies for generating support for national agricultural research programs.
4. Determine the feasibility of establishing as well as possible specific actions which could be taken to establish an appropriate mechanism for regular meetings among directors of national agricultural research systems.
5. Identify alternative strategies for getting research results out to the end users – the farmers and the public policy decision makers.
6. Exchange experiences in formulation and implementation of research personnel policy.
7. Develop a package of action recommendations addressed to the (a) UN agencies, (b) international agricultural research centers and international donor community, and (c) national governments.

Three urgent and specific recommendations were formulated by the Conference: (1) to UN agencies and the international donor community, (2) to IARC and the CGIAR, and (3) to national governments. The Conference resulted in two other significant outputs: the "Bellagio Declaration of 1977" made by 17 directors of national

agriculture research systems in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and the crystallization of the idea to set up an organization of national research systems into an international Federation.

After ratifying the conference output which included the "Bellagio Declaration," the Conference designated a follow-up committee with the task of putting structure and substance to the plans for the establishment of the Federation.

The First Global Convention of the International Federation of Agricultural Research Systems for Development (IFARD) was held in New Delhi on Sept. 3-7, 1979. That Convention brought forth what has become known as the "New Delhi Declaration of 1979," a reiteration of the Bellagio Declaration.



"Agricultural research should be seen in a development framework including not only basic and applied investigations but the whole process of development of appropriate technologies and their widespread dissemination."

THE BELLAGIO DECLARATION OF 1977

1. At the World Food Conference held in Rome in November, 1974, it was resolved by Member Nations of the U.N. that by 1984 no child should go to bed hungry, no man should fear for his next day's bread and no human being's physical and mental potential should be stunted by malnutrition. Progress in achieving these goals has been slow although 3 years out of the 10-years time frame set by the Congress have elapsed. Meanwhile, other U.N. Conferences held in Mexico, Canada, Argentina, and Kenya during 1975 to 1977 have highlighted the urgency of attending to (a) the problems of rural women who play a key role in agriculture and who so far have by and large been by-passed by research and extension agencies, (b) the consequences to human habitat of unplanned migration of landless poor from rural to urban areas due to lack of opportunities for gainful employment in the rural sector, (c) the scientific conservation, management and use of water resources and (d) arresting the growing deterioration in the biological potential of land due to various processes of desertification. Thus, we have a wealth of information on the problems before us and also on the methods of solving them. Yet strangely and sadly, the requisite blend of political will and professional skill which alone can help to achieve the goals set by the World Food Conference is yet to emerge in many developing nations.

2. The developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America were in several cases exporter of food before World War II. They are also the centres of origin of most crop plants and domesticated animals. Agriculture also had its early beginnings in the developing part of our planet. It is hence an irony in many developing countries. Even in countries which have food reserves, many people go hungry due to lack of purchasing power. Agricultural development should hence be an instrument for achieving both national food security and general economic prosperity.

3. The generally satisfactory food reserves position in the world today should not lull governments into complacency. The present state of global grain reserve should only be regarded as a breathing spell during which developing countries should re-double their efforts in agricultural research and development as well as in the overall area of rural development. It should be recalled that while annual food imports by developing countries were of the order of 4 million tonnes during 1948 to 1952, the imports rose to 47 million tonnes by 1973. Calculations by the International Food Policy Research Institute show that the deficit could reach 95 to 108 million tonnes by 1985/86 if the growth rates in food production achieved during 1960 to 1974 were to continue. There is hence no time to relax and we appeal to all Governments, U.N. agencies, International and Regional Banks and Organizations to take the additional steps needed for achieving accelerated agricultural and rural development.

4. The only pathway for agricultural advance open to most developing countries is bringing about a continuous increase in terrestrial and aquatic productivity without detriment to the long term production potential of the land and water resources of the country. Further, the technologies developed and propagated should be compatible with the agro-ecological, socio-economic and political factors prevalent in each country. This is why agricultural technologies have to be location and situation specific. While concepts and basic research material can be adapted by one country from another, the precise technology will have to be developed locally and tailored to the conditions of each area in such a way that the ecological strengths of an area are maximized and the ecological risks and handicaps minimized. Thus, a strong and dynamic national agricultural research system is a must for sustaining a dynamic development programme and for converting the land-water endowments of each area into wealth meaningful to the people.

