



C·A·B International

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18 July 1991

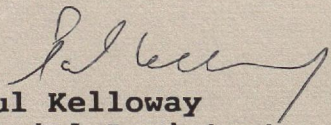
Dr M S Swaminathan
11 Rathna Nagar
Teynampet
Madras 600018
INDIA

Dear Dr Swaminathan

I understand from Jane Tweedy, our Press Officer, that you would be interested in the press cuttings arising from the attendance of journalists at the reception on Thursday 21 March 1991.

Accordingly, I am pleased to enclose the three cuttings which followed on that occasion. We are hoping that, with continued contact by Jane, we will get cover by all the journalists who came to the reception earlier this month. This, however, will take a while as such journalists have a long lead time.

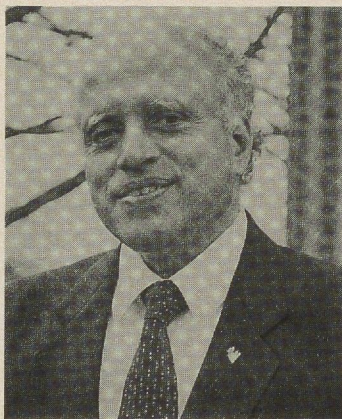
Yours sincerely


Paul Kelloway
Special Assistant
to the Director General
(External Relations)

CABI, as the producer of the largest and most respected agricultural database in the world, recognises the increasing demand for data on electronic media. Development in this field is vital to CABI's continued success. CABI has already issued the entire contents of the database since 1984 on CD-ROM and is developing another CD-ROM containing all Forestry abstracts since 1913. Other CD-ROM publications are planned to cover Veterinary Science, Animal Production, Horticulture, Crop Protection and Soil Science. The Board gave encouragement to these proposals which will enable scientists, particularly in developing countries, to have abstracts of all the research work in their own disciplines at their fingertips.

The future of sustainable agriculture and the preservation of biodiversity makes it essential that there should be increased attention to the study and classification of micro-organisms (invertebrates, parasites, fungi). Following encouragement from their 1990 Review Conference, CABI has taken an initiative to strengthen co-operation among the many organisations involved in different parts of the world, focusing on the invertebrates, where the need appears to be greatest. The Board encouraged CABI to proceed with proposals for a Workshop to initiate a world wide bio-systematics network.

CABI is also developing an important series of workshops on the Ecological Foundations of Sustainable Agriculture (WEFSA). Last



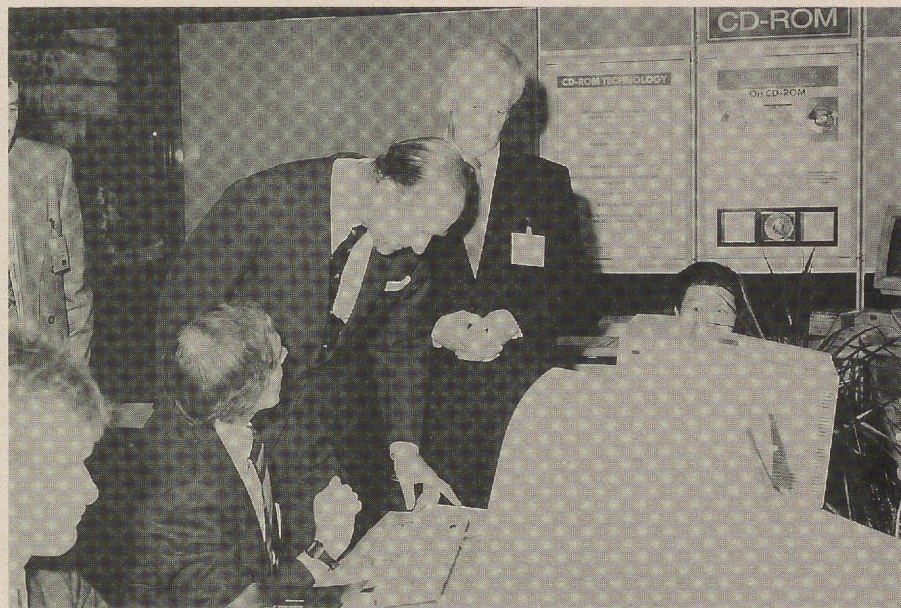
Dr M. S. Swaminathan, chairman of CABI's Governing Board

year WEFSA I was held at the Royal Society in London. WEFSA II will be held in co-operation with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The Board fully endorsed these initiatives which it feels have a total role to play in rousing public consciousness of the need to strengthen the scientific base of bio-diversity and sustainable agriculture.

