



IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Executive Board - Sixty-Third Session
Rome, 22-23 April 1998

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, OTHER
RESEARCH, TRAINING AND OTHER APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT**

1. At its Fifty-Second Session, held on 6 and 7 September 1994, the Executive Board authorized the President to approve all grants, up to a maximum of USD 100 000 for each proposal, and to report to the Executive Board on the use of such authority.
2. A description is attached of 22 grants for Agricultural Research, Other Research, Training and Other, approved under this authority, up to and including 31 December 1997.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, OTHER RESEARCH, TRAINING AND OTHER APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

Originating Department/ Division	Grant Title	Amount USD	Scope of the Grant
ED	National Action Programme (NAP) to Combat Desertification: Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for the Cauto River Basin, Cuba (Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD))	80 000	The main objective of the grant is to design a NAP to prevent and arrest desertification in the country through the application of a participatory approach and partnership agreements. Where possible, degraded land will be reclaimed for productive use. The NAP will be operationalized through appropriate technology and institutional reinforcement for efficient river basin use.
ED	Forum of Mayors on Cities and Desertification (Rome, Italy, 3-4 October 1997)	80 000	The grant covered the cost of documents/publications, consultants and support staff, and the travel expenses of 24 developing country participants at the Forum of Mayors on Cities and Desertification, organized by IFAD in conjunction with the First Conference of Parties of the CCD. The Forum was attended by mayors and local authorities, city network organizations, experts and NGOs from 21 countries affected by desertification and representatives of international organizations. The aim was to: (i) analyse linkages between soil degradation, desertification and rural-urban migration; (ii) highlight the role of local authorities in desertification control, urban management and poverty eradication by way of NAPs; and (iii) identify viable models for decentralized partnership. An informal Inter-City Desertification Network was established for the purpose of promoting information exchanges and increasing public awareness.
ED	International Conference on the Environment (Thessalonika, Greece, 10 December 1997)	10 000	The objectives of the Conference were to: (i) highlight the critical role of environmental education and public awareness in achieving sustainability; (ii) further elaborate the work programme of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development; and (iii) mobilize action at local, national and international levels.



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ED	Media Outreach Workshop, and Media Seminar in Support of the CCD (Rome, 6 October 1997)	60 000	The workshop and seminar aimed at identifying strategies for drawing the attention of decision-makers to desertification as an issue of highest ecological concern. The media seminar, which provided a link between Professionals and the media, aimed at improving press coverage on the topic.
ED	CCD Regional Action Programme for Asia: Preparatory Activities	100 000	The CCD Regional Action Programme for Asia will comprise: (i) preparation of two background papers; (ii) establishment of thematic programme networks in China, India and Iran; and (iii) two technical papers on Inter-regional Action Programmes.
ED	Publication of 1998 Hunger Report	5 000	The grant contributed to the cost of the publication "Bread for the World" 1998 Hunger Report.
ED	Regional Training Course on Desertification and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, CCD/Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Action Plan (Santiago and La Sirena, Chile, October/November 1997)	30 000	The training course provided a "value-added" element to individual CCD national action programmes. Topics covered included: (i) rationale for formulation/implementation of NAPs; and (ii) major guidelines for action. Course elements included: presentations, country reports, and round table discussions. Participants included staff of the two IFAD projects in the country. The grant covered consultancies, travel and daily subsistence allowance, general support, and publications.
ED	"Save the Drylands" Evaluation	100 000	The grant covered: (i) identification of promising land use practices leading to sustainable environmental management; (ii) on-site evaluation of seven "success story" case studies, using a predefined set of criteria and indicators; (iii) selection of "Saving the Drylands" Award winners and their participation at IFAD's Twentieth Anniversary commemoration ceremony; (iv) preparation of exhibition materials for Twentieth Anniversary celebrations; and (v) production of technical reports on the case studies for the benefit of policy-makers, NGOs and donors.

