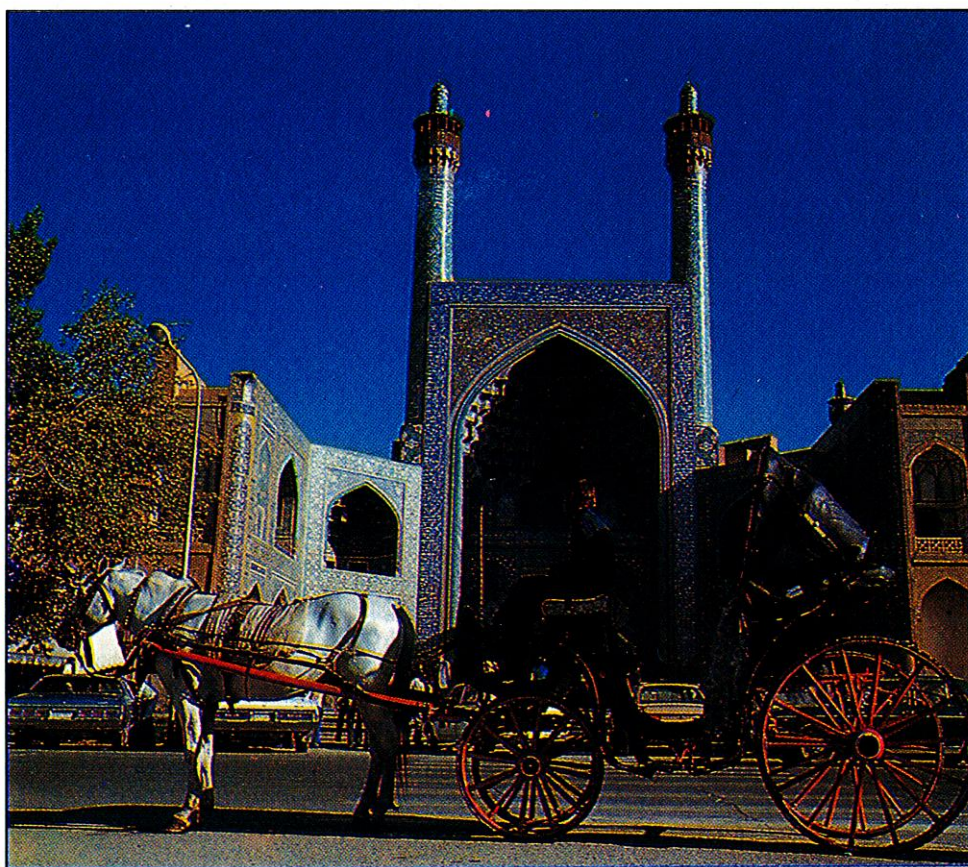


**THE FOURTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AND
EXPERT CONSULTATION ON MANAGEMENT AND
STRENGTHENING OF RESEARCH NETWORKS IN
THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

October 19-21, 1997, Tehran, Iran

PROCEEDINGS



**ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
FAO Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific, Bangkok**

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PREFACE

The countries in the Asia-Pacific region have taken important policy initiatives in the last 25 years to strengthen their agricultural research and management systems. The regional NARS share a common objective of linking their national goals, research capabilities and farmers' needs. These efforts have borne fruit, obviously in the form of enhanced agricultural production in the region, which has been widely acclaimed. However, the region presently has the largest concentration of malnourished people in the world and is still faced with the problem of achieving household food and nutritional security.

In view of the declining trend for land availability for agriculture, further increase in food production would have to come from improved productivity *per se*. At the same time, some NARS in the region are faced with inadequate institutional support coupled with human and financial resource constraints. Under the circumstances, joint planning and execution of research programmes to address common problems offers a strong possibility to find an early solution to overcome these factors restricting agricultural production.

The Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), as an effective regional forum, has played a very constructive role by bringing in an element of co-operation among regional NARS. The regular meetings, expert consultations and workshops on specific issues have resulted in finding suitable solutions to our common agricultural problems and have further strengthened inter-NARS partnership.

The concept of networking research activities, specially in agriculture, is now finding acceptance within institutions of a country as also between and among countries in recognition of the needs to build individual strengths. APAARI has taken a conscious decision to support agricultural research networks in the region such as TAMNET, CLAN, UTFANET, ASPRAD, etc. Recognising the importance of adopting a research network approach and its importance in the region, an Expert Consultation on Management and Strengthening of Research Networks in the Asia-Pacific Region was held during October 19-21, 1997, at Tehran, Iran, along with the Fourth Executive Committee meeting of APAARI.

The proceedings of the Expert Consultation and the Fourth Executive Committee meeting have been reported here for use by all the members and the concerned institutions/organizations. Financial and organizational support from the FAO, ISNAR, ACIAR and the Agricultural Research Education and Extension Organization (AREEO), Tehran, Iran, is gratefully acknowledged. It is contemplated that these network programmes would further strengthen regional research collaboration to address important common concerns relating to increased agricultural production.



(R.S. Paroda)
Executive Secretary

PART-I

APAARI EXPERT CONSULTATION ON THE MANAGEMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF RESEARCH NETWORKS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

October 19-21, 1997

TEHRAN, IRAN

I. OPENING OF THE CONSULTATION

An Expert Consultation on The Management and Strengthening of Research Networks in the Asia-Pacific Region, co-sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR), and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), was organized at the Agricultural Research Education and Extension Organization (AREEO), Tehran, Iran, during October 19-21, 1997. The details of the programmes are given in Annexure I.

The Consultation was inaugurated by Dr. Issa Kalantari, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Chaired by Dr. Nobuyoshi Maeno, Vice-Chairman, APAARI, and Director General, JIRCAS. Dr. Stein W. Bie, Director General, ISNAR, Mr. G.M. Ahmed, FAO Representative in Iran, senior representatives of IFAD, IPGRI, ICARDA, ICRISAT, CIMMYT, AVRDC, AREEO, and senior representatives of NARS from member countries participated. Dr. Zafar Altaf, Chairman, APAARI, could not attend and conveyed his best wishes for the success of the Expert Consultation. Dr. Amir Muhammed, Chairman, ISNAR Board, also participated as a special invitee. The list of participants is given as Annexure II.

The Expert Consultation was held to deliberate on various aspects of some of the existing research networks in the Asia-Pacific region, especially their management, strengthening, future strategy and support.

Dr. R.S. Paroda, Director General, ICAR, and the Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Government of India, in his capacity as the Executive Secretary, APAARI, welcomed the Chief Guest, the Chairman and the distinguished participants. In his welcome address, Dr. R.S. Paroda highlighted the major role of APAARI as a regional forum to promote and catalyse the course of agricultural research in the Asia-Pacific which is one of the most vibrant regions but is faced with numerous challenges and at the same time offers several uncommon opportunities.

Dr. Paroda informed that the Expert Consultation was organized with the objective of having a clear understanding of the existing networks, particularly in the context of their structural arrangements, role in strengthening agricultural research, assessing sustainability and suggesting further improvements through the NARS-NARS-CGIAR mode of collaboration. APAARI could then consider providing an umbrella cover to these networks for recommending/attracting the required financial support from interested donors.

Dr. Paroda referred to the Expert Consultations organized by APAARI so far and the issues flagged, such as Impact Assessment of Agricultural Research, Perspective Planning, NARS-CGIAR partnerships and the Regional Research Priority Setting by NARS, and expressed satisfaction over the positive outcome of these deliberations. The response from member countries was observed clearly in favour of looking forward

to a collaborative research approach for which recommendations of APAARI Expert Consultation suggesting research priorities in different fields would go a long way.

The funding support from ISNAR, FAO and ACIAR and the role of network co-ordinating institutions/organizations viz. ISNAR, ICRISAT, FAO-RAP, CIMMYT, ICARDA, IPGRI and AVRDC have proved very useful and productive. The achievements of existing networks have also been appreciated. It was suggested that the complementarity among the activities through research networks would facilitate early solutions to the common regional problems and would enhance the capability of existing research systems in participating countries.

Dr. Issa Kalantari, Minister of Agriculture, Islamic Republic of Iran, delivered the inaugural address. Dr. Kalantari said that, more than the resources, it was dearth of agricultural research which impeded agricultural development and, therefore, felt that research is the "most authentic and fundamental guarantor of agricultural development". It was suggested that the scientific communication and exchange of information between member states of APAARI, regional scientific networks and international agricultural research centres, should be developed and the exchange of technology and use of research findings of the countries should be facilitated. In this context, Dr. Kalantari suggested that appropriate crop research networks should be developed between member countries with the active participation of CGIAR.

Dr. Kalantari expressed that in order to realise goals of enhancing agricultural production, and to ensure sustainable food security, important and defined responsibility rested on the agricultural research, education and extension system where, in addition to efforts of an individual country, appreciation, sharing and utilisation of scientific experiences and findings of other countries would become essential. Sharing of facilities available in the region and recognition of each others' capacities was felt necessary. Dr. Kalantari also very kindly released some APAARI publications on this occasion.

Dr. G.M. Ahmed, FAO Representative in Iran, in his address, appreciated the progress and contribution of APAARI which has led to increased food production in the region. Dr. Ahmed observed that collaboration and networking among the NARS was imperative to tackle the challenges of sustainable development and food security and to maximise the pay-offs to investment in research through collaboration and the sharing of technologies and development experiences. He further referred to the scope that exists to forge more dynamic collaborative relationships among NARS based on broadly shared ownership, on comparative advantage and spreading of the workload so as to develop and successfully transfer the technologies needed to realise sustainable food security. The FAO is committed to the continued support to APAARI especially in pursuance of the objective of producing more food while conserving natural resources. Dr. Ahmed also stressed the importance of the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR) and felt that a strong APAARI alone would ensure that the voice of NARS in the region is heard. He felt that effective regional co-operation among NARS and the CG centres can achieve much more with APAARI playing a vital role in meeting their objectives including networks that address various needs in the Asia-Pacific region. The NARS-CGIAR partnership could produce the technologies that are needed to resolve the increasingly complex problems of enhancing productivity.

