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To: Members of the Cocoa Research
Sub-Committee

From: E.T. Beauchamp

6th November 1995

Cocoa Prospecting in Guyana

I indicated at last week's meeting of the Cocoa Research Sub-Committee that I expected to receive a preliminary report from Dr. Mark Johnston and his colleagues at the University of the West of England on their visit to Guyana in July/October. This has now been received and I have pleasure in circulating it herewith. The full report on this work will be available within the next three months.

Members may wish to note that provision has been made in the budget for 1996 for a further contribution to this work in Guyana.

E.T. Beauchamp

Guyana Cocoa Diversity Project Preliminary Report

From July to October 1995 preliminary studies were undertaken to assess the status of Cocoa *Theobroma cacao* L. in Guyana. The long-term objectives, to which it is hoped these studies will contribute, being;

- conservation and documentation of genetic variation of cocoa which may harbour particularly high yielding varieties, and possible resistance to any future pest problems.
- conservation and documentation of genetic variation of cocoa which may harbour resistance to *Crinipellis pernicioso*, and other fungal diseases.

In this preliminary report we outline the general findings of the 3 month study, and summarize the activities. Full detailed analysis of the information obtained will be included in the final report which will be produced within the following 3-5 months.

Objectives

The objectives of this feasibility study were:

- Discuss the project development proposals with Guyanese authorities in order to maximize the projects efficiency and effectiveness.
- Undertake preliminary surveys of key localities to obtain further information on the distribution and abundance of *Theobroma cacao*.

Faculty of Applied Sciences
University of the West of England (UWE)
Coldharbour Lane
BRISTOL BS16 1QY
Tel: 0117 9656261 xt 2486 FAX: 0117 9763871

Study outline and itinerary

Over the study period four localities in Guyana were visited. At each locality a detailed description of the status of the Cocoa was taken, including Cocoa descriptors. Full details will be given in the final report, including locality descriptions and GPS readings.

23rd July - 3 August

GEORGETOWN Research institutes and ministries were visited for the purpose of gathering further information on the whereabouts of cocoa and to determine the feasibility of establishing a germplasm bank in Guyana.

The Central Horticultural Station, Timehri, was visited where 41 individual trees, which are part of the abandoned IICA Cocoa germplasm bank, were described and tagged.

Further reports of cocoa in Guyana were gathered from National Agricultural Research Institute along with the National Library, and National Archives. Personal contacts in Georgetown were also consulted on the whereabouts of cocoa. These sources of information resulted in the identification of at least another 10-15 Cocoa localities.

Mrs Ford, Director, National Agricultural Research Institute
 Dr I. Ramdass, Dean of Natural Sciences, University of Guyana
 Chief Agricultural Officer, Ministry of Agriculture
 Mr J. Clouse, Ministry of Agriculture
 Mr I. Ford, Central Horticultural Station
 Mr E. Hopkinson, and Mr J. Livingston, Personal contacts

3 - 15th August

KURUPUKARI was an area identified as supporting cocoa. Sampling of the cocoa in the village was performed, and using local guides searches for cocoa in the surrounding area were undertaken. Information from the Iwokrama Rainforest Camp at this location was visited to aid with the search. A forest transect was visited to familiarise ourselves with the aspects of the environment, including safety precautions.

15 - 22 August

ANNAI Arrangements were made to travel by boat to Kumaka and Primos Inlet

22 - 25 August

APOTERI A local Amerindian, Mr Wilfred Laurindo, was sought to help us locate the areas reported to support cocoa.

25 August - 11 September

PRIMOS INLET This was the main cocoa site where a total of 347 trees were measured and tagged. A trail over to the Berbice River was made to continue in the search for cocoa in this area.

11 - 14 September

ANNAI A short stopover awaiting transport to Lethem.

14 - 22 September

LETHEM Awaiting transport back to Georgetown. Delay due to illness.

22 - 30 September

GEORGETOWN A return visit was made to NARI as with the National Archives. The Central Horticultural Station was revisited to complete the sampling of cocoa. The museum was also visited in search of more reports on cocoa.

A visit to a farm along Canal No.1, led to the find of a few more cocoa trees.

No Cocoa specimens were collected due to current restrictions on the exportation of biological material from Guyana.

1st October

TRINIDAD Meetings were organised with Mr Vish Mooleedhar and Professor Spence from the Cocoa Research Unit to discuss our study and the work being carried out in Trinidad.

Structure of final report

1. Guyana Cocoa Diversity Project: Feasibility Report

Abstract

Acknowledgements

- 1.1. Project Objectives
- 1.2. Cocoa in Guyana
 - 1.2.1. History of Cocoa in Guyana
 - 1.2.2. Current status
- 1.3. Distribution of Cocoa in Guyana
- 1.4. Detailed description of Cocoa localities
- 1.5. Brief description of Cocoa localities
- 1.6. Institutional framework
- 1.6. Conclusions

2. Guyana Cocoa Diversity Project: Research Proposal

- 2.1. Long-term objectives
- 2.2. Justifications
- 2.3. Project recommendations
- 2.4. Financial requirements

3. Bibliography

4. Appendices

- 4.1. Cocoa descriptors
- 4.2. Guyanese Institutions
- 4.3. Maps

Acknowledgements

Firstly we are indebted to Dr L Chandrapal of the Office of the President for providing permission to undertake these studies. These studies would not have been made possible without the financial support of the BCCCA, British Ecological Society, and the University of the West of England, and individual private sponsorship. A full acknowledgement of all those who have provided assistance in this project will occur in the final report.

Financial costings

Expenditure

Flights (2@£850)	£1,700
Insurance	£200
Equipment	£590
Accommodation and living (3persons@£4.50pppd for 80 days, & one person @£5.50 for 30 days)	£1,245
Internal travel	£610.50
Local guides	£240
	£4,585.5

Income

Personal contributions	£1,200
British Ecological Society	£625
BCCCA	£2,500
	£4,325

Clare Watkins, Owen Knowles & Dr Mark Johnston
October 1995