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INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE  
IBADAN, NIGERIA

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, established jointly by the Ford Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation and the Federal Government of Nigeria, is incorporated under Nigerian law as an autonomous, non-stock, philanthropic, non-profit and tax-free corporation under the control of an international Board of Trustees. The Institute was officially established on July 24, 1967, with the publication of decree No. 32 in the official gazette of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It was formally organized and began to function as an autonomous agency with the first meeting of its Board of Trustees on July 11 and 12, 1968.

Objectives and Projected Program

Lack of appropriate technologies for improvement of agricultural production and of trained personnel for continuing research, education, extension and development programs is a major impediment to agricultural and, hence, economic development in the tropics. Little if any effective progress can be expected until these major deficiencies are corrected by research and training programs.

The Institute was established to provide in the tropics a high-quality international research and training organization devoted to finding ways as quickly as possible to provide the required technologies and personnel and thus to increase the output and improve the quality of tropical food crops. The Institute would be expected to accomplish this objective through its own programs and by catalyzing extensive and effective national research and training activities. With the resources currently available to the Institute, its research and training programs will be focused primarily on the humid tropics; but its charter and broad objectives are such that it



can and will become engaged in research on the problems of the drier tropics, including the savannah areas, as special opportunities and needs arise and as the necessary additional resources become available.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the development, through plant breeding, of high-yielding varieties of the cereal crops, especially maize, rice, and sorghum; the grain legume and protein-rich oil seed crops, including cowpeas, field beans and others; the root crops, including casava and sweet potatoes; and some of the major vegetable crops. A second major focus of research will be on cropping systems for the humid tropics and the management of tropical soils for sustained high productivity. Such research will include soil and crop management practices, crop rotations, crop residue management, soil fertility studies, and research in soil chemistry, physics, and microbiology. Methods of crop protection both before and after harvest will be sought through research in plant pathology, entomology, nematology, and weed control. The major foci on varietal improvement and development of soil and crop management practices will further be supported by research in plant physiology, plant chemistry, and agricultural engineering. Should research on soil management and cropping systems indicate the usefulness of perennial grasses and legumes as replacements for the bush fallow, research will be initiated on development of improved varieties of these crops, on pasture and forage management, and on the management of ruminant animals in utilization of the grasses and legumes. Research in agricultural economics will also be included, primarily at the micro-economic levels of farm management and the economic viability of new technologies and new soil and crop management systems that emerge from the research program. Through these research programs of the Institute, a basis will be sought for development of a stable



permanent agriculture in which food crops occupy a central position and in which sustained high levels, instead of intermittent mediocre levels of productivity, can be obtained from each area of land.

The training program will have the major objective of providing as rapidly as possible qualified persons for research institutions, extension services, and other essential agricultural organizations throughout the tropics, with particular emphasis initially on Africa. The programs will be at various levels and durations to fit the needs of the range of trained personnel required for agricultural improvement and development. Research assistants already holding the B.S. or M.S. degree will be employed to work with each senior staff member of the Institute to contribute to the Institute's research programs while undergoing in-service training. Additionally, accommodations will be provided for graduates on scholarships to have one to two years of intensive training under the senior staff members of the Institute. Provisions will be made for qualified persons in these two categories to obtain postgraduate degrees during the training period or to utilize research conducted at the Institute in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a postgraduate degree at a cooperating university.

Other programs of a few days to several months duration will be developed to provide intensive practical training in special techniques or research methods, in extension and information programs and procedures, and in administration and operation of agricultural programs. The Institute will undertake information services to speed the spread of useful knowledge throughout the tropical areas of the world. It will develop a library collection of the world's literature pertinent to tropical agricultural improvement and a documentation service for research and extension personnel in the humid tropics.



In all of these activities, the Institute is expected to serve as a hub for international cooperative agricultural research and development activities. Its projects will interlock with and complement those of other national and international centers in nations of tropical Africa, elsewhere in the humid tropics, and throughout the world, including the International Rice Research Institute, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in Mexico, and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture in Colombia. It is envisioned that the impact of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, while of greatest immediate benefit to tropical Africa, will become increasingly evident in other regions of the world.

