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WEC

**WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA MAIZE NETWORK
(WECAMAN)**

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

THIRD MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

HELD

JUNE 1-2, 1995

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1. List of participants of the third meeting of the Steering Committee of WECAMAN
2. Agenda of the third meeting of the Steering Committee of WECAMAN

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Maize Network of West and Central Africa (WECAMAN) was held from June 1-2, 1995 at IITA-Benin, Cotonou. The meeting started immediately after the final session of the West and Central Africa Regional Maize and Cassava Workshop which was jointly organized by WECAMAN and Regional Project for Maize and Cassava at IITA-Benin, Cotonou from May 29 to June 1, 1995.

1.1 ATTENDANCE

The meeting was attended by all of the members of the Steering Committee. Representatives of IITA and CIMMYT as well as the Coordinator of the West and Central Africa Sorghum Network, Director of Research of OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD and two scientists from the national maize programs of Benin and Togo were also present at the meeting as observers. The full list of participants is attached as Appendix 1 of this report.

1.2 AGENDA

The proposed agenda was adopted without modification. However, the committee permitted Mr. A.A. Adenkule of IITA to make a brief presentation on the role of WECAMAN in maize related training in West and Central Africa. The agenda of the meeting is attached as Appendix 2 of this report.

2.0 PRESENTATION OF NETWORK COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The coordinator's report which was presented by Dr. B. Badu-Apraku covered the period November 1994 to May, 1995. The report was presented under the following headings:

2.1 *Management of the Maize Network*

2.1.1 *The Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Research Committee of WECAMAN*

The Steering Committee of WECAMAN during its second meeting in Bouake on November 7-9, 1994 approved the report of the ad hoc Research Committee of WECAMAN and mandated the committee to review the progress reports on collaborative research projects assigned to network member countries in 1994 and to allocate funds for 1995 cropping season. Nigeria and Togo were asked to re-submit proposals for consideration for funding.

The ad hoc Research Committee held its second meeting in Abidjan from March 16-17, 1995, reviewed research proposals submitted by Togo, Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire, assigned collaborative research responsibilities; and allocated funds for approved projects. The Committee also reviewed the progress reports submitted by Ghana, Cameroon, Benin, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire and approved funds for the collaborative research projects for the 1995 cropping season.

2.1.2 *Planning Workshop of the Sorghum Network*

The maize network coordinator participated in the planning workshop of the Sorghum Network in Bamako, Mali from March 6-8, 1995.

2.1.3 Preparation of Extension Manuals in Maize by Member Countries

Following the decision by the network to assist member countries who need financial and technical support to produce maize handbooks for extensionists and production guides for farmers, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso and Ghana submitted copies of the manuals which they intend to produce as well as proposals and budget to the Network. These were sent to IITA Training and Material Unit for technical advice and assistance. An amount of \$10,000 has been allocated to support this activity.

2.1.4 Publication

The proceedings of the second meeting of WECAMAN Steering Committee, the report of the second meeting of the ad hoc research committee of WECAMAN and the 1994 annual report of WECAMAN were published in both English and French.

2.2 COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Funds were released for collaborative research projects based on the recommendations of the ad hoc Research Committee. Member countries which have been asked to make modifications in the various projects were requested to re-submit the progress reports to the network coordinator by May 20, 1995 before funds are released in support of these projects for 1995 cropping season.

2.3 RESIDENT RESEARCH OF THE NETWORK COORDINATOR

Four main research activities were undertaken by the Coordinator during the period. These were (1) breeding for striga tolerance (2) breeding for drought tolerance (3) streak resistance conversion and (4) seed increase.

2.4 REGIONAL UNIFORM VARIETY TRIALS

Two Regional Uniform Variety Trials were dispatched to both member and non-member countries of WECAMAN which requested these trials. Also, the protocol for the Regional Adaptive Trial on "Effect of *Parkia biglobosa* (locust bean) pods on *Striga hermonthica* growth on maize" was sent to all network member countries.