The Board noted the great need for CABI's services in Eastern Europe where scientists have been starved of information sources. CABI has been active in opening up contracts which resulted in Hungary's accession to membership in 1988. Great interest has been shown in several other countries and a seminar was recently organised in Czechoslovakia with assistance from AGROINFORM (HUNGARY) to enable scientists there to learn more about CABI.

At their first meeting, in March, the new Governing Board of CAB International decided to proceed with the construction of new premises for the International Mycological Institute on land acquired from the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College at Egham, Surrey, UK, requiring a capital expenditure in excess of £5m. IMI is the pre-eminent centre of mycological research in the world and as a result of expanding activities has outgrown its present buildings at Kew. Relocation will give the Institute more space and better facilities thus enabling it to meet the demand for its services from a worldwide public.

Governing Board of CABI decide Mycological Institute to have new site



At CABI's 1990 Review Conference, Britain's HRH Prince Philip tried his hand at CAB International's compact disc system for agricultural information, CD-ROM. Escorting Prince Philip was CABI's Director Systems, Jim Gilmore

Delegates to CABI's international review conference included representatives of the 29 governments currently members of CABI and observers from another 30 countries, a number of which are interested in becoming members of CABI



Probiotics still not understood, UK survey indicates

Sheep farmers who have used and had success with the use of probiotics, find it difficult to understand why the concept is not more widely understood.

The answer may lie in the results of a survey conducted by Ms Jennifer Eaton, Information Pharmacist at the library of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Speaking at the British Pharmaceutical Conference in Cardiff late in 1990, Ms Eaton explained the survey had highlighted the fact that in excess of 40% of UK livestock farmers alone were unaware of probiotics.

Her findings were the result of a questionnaire sent to 100 veterinary surgeons, 100 agricultural merchants and 100 livestock farmers, revealing a trend of opinion that antibiotics were effective, but there were doubts over their safety, while probiotics were safe, but there was concern over their effectiveness. However, the majority who had used probiotics found them to be effective.

When questioned about awareness of antibiotics and probiotic feed additives, 90% of respondents were aware of the former, whereas only 75% were aware of the latter. In fact, probiotic awareness amongst farmers was as low as 43%, suggesting there was a considerable number of potential users.

Circle 268 on Readers' Enquiry Service for information

Sir Peter opens Pig Genetics new facility

Sir Peter Mills, vice-president of the UK's National Pig Breeders Association, officially opened phase one of the Southern AI operation in March at Hilperton, to which the 20 boars previously housed at the Ministry of Agriculture's Shinfield operation acquired by Pig Genetics in 1990 has been transferred.

Dr Christianne Glossop, general manager

of Pig Genetics, said 'Hilperton presents us with a marvellous opportunity to serve better the UK's more southern-based pig breeders, as well as overseas customers. Our 40-strong stud in Yorkshire supplied over 42,000 doses of semen last year and the increased development of the AI industry meant expansion for us was inevitable.'

Cydectin now in S. America

Cyanamid's Latin America Group has announced the launch of 'Cydectin' moxidectin, a second generation endectocide based on an entirely new chemistry, to the Brazilian cattle industry. Extensive performance trials have shown that Cydectin provides excellent control of internal and external parasites like ticks, lice and hypoderma, resulting in unsurpassed weight gains, Cyanamid report.

'This product, the result of over seven years of international research, will fill a critical need for the Brazilian cattle industry,' says Donald de Castro, president of Cyanamid's Latin America Group. 'These features will give farmers a much-needed tool to increase the productivity of the herd through efficient parasite control.'

