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Tropical soils

EXCERPT FROM: Diary JJM


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Breakfast appointment with JCH, F. HILL, RB, and AEM, and subsequent lengthy discussion with RB and FH relative to RB's impressions of Nigeria and the advisability of bringing into being a Tropical Research Center.

RB returned from Nigeria extremely enthusiastic about the prospects for such a center on three major counts. First, the ecological point of view. Nigeria offers a beautifully stratified climatic and edaphic environment which covers in a compact way most of the variation one would expect in tropical soils and tropical climate. Secondly, there is already a strong network of Experiment Stations throughout Nigeria, reasonably well equipped, reasonably well staffed, so that the physical basis for such an endeavor is already available in part. Thirdly, at Ibadan itself, there is interest and enthusiasm for such a center and the possibilities for developing such a center within a strong Federal University. RB felt that the RF ought to proceed with the recruitment of staff which would serve to strengthen the existing Faculty of Agriculture with the University, while the arrangements were being made for the development of a Research Center. When the Research Center would come into being, this staff would then form the nucleus of the Tropical Research Center staff.

DR. MITCHELL, a young Agro Veterinarian, trained at Tuslagoo and at Ohio State University in neurophysiology came in to inquire if the RF had employment for her in its Nigerian program. Her interest in going to Nigeria stems from the fact that her fiance is a Nigerian who went back to Lagos and now is a Parliamentary Clerk. He had thought about becoming a physician, but decided on Veterinary Medicine because as she put it, there were too many tensions involved in pursuing studies toward a medical degree.