2.5 SEED PRODUCTION COURSE

A seed production course with emphasis on community level seed production has been scheduled for Kumasi, Ghana from August 14-25, 1995.

2.6 BIENNIAL REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The West and Central Africa Regional Maize and Cassava Workshop was jointly organized by WECAMAN and RRPMP in Cotonou, Benin for May 28-June 2, 1995. Seventy-one abstracts were received from scientists in the sub-region. The abstracts have been reviewed and 41 out of the 71 abstracts received were selected for presentation at the workshop.

2.7 TRIP REPORT ON VISIT TO BOBO-DIOULASSO, BURKINA FASO BY NETWORK COORDINATOR

The WECAMAN Coordinator visited the national maize program of Burkina Faso at Bobo-Dioulasso May 7-9, 1995 to discuss issues relating to collaborative research projects assigned to the country.

During the meeting with the Burkinabe scientists involved in project 5A, it was admitted that the progress report did not conform to the proposal approved by the ad hoc Research Committee. It was explained that this was due to the fact that the coordinator of the project, Mr. Sanou Jacob was out of the country for his PhD studies most of the 1995 planting season. Therefore there was problem with the coordination of the project. What aggravated the situation was the fact that three of the scientists involved in the project were based in Ouagadougou, one in Saria and the coordinator in Bobo-Dioulasso.

Even though the funds approved by WECAMAN ad hoc Research Committee for project 5A were sent to INERA in June, the scientists did not receive the funds until September 1994. Thus, the project had to be prefinanced from other sources. However, the scientists operated within the approved budget of \$1500. It was explained that all the funds had been spent and the justification was being put together for submission to WECAMAN.

On the plan of work for 1995, the scientists indicated that activities which had been planned for execution in 1994 and were not carried out for various reasons, would be carried out in 1995 to conform with the approved workplan for 1994.

The scientists promised to resubmit the 1994 progress report to reflect exactly what was approved in the project proposal. Also, the details of the plan of work for 1995 would be submitted with the progress report and the justification for the 1994 funds latest by May 20.

Other points noted during the meeting with the scientists were as follows:

- 1) Funds allocated for Project 5A in 1994 were not sufficient to achieve the stated objectives.
- 2) The scientists expressed concern on the flow of information on WECAMAN projects and activities at the level of INERA. It was advised that the national maize coordinator, Dr. Hema Idrissa should keep the maize scientists informed of the activities and decisions by circulating copies of correspondence from WECAMAN coordinator and by arranging regular meetings with scientists involved in each project to discuss disbursement of funds and to review progress.
- 3) It was suggested that as much as possible WECAMAN should use national scientists as resource persons in workshops and training programs. Also training programs should, as much as possible, be organized in national programs possessing the necessary capabilities and facilities.

- 4) It was suggested that as many scientists as possible should be involved in the activities of WECAMAN. Scientists felt that it was always the same scientists who were participating in most of the activities of WECAMAN. It was explained that this was not the case and concrete examples were provided in Burkina Faso to correct the impression.
- 5) It was suggested that WECAMAN should make provision in its budget to support national scientists to work on their thesis in other national institutions and also to collect bibliography in international centers and other higher institutions of learning.

2.8 PREPARATION OF WECAMAN PROPOSAL FOR A THREE-YEAR GRANT

Following the request by USAID for a proposal from WECAMAN for a 3-year grant, the Network Coordinator and the Chairman of the Steering Committee prepared a draft proposal for presentation to the Steering Committee during its third meeting in Cotonou, Benin from June 1-2, 1995.

2.9 DISCUSSIONS ON WECAMAN COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Following the presentation of the coordinator's report, the WECAMAN Steering Committee discussed issues relating to regional trials and funding for these trials in member countries. On the conduct and retrieval of data, the Network Coordinator said that up to date, Togo, Nigeria and Cote d' Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Mali had not submitted the data for Regional Uniform Variety Trials conducted in 1994. In addition, the member from Togo indicated that they would not be in a position to conduct these trials in the northern part of Togo during 1995 because of fund limitations.