Cydectin, a broad spectrum product, controls parasites that cause the heaviest economic losses to farmers. It will be manufactured at the Cyanamid facility in Resende (Rio de Janeiro). The product is applied subcutaneously and is used two to four times a year based on local epidemiology.

Cydectin will be marketed in Brazil by Cyanamid in conjunction with Tortuga Ci. Zootechnica Agraria, the largest animal health company in Brazil.

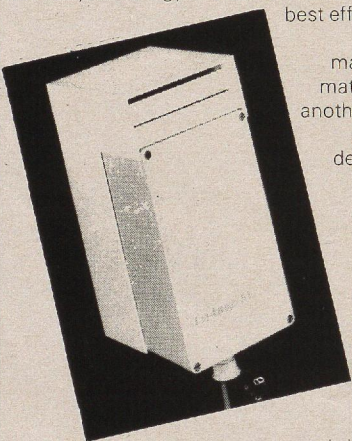
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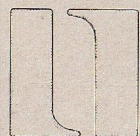
best efforts to improve crop and animal quality, reduce overheads and maintain healthy profits. To make matters worse one man's friend is another man's foe. Whether there is too much or too little humidity depends on temperature and the application. Get it wrong and nature's saboteurs can have a field day, which is why the Lee-Integer RVT 90 keeps humidity under 24-hour surveillance. Widely used in the UK and Holland it is reliable, accurate, simple to install, it will save you money, stress and time.

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opportunities in Agriculture

FARM MANAGEMENT

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THREE SENIOR POSITIONS

A **Farms Manager** and two **Assistant Farm Managers** are required to run a highly successful large-scale enterprise just 65km from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. With a major extension in hand there will shortly be approaching 3,000ha under irrigation.

Principal enterprises are wheat and alfalfa production under centre pivot with newer crops of barley, potatoes and peanuts being introduced. There is substantial seedless grape and palm cropping on drip feed irrigation. Livestock enterprises are expanding and there is a major programme of infrastructural development—roads, electricity and wells, being carried through.

Overall control of the farming business is vested in the Farms Manager and both he and the Assistant Farm Managers will need extensive arid zone experience of wheat production and its supporting agricultural engineering services, especially of CP irrigation.

Two year salaried contract terms are envisaged but this is flexible. There is also a profit share opportunity available from this prize winning establishment and customary arrangements for accommodation and leave/travel benefits.

Please telephone Paul Cherry of AA or write requesting a Personal History Form and quoting FM/1044 or AFM/1045/1046.



Agricultural Appointments

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New governing board for CABI

CAB International (CABI) – the former Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau – has set up a new governing board to help steer the organisation into the next century in a businesslike manner.

Dr M S Swaminathan, (pictured right) president of the National Academy of Sciences of India, who played a key role in India's green revolution, has accepted appointment as the first chairman.

Business expertise will come from Sir Ronald Halstead, deputy chairman of British Steel.

"This appointment reflects CABI's determination to run a tight business operation while maintaining its scientific excellence," said director-general Mr Don Mentz.

CABI's 29 member governments will continue to have ultimate control through a periodical review conference and through an executive council which will meet at least once a year. The new board will be responsible to the council.

The board members are drawn



from seven countries and in addition to Dr Swaminathan and Sir Ronald they are: Dr Curtis Farrar (USA), Dr Nicholas Mumba (Zambia), Dr Gabriella Persley (Australia), Professor

Biometrics adviser honoured

John A Spence (Trinidad), Ms Martha B Stone (Canada), and Professor J K Syers (Britain).

The first meeting of the board took place in March and it was agreed to proceed with the £5 million project to build new premises for the International Mycological Institute (IMI) at Egham.

IMI is the pre-eminent centre of mycological research in the world and with its increasing activities, has outgrown its current premises at Kew.

The board is also encouraging the continued database development. CABI, as the producer of the largest and most respected agricultural database in the world, has recognised the increasing demand for data on electronic media.

