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To: Members of the Cocoa Research Sub-committee

From: Michelle End

24 February 1999

Reports on CFC Germplasm Project

I have now received the first six month General Progress Report for the CFC/ICCO/IPGRI project on "Cocoa Germplasm Utilization and Conservation: a global approach". This is a lengthy document and I have attached the summary only. If you would like to examine the full document please contact Audrey at the BCCCA office. I have also attached for your information Dr. Eskes' travel report on his visit to the University of Reading last December to review the progress of the CFC project activities being carried out there.

* Documentation and publication of the above information and photographs of about 200 clones including the project core collection, clones of the international clone trial and some additional widely distributed clones.

Details on activities to be carried out were discussed and agreed upon. ICGD will contact project partners that are likely to have additional characterisation or evaluation data on the germplasm held in their collections, specifically so for the clones of the International Clone Trial. The sites best suited to initiate the photography work were identified as Trinidad, Malaysia, Brazil and Ivory Coast. A camera will be bought and sent to the site for taking the photos during the main harvesting periods. The photographs will be scanned and introduced into ICGD. Caroline Ford will contact the technical co-ordinators at each site to determine how this activity can best be arranged.

8. VISIT TO ICCO

ICCO invited IPGRI to present the progress obtained so far in the CFC/ICCO/IPGRI project at the 100th meeting of the Executive Committee of ICCO in London on 3 December. ICCO had prepared a report on the project for information to the Committee which was distributed to the participants. In complement to this report, a presentation was given during the session on ICCO supervised projects. The presentation included some background information on the project as well as achievements obtained during 1998.

9. DISTRIBUTION OF REPORT

This Summary Report is distributed within IPGRI, to the Supervising Body (ICCO) of the project and to the technical co-ordinators of all project partners and to co-financing institutions involved. The Annex, with more details, is only distributed within IPGRI and to Reading University.

9. ITINERARY AND PERSONS MET

3/12 Montpellier-London. Presentation of the First Six Month General Progress Report at the ICCO Executive Committee.

7/12 Arrival at Reading.

8-10 Discussions with Project Scientists and administrators: Paul Hadley, Michelle End, Caroline Ford, Keith Lobley, Michael Shaw, Mike Wilkinson, Ann Parker, Alice Davies and Teresa Wheeler. Presentation of slides on activities at different project sites on 10 December.

11/12 London-Montpellier.

CFC/ICCO/IPGRI PROJECT

SIX-MONTH GENERAL PROGRESS REPORT NO. 1 (SMGPR1)

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title	Cocoa Germplasm Utilisation and Conservation: A Global Approach	
Project Numbers	ICCO/03 (CFC) and C12G (IPGRI)	
Project Executing Agency	IPGRI	
Project Supervising Agency	ICCO	
Starting/Completion Dates	01/04/98 and 31/03/2003	
Project Financing:	Total Costs	US\$ 9,985,940
	CFC Grant	US\$ 2,942,000
	Co-financing Contributions	US\$ 1,940,480
	Counterpart Contributions	US\$ 5,104,231

2. REPORT SUMMARY

Period Covered	1 April 1998 to 30 September 1998, but also including activities initiated before April 1998
Date Report Established	October 1998
Author	Albertus B. Eskes, Project Co-ordinator

Abstract

Following signature of the Project Agreement on 9 December 1997, IPGRI established Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and Letters of Agreement (LOA) with all project partners by April 1998. These documents include, as integral parts, Five-Year and First-Year Work Plans and Budgets for each project partner. First release of CFC project funds occurred at the beginning of April, hence the official starting date for the project was fixed as 1 April 1998 and the first Reporting Period ends on 30 September 1998.