Dr. Nobuyoshi Maeno, Vice Chairman, APAARI and Director General, JIRCAS, chaired the session. Dr. Maeno, as the Chairperson, extended a warm welcome to the participants of the Consultation and the Executive Committee meeting. Dr. Maeno appreciated the efforts of the member countries that had resulted in making APAARI one of the leading fora of the world. Dr. Maeno emphasised the importance of collaborative programmes that have become a necessity in the present scenario. He also appreciated the co-operation of all NARS and CG centres in furthering the cause of agricultural science in the Asia-Pacific region as well as their support for APAARI activities.



H.E. Dr. Issa Kalantari, Minister of Agriculture, Islamic Republic of Iran, releasing APAARI publications

II MANAGEMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF RESEARCH NETWORKS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

In his introductory speech, Dr. Stein W. Bie thanked the APAARI Executive Committee for requesting him to Chair the Session. He appreciated APAARI's growing strength across the region. As a regional forum, APAARI provided an umbrella organization for facilitating research and technology exchange among the members. He was also pleased to note the good participation in the consultation and commended the association of Dr. C.L.L. Gowda as Facilitator in the Session.

Dr. R.S. Paroda presented the Executive Secretariat paper on the "Strengthening of Research Networks in the Asia-Pacific Region" and elaborated on the importance of research networks, their role in collaborative research and the future projections. He mentioned that the objectives are to: (a) assist regional collaboration, (b) develop human resources, (c) advocate on policy issues, and (d) promote information exchange.

Dr. Paroda highlighted the following aspects of the networks in particular :-

- Networks provide several advantages to the partners as they address common regional priority issues and allow sharing of material, knowledge and research responsibilities. Above all, the networks help the weaker NARS to join the mainstream of the global research community.
- NARS members are expected to have a commitment and appreciation for the common goals of the network. They would be willing to share a stipulated time frame and also the methodologies besides addressing common responsibilities over the issue of resources needed for various activities including the sustainability of the networks.

- Several models of networking were visible in the APAARI region. These included :- (i) NARS-NARS; (ii) NARS-CG Centre-APAARI; (iii) NARS-Donor-APAARI; (iv) NARS-CG/UN System-APAARI.
- Networks may also face certain constraints/limitations such as sharing of credit facilities and resources; administrative procedures and protocols; funding agency driven agenda for planning and resources; and possible dominance of bigger NARS/CG Centres.
- Several of the existing networks are observed to be crop or commodity oriented. However, a greater need is felt for some networks that deal with natural resource management in a systems perspective and address issues related to biodiversity, agriculture and livestock.
- In an overall perspective, well-managed networks offer greater opportunities for NARS-NARS collaboration that may help achieve mutually beneficial objectives.
- APAARI has been partially supporting/endorsing some of the networks in the region, namely, the TAMNET, UTFANET, ASPRAD and CLAN and will continue to provide need-based support in the future as well.

Dr. S. Rudgard (CABI) presented a concept paper on "Information Networking" as a joint ISNAR-CABI activity. This was in response to the request made by APAARI, in an earlier consultation, to ISNAR to assist in Information Networking in the Asia-Pacific region. The key parameters considered were: accessibility to individual scientists; participation of the whole system; impact on research; consideration of the regional priorities and an instrument for adding value to scientists/administrators in the region. He presented the details concerning accessibility, cost of providing services of Internet, CD-ROM, E-Mail, and a hard-copy print. E-Mail discussion groups were considered appropriate for the exchange of information with possibilities of putting the final discussion outcome on Internet/hard-copy. Several members complimented the initiative and mentioned that many NARS were already building their E-Mail capabilities. However, some hard-copy distribution of quarterly summaries was found necessary for scientists/NARS presently with no E-Mail access. Links with other discussion groups and complementarity was considered essential to avoid isolation. Finally, ISNAR-CABI wanted members to decide if they wanted the information networks to which the response was very positive.

Dr. I.P. Abrol (ICRISAT) presented the details concerning the Rice-Wheat Consortium (RWC) in the Indo-Gangetic Plains. The Rice-Wheat Consortium (RWC) is an eco-regional research initiative involving Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan with the involvement of IARCs, namely, IRRI, ICRISAT, CIMMYT and other ARIs. Rice-wheat cropping system is a major production system in this eco-region and there have been concerns about its sustainability due to declining yields, factor productivity and soil health, environmental degradation, etc. RWC was, therefore, initiated to address these concerns. This is a NARS-led initiative, supported by IARCs, donors, and advanced research institutions. Dr. Abrol explained the administrative and research structure of RWC and also the research priorities and thrusts identified by the group. He informed that some research activities in identified areas have been initiated by the member-countries. The role of legumes in the system was considered important. Members appreciated the initiative and also observed that more emphasis needs to be given to a holistic approach, greater inter-institutional linkages, and appropriate impact assessment parameters. Information exchange among researchers and the extension workers was considered essential to bridge the existing gaps and to ensure required benefits to the farmers.

Dr. C.L.L. Gowda (ICRISAT) presented the details concerning Cereals and Legumes Asia Network (CLAN). CLAN co-ordinates and facilitates the collaborative research and technology exchange among

scientists of the member countries. National programmes that have substantial area and production of one or more mandate crops, and are willing to work together to alleviate production constraints, have become members. The Coordination Unit is provided by the ICRISAT. Each country nominates a Country Coordinator to liaise and facilitate in-country research. A 'Steering Committee', consisting of all the country coordinators, meets every year to oversee and provide guidance to the network activities. Major activities of the network include: exchange of germplasm and breeding material, training for skill development, information exchange, regional workshops and meetings, scientists' exchange and consultancies, and working groups to carry out collaborative research on priority regional problems. The network has already made its impact on the national programmes to develop improved varieties and suitable production technologies and also the strengthening of research capabilities.

The APAARI Executive Committee had, in February 1996, desired that CLAN take the responsibility for the Food Legume Coarse Grain (FLCG) network in the absence of any other viable network. At a subsequent meeting in November, 1996, the APAARI General Assembly endorsed need-based support to CLAN and suggested the inclusion of lentil (ICARDA mandate) and mungbean (AVRDC mandate) in CLAN. A joint ICRISAT-ICARDA-APAARI proposal for funding an expanded CLAN to IFAD, Rome, was also endorsed. Dr. Gowda provided the details of the proposed network for "Regional Coordination for Food Legumes and Coarse Grains (FLCG) in Asia" submitted already to IFAD. However, the IFAD representative present wanted the endorsement of APAARI for this initiative. During the discussion, the NARS representatives expressed that they fully endorsed the proposal including support by IFAD to the APAARI Secretariat. It was also observed that the AVRDC network on mungbean could be linked from outside to have the needed benefits to NARS. It was also suggested to develop linkages between RWC and CLAN.

Dr. M. Papademetriou (FAO/RAP), supported by Dr. S.K. Vasal (CIMMYT), presented the details of the Tropical Asian Maize Network (TAMNET). TAMNET was initiated in 1993 as a NARS-driven network for the exchange of material, information and experiences in maize R&D. The Secretariat is provided by FAO/RAP. CIMMYT provides the support for a part-time coordinator. Major activities are: regional hybrid trials, newsletter for sharing information, training and publications. The private sector is actively involved and contributes towards cost-sharing. The network has already helped the developing NARS to have an access to the hybrid technology in order to improve their maize production.

Dr. Jocelyn E. Eusebio (PCAARD) presented a paper in the Asian Sweet Potato and Potato Research and Development (ASPRAD) network. ASPRAD was started as a donor-driven network in 1981. The AIDAB/ACIAR support was terminated in 1996, when APAARI had agreed to partially support its continuation. PCAARD provides the Coordination Unit support in the transition phase. Major activities include: support to research and development in member countries, supply of appropriate material for testing, collaboration with the regional and international centers, training and information exchange. *In-vitro* conservation of germplasm, supply of quality and disease-free seed material, post-harvest technology are some of the activities being pursued in different member countries. The future R&D priorities for ASPRAD have been identified and a proposal has also been prepared for donor funding. ACIAR has agreed to support future ASPRAD activities in a project mode for specific activities and CIP is being requested to extend needed support in future.

Dr. M.C. Saxena (ICARDA) presented details of the "Network for Lentil in South Asia". Of the 3.3 million ha area under lentil in the world, 47% is situated in South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan). The need for a regional network was recognized at the 1995 International Conference on Pulses,

held in New Delhi, to address the common problems across South Asia. Major activities proposed were germplasm collection and exchange, international nurseries, training and information exchange. Proposals for funding were accordingly submitted to ADB (twice) and BMZ, but without any success. However, ICARDA has continued support through bilateral activities with the national programmes. ICARDA has also worked closely with CLAN and participated in several joint/common activities, such as training courses, monitoring tours, etc. However, a need for regional networking exists to address the common problems. Dr. Saxena also stated that ICARDA has agreed to work with ICRISAT to include lentil as an additional crop in CLAN since the objectives and the target groups are the same. During the discussion, the participants suggested the inclusion of lentil in CLAN as it would minimize transaction costs for common/overlapping activities and have the project proposal submitted to IFAD for required funding support.

Dr. Ken Riley (IPGRI) presented a paper on Plant Genetic Resources Networks in the Asia-Pacific. The Asia-Pacific region possesses a great diversity of crop and forest genetic resources. The region is presently undergoing rapid change due to increased population, urbanization, and transformation of agriculture. Hence, the need to have effective collaboration in collection, conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources is being realized. Dr. Riley informed that IPGRI's mandate is to "advance the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for the present and future generations". IPGRI aims to work with national partners and the regional organizations to conserve and sustainably use their own plant genetic resources, undertake joint research, and support information-sharing and training activities. Currently, there are 11 networks and three new networks are proposed in the Asia-Pacific and Oceania region. A Pan-Regional Network for Asia-Pacific is being proposed under the APAARI umbrella to link all the regional/crop networks dealing with plant genetic resources. Dr. Riley further suggested the involvement of APAARI in the following areas: hosting of meetings, prioritization of activities, joint funding proposals, joint monitoring of network activities, and strengthening of linkages between conservation and use of germplasm.

