

LIMITED

CDCC/CCST/ARPM/83/WG/7

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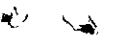
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE
CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Workshop on Agricultural Research Policy
and Management in the Caribbean
Port of Spain, Trinidad
26-30 September 1983



REPORT OF THE SPECIAL TASK FORCE ON
COLLABORATION IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH



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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL TASK FORCE ON
COLLABORATION IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean organized a meeting in Port of Spain from 26-30 September 1983 under the aegis of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC)/Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST). The meeting considered agricultural research policy and management in the Caribbean, more specifically in CDCC countries.

It examined a series of presentations including:

- The Role of Agricultural Research in Agricultural Development
- The Organization and Management of Agricultural Research in the Caribbean
- Agricultural Research Management
- Toward the Future: An alternative framework for agricultural research in the Caribbean.

Later, a Working Party of senior administrators and senior agricultural scientists met as a Committee of the Whole and deliberated on "Policies Towards Agricultural Research and Collaboration" and criteria for collaboration.

The Group recognized: - a crisis of confidence in agricultural research in the region; the existence of a conflict of views between policy makers and research scientists as to the value and the achievement of research undertaken in the region whilst admitting of the need for regional and technological change.

It further identified the urgent need for rationalization of the conduct of research by the many agencies currently operating in the region and the need for examining the existence of the separation of teaching and research, research and development and extension and farming training in different institutions with a view to making adjustments for more effective execution of these functions.

In the light of these observations the group recommended that:

1. the region examine the commonality of its research needs so as to determine areas for national agency research collaboration. This would serve as a basis for establishing linkages between national research agencies towards collaboration and exchange of information on common problems.
2. The work and capabilities of regional research organizations must be rationalized towards supporting national efforts, filling research gaps, working on common or collaborative programmes. The roles and capabilities of these organizations should be urgently and critically reviewed within the context of national and regional agricultural goals and resources to determine a division of labour, areas of collaboration, functional relationships, etc.
3. The establishment of networks for collaboration in research between countries and across the region should be encouraged. In the first instance, the networks may concentrate on establishing the bases for co-operation (meetings, exchange of information/materials) and on a few commodities, with expansion to other commodities as the network system demonstrates benefits, experience gained, and the weaker national systems strengthened.

..... The criteria established for collaboration are shown at Appendix I.

The Special Task Force now proposes that a small Working Group of not more than five persons be immediately established. These individuals should be made responsible for elaborating a proposal for regional co-operation based on the guidelines mentioned earlier and design the steps necessary for its implementation. This should be completed within six months of the actual implementation of the group's activities.

In order to carry out this task it will be necessary to seek interim funding from an appropriate donor agency.

NOTE: The meeting mandates the University of the West Indies in collaboration with CDCC/CCST to continue the initiative to establish a network system for collaboration in agricultural research in the wider Caribbean (CDCC member countries). In discharging this mandate it will prepare a background document for discussion by the working group. After the working group has prepared a final document the proposal should be presented by the University of the West Indies in collaboration with the CCST to funding agencies.

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APPENDIX I

CRITERIA FOR COLLABORATION

The following considerations relate to collaboration both within countries and between countries. No ranking is intended:

1. Common problems and interests
2. Voluntary initiation
3. Mutually acceptable benefits in relation to needs to be satisfied
4. Goals, objectives and programmes must be clear and acceptable
5. Use of flexible mechanisms in devising and executing programmes
6. Where joint actions promise maximisation of use of limited resources, and are cost and results effective
7. Mechanisms should serve to strengthen existing institutions rather than establish new ones
8. General good faith between collaborators
9. Continued political and financial support for sustaining successful collaborative efforts.