On the question of provision of funds by the network for conducting these trials, it was pointed out that the trials are distributed based on requests from scientists in member and non-member countries of WECAMAN. Therefore those countries that request these trials should make sure that they are in a position to conduct them. It was also pointed out that national programs should take keen interest in testing technologies developed by the network in order to promote the adoption of these technologies in the sub-region. In addition, collaborative research projects were assigned to member countries based on the submission of the countries concerned that they have the capability to implement the projects in their various countries. On the question of testing technologies developed by individual national programs in regionally coordinated trials, national programs who have such technologies were requested to submit data in support of the technologies to WECAMAN for consideration.

3.0 REPORT OF THE WECAMAN AD HOC RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The report of the ad hoc Research Committee of WECAMAN was presented by Dr. A.O. Diallo. Dr. Diallo indicated that progress reports sent by countries on the projects assigned to them were reviewed by the ad hoc research committee. He then explained the guidelines used in the review. Progress reports which were unacceptable to the committee were to be re-submitted by the countries concerned. Allocation of funds for collaborative research projects will not be

made until acceptable progress reports are re-submitted to the ad hoc research committee.

3.1 DISCUSSION OF THE AD HOC RESEARCH COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Steering Committee of WECAMAN discussed the ad hoc research committee's report presented by Dr. Diallo. The Steering Committee was of the view that the criteria for evaluating the progress reports were good. However, the grading system currently being used needed to be reviewed since the weights given to technical and non-technical aspects of the progress reports gave undue emphasis to non-technical issues.

The other concern of the Steering Committee related to access to the funds allocated to collaborative research projects in the various countries since this has a direct bearing on financial reporting as well as the conduct of the collaborative research projects. The Steering Committee therefore recommended that a mechanism be established in each country to ease access to the funds allocated to each country by the researchers working on these projects. The example of Cameroon where funds for collaborative research projects are lodged in a special account to which the principal researcher of the collaborative projects and the accountant of the institute are both signatories should be considered by other countries. In addition, some countries indicated that funds were released for the collaborative research projects by the national programs rather late in the 1994 season and felt that request for progress reports including field data and financial report a few months later was unfair.

In concluding remarks, Dr. Diallo proposed that WECAMAN should establish the criteria for appraising progress reports taking into account the peculiar circumstances prevailing in the various WECAMAN member countries.

4.0 THE ROLE OF WECAMAN IN MAIZE RELATED TRAINING IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

A presentation on the role of WECAMAN in maize related training in the sub-region was presented by Mr. A.A. Adenkule, Training Specialist at the IITA Training Unit. Mr. Adenkule indicated that the main goal of IITA training program is to aid NARS researchers through training to increase productivity in their various fields of expertise. The institute (IITA) hopes to achieve this goal through three major types of training programs, namely (1) degree related training leading to M.Sc. or PhD, (2) special subject, non-degree related training for six to nine months and (3) group training courses such as the Crop Management Research Training (CMRT).

Mr. Adenkule said that IITA recently initiated steps to transfer the organization of the CRMT courses to capable national programs in order to develop and improve the capacity of NARS to conduct the training courses. For example, CMRT courses were held in Ghana for maize and cowpea in 1993 and 1994, and in Cote d'Ivoire in 1994 in collaboration with IITA. In addition, a seed production course is planned for Ghana in August 1995. Mr. Adenkule pointed out that the courses organized by the national programs so far were highly successful and suggested that other national programs should be encouraged to

organize similar courses. To this end, Mr. Adenkule said WECAMAN should play a direct role in the organization of the maize related training in West and Central Africa.

Two main issues were raised by the Steering Committee following Mr. Adenkule's presentation. The first was in relation to the maize production guides and other extension manuals submitted to WECAMAN by Ghana, Benin, Togo and Burkina Faso and which were later sent to IITA. In response Mr. Adenkule said because of the close similarity in the draft manuals from all countries, it was decided that a training workshop be held for two participants each from Benin, Togo and Burkina Faso to technically equip each country to produce quality manuals of all types required in their countries. Ghana was excluded from the selected countries because of her experience in producing extension manuals of very high standard which are being used in Ghana. Expertise from Ghana will therefore be used in the training workshop which will be announced for the participating countries in due course.

