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Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation
Department of Agricultural Research & Education
'Krishi Bhavan' New Delhi.

Dated the 11th June, 1976

- 1) All Directors,
Agricultural Research Institutes, ICAR.
- 2) All Vice Chancellors,
Agricultural Universities.

Subject: 13th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
held at Philippines from May 8-13, 1976 - Deputation
report thereof.

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Sir,

I am directed to send herewith a copy of the deputation report of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education who participated in the 13th meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research held at Philippines from 8-13 May, 1976, for information and necessary action, if any.

S.P. Tuli
(S.P. Tuli) 10.6.76

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Copy with a copy of the report forwarded to:-

1. Economic and Statistical Adviser, Deptt. of Agriculture, New Delhi.
2. Under Secretary (CN), ICAR.
3. Chief Publicity and Public Relation Officer, ICAR.
4. Library Section, ICAR.
5. Project File Unit, ICAR.
6. S.P.A. to Secretary, ICAR.
7. All DDGs/ADGs, ICAR.
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7. F.S. to *ADG* (20 copies)

S.P. Tuli
(S.P. Tuli) 10.6.76

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Report of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Director General, I.C.A.R.
and Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and
Education, New Delhi, on the 13th meeting of the
Technical Advisory Committee to the Consultative Group
on International Agricultural Research

I attended the 13th meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research held at the International Rice Research Institute, Los Banos, from 8th to 13th May, 1976. In the absence of Sir John Crawford, Chairman of TAC, I presided at the meetings. Later, I discussed with Sir John Crawford at Canberra the recommendations of TAC. On the basis of these discussions the recommendations were finalised. Some of the major points of interest to us are as follows:-

Quinquennial Review of the International Maize and Wheat Research Centre, Mexico

The preliminary draft report of the Quinquennial Review of CIMMYT indicates that the Review Panel has by and large extended support to the basic research strategies and approach of CIMMYT. The accomplishments of CIMMYT in the improvement of bread wheat, durum, wheat, Triticale, maize and barley are indeed impressive. The programs are dynamic and production-oriented. CIMMYT has devoted its attention with single-minded devotion to the improvement of the production of wheat and maize. It has developed the world's largest program in Triticale and the panel has recommended that the Triticale program should become a part of the core activity of CIMMYT. Also, the IBPGR should recognize CIMMYT as the repository of germ plasm of Triticale. TAC supports these suggestions.

The panel has recommended that the barley work of CIMMYT should continue and that close linkage should be established with ICARDA after the new institute becomes operational. CIMMYT, however, is not in agreement with the view of the panel that it should restrict its responsibility as regards barley mainly for the highlands of Latin America, once ICARDA is established. The panel did not entirely agree with the major stress laid on breeding varieties for general adaptation in contrast to adaptation to specific agro-ecological conditions. TAC feels, however, that CIMMYT's operational procedures permit national programs to breed varieties for specific as well as general adaptation. Hence, the differences in view-point seem to be more apparent than real. TAC felt that practical ad hoc cooperative arrangements should be negotiated in due course between CIMMYT and ICARDA similar to those already established by CIMMYT with other centers. The panel also considers it desirable that CIMMYT may further intensify research on breeding lines of durum wheat, barley and maize for cultivation under marginal conditions of management. The panel has suggested the more intense use of trainer's training programs and the use of post-doctoral fellowships for training research leaders from cooperating countries. TAC is in agreement with these suggestions.

Members of TAC desired that the panel in its final report may give more information on the following aspects:

- a) the recent research contributions and overall policy of CIMMYT, and in addition, the findings of past review missions;
- b) the nature of constraints, if any;
- c) quarantine arrangements made to ensure that the extensive seed exchange undertaken by CIMMYT does not lead to the unconscious dispersal of seed-borne pathogens;
- d) its judgment on the adequacy of physiological and socio-economic research;
- e) the relations among international centers such as those between CIMMYT and IITA, CIAT, as well as with national research centers should be spelt out in more detail. CIMMYT and IRRI could develop collaborative arrangements on breeding suitable lines for the rice-wheat rotation which is becoming important in South Asia. The extension tasks of CIMMYT should be described and the degree to which CIMMYT is involved in developmental projects should be indicated.

- f) The conclusions of the report should include the specific recommendations made in the main body of the report in order to leave no ambiguities in the views of the Panel.

