

INTERAMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE
INTERAMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

IICA/BID Agreement ATN/SF-4833-RG



With the collaboration of IFPRI and CIAT

CARDI



Workplan for
the Caribbean
May 1996

105771

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- Screening potential research themes using agreed methodology to generate initial assessment of national priorities
- Reviewing and finalising national priorities based on stakeholder consensus

Sub-region Level Identification of Themes of Common Interest

- Sub-region coordination responsibilities and mechanisms
- Identification of sub-regional clients and stakeholders
- Compiling basic information
- Identifying constraints and opportunities at the sub-regional level; focus on potential marketing and trade impacts of R&D, as well as economies of scale and scope in the conduct of R&D. This could include optimising the location of research to maximise the spillover potential of technologies between countries and strengthening the institutional mechanisms that could facilitate such transfers.
- Identifying and characterising funding opportunities for sub-regional R&D
- Agreeing criteria to evaluate priority research themes in the sub-regional context.
- Together with other relevant information and with research themes identified at the subregional level, the national research themes can be incorporated in the agreed methodology to generate an initial assessment of subregional themes of common interest
- Reviewing and finalising subregional priority themes based on stakeholder consensus
- Ensuring information on identified priorities and the priority setting process is made available on a continuing basis to appropriate decision makers and institutions within and outside the region.

Project formulation (national and subregional), screening and selection (subregional)

- Based on prioritised research themes project proposals can be formulated according to the standards and procedures operating at national and sub-regional levels
- Procedures must be designed and agreed by stakeholders for the review and selection of individual projects at the sub-regional level
- Procedures must be established for monitoring and evaluating (M&E) sub-regional projects that are selected for implementation
- Procedures should be established to feedback information from the M&E system to enhance the ARPSS over time.

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***"Project for Strengthening Capacities and Applications in Agricultural
Research Priority Setting in Latin America and The Caribbean" (IBP2)***

**Workplan for the Caribbean¹
May 1996**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Caribbean sub-region is facing significant challenges in making its agriculture and agribusiness sectors more competitive in an era of global trade liberalisation coupled with great dynamism in regional trading partnerships. A key strategy in improving agricultural efficiency and international competitiveness in a sustainable way is the constant development, adaptation and application of appropriate pre-production, production and post-production technologies.

However agricultural R&D, the source of such innovations, is itself under threat. Funding from traditional sources continues to decline in real terms while the goals of public-sector R&D have broadened to encompass not only increased productivity and competitiveness, but also increased social equity and a sustainable use of the natural resource base. All of these factors interact to place increasing pressure on research managers (a) to demonstrate that R&D investments provide significant benefits to their intended clients, and (b) to improve the efficiency of the R&D process through better allocation of scarce research resources.

In this context, the IBP2 project is designed to increase the number, and strengthen the capacity, of Latin America and The Caribbean (LAC) research analysts to respond to demands for more and better information to support R&D investment decision-making, at both the multinational and national levels. This document sets out the Workplan agreed between CARDI and IBP2 to conduct agricultural research priority setting activities in the sub-region. These activities include not only training workshops and real-world applications of appropriate methodologies, but also support the design of an overall Agricultural Research Priority Setting System (ARPSS) for the Caribbean. The Project has been designed to provide the means for the ARPSS to continue and evolve well beyond the lifetime of the former.

¹ This Workplan was written by Héctor Medina (IICA) and Stanley Wood (IFPRI/CIAT) in consultation with Hayden Blades, Executive Director of CARDI and The Planning and Business Development Unit.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the IBP2 project in the Caribbean are a) developing capabilities to identify agricultural research priorities at the national and multinational level, and b) designing the technical component of an Agricultural Research Priority Setting System for the Caribbean.

3. EXPECTED RESULTS

The objectives will be achieved through the development of the following products.

- a) Trained Caribbean professionals able to develop agricultural research priorities at the national and multinational level.
- b) Improved analytical capacity of CARDI's Planning and Business Development Unit (PBDU) through training in quantitative *ex-ante* research evaluation and the provision of software, manuals and the appropriate subsets of the LAC regional database.
- c) A design document for the technical component of an Agricultural Priority Setting Research System (ARPSS) for The Caribbean.
- d) Summary reports of procedures followed, analysis undertaken, and recommendations made in establishing thematic research priorities for international collaborative research.

4. MAIN CLIENTS AND USERS

The above products of IBP2 in the Caribbean are targeted to the needs of NARS and CARDI and are designed to strengthen the core of professional expertise in agricultural research priority setting at both national and subregional levels.

5. ACTIVITIES

5.1. To design the technical component of an Agricultural Research Priority Setting System (ARPSS) for the Caribbean.

The system will adopt the principle of setting subregional agricultural research priorities taking into account previously identified national priorities. The design will include the following:

Procedures for the establishment of national and subregional priority research themes and the subsequent formulation and evaluation of research projects. The ARPSS will outline and describe the interrelation among technical and institutional procedures, information, analyses and presentation of results, at the national and subregional level, in ways which are useful for decision makers.

A more detailed outline of the proposed contents of the ARPSS design document is contained in Appendix 1.

