



NC 5/68

## IBP/PCT Nitrogen Fixation Working Group

A meeting of the Working Group was held in the Division of Plant Industry, CSIRO, Canberra, on Tuesday, 14 November 1967 at 9.30 a.m.

Present: Dr. F.J. Bergersen (Convener)  
Professor J.M. Vincent  
Dr. C.A. Parker  
Dr. A.H. Gibson (replacing Dr. K.C. Marshall  
who was overseas and sent an apology).

1. Convener's Report. It was reported that there had been a fair response to the questionnaire sent out in February with the first Nitrogen-Fixation Newsletter. The replies had been edited and incorporated in Newsletter No. 2, as a series of progress reports from 4 of the 10 participating groups listed in the National Programme. An abstract of this Newsletter was published in "The Biosphere" in May. Newsletter No. 2 was circulated to all Australian participants and to members and corresponding members of the International PP/Nitrogen-Fixation Sub-committee.

Dr. J. Thompson, N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, Tamworth, had asked to be included in the list of national participants. This was done in time for the new edition of the National Programme.

2. International Experiments. The Convener reported on the discussions of the International PP/Nitrogen-Fixation Sub-committee in Addis Ababa on 7 November, at which the proposed experiments were reviewed. It was decided to compile a list of likely co-operators, to be sent to the conveners of the respective experiments. Dr. Parker undertook to advise Professor C.C. Delwiche of his results with  $^{15}\text{N}$  tests in vegetated soils as a contribution to the devising of a suitable field-testing method.

3. IX International Soil Science Congress. It was reported that a PP/Nitrogen Fixation sub-committee meeting will be held in Adelaide during the Congress and it is hoped to organise one or two IBP round-table discussions following the formal meeting. The hope of having these meetings in Canberra has been abandoned because of the slow response from Professor Mulder and Dr. Kvet.

#### 4. Future Activities.

(a) It was decided to circulate copies of information on the Internationally approved projects to all Australian participants in IBP/Nitrogen-Fixation. They will be asked to submit a minimum estimate of their financial needs which would enable them to engage in one or more of these projects.

(b) The Nitrogen-Fixation Newsletter will be continued and the next issue will be compiled from replies which will be requested from those groups which did not contribute progress reports for the last issue.

(c) It was agreed that we should proceed towards holding a national resident meeting on IBP/Nitrogen-Fixation in Canberra in May 1969 at which research papers would be given and round-table discussions held on topics of the National programme. This meeting should be in liaison with the working group on nitrogen transportation.

5. Training. There was some discussion of the possibility of making use of Australian Experience with legume modulation in the training of personnel from developing countries. Vincent and Parker agreed to draw up some proposals for a course of study and practical training in the agronomy, genetics and microbiology of the use and management of grain legumes.