Originating Department/ Division	Grant Title	Amount USD	Scope of the Grant
ED	International Seminar on the Role of Farmers' Organizations in Agriculture and Rural Development: Experiences from Asia (Hanoi, Viet Nam, 23-27 November 1997)	93 580	The aim of the seminar was to provide a forum for sharing experience and for a cross-fertilization of ideas and options regarding the role of farmers' organizations in the alleviation of rural poverty in Asia. It also sought to strengthen the potential of farmers' organizations in marketing, institution-building, financing and the dissemination of techniques.
ED	United States Department of Interior Workshop on Combating Desertification (Arizona, United States, November 1997)	40 000	The Workshop provided a forum for discussion, information-sharing, training, professional development, and the creation of partnerships between public, private and academic organizations on the conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage.
ED/PL	Preparatory Activities for the Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean/CCD	85 000	The aims of the grant are to: (i) convene a meeting of national experts in Antigua and Barbuda in April 1998 with the participation of experts from IFAD; and (ii) advance work on benchmarks and indicators for environmental assessment. To date, the grant has been used to finance the services of two consultants working on the establishment of the CCD Latin America Regional Action Network.
ED/PL	NAP/CCD: Training Course on Dry Forests and Desertification (INRENA-Algarrobo Project, Peru, 5-8 November 1997)	20 000	The training course focused on scientific progress and the experience of development projects in arid and semi-arid zones, due account being taken of indigenous knowledge of dry forest areas. The course provided a "value-added" element to the implementation of CCD/NAPs.

Originating Department/ Division	Grant Title	Amount USD	Scope of the Grant
OE/ED	Conference on Global Knowledge for Development in the Information Age (Toronto, Canada, 22-25 June 1997)	40 000	The objectives of the Conference (which was co-sponsored by IFAD) were to: (i) understand the role of knowledge and information in economic and social development; (ii) share strategies, experience and tools in harnessing knowledge for development; and (iii) build new partnerships to empower the poor with information and knowledge. The President of IFAD delivered a keynote statement to the Conference, and a special IFAD Panel was organized on "Knowledge Generation By and For the Rural Poor", during which four initiatives were presented (the Information Network Linking IFAD-financed projects in Latin America and the Caribbean; the Evaluation Knowledge System; the Integrated Participatory Seasons' Observatories System; and the Knowledge Network on Land Reform and Tenurial Security), illustrating the use that the Fund is making of information technology in its fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition.
OE/PT	Technical Consultation on Decentralization and Rural Development (Rome, Italy, 16-19 December 1997)	50 000	IFAD joined FAO and the World Bank as co-sponsors of the Technical Consultation on Decentralization (TCD), held at FAO headquarters. The overall objectives of the TCD were to: (i) reach consensus on the potential and limitation of decentralization for rural development; and (ii) identify good practices and principles for the sequencing and design of decentralization strategies. The Assistant President of the Programme Management Department of IFAD made a presentation to the opening session of the TCD, and the Director of the Office of Evaluation and Studies chaired the working group on "Decentralization Programme Formulation/Implementation, Monitoring/Evaluation, and Participation". Several IFAD staff participated in the consultation, which was devoted to brain-storming discussions of substantive issues and operational considerations for future action.





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PA	Study on the Performance of Group Development Components of Projects (Central African Republic and Senegal)	100 000	The study on the "Performance of Group Development Components of PA Projects in the Sahelian and Forest Zones of West and Central Africa" comprises a series of case studies undertaken in six selected countries, namely, Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Guinea, Mali and Senegal. The grant was used to complement other sources of financing in order to: (i) complete and synthesize the country case study for the Central African Republic (interrupted by the May 1996 revolt); (ii) undertake the country case study in Senegal, including final report writing; and (iii) compile a final report on all six case studies. The two country case studies were completed by the end of 1997 and submitted to IFAD. In each country, two ongoing IFAD-supported operations were thoroughly reviewed. The final synthesis report on all case studies is expected to be ready during the first half of 1998.
PL	Implementation Workshop on Rural Poverty Issues in the Context of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) (Montevideo, Uruguay, 3-5 November 1997)	100 000	The three-day workshop on "Combating Rural Poverty under Market Rules within the context of MERCOSUR" organized by the Latin America and Caribbean Division (PL), was opened by the President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, H.E. Julio M. Sanguinetti. The workshop's main objective was to evaluate the situation of poor smallholders of the subregion within the context of the opening up of the economy, and to identify ways of supporting them with a view to facilitating their participation in the integration process. PL's proposal to create a forum to discuss rural poverty issues and potential remedies in the context of globalization and, at the same time, to support MERCOSUR country initiatives to create a specific entity to assist smallholders was well received. The Project Directors of the IFAD-financed projects in the six MERCOSUR countries represented at the workshop spoke about the impact of public policies on territories and beneficiaries under their responsibility. The workshop's immediate results were: better knowledge of the problems involved, evidence of IFAD action in the region, and greater commitment by governments to support policies and projects in favour of the rural poor.