Development in this field is vital to CABI's continued success.

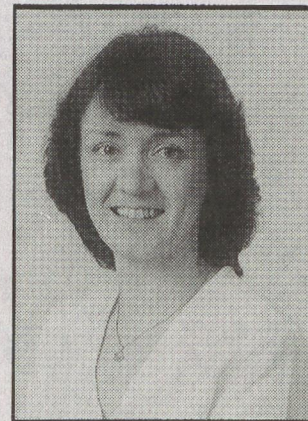
It has already issued the entire contents of the database since 1984 on CD-ROM and is developing with ODA assistance another CD-ROM containing all forestry abstracts since 1913.

Janet Riley who has been the ODA's biometrics adviser since 1985 has been elected to the International Statistical Institute (ISI) – one of the world's oldest and most revered international scientific associations.

Miss Riley is based at Rothamsted Experimental Station where she is head of the Overseas Biometrics Unit.

Biometrics is the study and analysis of data from biological systems. It is fundamental to all aspects of agricultural research and 70 years of successful collaboration between biometricians and agricultural workers shows its key role both in current research and new developments.

Biometric input can help avert the dangers of poor design of experiments, inadequate data collection, inaccurate translation of data from field to computer, faulty analysis and inappropriate interpretation of results, which can all lead to un-



sound recommendations.

The ISI was established in 1885 and is composed of 1,700 leading statisticians.

The membership is drawn from over 120 countries and the accumulated experience represents a vast store of technical knowledge which covers the entire range of official applied and theoretical statistics.

HR Wallingford appointment

John Millns has been appointed training and technology transfer manager at HR Wallingford.

HR Wallingford (formerly known as Hydraulics Research) has long been active in training initiatives, and with Mr Millns' appointment the number of study, fellowship and research attachments will be increased. Courses will be organised in Wallingford and at centres worldwide.

Watts chairman

Chairman of Thames Water, Roy Watts, has been appointed chairman of the new non-executive group at Reading-based civil engineering consultants Frank Graham.

IIED business manager

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) has appointed Suresh Lalvani as business manager, taking financial, legal and fundraising responsibility for the organisation.



He was previously financial and administration director for Comic Relief and before that was chief accountant for Voluntary Service Overseas. He is editor of the Charities Administration manual.

IIED was established in 1971 and is an independent, apolitical and non-partisan organisation. It claims to be Europe's largest policy group devoted to environmental economics, forestry, sustainable agriculture and urban development. It also runs Earthscan Publications Ltd, a leading environment and development publisher.

Among its other work IIED has developed a computer-held Register of Sustainable Development Expertise, with support from the ODA.

Women mean business



Durham University Business School (DUBS) recently introduced a new course aimed at promoting and developing women's enterprise in developing countries.

The new short course addresses two key priority areas:

- women's development;
- small enterprise development.

It aims to highlight the special problems and needs of women's enterprises and to identify how women can best be assisted.

It emphasises practical approaches to supporting women's business while aiming to place women's enterprise in the broad context of women and development.

While visiting DUBS Minister for Overseas Development, Mrs Lynda Chalker, welcomed the new course and added that the ODA is making ever greater efforts

to support small enterprise development.

In addition all ODA projects seek to ensure that women receive at least as much attention as men. The ODA is increasingly flexible through the number of funding and support mechanisms now available as to who is assisted and how.

Exchange

Mrs Chalker said that one of the benefits of a training course such as 'Women mean Business' was the opportunity to exchange experiences and learn from people from other developing countries.

Among the activities DUBS is involved in, and in which the ODA also has an interest, are:

- Nigeria - three initiatives: a Working For Yourself (WFY) programme to train trainers to help potential entrepreneurs; a Growth

Mrs Lynda Chalker meets students during her visit to DUBS.

and Survival Programme (GASP) to train trainers of entrepreneurs already in business; and a training programme for bankers involved in lending to small businesses;

- Bangladesh - local management training through the British Council and the ODA. Also the head of BRAC's successful non-formal primary education programme spent three months at DUBS looking at the British experience in enterprise and work-related education.

