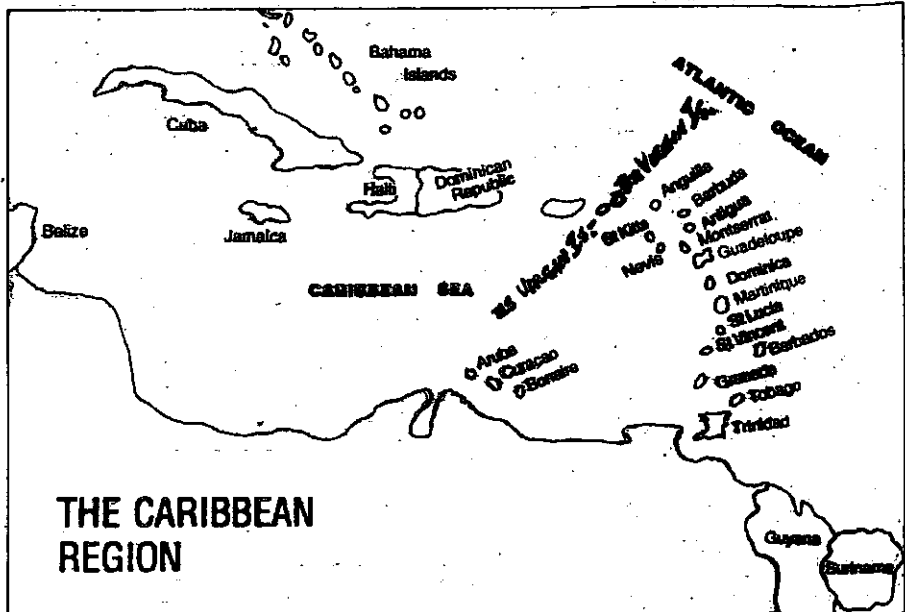


**C**ARIBBEAN  
**D**EVELOPMENT  
 AND  
**C**O-OPERATION  
**C**OMMITTEE



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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
 Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean  
 CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

REPORT OF WORKSHOP ON CO-OPERATION IN RICE RESEARCH  
 BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE CARIBBEAN  
 DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE  
 (Caribbean Rice Research Network)

