

Expedition No. 16: ISRISAT Review in Senegal and India (Sept 20- Oct. 30, 1978)

Harlan is back in Champaign from the 14th IGC meeting in Moscow (See Tr-6) for only a few weeks before he heads out on a different kind of mission: He is to go to Senegal and then India and participate with some other experts on a quinquennial review of the ICRISAT projects. ICRISAT stands for International Crop Research Institutes for Semi-Arid Tropics.

NOW THE REST OF THIS IS HIS REFLECTIONS ON ICRISAT MATERIAL AND THE QC REVIEW HE AND SOME OTHERS ARE TO DO. HE WILL GO TO DAKAR, SENEGAL AND THEN HYDERABAD, INDIA AND RETURN ON ABOUT NOV. 1, 1978. RIGHT AT THE END HE DOES A LITTLE COLLECTING, SO WE CALL THIS AN EXPEDITION. HVH2

Sep 20, 1978. Jack Harlan is still in Champaign, but Jean is in New Orleans. Jean's father, L. Edwin Yocum passed away in October of 1976. Jean's mother, Mildred was in a nursing home in Champaign. "Jean had called (from New Orleans) the aft. before about Harry & Kathy & a new 8 lb boy David Patrick or Patrick David. So, I called Mildred & the other three, packed and sorted. Lots will be left undone as usual. In morning went to field & selected some plants for Mark to harvest. To bad we could not have done more, but too green. Last minute letters & all that. Visited Mildred, lunched & back to finalize packing. Started reading ICRISAT material. Col IV dealt with the original team of Cummings, Sanger & Dogett on rationale for ICRISAT. The very first sentence displayed the prejudice. They said they hoped the institute would be established in India to work on Indian crops. There is no other country on the face of the earth where chickpea and pigeonpea are important. The intention from the very start was to establish [BOTT]

[Next page, left side:]

ICRISAT Mission Vol. 1

(p 61) 82% OF BUDGET IS FOR India

All chickpea, pigeonpea & groundnut research is for India

90% of farming systems is for India.

(p 68-9) graphics show ICRISAT is for India only

(p 71) shows the same

(p 75) projection is to keep pulse program Indian

(p 80 - 84) Administratin & Physical Plant – too much.

(p 92) Indian bias

& so on & on throughout.

After his notes on the Moscow IGC meeting, the Notebook changes gears. The next page is entitled: Start of ICRISAT Review Mission. ICRISAT stands for **International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics** (Asia & Africa). ICRISAT is a part of the CGIAR Consortium.

22/9/78 Jaquer Barreau? Interview / scribbled & may need rewriting.

Botanical Garden in Martinique & Bot. Museum. There follows Tech Talk.

Next page: A description of something on the wall. Following this is a series of what appear to be publication titles, sometimes in French and sometimes with short comments.

23IX78 “2:00 p IRAT Paris office: following a marvelous lunch at le Maison de l’Americque Lative, 217, Bd. Saint Germain Paris 7e’. Lloyd Evans started w/... then JRH has his notes on the talk by Evans. This is Tech Talk. Then there appears to be conversation with JRH notes on what people said.

24IX78 Report goes to TAC. Some comments about ICRISAT and donations. Then he has a “breakdown of assignments for draft report” and he has different people, including himself, writing various sections.

25IX78 He lists people who are going to make presentations or remarks. (This is some kind of conference of people from all over, probably an ICRISAT meeting. JRH just grabbed this partially filled in Notebook and took it with him, in which to take notes. THIS COULD BE VERY INTERESTING TO GET HIS GUT REACTIONS TO REMARKS BY OTHERS, AND HIS CORE THINKING ON ISSUES BEFORE THEY ARE POLISHED FOR PUBLICATION ca 1978. NEED TO GO OVER THIS LATER WITH A TECHNICAL MAN. HVH2. Following, are people mentioned:

Less Swindale, Lloyd Evanson, Andrew Hayman, H. Burhan, Raj Krisna, Mike Arnold, Jim Kendrick, John Corl ?, Luther Brader, R. C. Mc Ginnins (with comments about the role of ICRISAT in semi-arid tropical countries. “It has finally downed that work in India is not applicable in Africa, etc.), C. Charreau OSTROM (with 2 pages of comments), C. M. Pattanayak (with comments on East Africa), P. K. Lawrence (Austr.) (with comments about how “Most ICRISAT material is terrible – suspect to disease.” So just bringing plants from one area to another area does not work. You need a breeder to cull out the good genes.) A. J. Frowd (with comments on diseases), W. Stoop (with comments), J. P. Steveren (with comments), (This goes on for several pages)

26IX78 Field Trip to Komboinse Exp. Station. (This looks like an African word, but I cannot find this word anywhere in the Internet.) Joseph Kabore’- Director of Agr. Services (with comments on problems getting local farmers to use new agricultural seeds and techniques, then he goes off into the problems of land ownership, which can get very complex. There seems to be a good discussion going on here.), B. B. Singh (the little quiet one) (with comments about Niger), Shadrach O. Okror (tall, slim blech ?, nice person – Zaria A. B. U. (with comments about Nigeria: Hydrobad material is terrible. Clearly, the India-Africa coop not working for Pm, Says he still needs material from Hydrobad because he had not enough variability. T’aint so: he could collect

in Africa. Why depend of ICRISAT??”), Bob McGinnis second presentation – gave more of an overview.

27.9.78 Phil Sarafini – Malian program. He gave a good report on the Malian effort, lots of young people involved. “The Malians are probably the only 20th century farmer in W. Africa.

General discussion: ICRISAT has a good reputation in W. Africa due to the expertise it brings to specific areas.

After Lunch: Discussion: African center or Indian center for ICRISAT work? Then he lists 5 reasons for one center. Then he gives Mike Arnold’s model, which seems to be a no large center, but a network of regional centers. He has more notes, but it looks like the network idea is prevailing.

28.9.78 Out to Bambeey. Notes on comments of the director, Dr. Baye (Senegalese): the program started out at IRAT, but in 1974 integrated into national science research ?? with HQ in Dakar. ISRA is acronym for total program. More notes on various speakers: Claude Charreau, Antonie Lambert & R. J. Gahukar

30.9.78 Discussion in Bombay (Bambeey?): consensus is moving toward an ICRISAT office in W. Africa – not research but a planning group.

Miserably hot wait at Dakar airport. Finally off to Geneva.

Oct 1 Flew to Hyderabad

2X78 At ICRISAT Center: Notes on meetings there. JRH is recording everything everyone says.(I AM NOT GOING INTO ALL THAT. IF WE NEED TO COME BACK LATER AND SORT THROUGH THIS IF WE CAN.) This goes on and on for page after page. Some of the entries are dated in October: 5/10/78 John Green, 3 pages later: 6.10.78 R. W. Gibbons, 3 pages later 7.10.78 Briefing at 7:30, 3 pages later: 9.10.78 Afternoon at Burt Kranz, over these pages are notes on various people’s presentations.

9.10.78 Afternoon at Bent Kranz

[HERE HE IS TAKING NOTES ON THE SITUATION IN WEST AFRICA AND IT DOES NOT LOOK GOOD.]

[TOP OF NEXT PAGE HE WRITES:] “at Kodaikanal, TN 19.10.78 after some time for reflection on the whole sorry mess.”

[THEN HE STARTS A NEW PARAGRAPH] “The review finally came to a close on aft of 14th, Lloyd Evans gave out the news & called for no discussion. Lew Swindale read a short response & that was that.” He then tells about going out with the Greens to drinking and a party, then he gives some serious reflections on what took place, about a hidden agenda and how he never should have been so naïve and how Otto may have been behind the hidden agenda and he then seeks to justify himself by saying that he did get out the only two things he was interested in: “lack of

interest in collections and poor treatment of the national staff.” This goes on for a few pages with JRH talking about the organization and an ‘old boy colonial club’, including himself. Then a few pages of Tech Talk.

Monday, Oct. 16 (PN) “Coimbatore” (Google: Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India)

17.10.78 THIS PAGE HAS A LOT OF OTHER DATES AND INFORMATION. IT MUST BE NOTES FROM SOME PRESENTATION. HVH2

Tuesday, Oct. 17 (PN) “ T. N. AU and Bot. Survey of India” (Google: T.N.A.U.=Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore, India; Tamil Nadu is a province in the southeast part of India.)

