

PROGRAM STATEMENTOF THESUBCOMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION PROCESSES

POLICY

The clear necessity of matching food production to the needs of the world's population requires an accurate knowledge of the factors limiting primary production in the various regions and environments of the globe. It is the responsibility of the Subcommittee on Production Processes to help assess those limitations and then encourage studies of how they can be managed by man.

Among the more specific goals of this subcommittee are:

1. To identify the environmental factors that limit production of plant materials, particularly food-stuffs.
2. To encourage and coordinate research on the nature of the physiological responses of plants to the stresses introduced by these limitations.

This should provide a natural basis for manipulation of the environmental and biological factors involved in plant production.

We should conduct our investigations of environmental factors on the sites where they are critical, using an international team approach with local and visiting scientists working together. Concomitantly with field studies, laboratory and model studies are to be encouraged.

OPERATIONAL

Recognizing the limitations of time, funds, and personnel, the subcommittee feels that most can be gained by encouraging immediate studies on problems of a specific nature. Momentum gained in the specific studies will eventually lead to more general and broader treatments.

1. For example, there is an urgent need for better understanding of the drought tolerance of basic crops in the Western Hemisphere. Almost all established crop