CHAPTER II

OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES:
Farming Systems Research and Extension

This handbook is founded on a set of principles that provide a common basis for all project activities. Some of them can be considered assumptions, others represent basic truisms, while still others are conceptual models that help in understanding and managing the process.

Farming Systems Research and Extension (FSR/E) can be thought of as "applied, farmer-oriented agro-biological and physical research supported by socio-economic sciences in a team effort which is integrated with extension functions and personnel, with the product being technology and the client being the farmer, and taking into consideration the ecology and macro-environment."

These principles can be identified. They are listed here and will be elaborated in the following pages.

1. FSR/E must deal with technology from the farmer's perspective.
2. Farmer involvement is essential in FSR/E.
3. FSR/E is a problem-solving approach.
4. FSR/E is an essential component of the Technology Innovative Process (TIP), and much of its value lies in conditioning that process.
5. The Research-Extension System is but one system in a set of systems, and the other systems influence the impact of FSR/E interventions. The macro-environment is made up largely of the other systems.
6. Even though the project is the means by which access is gained to LDC technology problems, the major goal is to help the Host Country improve its set of national institutions working with research and extension.