

Rice-Wheat Information Sheet

No. 13

Hello

We have more information on the ensuing activities and follow-up on the events undertaken. We are still waiting for our partners' contributions.

Tillage and Crop Establishment

A meeting was held at Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal, India 16-17 Aug 95. (In the last issue we mentioned the venue would be Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal. Sorry for the error). The Facilitation Unit could was able to bring two scientists from Bangladesh and one from Nepal to the meeting, that was used as a platform to develop a regional proposal for future efforts in this area. Unfortunately, the scientists from Pakistan were not able to attend. The meeting, attended by experts from India and by representatives of Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz Y Trigo (CIMMYT), discussed issues relating to tillage and have put together their thoughts on developing a regional proposal. The principal objective of the research called for in this proposal is to identify, evaluate, and promote improved tillage and crop establishment practices to enhance system productivity, input use efficiency, and resource quality in different agro-eco-regions of the Indo-Gangetic Plains currently devoted to rice-wheat cropping systems. To achieve these aims, the Workshop discussed a number of research activities embracing diagnostic, strategic, adaptive, and evaluation research. The proposal will be finalized in the next few days for circulation amongst partners and donors.

Water Management Workshop

The Workshop was held, as scheduled at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Dhaka during 21-23 Aug. The participation was good, except that we are again sorry to report that our colleagues from Pakistan could not make it to Dhaka. We are trying our best in coordination with Dr M Akbar at Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (NARC) to ensure representation from Pakistan at future meetings.

Apart from participants from Bangladesh, India, and Nepal we had excellent expert representation from International Rice research Institute (IRRI), International Irrigation Management Institute (IIMI), and CIMMYT. In preparation for the Workshop the three countries were each requested to prepare a country paper bringing out major issues relating to Water Management that were affecting the sustainability/productivity of R-W cropping systems. Country reports were circulated and the participating scientists made a brief presentation which formed the basis for discussions to prioritize issues for the regional proposals. Dr Chowdhury, Chairman of BARC and Chairman of the Consortium Steering Committee took keen interest to ensure smooth arrangements for the Workshop. He also chaired the inaugural session. The CIMMYT office in Dhaka was extremely helpful with logistics and local arrangements. We record our sincere thanks to CIMMYT and BARC officials.

Legumes in Rice-Wheat System

Dr Surya Pandey of Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Kathmandu will work with S M Virmani at ICRISAT Asia Center (IAC) to prepare a draft bulletin on this subject. Dr Pandey proposes to visit IAC from 4 September for 2 weeks. This activity is planned as a follow-up to the case study on Rice-Wheat Rotation presented by Dr Pandey at the University of Georgia (UGA)-IRRI-ICRISAT Meeting held at Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok during February. The proposed bulletin has the following objectives:

First, to bring out the status of rice-wheat rotation in Nepal. Delineation of areas, production, productivity (district by district based on time data series)

Second, place of legumes in rice-wheat growing areas, and

Third, assessment of biotic and abiotic stresses by using spatial analytic techniques.

We believe these studies involving Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and related techniques will provide a better understanding of the cropping system dynamics, and will provide a basis for developing future options.

Nutrient Management Workshop

It has been decided, in consultation with Dr K F Bronson, to organize the Proposal Preparation Workshop on the Nutrient Management Issues relevant to the sustainability of R-W cropping systems during 21-23 Sep 95 at IRRI, Manila. The country papers of India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan are being prepared by the respective NARS Core Groups. We have invited two scientists each from these four countries, and IARC representatives from CIMMYT, IRRI, International Board for Soil Research and Management (IBSRAM), Cornell University, ICRISAT, and Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). Local transport and accommodation will be arranged by IRRI and participants are requested to send their confirmed travel plans to us (E-mail: RWC@CGNET.COM) or to Dr Bronson E-mail:K.BRONSON@CGNET.COM) so that arrangements can be made. Please ensure that you arrive Manila at the latest by the evening of 20 Sep and can leave on the morning of 24 Sep.

Training at IBSRAM

Dr Bob Myers of IBSRAM sent the following mail (edited version):

"I can now advise you that it is certain that there will be places reserved for RWC cooperators in the next training course on "Transfer of Land Management Technologies for Profitable and Sustainable Agriculture". This course is a 9-Week, hands-on-course principally for agronomists and extension workers, and concentrates on the methodology of on-farm research. It is certain that one slot each will be available for Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and Pakistan but I hope two each. Consortium members are requested to draw up a list of 3 potential participants. The course details and nomination forms would be soon forwarded to National Coordinators in the respective countries. Under the Thai Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation norms, the forms should be send via the Agriculture Ministry in Thailand to the four countries and should be returned with official government stamp."

We have already written to the four Country Coordinators to initiate action. The FU will provide both financial and logistical, support depending on the requirement. It is expected that this

course will enable participating scientists to get a fresh view of the developments in South/South-East Asia.

Consortium Directory

Several scientists whom I have met during my visits to Consortium countries have suggested that it might be a good idea to prepare and bring out a list of scientists in the areas which represent the key concerns to the sustainability of the R-W cropping systems. This would help scientists to establish linkages with others working on similar problems. It is therefore proposed that we compile a list of scientists working in each of the major research areas for the benefit of Consortium scientists. To enable us do this, we suggest that you communicate the names of scientists in the broad areas of Tillage and Crop Establishment, Integrated Pest Management, Water Management, Nutrient Management, Alternate cropping systems, etc.

Please adopt the following format:

Name in full (underline Surname)
Degrees held (BSc/MS/PhD)
Designation
Address for mail
Contact Telephone number
Contact Fax number
E-mail (Internet)
Current research interest (1-2 lines)

Publications (list 1 or 2 most recent ones giving author(s),title, journal pp., etc.)

We eagerly await your suggestions.

Technical Exchange Committee Meeting, ICRISAT

A progress report has been prepared, on work since Feb 95, detailing the activities of the Consortium and those planned in the near future. This will be presented by the Facilitator at a meeting of the Technology Exchange Committee of the ICRISAT Governing Board to be held on 5 September 95 at IAC. We hope this occasion will provide us some guidance and suggestions for our future functioning.

International Centers Week (ICW) '95

The Facilitator has been invited to make a presentation on the Consortium during the ICW '95 to be held during 25 Oct-3 Nov 95 in Washington DC, USA. This presentation will be made for the benefit of the Donor Support Group of the Consortium, and we plan to make specific requests for funding in the core areas of rice-wheat systems, and for research on sustainability issues. Suggestions are invited from NARS partners as well as from colleagues in IARCs.

Logo

After several months, we have finalized the logo for the Consortium. This will be formally in use from September 95, and we wish to express our sincere thanks to the CIMMYT Art Program, Mexico and especially Ms Kelly Cassidy for developing the options. The Information Management and Exchange Program at ICRISAT is now preparing final artwork and a color scheme for the logo that will be carried on the next issue of RWIS. Thanks to everyone who gave suggestions on the design.