20-22 August 1984

Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic

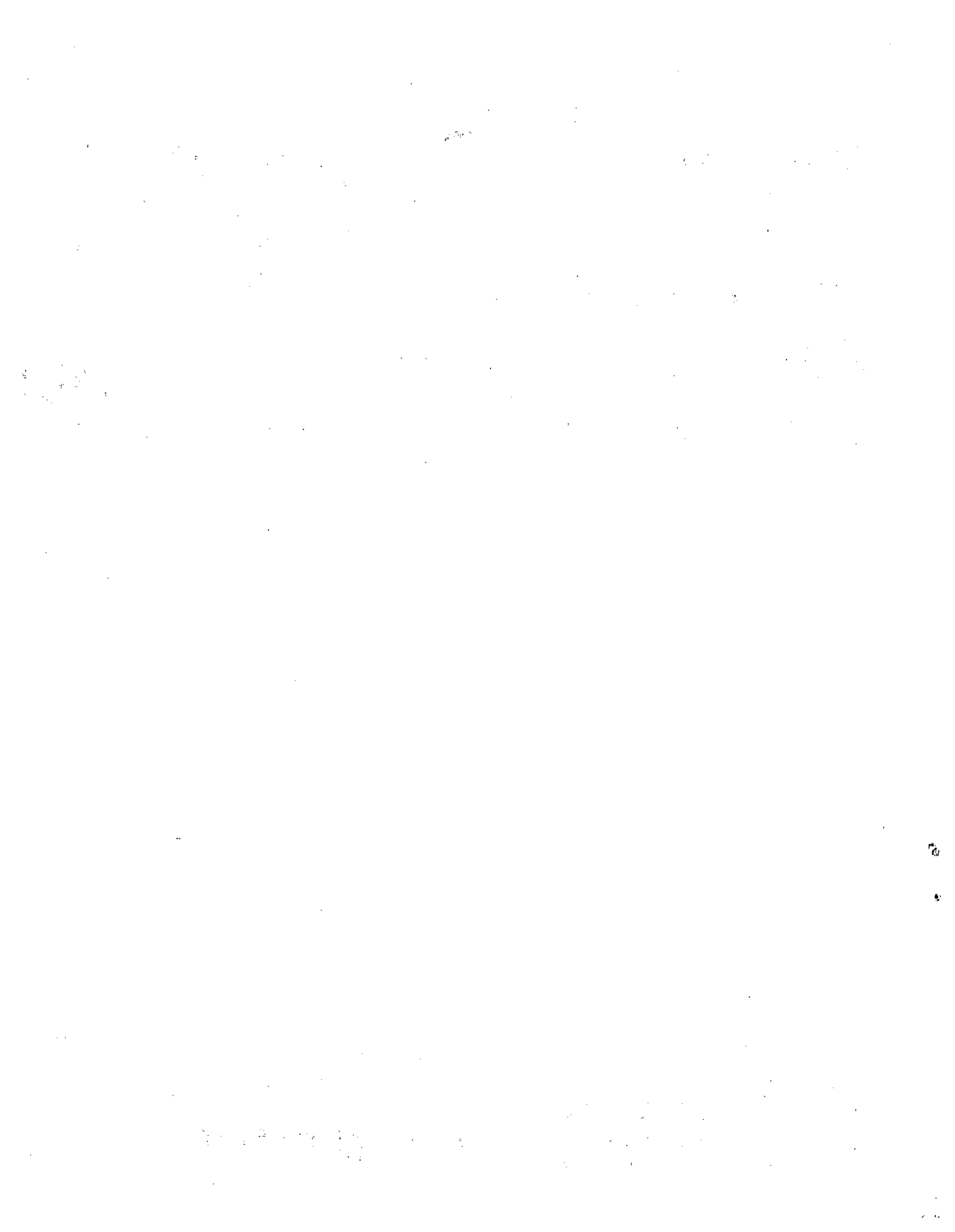


Convened jointly by the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), the Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura and the Instituto Superior de Agricultura of the Dominican Republic and the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.



**UNITED NATIONS**

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**  
 Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean



Report of Workshop on Co-operation in Rice Research  
between the Governments of the Caribbean  
Development and Co-operation Committee  
(Caribbean Rice Research Network)

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#### INTRODUCTION

Rice is the most important cereal and a staple of food in the CDCC area. It is produced in eight of the countries - Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. It is an important export crop in Guyana and Suriname but all of the other countries import a part or all of their requirements. The average annual consumption of rice in the CDCC area for 1979-1982 was estimated at 1.1 million tons, with production being 900,000 tons, net imports 140,000 tons, and the quantity traded 450,000 tons.

Consequently, rice is of significant economic importance, it has a major impact on food and nutrition and both production levels and unit price influence the food security of large sections of the population.

#### BACKGROUND

At a Workshop on Agricultural Research Policy and Management in the Caribbean which was held in Port of Spain, 26-30 September 1983,<sup>1</sup> the Permanent Secretaries of Agriculture and the Directors of Agricultural Research of the CDCC countries agreed to strengthen their co-operation in agricultural research, particularly in areas of common interest. It was recommended that such co-operation would be best achieved by the establishment of co-operative agricultural research networks. Rice was identified as a commodity for priority attention.

At the final plenary session of that workshop, the Directors of Agricultural Research proposed that a workshop of rice research per-

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<sup>1</sup>Report of the Workshop on Agricultural Research Policy and Management in the Caribbean, (E/CEPAL/CDCC/107) dated 2 December 1983.

sonnel and others directly involved in rice in the Caribbean should be the first step toward co-operation in rice research and recommended:

- "(i) That the organizing institution should be ECLAC/CCST;
- (ii) That ECLAC/CCST should work in close collaboration with CIAT and in consultation with other organizations, in particular IICA;
- (iii) That efforts should be made to convene the Workshop by mid-1984;
- (iv) That the venue for the Workshop should be a member country of the CDCC, to be identified by ECLAC/CCST in consultation with IICA and CIAT".

#### Organization

The Workshop was organized jointly by the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), the Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura and Instituto Superior de Agricultura, Dominican Republic and the host country and ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. The venue was the campus of the Instituto Superior de Agricultura, Dominican Republic.

#### Participation

Seven of the eight rice producing CDCC countries were present: Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. Institutional Representation included the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the International Fertilizer Development Centre (FDC), CIAT, the CARICOM Secretariat and ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. Locally-based staff of IICA, FAO and USAID attended various sessions.

#### Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were:

- (a) To identify priority rice research needs that are of common interest to CDCC rice producing countries;
- (b) Consider proposals and make recommendations for effective functional co-operation between CDCC countries in rice research.

