

Nigeria

The Rockefeller Foundation

111 WEST 50th STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10020

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

9 JUL 1965

RWC	24 7/16	RWC	
file			

CABLE: ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: COLUMBUS 5-8100

July 2, 1965

Dear Ralph:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 21, and thank you particularly for spending the time with us in Nigeria to select the site for the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture.

I appreciate particularly your comments regarding the soils on the site which we selected. I think the decision which had been made previously to locate as close as possible to the University of Ibadan was sound, as you have indicated. Furthermore, from what I have seen of the area around Ibadan, I am not sure we would have done any better in selecting a site even if we had not had the restriction of being near the University of Ibadan. I know that we will have some difficulty in finding adequate areas of sufficiently uniform soil for field experiments. Furthermore, research we do there in soil crop management, soil fertility, soil chemistry, etc., will not provide information applicable to some of the more difficult soils in the wetter tropics. As you know, we are definitely contemplating extensive cooperative research with experiment stations in other parts of the wet tropics. Such cooperative research, if developed as we intend that it shall be, will provide us with the opportunity to obtain information with much greater applicability to these more difficult conditions.

I am enclosing a copy of the description of the site which was ultimately transmitted to Mr. Okiy. You will note that there has been a change with respect to the southern boundary and particularly with respect to the area of land lying south of the power transmission line and east of the University of Ibadan acquisition.

When you and Dick left, we had concluded that we would request a part of the latter area. However, after further conversation with Mr. Obiaphara from Moor Plantation, Mr. Okiy in Lagos, and with one of the officials of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, we concluded that it would be unwise to include the right-of-way of the electric power line in the Institute property.

We would have been prohibited from fencing across the right-of-way, and it would have been necessary therefore, for us to fence separately the area south of the transmission line right-of-way. Furthermore, we would not have been able to use the land in the right-of-way for experimental purposes since the ECN retains right of access at all times. You may note that we put in the provision to make some changes in the proposed boundary, should the detailed soil survey reveal large areas of the proposed site which would be totally unsuited for purposes of the Institute.

When I am back in Nigeria next week, we hope to have the helicopter available for closer inspection of the entire area. Furthermore, we hope to be able to get the soil survey completed between the time of the first publication of the notice of acquisition and its final publication. Mr. Oky indicated that it should be possible for us to make some changes in the boundaries of the requested area during that period.

Thanks again for the help you gave us with the site selection. I am also enclosing, as you requested, a copy of the proposed program of the Institute. Although we have not yet started an intensive search for staff members for the Institute, I would appreciate any suggestions you may have of individuals who should be considered for any of the proposed staff positions.

Sincerely yours,

Bill

W. M. Myers
Associate Director

Dr. Ralph W. Cummings
INDIA - MAIL

WMM:us
Enclosures