Rice-Wheat Information Sheet

No. 20

News

Funding

Government of Netherlands have pledged 250,000 Dutch Guilders for Facilitation Unit for the year 1997. We are grateful to them for the continuing support through the current year. We are working towards obtaining the remaining balance for the next year's activities and require all your support!

Views

Drs M A Zahid and R A Mann from National Agricultural Research Centre, Pakistan visited the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana during 29-30 August, 1996. They wrote:

We had heard a lot about the role of PAU in the development of agriculture in the Indian Punjab, especially during the Green Revolution era and were interested to interact with our friends at the University. The Facilitation Unit provided us with a chance to make our dream come true. We visited a few departments of the University viz. Extension Education, Agronomy, Soil Science, Farmers' Services and a farm of a progressive farmer near the University campus. We saw that the PAU is taking a lead role in improving the status of farmers in Punjab through maintaining intensive linkages between education, research, and extension wings. Farm oriented problems are being solved for the uplift of agricultural community in the State. Farm machinery have been designed according to the needs of the farmers and improved package of crop production technology have been disseminated to the farmers through effective extension tools. Development of disease-resistant varieties of rice, wheat, cotton, and pulses seems to be a continuous activity of the breeders and the University has gained a good reputation and trust among the farmers for this pioneering work. It is our feeling that there is an urgent need to apply this model of technology transfer, developed by PAU, to the Pakistani Punjab where education, research, and extension are performing under different umbrellas. We were really impressed by the long term green manure experiments involving different green-manure legumes and tillage practices. It looks that the productivity of rice-wheat cropping system could be greatly improved with the inclusion of green-manure legumes as side crops/inter crops.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the scientists at PAU for their cooperation in making our visit fruitful and to the Facilitation Unit for providing us a chance to visit the University.

Happenings

Center Directors' Study on Eco-regional Initiatives

A workshop was held at the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) at The Hague during 20-23 August, 1996. The workshop culminated the e-mail discussions between various Eco-regional Initiative partners, which was coordinated by Mike Collinson. The Center Directors' had commissioned Mike to study the various Eco-regional Initiatives like the Consortium to:

- identify difficult features in the concept, planning, and operation of Eco-regional programs
- bring experiences to bear on how these features have been handled in different programs
- suggest ways so that they can be managed more successfully

National workshop on Integrated Pest Management (IPM)in Rice-Wheat Cropping System in Nepal

A 2-days workshop on IPM in Rice-Wheat Cropping System was organized at Lalitpur, Nepal during 15-16 Aug 96. The Workshop was jointly sponsored by Facilitation Unit, CIMMYT, Nepal, and Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC). The purpose of the workshop was to review the past work and to develop work plans for IPM related activities in Nepal. About 30 participants including the Executive Chairman of NARC, Mr J C Gautam, the National Rice-Wheat Coordinator, Site Coordinators, and other scientists working in various aspects of IPM

attended the workshop. From the International Centers, S B Sharma (ICRISAT), P R Hobbs (CIMMYT), E E Saari (CIMMYT) attended as resource persons. B K Gyawali, Chief, Entomology Division at NARC coordinated the workshop. The participants identified the following as the major pests in the system:

- On the basis of wide distribution and severity of damage, rodents have been identified as the major problem in the hilly as well as *terai* regions. Rice moth and weevils are important storage pests. Rice stem borer in the hilly region, *Gundhi* bug and rice grass hopper in the *terai* are important.

- Blast and sheath blight are the most important diseases of rice. Leaf rust, yellow rust, powdery mildew, and loose smut in Naldung (hilly regions) and root-rot complex and *helminthosporium* leaf blight in Bhairawaha (*terai*) are important in wheat.

- *Polygonum hydropiper* (locally called Pire), *Phalaris minor* (Ragate), and *Chenopodium album* (bethe) are the major weeds in wheat fields. *Echinochloa colona* (Sanwa) is the most common weed in the rice fields. At high altitudes, *Monochoria* spp. (Pindale) are important.

Other issues highlighted include need for training in rodent management, mass production of parasites of insects, diseases, and weed management. Participants also suggested constitution of a working group on rodent management and the need for bringing out various types of publications for quick dissemination of results. The proceedings of the workshop would be brought out soon by NARC.

Planning Ahead

Long Term Soil Fertility Experiments (LTSFE) Workshop

This workshop will be held during 14-18 October, 1996 at Hotel Raj Hans, Surajkund, Haryana (in the southern outskirts of Delhi). For this workshop, we have invited several scientists who have been involved in the conduct of LTF management studies to submit papers. During the workshop, the scientists will present individual papers (in poster session) and group discussions will aim at identifying major issues affecting yield trends and sustainability issues. Discussions will also aim at developing future plans for Rice-Wheat LTFE in the region.

Training workshop on Simulation Modeling of Rice-Wheat Systems

This is primarily a training workshop which will be coordinated by IRRI on behalf of the Facilitation Unit (FU) and will be held at Los Banos, Manila during 9-13 December, 1996. The FU will support about 15 participants from the Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. The request for nominations with the details of the workshop are being sent out by IRRI. Kevin Bronson and Upendra Singh at IRRI will be managing the workshop.

Visitors

Kevin Bronson (International Rice Research Institute), Peter Hobbs (Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz Y Trigo, Nepal) Julie Lauren (Cornell University) were on a visit to Consortium sites in Nepal, Bangladesh, and India. They met scientists at Bhairawaha, Dhaka, Pantnagar, and Ludhiana to discuss the Nutrient Management issues.

Publications

Hobbs, P.R, L.W. Harrington, C. Adhikary, G.S. Giri, S.R. Upadhyay, and B. Adhikary. 1996. Wheat and Rice in the Nepal *Terai*: *Farm Resources and Production Practices in Rupandehi District*. Mexico, D.F.: NARC and CIMMYT.

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P.S. Minhas, D.R. Sharma, and D.K. Sharma. 1996. Perspectives of Sodic Water Management for Paddy-Wheat Cropping System. Journal of Indian Water Resources Society Vol. 2 No. 1, January, 1996.
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Food for thought

Never measure the height of a mountain, until you have reached the top. Then you will see how low it was.
Dag Hammarskjold