During the discussion, concern was expressed that such a Pan Asia-Pacific network may be too big to be effective and caution needs to be exercised to proceed further in this regard. It was also felt that facilitating communication among the smaller networks is both essential and valuable. IPGRI should address this issue and provide a bridge between the Asia-Pacific, WANA, African and American networks. It was also agreed that APAARI could proceed further to develop a suitable Memorandum of Understanding in this regard in view of the importance of this activity.

Dr. Richard Morris (AVRDC) presented the South Asian Mungbean Research Network. Mungbean and soybean are two grain legumes among AVRDC's principal crops because they are an important source of protein in South and South-East Asia. Research on both these crops is conducted at AVRDC, Taiwan, and at the Asia Regional Programme based in Thailand. Several high-yielding varieties have already been shared with the national programmes, and some of these have been adopted. Dr. Morris informed that the South Asian Mungbean network was initiated in 1997 to evaluate the newly developed varieties that have resistance to mungbean yellow mosaic virus. The network also plans to identify the yield gaps and develop appropriate agronomic practices to improve its productivity. In view of the suggestions of APAARI members, he stated that the opportunities for inclusion of mungbean in the rice-wheat cropping system will be explored.

Dr. Ian Bevege (ACIAR) gave an account of the network activities in the Pacific Islands which was further supplemented by Mr. J. Kumar of Fiji and Mr. K. Pouno of Western Samoa. Major problems identified are: isolation, under-development in science and production technology, inadequate land and marine resources. Many NARS are very small with poor infrastructure both for research and extension.

The South Pacific Commission (SPC) is playing an important role towards strengthening of regional cooperation. APAARI can play an important role in collaboration with SPC to strengthen the required linkages among the smaller NARS of this sub-region. Some countries are already members of a few networks operating on root crops, banana, and coconut. The Pacific island countries will benefit greatly from activities such as information exchange, training and exchange of scientists. A communication system also has to be developed to address these concerns.

It was felt by APAARI members that the technology/information is not percolating to these countries, whereas CIAT, IITA and CIP could play a much greater and pro-active role to help these NARS. APAARI may explore the possibilities of extending needed support through collaboration with SPC and through initiatives of ACIAR in this region.

Based on the general discussion and various suggestions offered by the members, Dr. Stein W. Bie summarized the important issues as follows:

- Networks constitute a cost-effective alternative to centralized models and can thus be complementary to research carried out by IARC and NARS. IARCs should, therefore, have a better understanding of the needs of small countries and play a more active role both towards managing and strengthening the networks related to their mandate crops.
- A sub-regional network on aquaculture is being initiated by ICLARM whereas 'PROMUSA' is being supported by INIBAP. UTFANET is likely to be supported by IPGRI and FAO. All these networks, besides those being supported by other CG Centres and FAO/APAARI, are expected to play an important role in the region.
- It was felt that too many networks in the region may also not be sustainable. APAARI may frame some policy guidelines based on which networks could be supported in future.
- Utilization of maize and sweet potato needs to be popularized and thus both TAMNET and ASPRAD would require continued support.
- Most of the on-going networks are crop oriented. The need for establishing networks dealing with animals, fish, etc., was also recognized. APAARI should lay required emphasis on such networks in future.



Dr. Issa Kalantari, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Government of Iran, with Dr. Nobuyoshi Maeno, Director General, JIRCAS and Vice-Chairman, APAARI at the Inauguration of the Expert Consultation

- ILRI expressed some interest in networking approaches on livestock production and health. It was observed that both APAARI and ACIAR could extend required support in this direction to ILRI's initiatives towards strengthening livestock work in Asia.
- Efficient linking of scientists would be essential for future networking. The members and the observers were of the clear view that the present expert consultation was a timely initiative to recognize the importance of network activities and work out their modalities suited to the Asia-Pacific region.

III FUTURE STRATEGY AND SUPPORT TO NETWORKS

The Group Discussion Session on "Future Strategy and Support to the Networks" was chaired by Dr. Amir Muhammed with Mr. Jugu Abraham of ICRISAT acting as the Facilitator. Dr. Paroda explained the importance of network activities for APAARI in view of its approved perspective plan and desired that this session should provide effective directives for future efforts in this regard.

Dr. Amir Muhammed also mentioned to the participants that, besides the question of sustainability of networks, the issue of sustainability of APAARI was also a major issue. APAARI was certainly one of the most active regional agricultural research fora operating in the world. He believed that APAARI had already become a role model for other fora to follow. The forum should lay emphasis on important initiatives towards agricultural research collaboration among NARS so that they could discuss and resolve their common agricultural research problems within the region. Among common problems, he felt that information management was of paramount importance. It was encouraging that most of the networks were already linked with international centres. According to him, there was a need to define the very concept of a network and he stressed the need to learn from those networks that have attained some success. The issues relating to organizational management were central to their success. He expressed concern that none of the existing networks emphasized the problems of livestock, such as buffalo, which is an integral part of agriculture in the Asia and the Pacific.

Dr. M.K. Papademetriou expressed his view that ideally a network should be self-financing. He pointed out that some of the Asian networks are fully supported either by FAO or CG Centres/donors, whereas concerned NARS should be encouraged to jointly own their networks.

Dr. Ian Bevege felt that the transaction costs of networks should be well understood before funding. One such model, he pointed out, was that of the Forest Research Project for Asia (FORSPA) which was initially funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and was now being supported by individual members of the network. This network was divided into subject groups that dealt with cross-cutting issues as well. It was also pointed out that if APAARI takes on itself the onus of fund-raising, it will possibly be a difficult task. Hence, networks should raise their own funds, supported by some donor groups or CG Centres, whereas APAARI should take on the responsibility of building the required linkages among NARS by playing a catalytical role. Dr. Bevege also stressed the importance of an information network where ISNAR, CABI and APAARI could play an important role in developing a regional consensus on matters relating to non-food crops as well as priority programmes for fishery, forestry and livestock.

Dr. C.L.L. Gowda defined a network as a group of scientists and institutions linked together to share knowledge and avoid duplication. He stated that the time lag in research is reduced by such networks for activities. For CLAN activities, 80-90% of the financial support for activities comes from the member countries themselves while the support for meetings, travel and some critical needs comes from the donors. It was also noted that the donors were not impressed with proposals seeking support mainly for travel

and meetings and, hence, network proposals must include a substantial research agenda relating to major problems in the region.

Dr. Amir Muhammed suggested that the Headquarters of APAARI should hold the required information database and that each national coordinator should act as a node for such a database. The other model he conceived was to individually develop a strong information base for each researchable issue followed by networking. He added that such networks will have to find funds from outside APAARI for which a project proposal could be developed jointly with ISNAR and CABI.

Dr. Paul O'Nolan (ISNAR) noted that APAARI had a good infrastructure but there was no central information base. According to him, the SINGER model was successful within the CGIAR where the coordination was done by one person ensuring required technical standards. He noted the efficiency of video conferencing and the possibilities of benefit to the organizations or community of people using new information technology. According to him, the web sites on the Internet have ensured that the concept of electronic headquarters will not frighten people.

Dr. Mohammad Akbar stressed that APAARI should put more data on the Internet with the help of ISNAR.

Dr. Bryan Mook (ISNAR) remarked that standardization of data was essential. APAARI, therefore, he stressed, should decide on the data required and then the information could be put on Home Page and linked through Internet by ISNAR.

Dr. R.S. Paroda clarified that APAARI has not solely been running these networks. He pointed out that APAARI provided only a catalytic role to bring all the partners together and that the amount of support extended is need-based. The support, he felt, should come from other agencies. APAARI acts only as a facilitator. He noted, for instance, that maize is an important network where FAO and CIMMYT are playing an important role. APAARI only oversees its sustainability and provides need-based activity support from time to time.

Dr. C.L.L. Gowda stated that ICRISAT has taken impact as an issue to study and monitor by conducting surveys. ICRISAT is also studying what the problems were in order to know where it went wrong. ICRISAT found that the area of groundnut production in Vietnam has increased by 20%. ICRISAT also gained knowledge of some indigenous technology that were not known before. One such example is that mulching reduces soil salinity.

Dr. Mohammad Akbar added that the networks are most useful for germplasm exchange. The RWC is another good example. Every NARS is now interested in introducing legumes in the rice-wheat system. Pakistan is considering introducing mungbean after harvesting wheat in Sialkot district. Pakistan is also actively using the rice-transplanter because of the RWC intervention. PARC is now including these networks in the national plan.

Dr. I.P. Abrol showed concern about the transfer of research results at the farmer level. His view was that programmes are not visualized in totality. He noted that networks undertake the diagnosis and develop designs of research and finally, the farmers test the available options/research results. He was particularly concerned about the final stage of this process due to the fact that the networks are increasingly seen as important only for limited research activities such as to identify the enhanced germplasm products or the new technology.

Dr. Mohammad Akbar agreed that there is a need to plan the whole activity in totality. He agreed that having the final objectives in view is very important. It is not sufficient to exchange only the germplasm.

Dr. N.I. Bhuiyan said that much of the work in their networks is done by the countries themselves. There was a need to tailor the competence in order to ensure immediate inputs. Some networks that exist are not cost effective and there is a need to consolidate them into a single network. He felt that if the networks are tailored to local problems, the international agricultural research centers and the regional organizations can derive benefits from such networks.

Dr. Md. Sharif Bin Ahmed said that in Malaysia they had sufficient technology available but a lot of strong support is needed to bridge the yield gap between the farmers and on-farm research. The problem lies in the transfer of technology, he asserted. He wished the NARS leaders could identify these gaps. He felt researchers are not providing appropriate technology. He felt that there was a need to give the farmers the best technology. He pointed out that only in one case, (MR 185), the farmers got the best results. Therefore, the real problem is the widening technology gap which should be reduced.

Dr. Amir Muhammed said that if knowledge is available in the different countries of the region, APAARI should be able to ensure the transfer of technology. He felt case studies should be conducted on the yield-gap problem and we should try to implement our experiences in the other countries as well.