The second issue raised by the Steering Committee was in relation to the IITA sponsored degree-related training. Mr. Adenkule explained that IITA does not provide funds for tuition but for thesis research. Graduate students who have completed their residence requirements in recognized universities and are willing to work on any of the IITA mandate crops are eligible to apply. Each student needs to submit a research proposal to IITA for consideration on competitive basis.

5.0 WECAMAN DRAFT PROPOSAL TO USAID FOR FUNDING FROM OCTOBER 1, 1995 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1998.

The draft proposal to be submitted to USAID for funding was presented by the Coordinator of the Maize Network, Dr. B. Badu-Apraku. A three-year grant of US\$ 1,960,290 was being requested to enable IITA continue to strengthen agricultural research through networking among NARS in the northern Guinea savanna zone of West and Central Africa during the period October 1, 1995 to September 30, 1998. The proposal seeks to continue project activities of the maize network initiated in October 1993. These activities were planned for a five-year period following the termination of SAFGRAD-II in 1993.

The project strategy is to increase agricultural production and productivity of peasant farmers in the semi-arid sub-Saharan Africa. The purpose is to continue strengthening the NARS within the network countries to (i) provide high quality agricultural research, and (ii) generate appropriate technologies for use by farmers of the network member countries.

The project, through networking, proposed to continue the following activities: collaborative research projects, regionally-oriented resident research, regional workshops and monitoring tours, development of effective linkages within member countries, development of impact assessment capabilities within member countries, human resource development through seminars and conferences, and collaboration with projects such as the EEC on-farm research project of IITA.

5.1 DISCUSSION OF WECAMAN DRAFT PROPOSAL

Following the presentation on the draft proposal by the coordinator, two groups were formed involving the Steering Committee members and the observers at the meeting to discuss the proposal in detail and to offer suggestions for improving the quality of the proposal. The two groups met for several hours to discuss specific sections of the proposal assigned to each group. This was followed by a general session at which the chairman of each group presented its recommendations.

The groups commended the WECAMAN coordinator for developing the proposal to the present stage. However, the groups offered several suggestions for improving the proposal especially in the following sections: introduction, role of NARS in leadership management, collaborative research projects (to emphasize technology transfer), monitoring and evaluation as well as impact assessment strategies within each member country.

6.0 OTHER MATTERS

Since no other issues were raised for discussion, the third meeting of the Steering Committee of WECAMAN came to an end during the late afternoon of June 2, 1995.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

During the workshop, a working group was composed to prepare the highlights on the advances made in the generation and transfer of appropriate maize technologies in West and Central Africa during the period 1991 - 1995, to draw the lessons learnt, state the future challenges and directions (Appendix 3) and finally to make recommendations on the maize sessions of the workshop. The Steering Committee endorsed the following recommendations on the maize sessions of the workshop. The Steering Committee endorsed the following recommendations on the maize sessions of the workshop:

1. International research centers (CIMMYT, and IITA) should intensify and lead the NARS in research on important biotic (*Striga*, downy mildew, stem borer, Larger grain borer) and abiotic (drought tolerance and, N-use efficiency) stresses in the sub-region, since they have better facilities.
2. The participants recognize and appreciate the fact that there are many technologies now available for dissemination and all national extension agencies and NGOs must be mobilized to use appropriate extension methodologies (Radio, TV, extension publications, etc.) to get these to the farmers for adoption. WECAMAN must henceforth effectively involve more technology transfer specialists in technology development.
3. All future research must be decidedly made multi-disciplinary. It has to be ensured that socio-economists and post-harvest technologists are fully involved in on-farm testing of newly developed technologies. A standard method of estimating economic viability of new technologies in the sub-region should be developed.