#### Trustees

The Institute will be governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of three persons appointed by the Federal Government of Nigeria, one person appointed by each of the two Foundations, the director of the Institute, and from three to nine additional members from other tropical African areas, South and Southeast Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and from among eminent specialists in tropical agriculture without regard to geographic location. The larger number of Trustees from Nigeria recognizes the contributions of the Government of Nigeria to the establishment and ongoing activities of the Institute. The initial members of the Board of Trustees are as follows:

Dr. G. Camus, Director-General, Office de la Recherche Scientifique et  
Technique Outre-Mer, Paris

Mr. J. F. Y. Hardcastle, Director, Federal Department of Agricultural  
Research, Government of Nigeria



Dr. F. F. Hill, Program Adviser, Ford Foundation

Dr. T. A. Lambo, Vice Chancellor, University of Ibadan

Dr. Y. K. Lule, C. B. E., Principal, Makerere University College, Kampala,  
Uganda

Dr. Will M. Myers, Vice-President, The Rockefeller Foundation

Dr. Bukar Shaib, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural  
Resources, Federal Government of Nigeria, Lagos

Dr. Dioscoro L. Umali, Vice President for Agriculture and Forestry, University  
of the Philippines, Los Banos

Dr. A. H. Bunting, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Reading,  
England

Dr. Robert Gardiner, Executive Secretary, U.N. Economic Commission for Africa,  
Addis Ababa

At the first meeting of the Board, Dr. Will M. Myers was elected Chairman of the Board and Dr. H. R. Albrecht, formerly President of North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota, U.S.A. was elected Director of the Institute and, ex officio, a member of the Board of Trustees. It is intended that the Board members, who were selected because of their eminence and potential contributions to the governing of the Institute, will serve as individuals rather than representatives of the organizations from which they come.

#### Projected Staffing

The scientific and professional staff of the Institute will be international in character, as is the Board of Trustees. Potential staff members will be sought from all parts of the world. The first criterion for selection will be scientific and professional capability. Within the limits



of equality of qualifications and availability, an effort will be made to insure as wide a distribution as possible of staff members according to country of origin. It is further intended that research assistants and other trainees will be accepted from all parts of the world, with priority given, however, to those from institutions in the humid tropics that are cooperating with the Institute.

#### Present Stage of Development

The Federal Government of Nigeria is providing approximately 2,300 acres of land adjacent to the University of Ibadan for the Institute's central headquarters and experiment station. Architectural plans for the headquarters buildings are now essentially completed. Plans for the experimental fields have been developed, and considerable land clearing and fencing have been done. The first phase of construction, which is now starting, will provide the facilities necessary for initiation of field research. They will include buildings and equipment for machinery storage and repair, crop drying, and seed processing and handling; laboratory space for the first members of the staff; and some housing for the staff. The director of the Institute is currently engaged in staff recruitment and hopes to have a substantial number of scientists prepared to begin a field research program in the next cropping season, that is, with the beginning of the rains in March, 1969.

#### Projected Financing

Funds for development of the Institute, including the construction of the physical plant and provision of initial equipment is being provided by the Ford Foundation. Officers of the Ford Foundation and The Rockefeller Foundation will undertake to provide core financing for operation of the Institute at a minimum effective level of program activities over an extended



period of time. In the proposal made to the Government of Nigeria, officers of the Foundations suggested support for a minimum period of 14 years. The current intentions of the officers of the two Foundations are to make equal annual grants, in staff and/or cash, up to a maximum of \$750,000 each.

The decree under which the Institute is established provides it with authority to receive support from sources other than the Government of Nigeria and the two Foundations in the form of grants of money, assignment of staff, gifts of equipment and facilities, and contracts for specific areas of research and other activities consistent with the attainment of its purposes.

It is intended that the primary research facilities of the Institute will be at the central headquarters at Ibadan. Institute scientists will seek to extend the Institute's program into other parts of the tropics through cooperative research with scientists at universities and other research institutions. The research, training, information and library and documentation activities at the Ibadan headquarters will be financed by the core support from the two Foundations and from grants and contracts from other national and international agencies and organizations. It is anticipated that the outlying cooperative endeavors will be financed largely by the cooperating national or regional institutions which may also receive grants, contracts, and other technical assistance from external sources. It is the intent of the Institute to assist, to the extent possible, the cooperating institutions with obtaining such support. The core cost of the total research, training, information, library and documentation programs projected for the Institute at the central headquarters is estimated to be in the range of three to four million dollars annually.



The director and the Board of Trustees expect to activate, initially, such parts of the total research and training program as can be supported adequately with the financing anticipated from the two Foundations and to leave other parts of the projected program for activation as additional sources of support become available. Additional financial support would also be useful in accelerating and increasing the impact of those aspects of the program which are initiated from core support provided by the Foundations. For example, two plant breeders assigned to work on the grain legumes would be expected to contribute at least twice as much, and probably more than twice, to varietal improvement of these crops than would a single plant breeder with responsibility for several of them. There are indications that additional support may be available at an early date from several sources; and it is anticipated, as the results from the Institute's programs have increasing impact, that there will be growing support from the nations of the tropics which benefit from them.

Agencies or organizations which wish to support activities of the Institute may do so by (1) joining with the Foundations in sharing the core support by annual contributions of money, assignment of scientists, or both; (2) providing grants of money and/or assigning staff for continuing support of specific activities which are consistent with the objectives of the Institute; (3) contracting with the Institute for specific research or other activities consistent with its objectives and/or (4) making block grants for capital development and equipment within the limits of needs of the Institute.