Dr. Sharif Bin Ahmed felt that the question on the yield gap reduction should be addressed by the donors. Pakistan's success with mungbean is an example. India has had similar successes in other areas. He felt NARS have to transfer it and become real centers of excellence in the region. He was of the view that APAARI should tap funds from the private sector who have reaped the benefits. He noted that it has been done in Indonesia. He commented that they had not been able to see the forest from the trees. The private sector should pay back what they have earned.

Dr. C.L.L. Gowda stated that we cannot be complacent. He asserted that agricultural research is dynamic and crops can become susceptible to diseases, viruses, etc., and that donor-supported research must continue. As for the gap in technology between NARS research and extension, he agreed that the dilemma exists. He felt that if some IARCs are not doing enough on this matter, it is because of fund constraints.

Dr. Jocelyn E. Eusebio added that when the donor-driven networks have to turn away from technology transfer, we should look at the role of APAARI as it is driven by both NARS and donors.

Dr. Dhruva Joshy stated that APAARI can test and find appropriate results but many NARS have not been able to convince their leaders on the utility of research results. He requested APAARI to take up this challenge.

Finally, Dr. Amir Muhammed summed up the session. He was glad that there was consensus that networks are indeed good mechanisms. The session made it amply clear that there is a need for an assessment and improvement of farmers' incomes. It was evident that most of the networks are linked to commodities of CGIAR Centers while some of the crops which are important to some countries have remained neglected. He expressed happiness that ISNAR's model of technology sharing and data collection is well accepted. However, a need for training in data collection was felt. If ISNAR could hold a course to train NARS staff in information technology, it would be welcome. For lessening farmers' yield gaps in selected commodities, the members felt that there should be a vigorous involvement of the private sector and NGOs. He finally concluded that there is a lot to be learned from the gains of different NARS in the region through the establishment of viable networks in important sectors of agriculture.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. General:

- i. APAARI noted with satisfaction the existence of a number of networks presently operating in the region which meet the varying needs of member countries and others in the region. APAARI encourages its members to participate in these networks.
- ii. In the present environment of resource constraints and declining funding support from donor agencies, APAARI felt that the "Network Model" was indeed most cost-effective and a complementary mechanism for conducting agricultural research. APAARI recognizes the transfer of technologies to the stakeholders critical to reduce the yield gap. This key role of the networks should further be enhanced by utilizing the services of NGOs for the dissemination of available technologies.
- iii. The existing networks in the region reflect different modes of functions, structures and linkages; some being NARS driven, and others being facilitated by the UN/CG system, donor-driven, operated by IARCs, or supported jointly by NARS and the private sector. The potential for increased interaction with the donors, including IFAD, ADB and the private sector, needs to be explored.
- iv. In the context of sustainability of these networks, the NARS-driven network model, with a catalytic role for the International Centres/UN organizations such as FAO and UNDP/donor groups, appeared to be most appropriate for long term sustainability as well as desired benefits to the participating countries. The possibility for support by the UN Common Funds for Commodity-based Networks needs to be addressed.



Dr. Abbas Keshavarz, Deputy Director, AREEO, along with Dr. R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI at the Expert Consultation

- v. Most of the Networks presently operating in the region have a crop commodity bias which has led to their quick visibility and appreciation by the member countries. However, APAARI noted the need to further integrate/reorient these Networks towards "System Approach". The desirability of integrating livestock and fisheries into such "System Approach" based Networks was recognized.
- vi. APAARI strongly felt that the inter-sectoral linkages could add value to the system approach and provide larger benefits to the stakeholders. The establishment and strengthening of inter-network linkages would promote this objective.

- vii. The existence of too many Networks could be counter-productive in the absence of a long-term commitment of member countries and Facilitating Institutions/Agencies. APAARI would recognize need-based Networks with a potential to sustain over a longer period for further promotion in the region. The role of APAARI in this regard is considered important. Once prioritized, these networks would receive added attention of interested donors and thus provide desired benefits to the member countries.
- viii. Considering the importance of the Network Approach, and realizing the fact that the funding requirements to facilitate their effective functioning were meagre, APAARI would continue to play an important catalytic role towards their long-term sustainability either by limited, direct funding support or by seeking involvement of CGIAR, UN System, IARCs or other donor agencies/support groups. This approach would continue to be pursued in future.

B. Specific:

i. Information Network

APAARI considers this network to be of considerable priority and appreciates the initiatives of ISNAR and CABI in this regard. Networking through E-Mail and Internet connectivity would enable APAARI members to have access to the best possible information and technologies and would lead to provision of tools for video-conferencing with other counterparts in the region. APAARI, therefore, urges both ISNAR and CABI to extend their facilitators' role in having this Network established as a priority by approaching possible donors; the partnership contribution by APAARI and NARS will also be critical. The guiding principles should be sustainability, cost-effectiveness and value-addition. It should also be seen as a NARS-driven initiative; both infrastructure building and human resource development need to be addressed effectively.

ii. Rice-Wheat Consortium

APAARI is appreciative of the fact that this network is addressing the emerging problems of sustainability and productivity from a systems perspective. This is critical for food security of South Asia. It is a good model where NARS leaders, being members of the Steering Committee, were guiding the efforts. Funding support is provided by the World Bank, The Netherlands and IFAD, at present channeled through ICRISAT which supports the Facilitation Unit. Other donors such as ACIAR, DFID, Sweden and Switzerland and other institutions e.g. Cornell University are actively supporting the Consortium activities and complementary bilateral projects. NARS were putting their own major resources into research. APAARI felt that the research agenda should be prioritized further to have a proper focus and the same be pursued vigorously to achieve the desired results.

More effective national involvement is seen as a positive development and possible linkages with China could benefit the network. National commitment, prioritization of activities, effective involvement, in a coordinated manner, of CIMMYT, IRRI and other IARCs are the key elements for future success of this important network and must be pursued further.

iii. Cereal Legume Asia Network (CLAN)

CLAN is an effective network in Asia to promote research collaboration for the mandated cereal and legume crops of ICRISAT. Incorporation and introduction of legumes for the sustainability of existing cropping systems in the region is considered important. APAARI considers this network might evolve as an umbrella for all legumes by involving ICARDA and AVRDC for lentil and mungbean crops, respectively. It was encouraging to note the possibilities of support to this network by IFAD

including the much needed component of financial support for the APAARI Secretariat. ICRISAT, ICARDA and AVRDC were requested to jointly develop this project in association with APAARI to enable IFAD to consider financial support.

iv. TAMNET

Results of TAMNET, essentially a NARS-driven initiative, have been quite impressive with minimal support extended by FAO/RAP and CIMMYT; NARS are actively involved and good activities are in progress. APAARI members felt that the canvas of activities on maize, being an important crop for most of the countries, could be enhanced and appreciated the recent initiatives of CIMMYT to further support TAMNET activities in the region. APAARI should provide a facilitator role for sustainability of TAMNET, as required, while recognizing the important roles of FAO and CIMMYT in supporting TAMNET.

v. ASPRAD

A sweet potato and potato network (SAPPRAD), convened by CIP, is funded by Australia and has run for over 15 years. ASPRAD is the new network for the region but its sustainability is threatened by lack of support. Both these crops merit continued support by NARS and by donors. APAARI will continue to extend needed support for its sustainability and it was felt that CIP should play a more active role so that the benefits continue reaching poor farmers in the region.

vi. Lentil Network

It was encouraging to note that ICARDA is contemplating initiation of this network in South Asia since almost 40% of lentil production comes from this region. Its proposed linkage with CLAN was appreciated. APAARI would like to see lentil as an added component of CLAN so that support to NARS on legumes could be ensured.

vii. Plant Genetic Resources Networks in Asia Pacific

APAARI endorsed the role of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) networks as effective tools in assisting countries to conserve and sustainably use the vast amount of agro-biodiversity across the region. It was noted that small amounts of funding can sustain effective PGR Networks. APAARI was appreciative of IPGRI's initiatives in establishing these networks. IPGRI was encouraged to maintain its support both to regional networks (including those in South East Asia, South Asia, East Asia and West Asia and crop networks (including Coconut, Bamboo and Rattan, Tropical Fruits, Sesame, Sweet Potato, Buckwheat, Lathyrus, Safflower and Taro). IPGRI was also encouraged to help initiate other networks, as needed, specifically a PGR network in the Pacific. APAARI agreed that closer linkages between APAARI and IPGRI in priority setting, information exchange and source funding could be explored. It was satisfying to note that these networks functioned in collaboration with a range of other partners including NARS, other CG Centres, regional organizations, NGOs and the private sector.

viii. Mungbean Network

The initiatives of AVRDC to start a network for mungbean in South Asia were appreciated and it was encouraging to note that AVRDC could get funding support for SAVERNET from ADB and the South Asian Mungbean Research Network from DFID (UK). Active participation of NARS and effective linkages with other networks such as Rice-Wheat Consortium and CLAN would be critical for its future success. APAARI would like to see that the existing network on mungbean also covers other countries in the region since presently it is confined only to South Asia.

ix. Root Crops Network in Pacific Island Countries

The need to have a coordinated approach for research and development activities on root and tuber crops in the Pacific Island countries was fully appreciated. It was suggested that support for taro, yam, cassava and sweet potato be ensured through coordination and effective linkages with existing programmes e.g. Cassava Biotechnology Network, and Coarse Grains, Pulses, Root and Tuber Crops Networks. APAARI could work in association with the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and ACIAR, as well as FAO/UNDP, to ensure establishment of an effective network which could address all the priority problems in these crops. APAARI would also seek active support from CIP, CIAT and IITA to strengthen research work in these crops. Association of other NARS such as China, India, Indonesia and Thailand, having strong programmes on these crops, would also be desirable.

x. Network on Plantation Crops

APAARI was satisfied with the functioning of networks for coconut (COGENT) and banana (INIBAP) in the region. NARS are getting the required support from these networks and wished them to continue their ongoing efforts including the formulation of a Global Network on Musa (Pro Musa). APAARI welcomes the invitation to serve on the Steering Committee of Pro Musa. APAARI will continue working with these networks possibly through an appropriate MOU with IPGRI in order to ensure that benefits are shared with participating NARS.

xi. ICLARM sub Group on Marine Fishery

APAARI was pleased to learn about the initiative of ICLARM to establish a sub group in the Asian Pacific Region to address Aquaculture programmes. Many NARS have already agreed to join this Sub-Group and APAARI encourages ICLARM to seek donor funding to have this network in place at the earliest opportunity. Overlaps with the existing NACA network for aquaculture should, however, be avoided and required linkages be established.

xii. UTFANET

APAARI supports the proposal by UTFANET to IFAD for funding and endorses the contribution of the network in view of the importance of research support for underutilized fruits in Asia. Also needed support from IPGRI to this network will be appreciated by APAARI.



ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
(APAARI)

FOURTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AND
EXPERT CONSULTATION ON MANAGEMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
REGIONAL RESEARCH NETWORKS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION
(Co-sponsored by ACIAR, ISNAR and FAO)

AT

The Agricultural Research Education & Extension Organization (AREEO)
Tehran, Iran

(October 19-21, 1997)

PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 19, 1997 (SUNDAY)

INAUGURAL SESSION

Chairman : Dr. Nobuyoshi Maeno, Vice-Chairman, APAARI

0900-0910	Welcome and objectives of the Expert Consultation	R.S. Paroda
0910-0920	Opening Address on behalf of FAO	G.M. Ahmed
0920-0935	Chairman's Address	Nobuyoshi Maeno
0935-0955	Release of Publications and Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest	Dr. Issa Kalantari, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Islamic Republic of Iran
0955-1000	Vote of thanks	Abbas Keshavarz
1000-1030	<i>Tea Break</i>	

Session-I	MANAGEMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF RESEARCH NETWORKS IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION	
	Chairman : Stein W. Bie, Director General, ISNAR	
	Facilitator : C.L.L. Gowda, Coordinator, CLAN	
1030-1100	Presentation of the Secretariat Paper for Strengthening of Research Networks in the Asia-Pacific Region	R.S. Paroda (India)
1100-1130	Information Networking in the Asia-Pacific Region	Stein W. Bie Bryon Mook (ISNAR) Stephen Rudgard (CABI)
1130-1200	Research Network for Sustainability of Rice-Wheat Production System	I.P. Abrol (R-W-Consortium)
1200-1230	Cereals and Legumes Asia Network (CLAN)	C.L.L. Gowda
1230-1300	Discussion	
1300-1400	Lunch	
1400-1430	Tropical Asian Maize Network (TAMNET)	M. Papademetriou (FAO/RAP) and S.K. Vasal (CIMMYT)
14.30-1500	Asia Sweet Potato and Potato Research and Development (ASPRAD)	Jocelyn Eusebio
1500-1530	Suggested Lentil Network for Asia	Mohan C. Saxena (ICARDA)
1530-1600	Strengthening of Networks relating to Genetic Resources in the Asia-Pacific Region	Ken Riley (IPGRI)
1600-1630	Tea Break	
1630-1700	Asian Mungbean Network	Richard Morris (AVRDC)
1700-1730	Proposed network for Taro and Yam for Pacific Island countries	K. Pouno/ J. Kumar Ian Bevege, Western Samoa/Fiji/ACIAR
1730-1800	Discussion	
2000	Dinner Hosted by AREEO	

OCTOBER 20, 1997 (MONDAY)

0900-1200

SESSION-II GROUP DISCUSSION ON FUTURE STRATEGY AND SUPPORT TO NETWORKS

Chairman : Amir Muhammed, Chairman, ISNAR

Facilitator : Mohan C. Saxena, Asstt. Director General, ICARDA

1030-1100 *Tea Break*

1200-1300 **Plenary Session**

Chairman : Md. Sharif Bin Ahmad, Director General, MARDI

Facilitator : R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI

1300-1400 *Lunch*

FOURTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Chairman : M. Akbar, PARC

Member Secretary : R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI

1400-1600 Executive Committee Meeting starts

1600-1630 *Tea Break*

1630-1800 Executive Committee Meeting continues

2000 *Dinner Hosted by APAARI*

OCTOBER 21, 1997 (Tuesday)

0900-1300 Field visits to be organized by AREEO

1300-1400 *Lunch*

Afternoon Departure

**FOURTH APAARI EXECUTIVE MEETING AND EXPERT CONSULTATION***19-21 October, 1997, Karaj, Iran***LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

S. No.	Name of the Executives
1.	Dr. R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary (APAARI), 55 Max Mueller Marg, (Ex-Lodi Estate) New Delhi 110 003.
2.	Dr. J. J. Abraham, Head, Donor Relations, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) Asia Region, Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh 502 324.
3.	Mr. P.K. Saha, Technical Officer (Plant Protection), FAORAP, Bangkok.
4.	Mr. Stephen Rudgard, CAB International, Wallingford, OXON, UK.
5.	Paul O'Nolan, ISNAR, P.O. Box 93375, 2509 AJ, The Hague, The Netherlands.
6.	Mr. Reza Bozorgipour, SPII, Iran.
7.	Mr. Richard Morris, Director (Production Systems Programme), The Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre (AVRDC), P.O. Box 42, Shanhua, Tainan 74199, China.
8.	Mr. Surinder K. Vasal, Maize Breeder & Team Leader, Asian Regional Maize Programme, P.O. Box 9-188, Bangkok 10900, Thailand.
9.	Dr. I.P. Abrol, Facilitator, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), 23 Golf Links, New Delhi 110 023.
10.	Mr. M.K. Papademetriou, Senior Plant Production and Protection Officer, Agriculture Department Group (RAPG), FAO/RAPA, Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200, Thailand.
11.	Mr. M.C. Saxena, Asstt. Director General, International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), P.O. Box 5564, Aleppo, Syria.
12.	Mr. Douglas W. Wholey, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), 107, Via Del Serafico 00140 Rome, Italy.
13.	Dr. Kenneth W. Riley, Regional Director, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), Office for the Asia, Pacific and the Oceania, c/o IDRC, RELC Building, 30 Orange Grove Road, Singapore 258 352.
14.	Mr. Bryan Mook, ISNAR, P.O. Box 93375, 2509 AJ, The Hague, The Netherlands.
15.	Dr. Amir Muhammed, Chairman, ISNAR, President (Asianics Agro-Development International), House No. 13, Street 49, F-6/4, P.O. Box 2316, Islamabad, Pakistan.
16.	Dr. Stein W. Bie, Director General, ISNAR, P.O. Box 93375, 2509 AJ, The Hague, The Netherlands.

S. No.	Name of the Executives
17.	Dr. Ian Bevege, Principal Advisor, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research ACIAR, ACIAR House, Traeger Court Fern Hill Park, Bruce, ACT 2617, Australia.
18.	Dr. Nurul Islam Bhuyian, Member Director (Soils), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Farm Gate, New Airport Road, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh.
19.	Mr. J. Kumar, Director of Research, Koronivia Research Station, Ministry of Primary Industries, Forestry and Cooperatives, P.O. Box 77, Nausori, Fiji.
20.	Ms. Renuka Taimni, Programme Officer, FAO of the UN, 55 Max Mueller Marg, (Ex-Lodi Estate), New Delhi 110 003.
21.	Mr. Mohammad Taeb, Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO), Tabnak Avenue, PO Box 111, Tehran 19835, Iran.
22.	Mr. Mohammad Mesbah, Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organisation (AREEO), Tabnak Avenue, PO Box 111, Tehran 19835, Iran.
23.	Mr. Akinonori Oshibe, Senior Research Officer, Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences, JIRCAS, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, 1-2 Ohwashi, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305, Japan.
24.	Dr. Nobuyoshi Maeno, Director General, Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences, JIRCAS, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, 1-2 Ohwashi, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305, Japan.
25.	Dr. Young-Hee Joo, International Technical Cooperation Centre, Rural Development Administration RDA, Suweon-4417-7, Korea.
26.	Dr. Md. Sharif Bin Ahmad, Director General, Malaysian Agricultural Research Development Institute, P.O. Box 12301, 50774, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
27.	Dr. Dhruva Joshy, Executive Director, Nepal Agricultural Research Council NARC, Khumaltar, Lalitpur, P.O.Box 5459, Kathmandu, Nepal.
28.	Dr. M. Akbar, Director General, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council PARC, Plot No.20, G-5/1, Islamabad, Pakistan.
29.	Dr. Muhammed Sharif, Member (Crop Sciences), Pakistan Agricultural Research Council PARC, Plot No. 20, G-5/1, Islamabad, Pakistan.
30.	Dr. Jocelyn E. Eusebio, Asstt. Director (Crops Research Division), Interim Regional Coordinator (ASPRAD), Asian Sweet Potato and Potato Research and Development (ASPRAD), P.O. Box 933, Manila, Philippines.
31.	Dr. (Mrs.) Thamarie Uda Thillakawardane, Senior Research Officer, Sri Lankan Council for Agricultural Research Policy, 114/9, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.
32.	Mr. Kirifi Pouono, Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries, P.O. Box 1874, Apia, Western Samoa.
33.	Dr. C.L.L. Gowda, Coordinator (CLAN), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) Asia Region, Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh 502 324.
34.	Mr. Abbas Keshavarz, Deputy Director, Agricultural Research Education and Extension Organisation (AREEO), Tabnak Avenue, P.O. Box 111, Tehran 19835, Iran.

S. No.	Name of the Executives
35.	Mr. Hassan A. Davanlou, Director General, Dept. of International Scientific and Research Affairs, Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organisation (AREEO), Tabnak Avenue, P.O. Box 111, Tehran 19835, Iran.
36.	Ms. Minoos Aghajani, Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO), Tabnak Avenue, P.O. Box 111, Tehran 19835, Iran.
37.	Mr. G.M. Ahmed, FAO Representative in Iran, Tehran, Iran.