Agenda

The agenda of the meeting included:

- (a) Country reports on national rice research and production; national programmes for rice and projected demand and staff;
- (b) An overview of the Caribbean rice industry including research;
- (c) Recommendations for a rice research network including a 5-year work plan.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After extensive discussion of the country reports, the overview of the Caribbean rice industry and various proposals for co-operation in rice research, the participants concluded that a significant and well co-ordinated regional effort is needed in rice research in order to achieve national goals in rice production.

Several countries in the subregion have both germplasm and technology to offer to other countries in the subregion; nevertheless, this type of interaction is not occurring due to insufficient communications and catalytic mechanisms.

The participants endorsed the recommendations of the Trinidad Workshop to establish a rice research network and concluded that the network should be fully established at the earliest possible date with the following objectives:

1. Objectives of the Network

The primary objectives of the Network should be:

- (a) To strengthen national rice research capabilities;
- (b) To stimulate collaborative research on common rice production problems;
- (c) To facilitate the horizontal transfer of production and seed technology generated among participating institutions;
- (d) To facilitate a more effective collaboration and support of CIAT/IBRI to national programmes in the region;
- (e) To facilitate technical co-operation between Caribbean countries as a mechanism to promote rice production.

The above objectives will contribute to the development of new rice production and seed technology components suitable for the ecological and economic conditions existing in each production zone and rice production system in the Caribbean.

## 2. Operational Strategy

The Central strategy is not to replace but to strengthen national research capabilities and their effectiveness through a collective effort. Each country is expected to conduct its own research of local specific interest and within its capabilities, to contribute to research of common interest. Network activities should be designed to provide technical support and backstopping to national efforts.

## 3. Networking Activities

The participants recommended that network activities include:

(a) Co-ordination of rice research on common problems aiming where appropriate, at a division of responsibilities among the participating programmes;

(b) Germplasm testing through a series of co-ordinated trials designed to overcome specific production constraints relevant to the area;

(c) Reinforcement of national research and extension capabilities through in-country courses and in-service training on specific disciplines and techniques, to be conducted in the region as well as at the international centers;

(d) Training in seed technology; and

(d) Regional workshops and monitoring tours designed to improve communications and co-operation by addressing problems in rice production common to the Caribbean area;

(f) The distribution of literature on rice research and development relevant to the Caribbean.

A recommended work plan for the network during the period 1985-1989 is shown in Tables 1, 2 and 3 covering respectively:

(a) Field Research - Nurseries and experiments in areas of germplasm testing, agronomic studies and the testing of small

machinery;<sup>2</sup>

(b) Training - short-term technical training and graduate training;

(c) Network Workshops and Monitoring Tours.

The work plan is based on the analysis of rice production problems in the subregion as described in the country reports and in the summary paper presented at the workshop, and should be regarded as a guideline, subject to modifications as the need arises.

#### 4. Organization of the Network

In order to facilitate the organization of the network and its implementation, the workshop recommended the creation of a Network Technical Advisory Committee and the appointment of a Regional Rice Scientist to act as network co-ordinator.

##### 4.1 Technical Advisory Committee

It was recommended that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) be formed with one representative from each participating country (with a named alternate) and one representative of each sponsoring agency.

The functions of the TAC should include:

- (a) Definition of regional rice research and training priorities;
- (b) Evaluation and recommendation on the annual work plan for network activities developed by the Regional Rice Scientist in consultation with the participants in the network;
- (d) Definition of inter-country rice research and development, horizontal co-operation and the seeking of support at the policy level for regional rice research activities.

The TAC will meet once per year, on the occasion of the regional workshops or the International Rice Testing Programme (IRTP) workshops, to carry out its functions and particularly to analyse the programmes and specific proposals for subregional horizontal co-operation and to

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<sup>2</sup>The participants acknowledged and welcomed the pledge made by the representative of the International Fertilizer Development Centre to continue and to support Nitrogen fertilizer trials in the subregion in association with the network activities.

provide support to the networking activities.

#### 4.2 Regional Rice Scientist

The Caribbean Regional Rice Scientist (CRRS) should have full-time dedication to the network, should be bilingual, internationally recruited and appointed as international staff to enjoy of the required freedom of movement within the region. His/her duties should include the following:

(a) To organize and provide the required support for the work of the TAC;

(b) To co-ordinate the experiments of regional interest supported by the network;

(c) To organize germplasm inter-change among the participating countries and from international centers and other institutions from outside the region;

(d) To conduct research in support of national programmes;

(e) To organize training courses, regional workshops and monitoring tours to catalyse regional co-operation and other activities in support of the network. The CRRS should also give support to national efforts toward conducting socio-economic studies which are not included in the proposed networking programme but are of particular interest to a number of countries.