TAC viewed with concern the hardship caused to CIMMYT due to inadequate cash flow. It will again stress upon CGR the necessity for ensuring orderly cash flow according to approved budgets so that the Director-General and senior staff of the institute could concentrate on implementing the research and training programs of the institute effectively.

The Panel also supports the principle of CIMMYT's regional services programme. There has, in the past, been some misunderstanding on the purposes and extent of this programme which has, as its principal thrust, the strengthening of CIMMYT's own research and as an important by-product building up national research capacities in collaborating countries. If possible, the TAC would like the Chairman and one or two members of the Review Panel, including the Secretary, to visit one of these programmes in North America or in the Middle East to gain firsthand knowledge and to report more fully to the Committee on how these regional services are being planned and implemented.

TAC members were invited to send to the TAC Secretariat written comments on the preliminary draft before 30th May.

2. Water Buffalo Research

Pakistan and the Philippines initially proposed to host an international center for water buffalo research. A UNDP/FAO Asian Regional Survey had confirmed the needs and interests of the countries of the region in this field and proposed an international cooperative buffalo research programme. TAC then called an expert consultation on the subject.

The report of the consultation recommended that an international effort be made to strengthen water buffalo research through the establishment of a cooperative network of national programmes. Within this network, some participating national institutions with relatively advanced expertise would be assigned regional responsibilities for leading the common research effort in specific programme areas. The network would be guided by an international board or steering committee including representatives of the national and international institutions involved. A coordinating unit and a documentation center would service the network. Their proposed location had been agreed upon by the network, e.g. the coordinating unit in Bangkok, Thailand and the documentation center in SEARCH.

The consultation recommended that the project be executed through FAO. The consultation further suggested that FAO consider making full use of the mechanisms provided under its Regional Animal Production & Health Commission of Asia, Far East and South West Pacific in the implementation of the project. It was felt that through this mechanism and that of the international board of the network, the participating national institutions could ensure that the international network programme would respond to their needs for buffalo research and development.

While confirming the need for an international effort for water buffalo research, TAC made a number of comments on the proposal:

(1) Concern was expressed about the possible risk of dispersion of activities in a cooperative network involving several national institutions. The proposed scheme would, however, have the advantage of maintaining close links between research and national development programmes, providing that development plans of the countries concerned, especially their objectives, were further examined during the elaboration of the cooperative programme.

(2) A close coordination should be ensured both within the network and outside, in particular with several international centers particularly ILCA and programmes such as the Agricultural Information Bank of Asia operated by SEARCA in liaison with the AGRIS Programme of FAO.

(3) The type of research carried out through the network should be production-oriented and take due account of the actual capabilities and development needs of the national institutions involved.

(4) The scope of the international effort could be viewed either as that of an international coordinating unit servicing the research network of national programs. For the time being, TIC recommended a step-by-step approach starting with a preparatory phase while donors may, in a second phase, provide directly to the national programmes part of the larger support needed.

TIC recommends to the CGIAR that an International Cooperative Buffalo Research Project (ICBRP) be established as follows:

1. The proposed ICWBRP would be as described in Appendix A.

2. The Project would initially involve seven countries (Egypt, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand) which collectively have some 70 percent of the world's buffalo population. However, as the Project develops, additional countries may be brought into the programme of cooperation.

3. The International Coordinating Unit would be located in Bangkok, Thailand.

4. In preparing the Plan of Operations of the Project, the International Coordinating Unit shall be assisted by a Programme Committee consisting of 4 members to be nominated by the Chairman of TIC and by FAO.

5. The International Buffalo Documentation Center would be integrated with the Agricultural Information Bank of Asia (AIBA) which is operated by SEARCA and which is currently linked up with the AGRIS network of FAO.

6. FAO should be approached regarding its willingness to act as Executing Agency in respect of the Project. It is further suggested that FAO be asked to consider making full use of the mechanism provided by its Regional Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia, the Far East, and the Southwest Pacific (RAHP/AF) in the implementation of the Project.

7. It is proposed that the support to the ICBRP be phased as follows: a preparatory phase in year 1, and an establishment phase in years 2 and 3. It should be stressed that the proposed budget for the establishment phase is purely indicative and would be fleshed out during the preparatory phase. In year 3, a review mission will be mounted to take stock of the progress made and to develop concrete plans of action on a longer-term basis.