PART-II

THE FOURTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF APAARI

October 19-21, 1997

TEHRAN, IRAN

The Fourth Executive Committee meeting was Chaired by Dr. M.A. Akbar, representing Dr. Zafar Altaf, Director General, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, and co-chaired by Dr. N. Maeno, Director General, Japan International Centre for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS). Agenda as proposed was adopted. List of participants is given at Annexure-II. Agenda of the Executive Committee meeting is given in Annexure-III, whereas Agenda Notes for each item, as circulated in the meeting, are given as Annexure-IV.

AGENDA I - WELCOME BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dr. R.S. Paroda, the Executive Secretary, APAARI, welcomed and thanked all those present for attending the meeting which was exceptional since normally this forum was attended by only the Executive Committee Members. Since this meeting was organised in conjunction with the Expert Consultation on Management and Strengthening of Regional Research Networks in the Asia-Pacific Region, wider participation of other members and associate members was also sought.

AGENDA 2 - ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN

In his address, Dr. M.A. Akbar, as Chairman of APAARI, expressed his satisfaction with the activities of this young regional forum and felt that much has been accomplished in such a short time mainly due to the unstinted support of its members and associate members. He was also happy with the outcome of the Expert Consultation held on Networks and hoped that APAARI would be able to further strengthen regional collaboration through these efforts. Also, APAARI publications are well received and are serving a good purpose. He also welcomed the participants and desired to proceed with the Agenda of the meeting.

AGENDA 3 - ACTION TAKEN REPORT

Dr. Paroda, Executive Secretary, provided the following details relating to action taken by the APAARI Secretariat since the last General Assembly meeting held in November, 1996:-

a) Mailing List

The Executive Secretary requested all the members/Associate members to send in their suggestions c/o the APAARI Secretariat in FAO, New Delhi, for inclusion of relevant institutions in their country in the mailing list so that various APAARI publications could be mailed to them as well.

b) Directories

- i) **South-East Asia:-** The Directory of agricultural research institutions in South East Asia has recently been published and circulated. One on South Asia was published earlier.
- ii) **East Asia:-** This will be published once China joins APAARI since all the other countries are already included in the South East Asian Directory.

- iii) **Pacific Islands:-** This has not been published in view of the vast coverage required. However, Mr. Ian Bevege, ACIAR confirmed that they could be requested for information on a case-by-case basis. Moreover, South Pacific Commission has been addressing this aspect and the required information could be sought from it by all concerned.

c) **Publication of Success Stories**

Success stories on Orchids in Thailand and Wheat Production in Iran have been published - the latter having been released by H.E. Dr. Issa Kalantari, the Agriculture Minister of the Government of Iran during the inauguration of The Consultation on Management and Strengthening of Regional Research Networks in the Asia Pacific Region on 19 October 1997.

Regarding the Success Story on Rice in Bangladesh, as per procedure, the proposed author has been approached for his consent prior to issuing a Special Service Agreement. Dr. Nurul Islam Bhuyian, representing Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, suggested that perhaps success in rice achieved 3-4 years ago does not hold ground presently and hence the decision to publish it should be revised.

Success Story on Oilseeds in India — a Special Service Agreement has been issued and will take another six months for completion.

A lengthy discussion was held on possible suggestions for the future Success Stories which could be published under the aegis of APAARI.

The following ideas emerged:-

- Groundnut Production Technology in China
- Rice Breeding and its Technology in Korea
- Ginger Production in Fiji
- Lentil/Chickpea in Pakistan
- Livestock in Australia
- Mango in the Philippines

Dr. Bryan Mook suggested that a success story on Management and Organisation could also be useful and should be explored by identifying such a NARS in the region.

Dr. Paroda requested the members to assist APAARI in identifying the authors who would be in a position to undertake the assignment/s suggested. His/Her name, designation and complete address (fax and e-mail numbers included) should be sent to the APAARI Secretariat, C/o FAO, New Delhi.

Dr. Amir Muhammed, a special invitee, observed that all the success stories published till date related only to crops. He advocated a more balanced approach and felt that, in addition to crops, areas such as natural resource management, livestock, etc. should also be focused on in future.

Clarifying that the first success story was on Tilapia Farming in the Philippines, subsequent to which a story on Dairying in India had been undertaken. Dr. Paroda stressed that the main purpose of such publications was to focus on successful initiatives and if these happened to take place mainly in the field of crops, there was little option but to make it the basis for a success story.

In conclusion, it was decided that a committee should be appointed to review and prioritise the suggestions received from various members for the success stories so as to ensure the authenticity and relevance of the subject. However, these success stories have been well received and are to be published on a regular basis in future as well.

The Executive Secretary, however, emphasised that these would only be taken up next year since the action for this year was already complete with two to three success stories still awaiting publication.

d) Continuance of the Newsletter

All members felt that the Newsletter served a very useful purpose and should continue on a regular basis.

The Executive Secretary informed that henceforth the Newsletter would be co-ordinated and compiled by Ms. Francesca Erdelmann, APO in the FAO Office in New Delhi. This support, extended with the permission of Mr. Peter Rosenegger, FAO Representative in India and Bhutan, was appreciated. Members were further informed that the December issue was presently under preparation and would be issued by January 1998.

All members were requested to send in their relevant inputs periodically to Ms. Erdelmann at the FAO Country Office in New Delhi.

e) Creation of a "Home Page" (Web Page) on the Internet

The subject was introduced by the Executive Secretary and members' suggestions were sought.

It was felt that prior to commencing this exercise, the exact information required should be clearly specified as also the scale of information that would be necessary.

In the discussion that followed, members felt that as a first step the Web Page should consist of details regarding the introduction of APAARI, the Charter, APAARI's mission, its activities and its publications. This data, which would be sufficient to begin with, should be readily available at the APAARI Secretariats, both in Delhi and Bangkok, and hence be compiled together and sent to Dr. Bryan Mook, ISNAR, for doing the needful.

A suggestion mooted by ISNAR was that APAARI could, as a beginning, also be connected to those members who already had a web page — eg. ICAR, MARDI, JIRCAS, etc. This was appreciated and the Executive Committee welcomed the help of ISNAR for proposed information networking of NARS in the region.

AGENDA 4 - EXPERT CONSULTATIONS

a) The Expert Consultation on Research Priority Setting by NARS in the Asia-Pacific Region

A comprehensive report on the above-mentioned consultation was already published and circulated earlier. The full proceedings have now been published and were released on the occasion of the Inauguration of the Expert Consultation on Management and Strengthening of Research Networks in the Asia-Pacific Region on 19 October by H.E. Dr Issa Kalantari, Minister for Agriculture, Tehran. The Executive Committee appreciated the publication of this useful document and desired its wider circulation.

b) Expert Consultation on Management and Strengthening of Regional Research Networks in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Executive Secretary informed that APAARI had provided small but need-based support to both CLAN and UTFANET recently on their request for specific activities. As per an earlier decision of General Assembly, the ASPRAD network is being extended to provide need-based support for its sustainability and US\$ 10,000 have been committed during 1997.

c) Formation of Fisheries Sub-Group of APAARI

The initiative for the establishment of a Fisheries Sub-Group for Aquaculture by ICLARM was appreciated by all the Members of the Executive Committee which noted with satisfaction the good response already

received from many countries. The Executive Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Expert Consultation for having this Network established by ICLARM in a partnership mode with APAARI.

Responding to a suggestion from one of the donors who felt that the budget showed considerable savings which should be utilised for funding approved network activities, the Executive Secretary clarified that APAARI henceforth would be more liberal in providing need-based and critical support to the approved activities.

d) Expert Consultation on Research Management Mechanisms of NARS

It was agreed to hold this forum along with the Fifth General Assembly in the Republic of Korea in the later half of 1998.

All members felt that it would be advantageous, cost-effective and convenient to combine this consultation with the Fifth General Assembly and stressed that the agenda should be well-structured.

The Executive Secretary confirmed that both ISNAR and ACIAR have already confirmed their support for the proposed consultation and would work with APAARI to have a well planned and structured meeting, ensuring wide participation of all concerned.

Responding to the Executive Secretary's suggestion to invite more donors, IFAD felt that ADB and the World Bank may be interested and could be approached. Although support to APAARI would be reviewed at their Headquarters, it was pointed out that IFAD's mandate necessitated more support to rural poor and women. However, activities of regional fora such as APAARI would be considered for possible support by IFAD.

While welcoming the idea of holding the Expert Consultation, Mr. Amir Muhammed, Chairman, ISNAR, Board of Trustees, reiterated the suggestion by the other members that it should be well structured and not open-ended. All presentations should be well-defined to ensure productive deliberations. This was agreed to for suitable follow up by the Secretariat.

AGENDA 5 - MEMBERSHIP

a) Membership and Financial Status

It was felt that an all-out effort should be made to enhance membership from the existing 19 members if APAARI was to make its presence felt in the region.

Concerted efforts have been made to persuade both New Zealand and China to join APAARI. China has indirectly indicated that it would be willing to consider membership on the condition that all the previous arrears were waived off. However, it was decided that China's membership arrears would continue to be reflected in the financial statements until a firm response was received from them in this regard.

Indonesia has also been approached to ascertain their interest in joining APAARI. This should be further pursued.

The Executive Secretary noted that the response from the Pacific Island countries in respect of their joining APAARI has been poor. Further efforts would, however, continue.

A duly audited statement for 1996 and another statement depicting the current status of payment by the members (Annexure-V) and the expenditure incurred upto 31 August 1997 were placed (as Annexure-VI) before the Executive Committee and the same were examined and approved.

b) **Financial Status**

Most of the member countries have paid their dues barring Bangladesh, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines (BAR), Philippines (PCARRD), Republic of Korea, Vietnam for the year 1997.

All members were requested to ensure that dues were paid promptly to enable APAARI to fulfil its mandate effectively and promptly.

It was noted that a membership fee of US\$ 6,000 only had been received from Pakistan even though a commitment for the revised fee of US\$ 10,000 had been made at the last General Assembly. Dr. Akbar confirmed that he would look into the matter on his return and send the remaining payment as soon as possible.

The Executive Secretary sought proposals for bringing in additional funding for APAARI and felt that a Corpus Fund should be established with donor support in order to ensure long term sustainability.

