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## INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE PROJECT

THE FORD & ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATIONS

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Ibadan, 17 September, 1966.

24 SEP 1966

5/17/66			

Dr. Guy Baird,  
Field Director,  
The Rockefeller Foundation,  
17 Kautilya Marg,  
Chanakyapuri,  
New Delhi 21,  
India.

Dear Guy,

There are two Indian scientists who have been suggested to us as possibilities for staff positions at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture. I would appreciate any information you can give me about their qualifications.

One of these is Dr. Debabrata Mukherjee. Dr. Mukherjee is located at the maize and paddy research station at Kalimpong, West Bengal. He studied plant breeding at the University of Minnesota on a Rockefeller Foundation scholarship and received the Ph.D. from there about two or three years ago. He was one of the best Indian students we had ever had in the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics. If his performance since he has returned to India has been consistent with the promise which we felt he had as a result of his work at Minnesota, we believe he would be an excellent possibility for an Institute staff position.

Since Dr. Mukherjee is working at the Maize and Paddy Research Station at Kalimpong, I suppose that some of your staff members have had an opportunity to see how effectively he has taken hold of the work there. Any comments you can give me would be greatly appreciated.

The second person who has been suggested to us is Dr. H.S. Gill who is presently a research associate in the Department of Plant Pathology, University of Illinois, Urbana. Dr. Gill received the M.S. Degree from the University of Punjab in 1955 and following that date was employed at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute on a geographical and taxonomic study of the powdery mildews. He left the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in 1961 for an assignment in Nairobi, Kenya and in 1962 went to University of Illinois for his Ph.D. training. If you or any of your staff members were acquainted with him during his time at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, I would certainly appreciate any comments you might have about him.

Dr. Guy Baird

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I must say that I am somewhat less interested in Dr. Gill than in Dr. Mukherjee; in part this is, of course, because I am acquainted with Mukherjee but also I am impressed by the fact that Dr. Mukherjee has seen fit to return to India to make use of the training which he had in the United States, while Dr. Gill apparently is trying very hard to find a job elsewhere so he does not have to return to India.

It was nice to see you during the Directors' meeting in New York. I am sorry we did not have more time to visit at that time but both of us were very busy with several other matters. As a matter of fact, I am not even sure that I formally congratulated you on your promotion to the post of Field Director. If I did not, please accept my congratulations at this time. In my opinion it was a very deserved promotion and I am confident that you will do an excellent job of carrying on the work in India.

Please give our very best regards to Betty and accept our best wishes for your continuing success.

Sincerely yours,

*Bill*

W.M. Myers,  
Director Designate.