It has also been agreed to support DUBS through the Small Enterprise Fund in an initiative to transfer to India their successful British Growth Programme – for small businesses seeking to expand – together with the Enterprise Development Institute of India.

EBRD director

Mr Tony Faint has been appointed by the ODA as the first UK executive director to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). For more about EBRD see page four.

Royal Society

Dr Anne Laura McLaren, director of the Medical Research Council Mammalian Development Unit at the University of London, has been nominated by the Royal Society's Council to be the Society's next foreign secretary, in succession to Sir Anthony Epstein whose five-year term of office ends in November.

The honorary post carries responsibility for the Society's policy on international relations and exchanges and business with other countries.

World Telecommunication Day

'Telecommunication and safety of human life' is the theme that has been chosen for World Telecommunication Day, celebrated annually on 17 May.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the oldest inter-governmental organisation, founded in 1865 and becoming part of the United Nations' agencies in 1947. It has a 164-nation membership.

The theme was chosen to underline the role played by telecommunications in relieving or rescuing human beings everywhere. This could involve natural disasters, incidents at sea or simply the dangers of everyday life, particularly in remote areas.

Disability in the developing world

Anyone interested in disability, change and development in the developing world can attend an international short course being arranged by International Disability Education and Awareness (IDEA).

The residential course will be held from 14 to 19 July in Nottingham and will take the form of a multi-disciplinary forum for sharing ideas and information on development and disability.

Participants are welcome from the fields of therapy, education, health, advocacy, disabled groups development, employment, social work, and all who are, or have been, working in the developing world or are interested in the issues.

More details from: M Greenhalgh, Administrator, IDEA, William House, 101 Eden Vale Road, Westbury, Wilts BA13 3QF.

CABI appoints governing board



Dr M S Swaminathan FRS.

CABI has appointed a governing board. Dr M S Swaminathan President of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, who played a key role in India's green revolution, has accepted appointment as the first chairperson. The board met for the first time in March.

CABI's 29 member governments will continue to exercise ultimate control over the organisation through a periodical review conference and through an executive council which will meet at least annually. The governing board will be responsible to the executive council.

In keeping with CABI's international status, board members are drawn from seven countries around the world. In addition to Dr Swaminathan and Sir Ronald Halstead of the UK, members are: Dr Curtis Farrar (US); Dr Nicholas Mumba (Zambia), Secretary for Agriculture; Dr Gabrielle Persley (Australia), International Service for National Agricultural Research; Professor J A Spence (Trinidad), Cocoa Research Unit, University of the West Indies; Martha B Stone (Canada), International Development Research Centre; and Professor J K Syers (UK), Dean of Agriculture, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

At the first board meeting in March, the board discussed CABI's role as the producer of the largest and most respected agricultural database in the world. CABI recognises the increasing demand for data on electronic media and has already issued the entire contents of the database since 1984 on CD-ROM and is developing another CD-ROM containing all forestry abstracts since 1913.

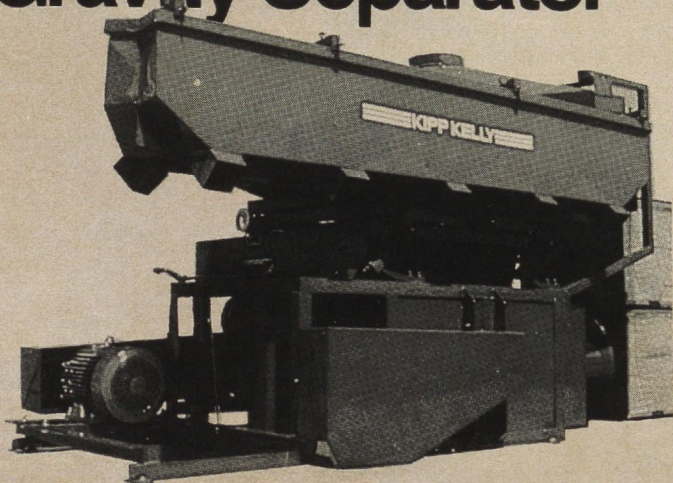
Other CD-ROM publications are planned to cover veterinary science, animal production, horticulture, crop protection and soil science. These proposals will enable scientists, particularly in developing countries, to have abstracts of all the research work in their own disciplines.