(f) To serve as liaison with rice programmes outside the region, particularly with those of the international agencies.

#### 5. Network Base

It was recommended that the Regional Rice Scientist be based at the Centro de Investigaciones Arroceras (CEDIA) of the Dominican Republic. This recommendation is based on:

(a) The central geographical location of the Dominican Republic;

(b) CEDIA's ongoing rice research programme and the integration of research, development and seed production activities at CEDIA;

(c) The diverse environmental and rice cropping patterns found in the Dominican Republic;

(d) The infrastructure and back-up scientific capabilities available at CEDIA; and



(e) The generous offer made by CEDIA to host the Regional Rice Scientist and to provide the required logistical support within its possibilities.

#### 6. Regional Research

In order for the Regional Rice Scientist to carry out research of regional interest in collaboration with the host country institution, it was recommended that he/she be assisted by two graduate research assistants (one of whom may eventually be located in another country) and with the required field assistance and secretarial support.

#### 7. Sponsoring Agencies

The participants recommended that the sponsoring agencies for the network should be:

- (a) Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical, (CIAT);
- (b) International Rice Research Institute, (IRRI)
- (c) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean (ECLAC).

#### 8. Financing

In order to carry out the proposed network activities, it was recommended that the sponsoring agencies ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, CIAT and IRRI develop a special project proposal to be presented to potential funding agencies, with CIAT acting as the executing agency. It was also recommended that the project be developed for a minimum period of five (5) years, aiming to achieve the required initial takeoff and momentum in order to cope with the nature of the present rice production problems and national objectives.

Table 1

Field Research Recommended for the Caribbean  
Co-operative Rice Research Network, 1985-1989

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Regional Trials					
Germplasm Evaluation <sup>1</sup> Observational Nurseries <sup>2</sup>	x	x	x	x	x
Special Nurseries <sup>3</sup>	x	x	x	x	x
Agronomic Trials <sup>4</sup>					
Weed Control		x	x	x	x
Nitrogen Efficiency		x	x	x	x
Small Machinery Testing		x	x	x	x

<sup>1</sup>Each nursery should include milling quality tests. Nurseries should be arranged according to each country's needs.

<sup>2</sup>Includes early maturing varieties.

<sup>3</sup>Includes nurseries for salinity.

<sup>4</sup>The Workshop accepted the offer of IFDC to co-operate in experiments on the Nitrogen Nutrition of rice.

Table 2

Recommended Training Scheme for the Caribbean  
Co-operative Rice Research Network, 1985-1989

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
<u>In Country Courses<sup>1</sup></u>					
English					
Host Country:	Guyana <sup>2</sup>		Haiti		Jamaica
No. Participants					
Host:	10		10		10
Non-Host	4		4		4
Spanish					
Host Country:	Dom. Rep. <sup>2</sup>			Cuba <sup>2</sup>	
No. Participants					
Host:		10		10	
Non-Host:		4		4	
<u>In-Service Training</u>					
CIAT/Rice Programme					
Breeding Methods	x	x	x	x	x
No. Participants	2	2	2	2	2
Agronomy	x	x	x	x	x
No. Participants	3	3	3	3	3
Pathology/Entomology	x	x	x	x	x
No. Participants	1	1	1	1	1
IRRI		1	1	1	1
Project Base	1	2	2	2	2
Inter Country:					
CIAT/Seed Unit					
English <sup>3</sup>	4		4		
Spanish		2		2	
Spanish	1		1		1
Thesis Research (CIAT/IRRI)	1	1	2	2	2

<sup>1</sup>A minimum of 10 participants from the host country will be required.

<sup>2</sup>Regular country courses.

<sup>3</sup>Includes Monitoring Tour.

Recommended Workshop and Monitoring Tours for  
the Caribbean Co-operative Rice Research Net-  
work 1985-1989

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Workshop and Monitoring Tour					
Host: Trinidad and Tobago		x			
Visiting: Guyana and Suriname					
Monitoring Tour					
(Panama, Cuba, Belize)			x		
Workshop and Monitoring Tour					
Host: Dominican Republic					
Visiting: Haiti and Jamaica				x	
IRTP-Latin America Workshop	x		x		x