A letter from the Government of India confirming the release of the revised membership fee was handcarried by the Executive Secretary to the Meeting. It was noted that the host country, Iran, had also paid their membership fee during the intervening period.

AGENDA 6 - ACTION PLAN FOR 1997-98

The Executive Committee noted with satisfaction the action already taken/being planned during 1997. For 1998, activities already agreed and being pursued should be completed as decided by the General Assembly. However, in addition, network support as per recommendations of the Expert Consultation held in Iran be provided by APAARI. Also, a few success stories from other sectors be included besides crops. Next General Assembly be again linked with the proposed consultation on "Research Management Mechanisms of NARS" and efforts be made to get wider participation, including some key experts on the subject through involvement of ISNAR and ACIAR. The Executive Secretary also endorsed the view that some more need-based research collaborative activities including training programmes could be supported keeping in view the relevance and importance of such programmes.

AGENDA 7 - PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR BIENNIUM 1998-99

The Statement of Budget proposed for the year 1997 and 1998, as approved by the last General Assembly, was placed before the Executive Committee (Annexure-VII). Since no further changes were proposed by the Secretariat, the earlier approved budget was considered appropriate, except for the required reappropriation within allocated budget for the two years.

AGENDA 8 - FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Yeong-Hee Joo reiterated Republic of Korea's invitation to host the Expert Consultation on Research Management Mechanisms of NARS and the Fifth General Assembly in Seoul, Republic of Korea in 1998, anytime during the period September-December, 1998 and informed that he would process all the requisite clearances and would start the planning process immediately on his return.

AGENDA 9 - APAARI SECRETARIAT

A detailed discussion was held during a close session regarding the future of the APAARI Secretariat and its functions. The members were highly appreciative of the dynamic leadership provided so far to APAARI in its formative stage by Dr. R.S. Paroda, the current Executive Secretary, since 1993.

It was unanimously felt that in view of APAARI's emerging role as an effective and strong link between NARS and the CG Centres, a strong and dynamic secretariat was called for on a sustainable basis.

Some of the options discussed were as follows:-

- a) The recruitment of a local scientist/technical officer, on a short-term basis, who could assist the present Executive Secretary to meet the growing demands of APAARI;
- b) The strengthening of the present Secretariat in Bangkok by hiring a professional who could work full time and be responsible for all APAARI's ongoing activities as well as the planning and execution of its future role under the overall directions of the Executive Secretary. Mr. Saha from FAO, Bangkok, was requested to do a cost analysis for this option and inform the Executive Secretary as soon as possible.
- c) ISNAR to be requested to consider locating one of its staff with the APAARI office in Bangkok to extend required support in this regard at this critical juncture.
- d) IFAD be approached for funding the Secretariat initially for a period of 5 years either independently or through a proposed regional network on legume since this support is very critical for the sustainability of APAARI, an institutional approach in which IFAD believes strongly.

The Executive Secretary felt that APAARI had always functioned under the aegis of FAO and should therefore continue to do so rather than stand alone. Towards this end the Executive Committee decided to approach Ms. Fresco, Director, Sustainable Development Department, FAO Headquarters, Rome, and Mr. Soetatwo Hadiwigeno, Assistant Director General, FAO RAP, Bangkok, for their strong support and financial help at this very crucial period when APAARI is emerging as a viable regional forum to strengthen research partnerships among NARS and all international institutions.

Mr. Saha from FAO, Bangkok confirmed that FAO had not been charging APAARI for any services provided till date. Dr. Paroda also appreciated the support extended by Mr. Peter Rosenegger, FAO Representative in India and Bhutan, New Delhi, for the excellent assistance including the time of Ms. Renuka Taimni and Ms. Francesca Erdelmann, Associate Professional Officer. This aspect was highly appreciated and it was felt that a letter to the Director General, FAO, be sent conveying the feelings of the Executive Committee with a copy to Mr. Soetatwo Hadiwigeno, Assistant Director General, Mr. Peter Rosenegger, and Ms. Louise Fresco, with a request to continue similar support in future.

Regarding the charges for communication and other facilities levied by FAO, New Delhi, Ms. Taimni (FAO, New Delhi), clarified that since the APAARI Secretariat in New Delhi was responsible for all the day-to-day work, the co-ordination and despatch of all publications and also the support for the organisation of consultations such as the one in Iran, the FAO, Delhi office was extending considerable support. This was highly appreciated by the Executive Committee and desired to place on record the support extended by Mr. Peter Rosenegger and Ms. Renuka Taimni.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and with special appreciation for Dr. R.S. Paroda, Executive Secretary, for his excellent leadership and support to APAARI.



ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
(APAARI)

FOURTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 20, 1997, Tehran, Iran

AGENDA

1. Welcome Address by the Executive Secretary and Introduction of the Agenda
2. Address by the Chairman, APAARI
3. Action Taken Report
4. APAARI Expert Consultation on:
 - A. *Research Priority Setting by NARS in the Asia-Pacific Region*
 - B. *Management and Strengthening of Regional Research Networks in the Asia-Pacific Region*
5. Membership and Financial Status
6. Action Plan for 1997-98
7. Programme Budget for the Biennium 1997-98
8. The Fifth General Assembly
9. Any other item



**ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
(APAARI)**

FOURTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 20, 1997, Tehran, Iran

AGENDA NOTES

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 : ACTION TAKEN REPORT

The Fourth General Assembly of APAARI in its meeting held at New Delhi on November 26, 1996, appreciated the action taken on all the recommendations of the Third General Assembly held in 1994. The important tasks accomplished as a follow-up action of the Fourth General Assembly are as under:-

i) Continuance of the Newsletter

APAARI brought out two issues of its Newsletter, i.e. December, 1996 and June, 1997. The issues were well received. The Fourth General Assembly also affirmed that for the free flow of information, this initiative of APAARI should continue.

For bridging the information gap, the APAARI has called for the active participation of the Members/ Associate Members/other readers by requesting them to share the information on latest break-throughs in Agriculture and provided useful inputs/news for the Newsletter.

Co-operation of the Members/Associate Members in this effort would further enhance the usefulness of the Newsletter.

ii) Publication of Directories of NARS Institutions

The Directory of Agricultural Research Institutions for the South-East Asia region, which has been compiled with the help of PCARRD has been published. As regards, the preparation of the Directory of Pacific Island countries, with support of ACIAR, the ACIAR has informed that the exercise could not be undertaken as research in agriculture and allied sector is widely spread out.

iii) Publication of Success Stories

The Success Story on "Success of Orchids in Thailand" was published and circulated to all the Members/ Associate Members. It was very well received as it highlighted the various measures taken by Thailand to improve the economy and global competence in promoting a non-food commodity. These efforts have catapulted Thailand as the World's leading producer and exporter of orchids in a little over a decade.

The Success Story on "Agro-Tourism in Australia - A Potential Success Story" is in final stages and is expected to be printed soon.

Also, the Success Story on "Wheat in Iran" and "Direct Seeded Rice and Irrigated Conditions in Malaysia" are being expedited for release at the earliest.

New Success Stories in the pipeline are:-

- * Success of Oilseeds Research and Development in India
- * Success of Rice Self-Sufficiency in Bangladesh

Success Stories are an effective link among the member countries for sharing the experiences based on the successful implementation of the research results. In order to further strengthen this initiative, APAARI has requested its members to indicate topics worth covering in future.

iv) **Preparation of Comprehensive Report on Research Priority Setting by NARS in the Asia-Pacific Region**

As a follow-up on the recommendations of the Fourth General Assembly to identify and crystallize further areas of research priorities both at the regional and sub-regional levels, a comprehensive report has been prepared for the four sub-regions (i.e. South Asia, South-East Asia, North-East Asia and Pacific Island Countries). The discussions held in the Expert Consultation on "Research Priority Setting by NARS in the Asia-Pacific Region" were kept in view while preparing the synthesis report.

v) **Effective Representation of APAARI at the ICW/MTM of CGIAR**

In pursuance of the decision of the Fourth General Assembly to give effective representation to APAARI at the ICW/MTM of the CGIAR, Dr. M. Akbar, Chairman of APAARI participated and made a **Presentation on "APAARI Activities in the Asia-Pacific Region : Current Status and Future Prospects"** at the Global Forum Meeting held during the Mid-Term Meeting of the CGIAR at Cairo, Egypt during May 25-27, 1997. Considering the importance of APAARI representation, CGIAR had borne the entire expenditure for Dr. Akbar's participation.

vi) **Circulation of Annual Reports and other important publications among the Member Countries**

On a suggestion made at the Fourth General Assembly to strengthen the information management capacity of APAARI, the Members/Associate Members were requested to circulate their Annual Reports and other relevant publications to all the members of APAARI.

vii) **Creation of a "Home Page" on the Internet**

The ISNAR was approached to take action for creating a Web Page on the Internet for APAARI, so that research highlights could be put on the information highway. ISNAR has suggested to assist APAARI in this regard.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 : APAARI EXPERT CONSULTATIONS

A) Research Priority Setting by NARS in the Asia-Pacific Region

An Expert Consultation on "Research Priority Setting by NARS in the Asia-Pacific Region" was held at New Delhi during November 25-26, 1996 in conjunction with the Second International Crop Science Congress. The Consultation was attended by the Head/senior officials of various NARS in the region besides the Chairman of CGIAR, Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Director Generals of CGIAR Institutes such as ISNAR, IRRI, CIMMYT, ICRISAT, IIMI, ICLARM and senior representatives from the FAO, World Bank, ICAR and CABI.

A synthesis of the research priorities for the Asia-Pacific Region, based on the four base papers prepared for South Asia, South-East Asia, North-East Asia and Pacific Island Countries, was presented by Dr. William D. Dar, Chairman of APAARI. The emphasis was on research priority setting by taking cognizance of resource conservation, sustainability and the development of under-developed regions besides production efficiency and food self-sufficiency. The priorities identified in the base papers were agreed to, in principle. However, further refinement of the identified priorities was recommended to enable drawing up of specific

bilateral/multilateral action plans for research collaboration, technology transfer, human resource development, etc., in the region.