The board decided that the future of sustainable agriculture and the preservation of biodiversity makes it essential that there should be increased attention to the study and classification of micro-organisms (invertebrates, parasites, fungi). Following encouragement from its review conference, CABI has taken an initiative to strengthen co-operation among the many organisations involved in different parts of the world, focusing on the invertebrates, where the need appears to be greatest. The board encouraged CABI to proceed with proposals for a workshop to initiate a worldwide biosystematics network. CABI is also developing an important series of workshops on the Ecological Foundations of Sustainable Agriculture (WEFSA).

CABI is an intergovernmental agricultural, research and information organisation, established by a treaty level agreement between governments. CABI's support for sustainable agriculture – improving food production without exhausting soils and destroying other resources – is far reaching, as is its support for environmental conservation. There are 30 member countries exhibiting wide differences in size climate and institutional capacity.

CABI training courses were held at locations around the world, during 1990; in all more than 370 students from 83 countries received training from CABI.

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Circle No. 148 on enquiry card

Factsheets on pests

The Institut de Recherches Agonomiques Tropicales (IRAT) publishes a range of full-colour factsheets on major pests of food and market crops in Africa and the Indian Ocean region. The 51 factsheets (210 × 297mm, on glossy paper) carry 380 colour plates. Each sheet combines illustrations on one side and an explanatory text on the other.

The factsheets are intended for farmers, teachers, trainers, and students. Crop protection professional working in tropical and subtropical regions, in both private and public sectors, will also find them very useful.

The factsheets are also available as a complete collection which includes, in addition, checklists and ready reference tables: *Insect pests of food crops in Africa and the Indian Ocean region* by M. Betbeder-Matibet.

The collection is presented in a ring binder, with each sheet in a loose-leaf plastic cover. This makes it very easy to consult the factsheets. They can even be carried to the field as the protective covers prevent them from being soiled.

For further details contact IRAT, Avenue du Val de Montferrand, BP 5035-34032 Montpellier Cedex, France. Tel: 676 15800. Telex: 480762F. Fax: 67615988.

Ugandan project seeks inputs

A Ugandan co-operative group, Youths for Development Enterprises, is seeking assistance for its agricultural projects.

The group, which was founded two years ago, is aiming to create employment, improve living standards and be self-sustaining. They are interested in both farming and industry and have drawn up feasibility studies for poultry farming, fish farming, brick-making sunflower seed oil extraction and bee-keeping.

The group has land, manpower and technical know-how but still require appropriate technology and equipment. In particular they need two tractors and spare parts to cultivate 400 acres of land as without machinery cultivation is a slow and laborious process.

Any offers of help or advice should be directed to: Frederick Ssali Sebide, Chairman, Youths for Development Enterprises (U) Ltd, PO Box 5080, Kampala, Uganda.

Maize under attack in East

A grain borer is threatening maize, a staple food grain for millions of East Africans. The presence in Uganda of the grain borer or *prostephanus truncatus* has not been confirmed but Kenya's agriculture department has officially declared that the larger grain borer is present in the districts of Kenya bordering on Tanzania. Reports in Tanzania suggest, however, that the borer has been known to occur in the country for over ten years.

Maize production in Uganda has been gaining popularity and statistics for the period 1981/89 indicate an upward trend in production. It has averaged 444,280 metric tonnes annually; production in 1981 was 352,160 metric tonnes, growing to 1,019,690 metric tonnes in 1989.

The department of agriculture attributes this rapid growth to improved seed availability, ready markets both internal and external, and increased popularity of maize as a food. However, the positive trend in maize production is being threatened by pests and diseases. One of the pests is the larger rain borer which attacks the maize grain on the cob at the time of harvest and in storage. The beetle is believed to exist in Uganda but the department of agriculture has not confirmed its presence.