Without a strong research base, it will not be possible to increase food supplies, reduce poverty and stabilize prices and supplies.

5. The world must produce at least 50 per cent more food by 1984 and double the total food output before the end of this century if the dietary standards recommended by the World Food Conference are to be achieved and if widespread hunger and destitution are to be avoided. This leads us to only one conclusion. Each developing country must make every possible effort to increase the productivity of crops, farm animals and fisheries. Efforts should be made to reduce regional imbalances in development and to ensure that the fruits of technological advance are shared by all farmers irrespective of the size of their holdings, and by agricultural labour. For achieving this, a detailed analysis of the agricultural and rural assets and liabilities will have to be made region by region and action plans developed which will help to overcome the major constraints retarding the realization of the developmental potential of the area. The success of the development projects should be monitored in human rather than only in commodity terms by using yardstick like the additional income derived by small farmers and the number of additional man days of employment generated.

6. We urge governments and assistance agencies to develop and maintain strong national agricultural development efforts, led by scientific and technological services that can and must, in concert with other agencies, assure that each nation has maximum probability of achieving its own goals.

Finally, we urge our colleagues in national agricultural research services worldwide to organize and orient their efforts to rapid achievement of national goals, to utilize problem-centred rather than discipline-centred approaches to research, and to take the initiative in arranging for cooperation with all other agencies concerned with agricultural development, recognizing that only through joint

efforts by all can any country hope for the great gains of its people that are now both desperately needed and possible to attain. We stress that agricultural research should be seen in a development framework including not only basic and applied investigations but the whole process of development of appropriate technologies and their widespread dissemination.

7. Those of us who have assembled at Bellagio will on our part dedicate ourselves to the task of accelerated agricultural development. We have resolved to establish an International Federation of Agricultural Research Systems for Development (IFARD) to provide an institutional framework for sustained and concerted activity of the part of research systems in developing countries. We seek the cooperation of all concerned for promoting the healthy development of such an international organization of national research systems in developing countries.

8. We have addressed ourselves to the problems of strengthening national research capability and deriving benefit from IARCs with great humility. It is our sincere hope that our recommendations will receive careful and prompt consideration from the Director General of FAO, the President of IBRD, the administrator of UNDP, the chairman of IFARD, the Chairman and Members of CGIAR and TAC, and all donor agencies.

9. In the ultimate analysis, the agricultural future of developing countries would depend upon what each country itself does or does not do. We have every hope that the enlightened leaders of developing countries will accord the priority and support that agricultural research and development needs for ushering in the day when no child or woman or man goes to bed hungry. The Roman philosopher Seneca said that those who are hungry cannot be expected to respect law or reason. We would like to reiterate that given the right combination of political will and professional skill there will be neither need nor excuse for hunger.

SIGNATORIES OF THE BELLAGIO DECLARATION OF 1977

Dr. William K. Agble
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New Delhi, India

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Malaysian Agricultural Research and
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Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

NOTE:

Positions indicated are as of date of signing.

"We would like to reiterate that, given the right combination of political will and professional skill, there will be neither need nor excuse for hunger."

OBJECTIVES OF THE FEDERATION

IFARD seeks to enhance and accelerate agricultural development by promoting and strengthening national agricultural research systems and their program through the:

- Exchange of agricultural experiences and information in order to promote the growth of knowledge and competence of agricultural development workers in agricultural research system of developing countries;
- Promotion of activities for the development and exchange of manpower that would strengthen agricultural research systems;
- Evolution of continuing guidelines or provision, coordination and/or support of services for improving national/regional agricultural research systems and programs; and
- Formulation of strategy recommendations for consideration by governments and international bodies concerned with agricultural development.

NATURE OF THE FEDERATION

Membership. The membership of IFARD is professional in nature and shall not consist of more than 100.

Members, individual or institutional, are drawn from national agricultural research systems, including official or private, non-profit institutions, and/or intergovernmental research organizations of developing countries. The institutional members are represented by individuals who are head, assistant head or designated representative of their institutions.

Associate members are drawn from international organizations concerned with agricultural research in developing countries and/or national research systems of developed countries. There are also two categories: individual and institutional.

Patrons are drawn from institutional organizations and donors interested in the agricultural development of the developing countries.