3. Priorities for Research

The revised Priorities paper was generally endorsed by TAC members and was commended for clearly enunciating the priorities developed at previous TAC meetings. In developing its statement on priorities, TAC has kept the following basic considerations in view:

- 1) The highest priority should be accorded to the improvement of food production and availability in the developing countries;
- 2) Priority should be given to research which can increase the purchasing power of landless peasants and marginal and small farmers so that they will be in a position to buy the needed quantities of food;
- 3) Since the funds available for supporting international agricultural research will not be unlimited, TAC's exercise in developing priorities cannot just be a compilation of major research gaps but should be one which is capable of contributing most towards achieving the two objectives listed above within the funds available.

Seen in the above context, TAC reiterates that its first priority will go to the improvement of crops and animals which provide most of the calories and proteins in developing countries. For this purpose, cereals, food legumes, and crops giving starchy products like potatoes, cassava, and other tubers should continue to receive priority attention. TAC notes that among legumes, satisfactory arrangements for organizing international agricultural research have been made for all crops except soybean. Similarly, in major starchy products, a crop which may deserve international attention is plantain (banana).

Among farm animals, ruminant livestock have received specific attention from TAC, leading to the establishment of ILCA and ILRAD in Africa. TAC has been interested in stimulating research on water buffalo and is now ready to make a specific recommendation to CGIAR. One other farm animal which may deserve closer examination is the goat. Goat is used extensively by poorer people in many developing countries as a source of milk, meat, and fur.

Aquaculture technology leading to increased production of fishes has also been considered by TAC as a priority area of research. A TAC sponsored Working Group had given useful recommendations resulting in support being extended to a few projects by some bilateral donors like IDRC.

TAC hopes to make further concrete recommendations to CG at its next meeting.

Among future priorities, TAC considers that research on climate-soil-water-plant relationships is important since such research would be essential for promoting the scientific intensification of farming. Another area which will need increasing attention is post-harvest technology, particularly aspects such as drying, storage, and marketing of farm produce by small farmers. Rodent control and other allied aspects of safe storage of grains in rural homes will also have to receive increasing attention, since a match between production and post-harvest technologies is essential for farmers to derive full benefit from increased production.

Among second order priorities, vegetables, tropical fruits, oil seeds, and cotton deserve consideration. Among oil seeds, coconut in particular deserves attention since it is a very important crop both from the food and income points of view in several countries and is at present suffering from some serious disease problems. Farm forestry is also an important area but has not been assigned by TAC a high priority for international research since the success of this project will depend to a great extent on public policies by national governments and the amount of community effort generated for the planting and saving of trees. TAC, however, considers that the collection and conservation of germ plasm of tropical forest tree species is an urgent task and should receive attention.

TAC considers the socio-economic research, in particular the analysis of constraints and consequences relating to new technology is an exceedingly important adjunct of biological and technological research. Similarly, research on applied nutrition, micro-analysis of agro-ecological problems, and a study of individual factors of production will be important. This is why TAC has supported the establishment of the International Fertilizer Development Center and the International Food Policy Research Institute and has been urging the optimum use of the expertise developed at the International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology.

Another instance where factor-oriented research may be necessary is the improvement of the efficiency of managing irrigation or rainfall crop water on the farmer's field. The available knowledge in soil-plant-water relations suggest that significant water savings in crop production can be made through carefully controlled applications of water to the root zone of the plants. Such findings may have great implications for the future development of a high-productivity agriculture through out the world. The TAC has given careful attention in the past to the research needs of improved crop water management. The TAC's earlier reviews pointed to large gains in water use efficiency that can be made by appropriate development investments in the improvement of major and minor national irrigation systems, gains that did not require additional research, merely the application of known technologies. However, the TAC is aware that limitations of crop moisture is often the major factor holding farm yields at low levels. For this reason, the TAC is concerned with worldwide research activities on water as an input to crop production. The Committee pays particular attention to the impact these activities might usefully have for the work of the international centres and the CGIAR. Should the Committee find that new research opens opportunities for further investigations either at existing international centres or through other institutions, it will not hesitate to commend such work to the CGIAR. For the present, the TAC has urged all international centres to accord water management an important place on their research agendas.