5.2. To carry out the first CARDI-IBP2 Workshop on "Setting Agricultural Research Priorities at the National Level."

The purpose of the workshop is to train professionals of CARDI and CARDI's member countries for 3 days in agricultural research priority setting at the national level, according to the agreed methodology set out in the ARPSS design document.

- ◆ The team of IBP2 will be responsible for the technical conduct of the workshop.
- ◆ The PBDU will prepare proceedings of the workshop.

5.3. To collaborate with the PBDU in training and demonstration of more quantitative *ex-ante* research evaluation methods that adopt a multimarket, multiagroecological zone framework.

The team of IBP2 will provide this collaboration for two days after the first workshop takes place. The model and databases used for this activity will be taken from the LAC regional level activities being undertaken by the IBP2 team at CIAT.

5.4. To develop a provisional set of National Agricultural Research Priorities

In collaboration with the PBDU the workshop participants will carry out this activity within two months after the first workshop. The main activities in each country consist of:

- Consultation on research demands and opportunities
 - Agreement on the criteria to be used in the prioritisation of national research themes
 - Collection of information
 - Application of priority setting methodology at the national level
 - Consultation to confirm results with relevant stakeholders
- ◆ The PBDU will coordinate these country level activities along with the respective governments.

5.5. To carry out the second CARDI-IBP2 Workshop on "Setting Subregional Agricultural Research Priorities".

Subregional agricultural research priorities will be identified, taking into account the agricultural research priorities set at the national level in each country. The identification process will be based on the methodology recommended in the ARPSS design document.

The workshop will be divided into three parts, as follows.

- Presentation of the provisional national research priorities.
- Agreement on appropriate procedures and criteria for setting subregional research priorities
- Formulation of proposed subregional agricultural research priorities
- ◆ The IBP2 team will be responsible for the technical conduct of the workshop.
- ◆ PBDU will prepare the proceedings of the workshop

5.6. To provide assistance to the PBDU in undertaking sample simulations with the multimarket *ex- ante* evaluation model for selected subregional priorities.

The IBP2 team will provide this assistance for two days immediately after the second workshop.

5.7. To prepare the final report setting out the results and recommendations of the IBP2' funded activities

- ◆ PBDU will be responsible for the preparation of the final report, containing the following.
 - Summary of the design document for the technical component of the ARPSS
 - Proceedings of the workshops
 - Summary of reports of national priorities established
 - Procedures followed, analysis undertaken, and recommendations made in establishing priorities of research themes at the subregional level.
 - A brief description of how the DBPU has been strengthened through the IBP2 project.
 - Recommendations for future development and implementation of the ARPSS for the Caribbean.

Following agreement by CARDI to the technical component of the ARPSS, particularly of the prioritisation method to be adopted, arrangements can be made to conduct the first CARDI-IBP2 Workshop.

An Outline of IBP2-Related Priority Setting Activities in the Caribbean Sub-region

