

Rice-Wheat Information Sheet

No. 14

Happy New Year

We wish a very happy and nice year ahead for all of our readers. We hope we shall be able to facilitate your activities in a meaningful way in the coming year.

Apologies

We regret that this issue of RWIS is delayed. The Facilitator was travelling for almost all of September, October, and November organizing the Nutrient Management Workshop at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), attending the CGIAR International Centers Week 1995 in Washington DC, and visiting China to organize and attend the Regional Technical Coordination Committee (RTCC) Meeting. We assure you that issues will be prompt issues hereafter. Thanks for your patience!

Logo

The long-awaited logo of the Consortium is at last on this issue! We once again wish to place on record our sincere thanks to Kelly Cassady at the Centro Internacional de mejoramiento del maiz y del Trigo (CIMMYT), and S M Sinha at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) who gave the finishing touches, and all others who gave valuable suggestions.

New Telephone number

We now have an additional direct phone line. You can reach us on at 91-11-464-8345 and 91-11-464-4971.

Water Management Proposal

At a meeting of some 20 members of the Rice Wheat Consortium (RWC), held in Bangladesh in August 1995, a number of research issues were identified and discussed. It was emphasized that, unlike the other three research themes, water resources issues had to be analyzed in an integrated way at all the three levels i.e. farm, irrigation system and macro policy. This is because there are hydrological linkages between what was done at the farm level and what was done at the irrigation system level. The Group noted the linkages between farmers' profitability and policy changes such as regulations on groundwater use, water and energy prices and input and output prices. The Group also considered the need to incorporate water quality and land degradation issues into the research agenda of the RWC.

The Group discussed and identified research activities at the national and regional levels. Research activities that will be undertaken at the national level by each of the national agricultural research agencies (NARS) in collaboration with IARCs will include strategic and adaptive research at farm and irrigation-system levels, and policy and institutional issues that affect farmers' profitability and/or influence quantity and quality of water available for agriculture.

Activities at the regional level will be of common interest to NARS and IARCs and will result in generic conclusions from comparative analyses. The objective of these activities will be to maximize the synergy benefits of working together using a common framework and methodologies. Such activities will include preparing and sharing data of databases, diagnostic surveys, methodology workshops; review and development of analytical models; exchange visits of scientists, and dissemination and training.

A tentative budget for regional level activities indicates a total fund requirements of US \$ 490,000 for 2 years, approximately US \$ 250,000 per year.

Nutrient Management Proposal

The Proposal Preparation Workshop on Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management was successfully held at IRRI, during 21-23 Sep 95. Scientists from all the Consortium countries their IARC counterparts participated.

The objectives of Nutrient Management research articulated by the group are to:

- Determine the extent of, and reasons for declining/stagnating yields-factor productivity
- Understand long and short term nutrient processes that influences the maintenance and enhancement of soil fertility and productivity of rice-wheat systems.
- Develop integrated nutrient management practices to optimize nutrient-use efficiency of all nutrient sources.
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The group suggested that the proposal should encompass the entire spectrum of nutrient management research including diagnostic, strategic, and adaptive aspects. The following major issues were identified as requiring attention:

Diagnostic research

- Delineation of nutrient deficiency/toxicity areas
- Farmers' perspective of nutrient management
- Thematic surveys, definition of production environments in relation to problems (using GIS)

Strategic research

- Role of legumes in cropping system
- Residue management/organic matter dynamics
- Enhancing efficiency through tillage-water-crop management
- Soil test methods

Adaptive research

- Demonstrate integrated nutrient management strategies in a farming system
- Share/transfer promising technologies

The group also discussed regional- level activities and the linkages required to achieve these objectives. The draft was circulated at the RTCC Meeting in China.

China Meeting

Facilitator visited Nanjing, venue for the next RTCC Meeting, for discussions with senior representatives of the Jiangsu Academy of Agricultural Sciences (JAAS), Nanjing and of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, (CAAS), Beijing, to finalize the RTCC Meeting arrangements.

International Centers Week 1995 (ICW 95)

At the ICW '95, held in the World Bank in Washington DC, Facilitator made a presentation on 30 Oct on the activities, progress, and future course of action of the Consortium A brochure on the activities of the Consortium was produced with the help of ICRISAT Information Management and Exchange Program, and we hope all of you have received a copy.

Regional Technical Coordination Committee Meeting

The RTCC Meeting was held at Jiangsu Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Nanjing during 13-17 Nov. The business meetings were held on 15-17 Nov and a 2-dayss field trip 13-14 Nov. All the Consortium partners, i.e., representatives from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan NARS, and from CIMMYT, ICRISAT, IRRI, International Irrigation Management Institute (IIMI), and Cornell University attended the meetings. The Directors of Research from Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana and Rajendra Agricultural University, Samastipur, Bihar also attended the meetings,

not only as observers but also to participate in the discussions. Chairman of the Consortium, Dr M S U Chowdhury attended the Meetings and field trip as a special invitee.

Broadly, the Committee has agreed to recommend the following to the Steering Committee:

1. Four proposals prepared by the Facilitation Unit on Integrated Pest Management, Tillage and Crop Establishment, Water Management, and Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management. These proposals for facilitation funds have been synthesized, since the organization is similar in all of them. Further, it was also felt by the RTCC that the sections on accelerated adoption and adaptive research need development.
2. China should be fully involved in the Consortium activities.
3. A visit to China by the Consortium scientists should be planned emphasizing tillage and farm equipment, (the areas in which China could contribute), for adaptation in the other four Consortium countries.
4. It is proposed that the next meeting of the RTCC will be held in Islamabad during Sep 96. Ludhiana, India would be the back-up venue.

Regional Steering Committee

The next meeting of the RSC of the Consortium will be held in Islamabad during 22-23 Jan 96 with a 1-day field trip planned either before or after the Meeting. The FU is working on the arrangements with the Pakistan National Agricultural Research Council. The Directors General of the four NARS will be attending the Meetings, together with Timothy Reeves, Director General, CIMMYT and Michel Petit, Director, World Bank, who will represent the Donor Support Group. In addition to the regular members, four resource persons will also attend the meetings.

Consortium Directory

In the last issue of RWIS we suggested compiling and distributing a directory of scientists working on each of the Consortium's major research themes. One of our readers has suggested that we enclose a blank proforma with RWIS. We plan to do this with issue no.15. Any more ideas?