One other aspect of factor-oriented research that has received little consideration in the past is the matter of pre-harvest crop losses from large pests such as locust, birds and rodents. The TAC is aware of the magnitude of these losses, but it has not yet given consideration as to how these losses might be reduced as a consequence of appropriate research. For the time being, IARC's

are encouraged to investigate protection from the depredations of pests as part of their general work on plant protection. But such work is often inadequate in relation to the magnitude of the problem. The TAC recognizes that more specific research may have to be undertaken at the international centres or through separate arrangements with specialized institutions such as the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Kenya. In the course of its work ahead, the TAC will examine this problem in greater depth.

While international centers may not themselves undertake basic research, it is important that they stimulate basic research relevant to applied field problems. Also, some proportion of research investment should be devoted to the creation of new technologies for the future. In this respect, research relating to all aspects of production physiology, nitrogen fixation, phosphorus recycling, and non-conventional sources of animal nutrition will have to receive high priority. For this purpose, international centres could stimulate appropriate studies in universities and national research institutions and collaborate with suitable institutions located in both developed and developing countries.

While TAC has been concentrating mainly on areas of research which lend themselves to international effort, it is conscious that in order to derive full benefit from international agricultural research, there has to be strong national R&D programs. TAC hopes that the CGIAR Review Committee would develop suitable mechanisms for promoting and supporting national research.

Members of TAC also suggested the following specific amendments to the Priorities paper:

- 1) The budget paper may be left out since these projections tend to get out of date quickly;
- 2) The water management aspect may be expanded in page 23 which deals with factor-oriented research;
- 3) Instead of using the term "lower priorities", "other areas of concern" may be used;
- 4) Cotton is important but should not be given a high priority. The paragraph related to cotton research may be suitably reworded.

Immediate Tasks for TAC Arising from the Priorities Paper

TAC concluded that with the above amendments, the Priorities paper may be sent to CGIAR for distribution at the Centers Week to be held in July. Also arising from TAC's Priorities paper, TAC itself should either form its own budget or with funds from a suitable bilateral donor organize Working Groups in the following areas:

- 1) Coconut research with particular reference to the current state of knowledge on major diseases such as cadang-cadang and root wilt (advantage could be taken of a meeting being held in India early next year by providing an appropriate TAC input);

2) Research on plantain (banana) --- This may possible be done in collaboration with the New Guinea Foundation;

3) Goat research for the production of milk, meat and fur;

4) A critical discussion on the role of international centers in farming systems research (at present IITA, IRRI and ICRI SAT spend 38, 21, and 18 percent of their respective core budgets on farming systems research).

These Expert Consultations are primarily for the purpose of informing TAC of the current status of research in these areas. They may or may not lead to concrete recommendations by TAC projects for CG funding.

4. "IRRI Quinquennial Review"

Turning now to the report of the TAC's Quinquennial Review mission which I had the honour to lead, TAC unanimously endorsed the final report and has recommended that it be transmitted to the Consultative Group and given as wide circulation as may be deemed appropriate.

At the last meeting of the Committee, when the report was presented in draft, members had the opportunity to discuss freely the findings of the mission and to record their comments. Reminding members that changes in the substance of the report were the prerogative of mission members, the chairman pointed out that nevertheless members comments and requests for clarification of certain points of obscurity and ambiguity could be utilized to advantage in refining the draft. Their comments would be recorded and incorporated in the report of the Committee which would itself of course also be presented to the Consultative Group.

Members had made some constructive suggestions for improvement of the text and these had been reviewed by four members of the mission who were fortunately all present at the last TAC meeting. Agreement had been reached by this group on the changes to be made, most of them relatively minor; one of some substance, was the need to assign a priority rating to the recommendation for staff increases and improved facilities. This had been done.

The revised draft was then submitted to the mission members for approval and further comments, with a deadline date. Comments and corrections had been received from four members and these, together with those of the TAC members and the Chairman, had been incorporated in the final version.

The unanimity with which members recommended the adoption of the report, was praised enough in itself. I must though record my thanks as leader of the mission, to the members of the Committee, both for their constructive comments on its redrafting and for their kind remarks on its quality and quality.

