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To: Cocoa Research Sub-Committee

From: A Sexton

13 August 1999

**Cocoa Germplasm Utilization and Conservation:
A Global Approach**

We have received from IPGRI the General Progress Report for Year 1 of the CFC/ICCO/IPGRI Germplasm Utilization and Conservation Project and a copy is enclosed herewith.



**INTERNATIONAL COCOA ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU CACAO
МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ПО КАКАО
ORGANIZACION INTERNACIONAL DEL CACAO**

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Item 11 of the draft agenda**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PROJECT FOR THE CONSERVATION
AND UTILIZATION OF COCOA GERMPLASM**

Note by the secretariat

The present document contains a summary of the first end-of-year general progress report on the project for the conservation and utilization of cocoa germplasm submitted by the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

SUMMARY**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PROJECT FOR THE CONSERVATION
AND UTILIZATION OF COCOA GERMPLASM****CFC/ICCO/IPGRI PROJECT****END-OF-YEAR 1 GENERAL PROGRESS REPORT (Y1GPR)****1. PROJECT SUMMARY**

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|---|--|-----------------------|
| 1.1. Project Title: | Cocoa Germplasm Utilization and Conservation:
A Global Approach | |
| 1.2. Project Number: | ICCO/03 (CFC) and C12G (IPGRI) | |
| 1.3. Project Executing Agency: | IPGRI | |
| 1.4. Project Supervising Agency: | ICCO | |
| 1.5. Starting/Completion Dates: | 01/04/98 and 31/03/2003 | |
| 1.6. 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

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2.1. Period Covered | 1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999 |
| 2.2. Date Report Established | May 1999 |
| 2.3. Author | Albertus B. Eskes, Project Co-ordinator |
| 2.4. Abstract | |

This report gives a summary of project implementation and resource utilization by Project Sites and Project Components from 9 December 1997 (date of signature of Project Agreement) until 31 March 1999.

The detailed progress report is currently in print and will be distributed among the project participants, ICCO and the Common Fund. It contains detailed information received from each of the 13 Project Sites, which is complementary to that provided in the first Six Month General Progress Report submitted in October 1998. It includes separate reports on co-financing activities by ACRI, in Brazil and Trinidad. The co-financing activities of BCCCA and CIRAD-CP are included in the reports of the respective project partners concerned, i.e. Reading University (UK), CRU (Trinidad) and CNRA (Côte

d'Ivoire). The IPGRI co-financing support has been for the preparation and initiation of the project as well as for scientific backstopping and project management aspects.

The most significant general **technical** achievements are:

- Obtaining of agreement on working procedures applied to common project activities during the first **Project Workshop**.
- Distribution of budwood of 42 clones, containing a core of 25 clones for the **International Clone Trial**, from the Reading and Montpellier quarantine centres to 10 project sites (98% finalized).
- Obtaining of 75 to 100% success of initial multiplication of these clones after one or two introductions (average 90%). Establishment of on average 30 clones at 10 sites (298 in total) of which about 25 common clones will be used at each site for the International Clone Trial (see Annexes 2, 3 and 4).
- Initiation of secondary multiplication of introduced clones for field planting in Papua New Guinea and Ecuador (ahead of schedule).
- Analyses of about 100 samples of DNA in Reading and Montpellier for identification of 'international' clones from different project sites. Identification of misidentifications for about 40% of the clones.
- Initiation of buddings for the Local Clone Trials and Local Clone Observation Plots (on average on schedule).
- Field planting of Local Clones in PNG (ahead of schedule).
- Carrying out of about 250 crosses by manual pollination and establishment of about 150 cross progenies in the nursery to be tested in the Internationally Co-ordinated Hybrid Trials at 5 sites (ahead of schedule, on schedule or behind schedule).
- Carrying out of about 450 crosses by manual pollination and establishment of about 350 cross progenies in the nursery or field for the Population Breeding activities at 3 sites (Ghana, Brazil and Malaysia).
- Carrying out of observations and analyses of field data on about 300 cross progenies within the Population Breeding activities in Côte d'Ivoire and Brazil.
- Initiation of field preparation for planting of project trials (behind schedule in Venezuela and Cameroon).
- First results obtained on early screening of project materials for resistance to black pod in Nigeria, Ghana, Papua New Guinea and for witches' broom resistance in Brazil and Ecuador (on schedule).

- Fungal isolates identified and shipped to Reading and Montpellier for the witches' broom and black pod resistance 'Ring Tests' (slight delay). Evaluation of test methods carried out for witches' broom (as yet without conclusive results).
- Germplasm Enhancement activities carried out at CRU, Trinidad, with 250 field accessions of the International Cocoa Genebank (ICG,T) and 1000 seedlings from 30 crosses evaluated for black pod resistance, obtaining promising results (ahead of schedule). Initiation of witches' broom resistance evaluations.
- Implementation of germplasm characterization and preliminary evaluation activities, with results reported by CRU on 400 accessions of the ICG (on schedule).
- Germplasm conservation and evaluation of local collections is carried out with very limited counterpart funds. Some collections are in bad shape and require reallocation (e.g. in Cameroon and Ecuador).
- Exchange of germplasm between project partners: 1. six clones from the Montpellier quarantine centre, but selected in African countries, were made available by these countries for the International Clone Trials; 2. Côte d'Ivoire provided five crosses between black pod resistant clones to Cameroon and Nigeria; and 3. Malaysia made clone PBC23 and Ghana the 'crinkle leaf' mutant available to the Montpellier quarantine centre for future research requirements by project partners.

Most activities are presently on schedule, a few are ahead of schedule and others slightly delayed. General delays of about 6 months in project implementation are to be noted at the following sites: CNRA in Côte d'Ivoire, due to reorganization of the local research structure, CONICIT/FONAIAP in Venezuela and MALMR in Trinidad, due to unforeseen administrative requirements to make financial resources in good time available to the researchers. Due to technical problems, some specific activities are delayed in Cameroon, Nigeria and at Reading University. These problems have been largely removed during the past 6 months.

Activities carried out for project Co-ordination and Technical Backstopping are:

- Organization of the first Project Workshop held in February 1998 in Montpellier, France.
- Elaboration and distribution of the 'Advanced Draft Working Procedures' to all Project Partners in March 1999.
- Working visits carried out by the Project Co-ordinator to Rome (IPGRI), Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Brazil, Venezuela, Côte d'Ivoire, Reading University, Trinidad and Ecuador.
- Preparation of general and specific travel reports, which are official working documents indicating progress, recommendations and agreed modifications of activities.
- Analysis of technical and financial institute progress reports.

- Organization of distribution and exchange of germplasm.
- Publication of two articles on the Project Workshop in existing cocoa newsletters and one on the Project itself in the magazine *Plantations, Recherche et Développement*.
- Presentation of a poster and an information sheet on the Project at the '*Salon de Agriculture*', held in Paris in March 1999.

Resource allocation 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. Spending is on schedule for most partners but behind schedule at three project sites. Some partners have requested small changes in allocations between budget categories or years to cope with changes in implementation costs.

It is concluded that the project is operational at all sites, the level of spending is generally as expected and the first relevant results have been obtained. The overall status of implementation of project activities is 'on schedule' or even 'ahead of schedule'. Slight delays observed in some countries are due either to institutional factors or technical problems, related to unfavourable climate. The few unaccomplished project activities have been rescheduled for the second year.