

# **Rice-Wheat Information Sheet**

**No. 12**

Welcome to this update of the Consortium. In the last issue, we had requested that the Rice-Wheat Information Sheet (RWIS) should serve as a forum for our partners to highlight new happenings and interesting happenings. All you might need to do is to take just a few moments to put your views in writing, and mail the note to us. We look forward to hearing more from all of you.

## **Rice-Wheat Information Sheet**

In response to the suggestion published in the last issue on the format of RWIS, Jitendra Srivastava from World Bank writes "I like the present informal format of the RWIS compared to the formal publication and editorial boards". Any more comments?

## **Study Tour to Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana**

NARS Scientists from the Consortium countries went on a Study Tour, 10-12 Jul , to the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana. Unfortunately, our colleagues from Pakistan could not make it due to certain last- minute problems. Md. Nur-E-Elahi, Principal Scientific Officer and A B M M Rahman, Senior Scientific Officer from the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and Ganesh Sah, Technical Officer and B P Singh, Assistant Agronomist both from Nepal Agricultural Research Council attended the tour. They saw the demonstration of the Paddy Transplanter and the Strip-Till Drill developed by the scientists at the PAU. The tour also included visits to farmers' fields, where these equipments were being used, discussions with the scientists, and a meeting with the PAU Vice-Chancellor. The participants were greatly impressed by the latest technologies developed for Rice-Wheat cropping systems and are keen to introduce them in their countries in the next harvest season. The Facilitation Unit will be keen to hear about the follow-up action that our colleagues plan and to assist in any manner that would promote their efforts.

## ***Tillage and Crop Establishment***

Issues relating to tillage and crop establishment have been identified as crucial to the productivity of the R-W System. Considerable efforts have been made in the past few years to address these issues under the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded Project. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is organizing a meeting to discuss the current status of research in this field to develop a proposal for future efforts and funding. We, at the Facilitation Unit, think that this is a good opportunity to add some regional inputs and to develop a proposal for funding at the regional level. Accordingly, efforts are on to bring a Senior scientist each from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan to this Workshop which is to be held 16-17 Aug 95 at the Directorate of Wheat Research in Karnal, India. Apart from the scientists from India and the other Consortium countries, Centro internacional de mejoramiento de maiz trigo (CIMMYT) representatives at Kathmandu and Mexico will participate and contribute to this effort.

## ***Water Management Workshop***

The stage is all set for the Workshop on Water Management Project Proposal Preparation, which will be held at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Dhaka during 21-23 Aug 95. Two scientists each from the four Consortium countries will be attending the Workshop in addition to representatives from CIMMYT, Dhaka, Mexico, and Kathmandu, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Irrigation Management Institute (IIMI), and International Crops Research Institute

for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). Each of the Consortium countries is preparing a country paper on the subject. While Bangladesh have completed this exercise, after holding a national meeting on 16 Jul 95, the other countries are in the final stages of drafting. It is proposed to synthesize these four country papers to develop a regional proposal for funding from donors in the Workshop.

### ***Nutrient Management***

Kevin Bronson, who joined IRRI recently, will take the lead in preparing the Project Proposal for Nutrient Management. He has already visited some of the Consortium countries to get a first-hand knowledge of on-going activities. As in the case of Water Management, the Consortium countries have been requested to prepare country papers incorporating major research issues. These papers will form the basis for the regional proposal. A Workshop is planned in Sep 95 for which the venue and dates are being finalized.

### **Regional Technical Coordination Committee (RTCC) Meeting**

We have received confirmations from our Chinese colleagues regarding the next meeting of the RTCC. It is proposed to slightly alter the dates of the meeting, and it is fixed for 13 - 18 Nov 95 in Chang Zhou in the Jiangsu Province. The change in date is suggested to avoid clashing with the Third Sports Event of China, 22 Oct -10 Nov 95 in the Jiangsu Province and the American Society of Agronomy Meeting, 28 Oct - 4 Nov 95. The RTCC meeting schedule is divided into two parts: 2-day field visits and 3-day business meeting. Nanjing is the nearest airport and is connected from Hongkong by DragonAir and China Eastern Airlines. The details and suggested travel itinerary are being worked out. Please feel free to contact us for more information.