5. Vegetable Research

At its last meeting, TAC came to the conclusion on the basis of the report of its Appraisal Mission that some form of international research effort is necessary on vegetables used for home consumption by the poor. TAC Secretariat had been asked to prepare a paper giving alternative methods of organizing such research and indicating priorities in the choice of vegetables. After discussions of the paper, TAC felt that vegetable research fits into its priorities for improving human nutrition. Hence, TAC recommends the initiation of an international Vegetable Research Project based on the following principles:

1) Vegetables normally eaten by big masses of people in South East Asia and Africa (tropical lowlands) contribute greatly to their diet and nutrition and there is very little doubt that research and appropriate training can make an important addition to the production and consumption of these vegetables.

2) Taking into consideration the recommendations given by the vegetable Appraisal Mission, TAC has decided to support the general idea to undertake a serious effort but feels that not enough information is on hand that will permit TAC, at this moment, to make a final recommendation as to the organizational form, specific activities, definitive location and other important aspects for a permanent program. TAC is ready to consider its support to an action that in a period of 3 to 5 years will provide the information that is now lacking, and so a short-term or pilot research project will be considered.

3) To be able to prepare the project, it was agreed that this job be given to a special mission which will work for a period of 3 to 4 months and which will be able to report to TAC by early 1977 with a concrete proposal or alternative proposals.

4) The pilot project to be proposed should contain the following elements:

a) Should be a plan for not more than 5 years;

b) The preliminary action should be organized as one coordinated effort although actual work could be conducted in two locations in Asia and in Africa;

c) Should be considered an international project, financed by C.C but might be based in one or more existing international institutions, regional or national, which is able to give the project the necessary technical and logistic backstopping.

d) In the period of the pilot project, work will be initiated on the genetic evaluation and utilization of the vegetable crops chosen for priority attention. Also, appropriate training programs will be organized. Another purpose of this research project will be the compilation of all available information on vegetable research.

It is expected that by the end of the project, concrete proposals for long term action will be available. The proposed International Vegetable Research Project will also help to extend to other countries the results of work of the Asian Vegetable Research Center, Taiwan.

6. Grain Legumes and Plant Nutrition

In view of the importance attached by TAC to the subject, it had constituted a Subcommittee to review the progress of international research in improving the productivity of grain legumes and in harnessing all forms of plant nutrients. Arising from the recommendations of the Subcommittee, research programs are now in progress in nearly all major grain legumes at international centers. Soybean research alone remains to be organized on international lines under the CG system. The TAC working group which met in New Delhi in October 1974 had given valuable recommendations on the strategies useful for improving the yield potential of grain legumes and for achieving more efficient biological nitrogen fixation in the soil. TAC had also considered from time to time different aspects of fertilizer technology including the proposal for the formation of the International Fertilizer Development Center in the U.S.

Conscious of the need for enriching the organic matter content of tropical soils and for conserving all organic wastes for use as manure, TAC had asked its Subcommittee on Plant Nutrition to meet ahead of the 13th meeting of TAC at Los Banos to discuss and make concrete recommendations on the processing, management, and use of organic wastes. Based on the recommendations of the Subcommittee, TAC suggests the following additional steps:

(a) International agricultural research centers may, where this is not already being done, intensify their research on soil organic matter and introduce organic recycling principles and integrated systems of nutrient supply in improving the fertility status of soils;

(b) FAO, in collaboration with other appropriate international agencies, should consider organizing an information service on the technological and economic aspects of organic recycling which could become a means of collecting and disseminating information on methods of processing and use of organic refuse, including human wastes, from urban and rural areas;

(c) TAC was informed of a program for promoting the use of organic matters as fertilizers prepared by FAO for support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It hopes this FAO program will be implemented.

7. Joint Meeting with Centers' Directors

Centers' Directors and TAC members discussed at length mechanisms for promoting linkages among:

(a) centers themselves.

(b) centers, universities and advanced research institutions in developed and developing countries,

(c) centers and donors, and

(d) centers and national programs.