B) Management and Strengthening of Regional Research Networks in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Research Networks play an important role in agricultural research as a means of effective and efficient use of limited human resource for achieving desired research goals. The Expert Consultation on "NARS-CGIAR Partnership" held at New Delhi during February, 1996 also emphasised the sustainability of the regional networks involving NARS and CG Centres with the active involvement of APAARI. The Rice-Wheat Consortium, CLAN and TAMNET have emerged as useful models of the current NARS-NARS and NARS-CGIAR collaboration.

The Expert Consultation on "Research Priority Setting by NARS in the Asia-Pacific Region" also deliberated on the status of existing Networks and future strategy.

APAARI, in its endeavour to provide strong support to the Research Networks, proposes to organize an Expert Consultation on "Management and Strengthening of Regional Research Networks in the Asia-Pacific Region" at Tehran, Iran during October 19-21, 1997.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 : MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL STATUS

A) Membership

The existing national membership of APAARI is 20. APAARI, through the Executive Secretary, approached the High Commissioner of New Zealand in India to take up the matter with the Government of New Zealand to consider joining the APAARI again. Response is still awaited. Similarly, efforts were also made to persuade China and Indonesia to become members of APAARI to boost the research initiatives in the region. Bhutan, which for the first time participated in the Fourth General Assembly Meeting as an Observer, was urged to join APAARI during 1997. No response has been received so far.

It is fortunate that in spite of several reminders, the membership fee from Vietnam which had agreed to join APAARI from 1996 has not been received.

The membership fee at the enhanced levels, as approved by the Fourth General Assembly was made effective from January 1, 1997 and all the members have been requested for needful at their level.

B) Payment

Membership fees from most of the countries have been received. Needless to mention, smooth flow of funds is essential for the effective functioning of this forum. A Statement showing the current status of payment of membership fee as on 31st August, 1997 is placed at Annexure-V.

Based on the recommendations of the Fourth General Assembly suggesting the CG Centres/IARCs to make a token contribution of US \$ 3,000, for the activities of APAARI in the region, the contributions from IIMI, CIMMYT and ICARDA have been received. It is hoped that similar gesture would be forthcoming from other Centres as well. ISNAR has agreed to continue its support to various APAARI activities.

C) Financial Status

The summary statement of accounts for the period ending 31st October, 1996 along with a comparative statement between the budget and actuals used during the period 1st January to 31st October, 1996 were circulated during the last Fourth General Assembly Meeting. The audited accounts for the year 1996 are placed at Annexure-VI for kind perusal/approval of the members.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 : ACTION PLAN FOR 1997-98

The various activities to be initiated during 1997-98 are to be discussed and approved. These relate to:-

- Publication of Newsletter
- Success Stories
- Other Technical Reports
- Support to important Regional Research Networks
- Strengthening the information management capacity of APAARI
- Planning for future Expert Consultations/General Assembly Meetings

Suggestions of the Members are invited on the above.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 : PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR BIENNIUM 1997-98

The Statement of budget proposed by the Fourth General Assembly in its meeting in November, 1996 at New Delhi for the years 1997 and 1998 may please be pursued for revision, if any.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 : FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Fourth General Assembly accepted the invitation of Republic of Korea to host the Fifth General Assembly in December, 1998. Due to paucity of time for preparation, the Expert Consultation on "Agricultural Research Mechanisms of NARS, their Strengths and Opportunities" could not be organized, as proposed along with the Fourth Executive Committee Meeting at Iran during October, 1997. Hence, it is for consideration of the members whether the same could be held in conjunction with the Fifth General Assembly at Korea during December, 1998 or alternatively, the Expert Consultation could be organized in the first half of 1998, possibly at FAO Regional Office, Bangkok (Thailand) or at PCARRD, Manila (Philippines).

Suggestions and donor support relating to the proposed Consultation are invited. ISNAR and ACIAR have expressed their support for organizing this important Consultation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 : ANY OTHER ITEM

1. Formation of a Fisheries Sub-Group under APAARI

A copy of the letter written by DG, ICLARM as well as by the Executive Secretary, APAARI to all the NARS leaders seeking their suggestions and support for the important initiative was circulated.

2. APAARI-ICRISAT-ICARDA-ARINEENA Joint Proposal for Funding Support Network (CLAN) Activities

A copy of the Concept Note seeking Funds for Coordination of Cereals and Legumes Asia Network (CLAN) submitted to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) by APAARI was also circulated.

3. MOU between ASPNET and APAARI

A copy of the letter from Dr. William D. Dar suggesting a formal link between APAARI and ASPNET, in the form of a MOU, was also put up for consideration.

4. Any other item with the permission of the Chair

APAARI MEMBERSHIP FEE

As on 31 August 1997

S. No.	Country	Year								
		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
1.	Australia			X			X	X		
2.	Bangladesh				X	X				
3.	Bhutan									
4.	China									
5.	Fiji	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
6.	India	X	X	X	X	X	X			
7.	Iran	X	X	X	X	X				
8.	Japan						X	X		
9.	Malaysia	X	X	X	X	X	X			
10.	Nepal				X	X		X		
11.	New Zealand	X	X	X	X	X				
12.	Pakistan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
13.	Papua New Guinea	X	X	X	X	X	X			
14.	Philippines (BAR)		X	X	X	X				
15.	Philippines (PCAARD)	X	X	X	X	X	X			
16.	Republic of Korea	X	X	X	X	X	X			
17.	Sri Lanka	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
18.	Thailand	X	X	X	X	X	X			
19.	Vietnam									
20.	Western Samoa	X	X	X	X			X		

Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)
Status of Contribution Received as on 31 August 1997
(US Dollars)

Member Countries/ Institutions	Contribution in 1995	Outstanding for 1995	Contribution in 1996	Outstanding for 1996	Contribution in 1997	Outstanding for 1997	Contribution in 1998	Outstanding for 1998	Total Outstanding 1991 up to 31/8/97
Australia			6,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00			0.00
Bangladesh	3,990.00	10.00	3,990.00	10.00	0.00	6,000.00			6,020.00
Bhutan					0.00	3,000.00			3,000.00
China	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	10,000.00			46,000.00
Fiji	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00			0.00
India	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00			10,000.00
Iran	3,977.03	22.97	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	6,000.00			10,085.09
Japan			6,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00			0.00
Malaysia	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00			10,000.00
Nepal	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	3,000.00	0.00			2,000.00
New Zealand	6,000.00	0.00			0.00	10,000.00			10,00.00
Pakistan	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	4,000.00			4,000.00
Papua New Guinea	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00			3,023.62
Philippines (BAR)	3,974.04	25.96	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	10,000.00			14,071.96
Philippines (PCAARD)	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00			9,999.12
Republic of Korea	5,980.00	20.00	9,960.36	39.64	0.00	10,000.00			10,121.56
Sri Lanka	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00			0.00
Thailand	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00			10,000.00
Vietnam					0.00	3,000.00			3,000.00
Western Samoa	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	3,000.00	0.00			4,000.00
Total	53,921.07	8,078.93	53,950.36	18,049.64	38,000.00	105,000.00			155,321.35
Total Received	345,678.65								
Total Recd. in 1997	43,990.00								

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF APAARI
01 January - 31 December 1996
(Amount in US Dollars)

Items	Received	Disbursements		Balance
		Budget	Actual Used	
Amount B/F			231,708.27	
1. Membership Fee	69,924.40			
2. Donations :				
2.1 From ISNAR, The Netherlands	11,980.25			
2.2 From ACIAR, Australia	33,850.47			
3. Interest Income	11,225.58			
4. Profit and Loss on Transfer	141.60			
TOTAL	127,122.30			
5. Publications		10,000.00	4,760.00	
6. APAARI Secretariat Support				
6.1 Secretary/Technical Support		25,000.00	7,020.00	
6.2 Office Equipment, Stationers		5,000.00	748.37	
6.3 Miscellaneous		10,000.00	811.62	
7. Consultancy/Travel		20,000.00		
7.1 Special Service Agreement (SSA)			10,000.00	
8. Training/Selected Research Project Support		10,000.00		
9. Expert Consultation, General Assembly (Partial Support)		25,000.00		
9.1 Expenses to Ex-Com Assembly			14,349.70	
9.2 Expenses to 4th General Assembly			42,739.92	
TOTAL		105,000.00	80,429.61	
				278,400.96

Exchange Rate 1US\$ = 25 Baht

Amount in Saving Account (US Dollars)

US\$ 277,586.64

Amount in Current Account (Baht 17,790.94)

US\$711.64

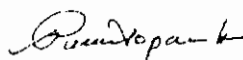
Cash in Hand (Baht : 2,567.00)

US\$102.68

TOT: \$278,400.96



Dr. R.S. Paroda
 Executive Secretary, APAARI



Ms. Panee Sopannakorn
 Secretary & Accountant, APAARI



Mr. C. Sittimongkol
 Honorary Auditor

BUDGET APPROVED FOR 1997 AND 1998
(US \$)

Sl. No.	Items	1997	1998
1.	Publications (Newsletter, Directory, Technical Reports, etc.)	12,000	15,000
2.	APAARI Secretariat Support :		
	i. Secretary/Technical Assistant	25,000	30,000
	ii. Office Stationery & Postage	8,000	10,000
	iii. Miscellaneous Items	15,000	20,000
	Consultancy/Travel	15,000	20,000
3.	Training/Selected Research Projects/Networks Support	35,500*	35,000**
4.	Expert Consultation/General Assembly of APAARI (Partial Support)	15,000	15,000
	TOTAL	1,25,000	1,50,000

* with provision to increase it upward upto \$125,000 provided need arises to support the networks

** with provision to increase it upward upto \$150,000 provided need arises to support the networks

Note : 1. The above Budget for the years 1997 and 1998 is in line with the 1995 and 1996 Budget approved by the Third General Assembly of APAARI in 1994.

2. In the context of the current situation of FAO, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, all autonomous technical bodies under the aegis of FAO would be required to bear the cost of utility/service facilities in the new building where all the autonomous bodies secretariat have been accommodated.