Admission of Members. A candidate, whether individual or organization, is proposed by one and seconded by another member who shall vouch for the fitness of the candidate for membership. Application for membership must be made in writing, signed by the candidate and by his proposer and seconder. The application form is available on request from the offices of the Secretary-General, the President, or the Regional Vice Presidents.

The rights and privileges of a member is personal to himself or to the organization as the case may be; they are not transferable and shall cease upon his or its death or dissolution or upon his or its ceasing from any cause to be a member under the provision of the Federation's articles of association.



"A strong and dynamic national agricultural research system is a must for sustaining a dynamic development programme and for converting the land-water endowments of each area into wealth meaningful to the people."

GOVERNING BODIES

The General Assembly has overall management of the affairs, administration and business of the Federation. It is composed of the members, associate members and patrons.

The Regional Governing Council is the governing body for a region. There are three regions: Africa, Asia and Latin America. A Regional Governing Council has seven members who are elected at a meeting of the members of the region concerned or through a referendum.

The International Board of Trustees is the overall governing body and is composed of seven members. Trustees hold office for three years until their successors shall be duly elected at the annual general meeting of the General Assembly. Each of the three regions are represented in the Board.

OFFICERS

IFARD's officers are as follows: (1) President, (2) Secretary General/Treasurer, (3) Vice President for Africa, (4) Vice President for Asia, (5) Vice President for Latin America, and (6) Such Members of the International Board of Trustees and Members of the Federation as the International Board of Trustees shall designate. The President, Secretary General/Treasurer and Vice Presidents are elected from among the Members of the International Board of Trustees. They hold office for three years.

FUNCTIONS OF OFFICERS

The President presides over meetings of the International Board of Trustees or of the General Assembly and performs the duties customarily attached to his office.

The Secretary General/Treasurer is the chief operating officer of IFARD. He keeps records of all Board and General Assembly meetings, keeps custody of Federation properties and maintains financial records. He performs duties incident to his office or those required by the Board, the General Assembly, or the President.



"Technologies developed and propagated should be compatible with the agro-ecological, socio-economic and political factors prevalent in each country. This is why agricultural technologies have to be location and situation specific."

An **Acting Vice President** designated by the Board from among the Vice Presidents performs the duties of the President in case of absence or disability.

FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNING BODIES

The **International Board of Trustees** is responsible for raising funds from legitimate sources in order to support the international activities of the Federation. The President and the Secretary General coordinate fund raising activities for the regional and international activities of IFARD.

The **Regional Governing Council** are responsible for raising funds from legitimate sources in order to support the regional activities of IFARD.



"Precise technology will have to be developed locally and tailored to the conditions of each area in such a way that the ecological strengths of an area are maximized and the ecological risks and handicaps minimized."

THE FIRST MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION

Names	Description on the date of Incorporation & Addresses
Dr. William K. Agble	Director, Crop Research Institute Kumasi, Ghana
Dr. Jose D. Drilon Jr.	Director, Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture College, Laguna, Philippines
Dr. Marcos R. Genel	Deputy Director, INIA, Accos Belen 79, Mexico
Dr. Luis C. Marciano	President, FUSAGRI Apartado 2224 Caracas, Venezuela
Dr. M.S. Swaminathan	Director General Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) New Delhi, India
Dr. S.W. Sadikin	Director General Agency for Agricultural Development (ARD) Ministry of Agriculture Jakarta, Indonesia
Dr. I.E. Murithi	Director of Veterinary Services Ministry of Agriculture Nairobi, Kenya



GLOBAL NETWORK OF IFARD SECRETARIATS

- International Federation of Agricultural Research Systems for Development (IFARD).
Regional Secretariat for Africa
c/o Crops Research Institute
Kumasi, Ghana
- Federacion Internacional de Instituciones de Investigacion Agricola Para El Desarrollo (IFARD)
Coordinacion para America Latina
Apartado 2224
Caracas, Venezuela
- International Federation of Agricultural Research Systems for Development (IFARD)
Regional Secretariat for Asia
c/o Agency for Research and Development (ARD)
Ministry of Agriculture
Jakarta, Indonesia
- International Federation of Agricultural Research Systems for Development (IFARD)
International Secretariat
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