

# Rice-Wheat Information Sheet

No.17

## News

### *Support for research in Bangladesh*

We are happy to report that the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) has negotiated a deal with the World Bank for agricultural research in the country. The Rice-Wheat Program will be an important component in this agreement.

## Happenings

### *Social Science Research and Sustainability of Rice-Wheat Production Systems*

We are pleased to report that we had a very successful workshop on the subject of social science research and the sustainability of rice-wheat production systems. The workshop was well attended by the senior scientists of the four Consortium countries - Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and Pakistan - and the participating international agricultural research centers (IARCs) including Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo (CIMMYT), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), and International Irrigation Management Institute (IIMI).

The main objectives of the workshop were to serve as a brainstorming forum to identify issues of social science research that could enhance the productivity of rice-wheat systems, and to discuss how these issues can be integrated with the ongoing efforts on the four identified themes in the Consortium i.e., Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Nutrient Management, Water Management, and Tillage and Crop Establishment. As planned, the two fold outputs of the workshop were to create a network of social science researchers in rice-wheat and to develop an “issues paper” on social science research and sustainability of rice-wheat systems.

The workshop was inaugurated by J C Gautam, Executive Director, Nepal Agricultural Research Council. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the need for a strong social science research that could influence decision makers by providing alternate policies to enhance the sustainability of production systems.

P L Pingali (IRRI) and L W Harrington (CIMMYT) led the workshop by brief presentations emphasizing the systems understanding (characterization, identifying solutions), technologies or policies, and accelerating adoption in respect of each of the identified themes. Issues that cut across specific interests/disciplines received special attention. The participants then met in groups and held in-depth discussions to develop a research agenda in relation to the four research themes and Consortium-wide issues. It was further decided that an “issues paper” based on the workshop deliberations could form a good basis for developing country-specific research plans. Participants decided to hold a regional workshop in June 1997 to deliberate the issues after identified groups have prepared country papers.

## Planning ahead

### *Brainstorming meet*

We plan to have an informal gathering of IARC colleagues at New Delhi during 3-4 June to realign future strategies.

## Visitors and visits

Drs John Duxbury and Julie Lauren from Cornell University will be visiting the region during 31 May to 15 June.

The Facilitator visited during 7-10 May where he met with senior functionaries of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRRI), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) and CIMMYT's Representative in Bangladesh. He also attended a meeting on 9 May convened by BRRRI to discuss future strategies of rice-wheat research in Bangladesh. The Facilitator made a brief presentation on the activities of the Consortium for the benefit of the new players on the team! The formation of National Steering Committee (NSC) and a National Technical Coordination Committee (NTCC) for Bangladesh was discussed with the Executive Chairman, BARC - Dr M S U Chowdhury. The Committees will be constituted soon.

## Publications

**Hobbs, P., and M. Morris.** 1996. Meeting South Asia's Future Food Requirements from Rice-Wheat Cropping System: Priority Issues Facing Researchers in the Post-Green Revolution Era. NRG Paper 96-01. Mexico, D.F.: CIMMYT.

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## Food for thought

Be thoughtful of the opinions of others, there are three sides to any controversy - yours, the other persons and the right one.