18.10.78 So caught the 7:00 am bus for Madurai. I think they put me on the wrong one.” So, he goes here & there and finally gets to Madurai. He is trying to get to Kodoikanal for the night, but it is hard going, ending up on a pedal rickshaw then an awful wait at an Indian train station. “Waiting at a Indian train station is miserable. There are so many beggars I soon got ride of all the small stuff & wasn’t about to throw heavy bread at them so just sat miserable refusing to give any more.” He finally got to Kodoikanal.

Wednesday, Oct. 18 (PN) “To Madurai & then Kodaikanal by night”

19.10.78 Now we have a nice description of the area around the Carlton Hotel, where he was staying. Then he says that he wrote some reflections on the QC Review (which we read earlier). Then he takes a long hike in the hills, “unprepared for rain, which I should have known better” (Jean would not have let him go out there without some kind of protection.) And he gets to an area and has to say: “So, we are here at the wrong time again. Is there any right time? The dates of specimens in flower are: & then he gives some dates and he speculates on what time of year might be good to find seeds. “As of now it looks like the thing is real and wild – not escaped or a weed.” NOW WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT? WHAT PLANT? IT IS NOT CLEAR. NOW WE HAVE A VERY TANTALIZING BIT OF SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN CUT OFF IN THE COPYING. SEE ORIGINAL. HVH2

Thursday, Oct. 19 (PN) “Kondaikanal”

LET ME PUT IN SOMETHING HERE, NOW. IT WILL GO SOMEWHERE ELSE LATER. I CAN’T FIND ANY TRACE OF THIS QC REVIEW OF ICRISAT ON-LINE IN 2013, BUT THIS MUST HAVE SERVED AS AN EARLY REVIEW AND IT MUST HAVE BEEN BENEFICIAL. THE 2012 (40 ANNIVERSARY) REPORT SHOWS ALL KINDS OF GREAT THINGS THEY DID FOR THE POOREST OF THE POOR FARMERS IN THE ARID TROPICS. JRH HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT, BUT IT IS VERY HARD TO SAY EXACTLY WHAT, AT THIS POINT IN TIME. HVH2

20.10.78 Now comes a full description of this family, father, mother & daughter and all that they do. Why all this?

Friday, Oct. 20 (PN) “To Coimbatore courtesy the Woods, Barney & Jessica”

Saturday, Oct. 21 (PN) "to Bot. Survey to arrange trip. Otherwise zilch

22.10.78 HE WENT OFF SOMEWHERE – NOT SURE WHERE (SEE PN BELOW) – BUT HE STARTS OUT WITH AN ACCOUNTING OF MONEY, LIKE HE WAS LEAVING THE COUNTRY. BUT LATER IT SEEMS THAT HE WENT TO A COLLECTION SITE. "So it goes as the whole world goes. When I first knew India there were only about half as many Indians as there are now and it shows. Poor India and poor, poor south India! So I got some (11 samples) cultivated sesame seed & one volunteer (escape) – big deal. The whole trip without a shower & now its raining buckets. Best to be thankful for what you can get by with."

Sunday, Oct. 22 (PN) "Field trip to Trichur & back. (Google: Trichur=Trissur, which is over on the west coast of southern India in the Kerala province.) No wild sesame. May have been there & did not look in right habitat.

23X78 Went to Bot. Survey ca 10:30. Met a man who had done the Walayor Forest Reserve. Nothing much going on. "Needed a project to kill time so started on the speech for December 6."

Monday, Oct. 23 (PN) "arranged another trip. Nothing else"

24X78 Went to a sesame collection site and it was a rock outcropping. "I can hardly imagine a more non-agricultural site in South India." A granite outcropping, with pockets of shallow gravely soil and there it was: "good populations of wild sesame were growing. ... not a weed, not cultivated, not escape, to all appearances a truly wild plant of an early stage of succession."

Tuesday, Oct. 24 (PN) "Killed day slowly."

24-29X78 working his way back to London – plane delayed 20 hours, etc. (PN confirms all this)

WHAT FOLLOWS NEXT ARE ABOUT 30 NOTEBOOK PAGES OF TECH TALK. THIS MAY BE A DRAFT FOR A PAPER OR SOMETHING.