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No. 22
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Plant Production and
Protection Division

PLANT INTRODUCTION NEWSLETTER



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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Contributions in the form of reviews, news or original papers within the publishing field of the Plant Introduction Newsletter are invited in any of the three official languages of the Food and Agriculture Organization - English, French or Spanish. Articles are printed in the language in which they are received. Certain matter will be printed in all three languages.

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FAO PANEL OF EXPERTS ON
PLANT EXPLORATION AND INTRODUCTION

The Panel of Experts on Plant Exploration and Introduction was established by the Director-General of FAO in 1965.

From 25 to 28 March 1969, this Panel met to discuss the role of FAO in promoting and helping national and international efforts in genetic conservation and the exploration and utilization of genetic resources.

The following members attended the Panel meeting:

Dr. W.K. Agble	Director Crops Research Institute P.O. Box 3785 Kumasi, Ghana
Dr. J.L. Creech	Chief, New Crops Research Branch Agricultural Research Service U.S. Department of Agriculture Beltsville, Maryland, U.S.A.
Sir Otto Frankel (Chairman)	Chairman, IBP Sub-Committee for Plant Gene Pools P.O. Box 109 Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601 Australia
Prof. J.R. Harlan	Agronomy Department University of Illinois Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A.
Prof. J.G. Hawkes	Department of Botany The University of Birmingham P.O. Box 363 Birmingham 15, U.K.
Ing. A. Marzocca	Instituto Nacional de Tecnologia Agropecuaria (INTA) Rivadavia 1439 Buenos Aires, Argentina
Dr. B.P. Pal	Director-General Indian Council of Agricultural Research Krishi Bhawan Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road New Delhi 1, India
Prof. H. Ross	Max-Planck-Institut für Züchtungsforschung 5 Köln-Vogelsang Federal Republic of Germany



Above: Left to right, sitting: Dr. B.P. Pal, Dr. J. Vallega, Sir Otto Frankel, Prof. J.R. Harlan; Standing: Miss Erna Bennett, Ing. A. Marzocca, Dr. J.L. Creech, Mr. R.J. Pichel, Prof. J.G. Hawkes, Dr. W.K. Able, Dr. J. León, Prof. H. Ross

Two other members of the Panel were unable to attend this session. They are:

Dr. J. Barrau

Maître de Conférences
Laboratoire d'Ethnobotanique
Museum d'Histoire Naturelle
57, rue Cuvier
Paris, France

Prof. D. Zohary

Department of Botany
Hebrew University
Jerusalem, Israel

Among other matters discussed by the Panel, was the need to establish priorities in exploration. These priorities were established according to crop and area. Priorities were classified as 3, 2 or 1. An emergency rating was given to certain crops and areas. Genetic resources of cereals in the Middle East were considered to be so seriously depleted that an emergency priority was recommended. A similar situation exists in the case of rice in certain parts of Africa. The Panel also discussed problems of seed exchange, plant introduction, education, the role of the Plant Introduction Newsletter, and the financial implications of FAO for developing activities in these fields.

The official report of the meeting of the Panel of Experts on Plant Exploration and Introduction is shortly to be published.