4. Priority should be given to seed technology research, seed production (Breeder, foundation, and certified) and distribution in the sub-region. With regard to Obatanpa developed in Ghana, seed production should be strengthened and distributed to other NARS in the sub-region.
5. Having recognized the decline in soil productivity under maize production, it is recommended to intensify research in the area of legume integration, organic matter use and fertilizer use efficiency.
6. WECAMAN, in collaboration with other bodies must, as a matter of urgency, organize short-term training to update the knowledge of scientists in the design, analysis and interpretation of experiments.
7. It is strongly recommended that a working group be formed and funded to conduct research into the problem of agroclimatic zones, using existing long-term agroclimatological data and crop simulation modelling.
8. There is also an urgent need to expose scientists in the sub-region to the use of computer and available statistical packages. In some exceptional cases, WECAMAN may support (at least partially) graduate degree programs of young and budding scientists.

APPENDIX 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF WECAMAN

MEMBERS OF STEERING COMMITTEE

1. P.Y.K. Sallah, Secretary, Crops Research Institute, P. O. Box 3785, Kumasi, Ghana.
2. B. Badu-Apraku, Coordinator, BP 2551, C1.
3. N. Coulibaly, Chairman IER, BP 258, Bamako, Mali.
4. Charles The, Cameroon.
5. O.A. Adenola, National Rice/Maize Centre, PMB 5042, Ibadan, Nigeria.
6. Monhouanou Jean, INRAB, Benin.
7. Hema Iddrissa, INERA, Burkina Faso.
8. Biliwa Arona, DPV, Togo
9. Mme. Alice N'Goran, IDESSA, Bouake

OBSERVERS

1. A.A. Adekunle, Research Training Specialist, GTU, IITA, PMB 5320, Ibadan, Nigeria.
2. J.M. Fajemisin, IITA, Bouake.
3. A. Tenkouano, Coordinator, WCASRN, ICRISAT/WCARP, BP 320, Bamako, Mali.
4. Taye Bezuneh, SAFGRAD, Ouagadougou.
5. A.O. Diallo, CIMMYT/IITA, Bouake.
6. Yallou Chabi-Gouro, Benin.
7. Essen Yovo Mawule, INCV, Togo.
8. Ogunyinka, IITA, Ibadan.

APPENDIX 2. AGENDA OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF WECAMAN

Thursday, June 1

Chairperson: Chairman of the WECAMAN Steering Committee, Mr. N'Tji Coulibaly

- 14:10-14:20 Adoption of the agenda
- 14:20-14:50 Network Coordinator's report by B. Badu-Apraku
- 14:50-15:20 Report of the WECAMAN ad hoc Research Committee by Dr. A.O. Diallo
- 15:20-16:15 Discussions
- 16:15-16:30 *Coffee break*
- 16:30-17:00 WECAMAN draft proposal for funding from October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1998 by Chairman of Steering Committee - Dr. B. Badu-Apraku
- 17:00-18:00 Discussion of WECAMAN draft proposal

Friday, June 2

- 8:00-10:00 Meeting of working groups on the draft proposal of WECAMAN
- 10:00-10:15 *Coffee break*
- 10:15-11:30 Meeting of working groups on the draft proposal of WECAMAN
- 11:30-12:00 Reports by Chairman of working groups on the draft proposal of WECAMAN
- 12:00-12:30 Discussion of reports of working groups
- 12:30-13:00 Any other business
- 13:00-14:00 *Lunch break*
- 14:00-15:45 Preparation of the draft report of the proceedings of the third meeting of the WECAMAN Steering Committee
- 14:45-16:00 *Coffee break*

PLENARY SESSION 2

CLOSING CEREMONY

Chairperson: Dr. Taye-Bezeneh

16:00-16:20 Report and recommendations on the maize sessions

16:20-16:40 Report and recommendations on cassava sessions

16:40-17:20 Closing remarks

- RRPMC
- WECAMAN
- IITA
- USAID
- BENIN

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