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Most of the PRAPACE Coordination activities were carried out as programmed in the Coordinator's workplan. Changes to the workplan were made - according to the needs - and they are informed at the end of this report.

OCTOBER 1992

Visit to Burundi (October 17-25)

At the time the Institute of Agricultural Sciences of Burundi (ISABU) was celebrating its 30th Anniversary so the opportunity was used to participate in the ceremonies.

On the occasion of ISABU's 30th Anniversary, the National Potato Program officially released 4 new potato varieties as follows:

Clone No.	Variety Name	Average yield (MT/Ha)	Characteristics
374080.5	MAJAMBERE (development)	25-30	LB.T, BW.S
382147.18	JUBILE (anniversary)	25-30	LB.R, BW.T
381381.9	RUKINZO (protection)	20T/Ha	LB.R, BW.T
381381.26	INGABIRE (gift)	25T/Ha	LB.T, BW.S, RK.T

The activities carried out included: visit to the headquarters of the national potato and sweet potato programs at Gisozi; visit to the Munanira and Mwokora seed farms; visit on-farm trials in the swamps;; visit to the USAID mission in Bujumbura; and meeting with scientists and technicians to discuss progress and constraints.

The national potato and sweet potato programs of Burundi are doing very well. Of course their stage of development is different, the potato program has received technical backstopping for a long period of time and therefore is the most advanced.

A trip report was prepared and sent to the PRAPACE Executive Committee members. The report included the observations made and some comments and recommendations.

Visit to Kenya (October 26-29)

Kenya is a new PRAPACE country in the network, therefore one of the major objectives of this visit was to make an appraisal of the stage of development of both the potato and sweet potato programs. A special opportunity to do that was given by the fact that I was invited to the Root and Tuber Crops Planning Meeting being held at the time.

The activities carried out included: a presentation in the Root and Crops Planning meeting; visit to the National Potato Research Centre, Tigoni; visit to the Regional Research Centre, Embu; visit to the National Dryland Farming Centre, Katumani.

The Kenyan Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) is studying the necessary structural changes. The national potato and sweet potato programs will be involved in some of those changes. It is hoped that those changes will bring more support for them.

It is a fact that they could contribute a lot more to the agricultural needs of the country if they would have transportation, machinery, equipment and supplies in a less restricted form.

A trip report has been prepared and it is being sent to the PRAPACE Executive Committee members. This report, apart from the observations, presents a few recommendations related to the structural changes being studied and makes some suggestions tending to a more efficient use of the scarce resources available.

NOVEMBER

Visit to Rwanda (November 15-18)

Rwanda (Kigali) is the headquarters of the PRAPACE network. The Coordination keeps close contact with the National Potato and Sweet Potato Programs. However, special visits are arranged to go over the activities of the programs.

The present report refers to a visit made in the company of the President of the PRAPACE Directors Committee, Mr. Andre Nivyobizi and the Director of ISAR (Institute of Agricultural Research of Rwanda), Mr. Karoli Ndereyehe, also member of the PRAPACE Directors Committee. Mr. Donald Berrios, CIP Consultant in Burundi was accompanying Mr. Nivyobizi.

The headquarters of the sweet potato program are in Rubona. In there, we visited: the crossing blocks where new genotypes (True sweet potato seed) are obtained; the fields where selection of local and imported cultivars, multiplication of advanced clones and multiplication of "clean" planting materials for farmers are made; and the beds for selection of virus resistant cultivars.

In Ruhengeri, the headquarters of the potato program, we visited the tissue culture laboratory, screenhouses, and K'nigi, the seed production and multiplication farm. The potato program has had technical backstopping from CIP and PRAPACE during many years. It is therefore a well developed program; however, the sweet potato program is not too far away; in spite of the lack of facilities, it is one of the most advanced programs of the network.

A report of the visit was made and sent to all the PRAPACE Directors and Executive Committee members. The report dealt almost exclusively with sweet potatoes and gave some recommendations about the work on selection for virus resistance.

The potato portion of the visit was not mentioned because just a few weeks before (September 1), a visit was made and a complete report produced.

Visit to CIP-Region III (Nairobi, Kenya) & Uganda (Nov.24-Dec.5)

Nairobi is the headquarters of CIP's Region III where the scientific and administrative staff for Sub-Saharan Africa is located. The visit was used to discuss technical backstopping by CIP scientists and administrative matters.

In Uganda, the visit was programmed in conversation with the Coordinator of the National Potato Program, Mr. Deo. Akimanzi and the Potato Consultant, Dr. Lyle Sikka. Potato and Sweet Potato work being carried out in Central (Namulonge & Mbale), Eastern and Southern Uganda was visited.

The sweet potato program is making good progress and soon it should be doing more with the help of CIP-PRAPACE and new tissue culture laboratory. A selection of local cultivars has been made and new introductions are being tested against them. Selections for resistance to viruses - one of the major production constraints - is their most important objective together with the production of disease-free vines.

The potato program keeps improving the amount and quality of seed and diffusing the use of true potato seed for potato production, in spite that it has very few facilities. The interest of the Ugandan government to extend the potato crop to lower elevations nearer the big city markets, has become a challenge for the potato program. Variety trials are being carried out in different parts of the country; and, evaluation and selection criteria have to be adapted to those new conditions.

A detailed report with comments and recommendations has been written and will be sent to all Directors and Executive Committee members.

DECEMBER

The National potato and sweet potato programs of Rwanda had been visited in September and November.

The national potato and sweet potato programs of Zaire could not be visited due to the internal turmoil now existing in the country. However, we have kept contact by telephone with the head of the program and I hope to be able to visit it soon.

The Coordinator did not take his R & R because of pending administrative work and the need to coordinate all the efforts of the PRAPACE member countries to prepare a proposal for the meeting between the National Directors of Research of four networks (IITA-ESARRN; CIAT-EABRN; ICRAF-AFRENA & CIP-PRAPACE) and USAID-Washington and USAID-REDSO.

WORKPLAN CHANGES AND SOME CONSTRAINTS

CIP's Annual Review has been changed from November 1992 to June 14-25, 1993.

A meeting - not considered in the workplan - between USAID and the National Directors of Research of four networks took place from 18-22 of January 1993. The meeting promoted a better understanding between the donor and the networks' Directors; at the same time, it pointed out to the need of more involvement of the country members of each network in the administrative and financial management of the network.

As a result of the above meeting, the Directors Committee of PRAPACE decided - among other things - the following:

- 1) That the Coordinator together with the national program leaders prepares a two years (1993-1995) funding proposal to USAID to be submitted for approval to the Directors' Committee and then presented to USAID.

- 2) To cancel the February PRAPACE Executive Committee meeting in Ethiopia.
- 3) That the Executive Committee should meet instead in Bujumbura (February 26-28, 1993) immediately after the Bacterial Wilt Workshop (February 22-25, 1993).
- 4) To cancel the April PRAPACE Directors' Committee meeting in Ethiopia.
- 5) That the Directors' Committee will meet instead in Nairobi from the 22-26 of March 1993.

The internal turmoil in Zaire is making difficult the direct appraisal of the progress of the national program. However, the head of the national program calls the PRAPACE office to inform. His reports indicate that one of his major constraints is the lack of funds.

The war that started the 8th of February 1993 in Rwanda has involved the village of Ruhengeri, headquarters of the national potato program and Kinigi, the seed production farm. We still don't know how badly the program has been affected.