Originating Department/ Division	Grant Title	Amount USD	Scope of the Grant
PN	Workshop on Role of Local Governments in Project Implementation in the Near East and North Africa Region (Oujda, Morocco, mid-October 1998)	75 000	IFAD projects in the region increasingly emphasize participation as an effective rural development strategy. A strategy of this nature calls for an enabling administrative system which decentralizes decision-making powers to such communities, not only in terms of identifying and prioritizing needs but also as a means of empowering them to deal effectively with organizational and management issues through appropriate tax-and-spend powers. The objective of the grant is to cover the cost of a Workshop on Decentralization, Participation and Sustainability to review experiences of deconcentration and decentralization in Arab countries and examine the linkages between participatory processes and decentralization.
PN	Study on Smallholder Farming and Water-Saving in the Near East and North Africa Region	70 000	Almost all the Near East and North Africa region (NENA) is arid and characterized by low, erratic rainfalls, high temperatures and evapotranspiration normally well in excess of rainfall. Thus, shortages of water, cooperation among users and equitable sharing of its use, has existed since time immemorial. In recent decades, considerable resources have been devoted to water conservation and harvesting (defined as "the collection of run-off for productive use"). Despite encouraging results, the performance of most investment efforts has been well below expectations and some benefits were not sustainable. The study is intended to respond to this increasing concern and provide guidance for future IFAD-supported interventions in the region. The exercise mainly involves: (i) reviewing the potential for water-saving and harvesting by smallholders; (ii) examining the socio-economic and technical constraints to these systems; and (iii) developing an approach to promote sustainable water-use practices. Lessons learned from past and ongoing projects will serve as a basic input to the study.



Originating Department/ Division	Grant Title	Amount USD	Scope of the Grant
PT	Programme for the Transformation of Agricultural Research Systems in the Newly-Independent States of Central Asia and the Caucasus	90 000	The grant will go towards financing a programme for strengthening National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in selected countries of the newly-independent States of Central Asia and the Caucasus. IFAD's support will focus on assessing capacity-building requirements, particularly in the context of conducting participatory adaptive research involving farmer beneficiaries, and on providing adequate technical support services to farming communities, a key constraint facing IFAD projects in the region. Based on a thorough evaluation of the current and future needs of the National Agricultural Research and Extension/Education Systems (NARES), the programme is expected to respond to major lessons of IFAD experience in financing ongoing projects (and issues relevant to pipeline projects) in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan. It will also examine options for strengthening research support and developing rural-poor-responsive and sustainable agricultural technology-oriented institutions in those countries; and ultimately lead to institutional capacity-strengthening of the NARS to make them responsive to the needs of IFAD investment projects.
VC	Regional Workshop on Loan Administration (Asia Region) (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 7-11 April 1997)	50 000	The workshop concentrated on local capacity-building through training of key project implementation staff with a view to ensuring efficient use of proceeds of IFAD loans and grants.
VC	Regional Workshop on Loan Administration (Africa Region) (Windhoek, Namibia, 20-24 May 1997)	50 000	The workshop concentrated on local capacity-building through training of key project implementation staff with a view to ensuring efficient use of proceeds of IFAD loans and grants.
VC	Regional Workshop on Loan Administration (Near East and North Africa Region) (Damascus, Syria, 6-10 December 1997)	50 000	The workshop concentrated on local capacity-building through training of key project implementation staff with a view to ensuring efficient use of proceeds of IFAD loans and grants.



Notes:

- ED Economic Policy and Resource Strategy
Department
- PD Programme Management Department
- PA Africa I Division
- PF Africa II Division
- PI Asia Division
- PL Latin America and the Caribbean Division
- PN Near East and North Africa Division
- PT Technical Advisory Division
- VC Controller's Office