This first Six Month General Report (SMGPR1) summarises activities carried out in the project initiation phase, to 9 December 1997 (date of CFC commitment for reimbursement of project expenditures) and activities between 9 December 1997 and 30 September 1998. It gives a summary of the status of project implementation and resource utilisation, indicating some modifications with respect to the Five Year Work Plan, and assessments of the PEA

1. **SUBMITTED BY:** Albertus B. Eskes
2. **COUNTRIES/INSTITUTIONS VISITED:** The University of Reading, Reading and the International Cocoa Organisation (ICCO), London, UK
3. **INCLUSIVE DATES OF TRAVEL:** 7-11/12/98
4. **RELATED PROJECT:** CFC/ICCO/IPGRI project on 'Cocoa Germplasm Utilisation and Conservation' (hereafter called CFC project)
5. **IPGRI ACTIVITY NUMBER:** C12G
6. **PURPOSE OF TRAVEL**

The objective of the working visit to the Reading University (RU) was to evaluate progress obtained and discuss future actions. RU is involved in three CFC project Components:

- a. Component 1: Witches' broom resistance testing of the clones used in the International Clone Trial against isolates from 4 different project sites.
- b. Component 6: Quarantine, multiplication, and distribution of project germplasm.
- c. Component 7: Identification, documentation and exchange of information on project germplasm.

The visit to Reading was combined with a presentation to the Executive Committee of ICCO in London on 3 December on the progress achieved so far.

7. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS HELD AT READING UNIVERSITY

Details on the discussions are indicated in the Annex to this report. A summary is given below.

7.1. Witches' broom resistance testing

The activity started in November 1997. A technician is working half time on the subject under the supervision of Dr. Mike Shaw. A large amount of work was carried out. So far, progress has been obtained on in vitro multiplication of the fungus (sporulation and growth of monokaryotic mycelium), on budding of tester clones and on bud inoculations. The leaf test using glycerol proved to be unreliable. Further progress is pursued in the areas of:

- * growth of the fungus on potato callus,

* finalisation of the Project Appraisal Report and preparation of the first General Annual Work Plan and Budget (GAWP/B);

during 1998:

- * organisation of the first Project Workshop held in February 1998 in Montpellier, France;
- * editing of the Workshop Report (50 % achieved);
- * working visits by the Project Co-ordinator to Rome (IPGRI), Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Brazil and Venezuela;
- * preparation of travel reports, which are official working documents indicating progress, recommendations and agreed modifications of activities;
- * preparation of three publications, two on the Project Workshop and one on the Project itself; and
- * organisation of distribution and exchange of germplasm.

Resource allocation during the reporting period involved mainly the following Components: International Clone Trials, Population Breeding, the first Project Workshop and Project Co-ordination. Most project partners received first CFC funds in May 1998. Eight project partners out of 14 have used more than 80 % of their first six month financial allocations and three have spent between 30 and 50 %. Spending is behind schedule in the case of three other partners, whom are expected to present their first financial reports within the next two months. Overall spending of CFC funds during the first six months is estimated to be about 80 % for all partners and 94 % for the 11 partners that have so far presented their first financial statements.

It is concluded that during the initiation phase an effective structure for implementation and co-ordination of the activities has been established, including financial and administrative procedures. The project is operational at all sites, the level of spending is as expected and the first results have already been obtained. The general status of implementation of project activities is 'on schedule' or even 'ahead of schedule'. Slight delay in project implementation observed in some countries is due to *force majeure* and most limiting factors are expected to be overcome shortly.

3. STATUS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

3.1. Introduction

This report summarises activities carried out in the project up till the end of the first Reporting Period. It is divided into two parts: the first one concerns the initiation phase of the project (till December 1998) and the second part covers the period from December 1997 to 30 September 1998. Although most of the activities could only be initiated after the CFC funds became available in April/May 1998, some institutions, on their own initiative, began season-bound activities even before December 1997. These activities were supported by co-financing or counterpart contributions and this co-operation is very much appreciated.

The more detailed First Six Month Progress Reports of the individual institutes, prepared by each project partner, are attached as a separate volume to this General Progress Report, including a summary sheet.

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