However, having confirmed the presence of the pest in Kenya and Tanzania the department has advised farmers, maize traders and the public bringing maize or maize plants into Uganda, to have a certificate of "free of larger grain borer pest" issued by the country of origin. Farmers in the country have been asked to report immediately the presence of the beetle.

Food outlook in brief

● **The outlook for global cereal supplies is expected to tighten in 1991/92, with FAO's early forecasts for 1991 pointing to a six per cent reduction in output of wheat and only a small increase for coarse grains. As a result, aggregate cereal stocks are expected to decline and their composition to remain unbalanced.**

● **Regional food problems are becoming more acute in 1991. In Africa, famine threatens six countries (Angola, Ethiopia, Liberia, Mozambique, Somalia and Sudan). In addition, several Sahelian countries are experiencing shortages, while the harvest which is about to start in southern Africa is expected to be poor. The conflict in the Persian Gulf has increased the needs of several countries for emergency food assistance; serious food shortages are reported from Iraq.**

● **The early outlook for 1991 wheat and coarse grain crops is mixed. Good wheat harvests are expected in Asia. Growing conditions have been mostly favourable for winter wheat so far in the US, the USSR and eastern Europe, but plantings are down and output is expected to be lower. It is too early to forecast the 1991 world paddy harvest which depends mainly on the performance of the south-west monsoon in Asia.**

● **World utilisation of cereals is forecast to increase in 1990/91 mainly on account of greater feed use of wheat by developed countries. In the developing countries cereal utilisation is estimated to rise only slightly, while per caput consumption will fall in many countries of Africa and Latin America.**

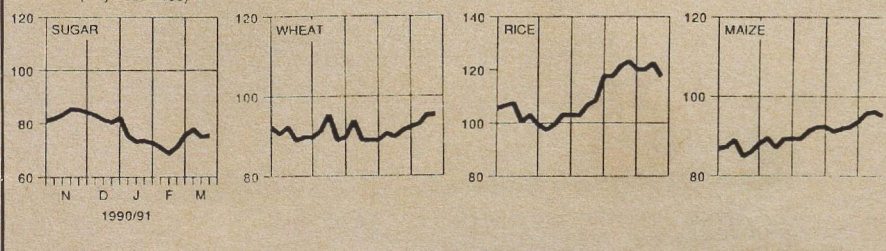
● **World trade in cereals is sharply down in 1990/91, following bumper harvests in many countries in 1990 which have also led to an increase in global stocks.**

● **International wheat prices rose sharply during March, but are still well down from last year. Prices of maize and rice showed little change.**

● **Production of fats and oils is expected to rise modestly in 1991, while that of oilmeal will remain unchanged. Some draw-down of stocks may be required, despite an expected slow-down in consumption growth.**

● **World meat production is expected to increase in 1991, mainly reflecting continued strong growth in poultry production and a slight rise in red meat output.**

EXPORT PRICES
(July 1990 = 100)



Drought threat deepens

Drought and desertification are likely to intensify in East Africa and the region is becoming increasingly dependent on relief food. These were the conclusions researchers and participants at a recent international conference in Burkina Faso.

A report released at the end of a 22-nation meeting in the capital Ouagadougou, said famine was widespread and urged the international community to make greater efforts to help Africa overcome the problems of drought. The report

highlights that drought is especially severe in East Africa and Sudan.

"Drought and desertification due to poor rainfall, threaten to destabilise the entire ecosystem in the sub-region," the report points out.

The two-day conference was organised to develop a regional strategy for African nations affected by drought to be presented at a United Nations environment and development conference to be held in Brazil in June.



Press
Release

C.A.B International

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Telephone: (071) 584 0067/8 Telecom Gold/Dialcom: 84: CAU006
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Press
Release

Picture shows:

Dr M S Swaminathan FRS, President of the National Academy of Sciences of India, who has accepted appointment as the first Chairman of CAB International's new Governing Board. He is currently President of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Issued by:

Jane Tweedy
Press Officer

21 March 1991