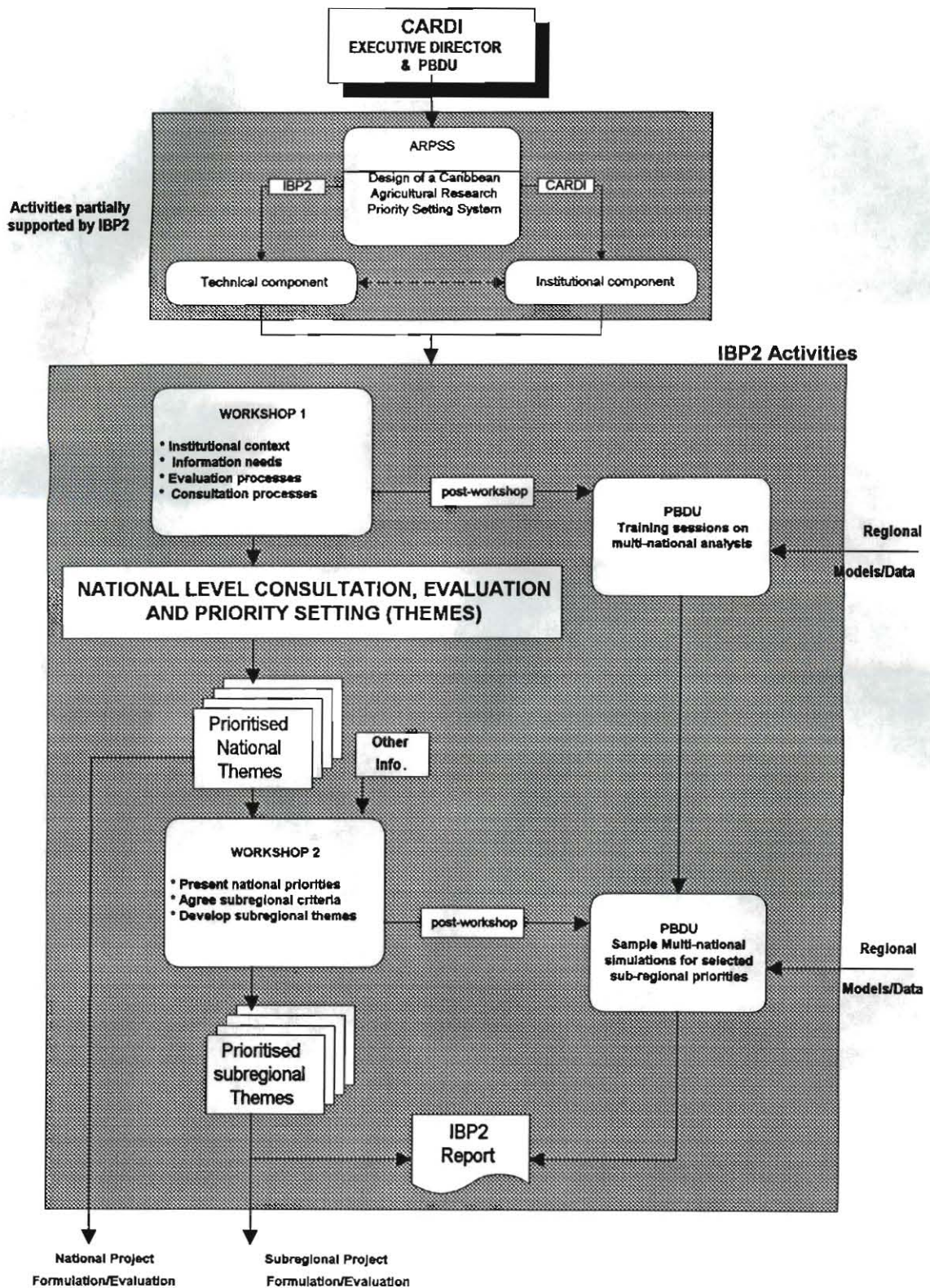


TABLE 1 . TIMELINE CARDI-IBP2 ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

ACTIVITY	MONTH							
	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
1. Design of the Technical Component of ARPSS	XX	XX						
2. Review and approval of CARDI of activity 1		XX	XX					
3. First Workshop				X				
4. Post workshop collaboration (PBDU)				X				
5. Development of National Agricultural Research Priorities				X	XXXX	XXXX		
6. Second Workshop							X	
7. Post workshop collaboration (PBDU)							X	
8. Final Report							XX	XX

TABLE 2. BUDGET

ACTIVITY	PRODUCT	RESPONSIBLE	AMOUNT PROVIDED BY IBP-2
1. Design the Technical Component of the Agricultural Research Priority Setting System	Document	IBP2 in consultation with CARDI	\$ 7 500
2. First Workshop	1. Trained personnel	1. IBP2	\$ 8 000
	2. Proceedings	2. CARDI	\$ 500
3. Post-workshop collaboration with CARDI's PBDU	1. Trained personnel	IBP2	\$ 1 000
4. Development of proposed National Agricultural Research Priorities	Provisional list of agricultural research priorities for CARDI member countries	NARs and CARDI	Countries
5. Second workshop	1. Trained personnel	IBP2	\$ 8 000
	2. Subregional agricultural research priorities		\$ 500
6. Post-Workshop collaboration with CARDI's PBDU	Trained personnel	IBP2	\$ 1 000
7. Final Report	Document	CARDI	\$ 1 500
8. Contingencies			\$ 2 000
TOTAL			\$ 30 000

APPENDIX 1

Outline Contents of a Report on The Development of an Agricultural Research Priority Setting System (ARPSS) for the Caribbean

Introduction

- The need for, and special problems of, agricultural research priority setting in the Caribbean
- The existing relationships among national and sub-regional level agricultural research agencies that influence investment decision-making at the sub-regional level.

Rationale for the basic ARPSS approach

- Increasing the relevance of research by fostering consultation/participation in the identification of research demands
- Promoting the use of consistent, transparent and readily applied methods for a screening identified research themes
- Developing procedures for reaching stakeholder consensus on priorities and appropriate information systems to keep key individuals and institutions appraised of them.
- A two stage (national - subregional) and a two level (research theme - project) PSS framework².

Country Level Identification of Priority Research Themes

- National coordination responsibilities
- Identification of clients and other stakeholders
- Compiling basic information
- Consultation: Identifying constraints, research demands and scientific opportunities
- Identifying the goals and objectives of national R&D endeavours and agreeing criteria to evaluate research themes against those goals and objectives.

² Research themes are equivalent to individual "Centre of Focus" activities as defined in CARDI planning documents e.g., IPM for rice, improvement of small ruminants - goats, sustainable farming systems for the dry hillside regions.

- Screening potential research themes using agreed methodology to generate initial assessment of national priorities
- Reviewing and finalising national priorities based on stakeholder consensus

Sub-region Level Identification of Themes of Common Interest

- Sub-region coordination responsibilities and mechanisms
- Identification of sub-regional clients and stakeholders
- Compiling basic information
- Identifying constraints and opportunities at the sub-regional level; focus on potential marketing and trade impacts of R&D, as well as economies of scale and scope in the conduct of R&D. This could include optimising the location of research to maximise the spillover potential of technologies between countries and strengthening the institutional mechanisms that could facilitate such transfers.
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