The following were the major conclusions arising from this discussion:

(1) Mutually beneficial relationships are growing among the international centers and between international centers and national programs. These bonds should continue to be nurtured and strengthened;

(2) IARCs should continue to develop collaborative research projects with national research systems in developing countries; in particular, effective use of "hot spot" locations for major pest and diseases could be utilized in this manner;

(3) CGIAR should encourage bilateral donors to provide funds directly to advanced research institutions in developing countries for collaborative research and not channel the funds through IARCs;

(4) IARCs should not assume the role of grant-giving agencies so that they do not lose their essential character of research institutions;

(5) Communication between IARCs and research institutions in developing countries should not be confined only to a few major and institutions but should extend to the many small and active centers found in these countries;

(6) Training programs need to be expanded for providing developing countries with more research leaders. While at their main campuses IARCs could concentrate on organizing trainer's training programs, they could organize jointly with national institutions' training programs for enlarging the training base. In this respect, the training programs organized by CIMMYT jointly with national research systems and bilateral donors on the control of wheat diseases is a good example. TAC was also informed that financial support for training doctoral and post-doctoral candidates is tending to decline. This trend needs to be arrested since the lack of trained manpower is a major obstacle to the development of effective national research systems in several countries;

(7) IARCs could help bilateral donors in identifying suitable national research institutions which, if given appropriate support, could make a substantial contribution to the improvement of food productivity;

(8) Center Directors made the following suggestions concerning Center-TAC interactions:

(a) The centers welcome the quinquennial reviews undertaken by TAC but would suggest more advanced planning of the program of the Review Panel, joint selection of Panel members, and an opportunity to examine the draft report before it is finalized. TAC clarified that it does not look upon the quinquennial review report as an inspection report but more as a joint exercise with centers on reviewing past work and developing broad guidelines for further growth;

(b) The centers welcome TAC meetings being held in different centers. This would help to promote better understanding between TAC members and center personnel. While the 14th meeting of TAC is scheduled to be held at ICRI SAT, Hyderabad, India in October 1976, Center Directors would suggest that the 16th meeting of TAC be held at CIAT, Cali, Colombia towards the end of May 1977 or early June 1977.

8. Review of Centers' Programmes

According to the budget proposals submitted by the Centers to TAC, the total requirement for 1977 comes to \$60.4 million for core operating funds and \$28.8 million for capital expenditure. The details are as follows:

Institute	Budget			
	1976		1977	
	Core	Capital	Operating	Capital
CIAT	6.5	1.0	8.6	1.5
GIMMYT	10.7	0.5	11.7	1.6
CIF	3.2	0.9	4.8	1.0
IITA	8.3	2.5	10.3	1.0
IRRI	7.3	1.3	8.7	3.1
ICRISAT	4.9	3.7	5.9	9.0
ILCA	4.1	1.6	6.2	3.4(5.4*)
ILRAD	2.1	2.8	2.3	3.2
WARDA	0.8	---	1.0	0.5
IBPGR	1.1	---	1.4	0.06
* Working capital + capital for cooperative programmes				
ICARDA			4.5	4.5
TOTAL			60.4	28.8

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37. Sprent, J.I. (1971). Effects of water stress on nitrogen fixation in root nodules. Plant and Soil, Special Volume, 225+228.
38. Streicher, S., Gurney, E. and Valentine, R.C. (1971). Transduction of nitrogen-fixation genes in Klebsiella pneumoniae. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA, 68: 1174-1177.
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40. Wong, P. Evans, H.J., Klucas, R. and Russell, S.(1971). Investigations into the pathway of electron transport to the nitrogenase from nodule bacterioids. Plant and Soil, Special Volume, 525-543.
41. Zelazna-Kowalska, I. (1971). Correlation between streptomycin resistance and infectiveness in Rhizobium trifolic. Plant and Soil, Special Volume, 67-71.

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TAC was informed by CG Secretariat that according to current indications, the likely availability of funds for 1977 will be about \$80 million, thus leaving a gap of \$9 million. Due to the late receipt of Center budgets, TAC could not go into inter-se priorities and is therefore not in a position at this meeting to assign specific priorities to the new initiatives and proposals for 1977. TAC would therefore suggest the following procedure:

- (1) CG Secretariat could ensure that Centers would have available during 1977 adequate budgets to cover the cost of current operations together with the amount needed to offset inflation;
- (2) The Center Directors may undertake themselves a detailed exercise on priorities with reference to new proposals for additional funds and make the result of this exercise available to TAC Secretariat by June 1976;
- (3) Preferably, new international centers which do not have even the basic infrastructure for fulfilling their research mandate should be accorded priority in meeting the capital budget requirements;
- (4) On the basis of a clearer understanding of the availability of funds and the views of CGIAR Review Committee on the determination of inter-se priorities, TAC would be in a position to make concrete recommendations to CGIAR on allocation of funds for each Center at its October meeting.