

REPORT OF THE

Held at Bangkok, Thailand
13-15 November 1972

**TWELFTH SESSION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL RICE COMMISSION**



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations to Member Countries and FAO

1. Referring to the great advance in the genetic improvement of rice, which has been mainly in regard to high-yielding varieties suitable to favourable growing condition which account for, at the maximum, only 20% of the total area of the Asian Region, it is recommended to all Three Working Parties to concentrate future activities on the development of improved varieties adaptable to widely separated, less developed areas as well as of adaptive research to determine suitable cultural practices.

2. In order to increase food production efficiently, emphasis should be laid on the increase of output per unit land area and per unit time. Since the short-duration rice varieties have been developing in areas under controlled irrigation, in a number of areas there is an increasing demand for growing rice in rotation with other crops such as maize, sorghum, food legumes, root crops and some cash crops such as tobacco and vegetables.

It is, therefore, recommended that all Three Working Parties should pay attention to the introduction of multiple cropping systems with the aim of developing the most profitable cropping patterns suitable to respective areas. This involved co-ordinated research on suitable varieties and the most effective integrated use of land water and fertilizer, the most suitable combination of crops, its cultivation and mechanization methods as well as pre- and post-harvest treatments.

3. In addition to the future actions on specific aspects of the production, conservation, distribution and consumption of rice (soil, water, and fertilizer, agricultural engineering, production and protection), it is recommended to FAO and IRC Member Countries to emphasize in future work on a multi-disciplinary integrated approach, with the main objective to develop efficient rice farming systems of a desirable economic and social level.

4. It is recommended to place increasing emphasis on the transfer of knowledge on research to practical application on farmers level and to include this matter into the agenda for the next session of the IRC Working Parties.

Recommendations to FAO

1. It is recommended to FAO to call for a Special Session of the IRC Commission during the forthcoming FAO Conference in 1973. It is also recommended that the FAO Steering Committee of the IRC should prepare a background information on the future programmes of work to be submitted to IRC member countries in advance of the 1973 FAO Conference.

2. In view of the immense contribution made by IRC in the past, and recognizing an increasingly important role to be played by IRC in future for the development of rice production in the world, FAO should place more emphasis than before on IRC, including improvement of budget allocation and full-time post(s) directly responsible for IRC under the Regular Programme of FAO.

3. FAO should encourage action oriented programmes in the field of identifying constraints in rice production within each rice-growing country. It should also promote training courses at national level and for various disciplines.

4. In view of the need for the development of rice production and farming systems which include all disciplines, it is recommended that the proposed Special Session of the IRC should, in considering the future programme of work, examine the methods by which these matters might best be handled by the Commission. In particular, consideration should be given to investigate how this might best be done by the establishment of a separate

working party on Economic and Institutional Matters, or by an examination of these matters in the existing working parties either separately, or as a joint session of the working parties. Ad hoc meetings between sessions should be encouraged.

5. The communication among the IRC Member Countries and with IRC/FAO should be improved, e.g. by adjusting the IRC Newsletter even more to the conditions of the new rice-growing countries outside Asia and provision of ad hoc information, including the liberal distribution of the papers presented at this Session.

6. In view of the rapidly increasing importance of Rice Cultivation in many countries outside Asia, it is recommended to pay more attention to these countries which should also include intensified co-operation with the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA).

The Recommendations adopted by the Three IRC Working Parties at their sessions in Bangkok from 30 October to 10 November 1972 have been endorsed by this Twelfth Session of the IRC.