



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

**PLANNED PROJECT ACTIVITIES - GRANTS UNDER THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS
FACILITY APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT**

1. At its Third Special Session held on 17 January 1986, the Executive Board authorized the President to provide for preparatory activities directly related to the Fund's lending operations under the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification, to be undertaken before or after loan effectiveness, by assisting with funding up to the level of USD 600 000 and USD 250 000, respectively, for each proposal.
2. At its Eighteenth Session in January 1995, the Governing Council adopted Resolution 85/XVIII, which extended the authority of the President to approve Special Operations Facility (SOF) grants under the Regular Programme. These SOF grants would be provided to IFAD borrowers entitled to highly concessional terms and on the basis of strict priority criteria.
3. A description of ten grants approved by the President of IFAD, designated as Annex D to document EB 98/63/R.27, is attached.

GRANTS UNDER THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS FACILITY APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

Region	Country	Project/Programme Title	Amount (USD) 1/	Scope of the Grant
Africa I	Benin	Microfinance and Marketing Project 2/	90 000	To support project start-up and early implementation activities. The proceeds of the grant will be used to finance key activities that will assist the Government in launching project implementation, namely: (i) recruitment of a facilitator to expedite conditions for effectiveness and to carry out preliminary activities for the establishment of the Project Coordination Unit (PCU); (ii) selection and recruitment of project staff; (iii) preparation of the first year's work programme and budget; (iv) preparation of the procurement plan; (v) establishment of the Management Information System (MIS); and (vi) finalization of the implementation manual.
	Ghana	Root and Tuber Improvement Programme	50 000	To undertake preparatory activities to ensure smooth programme start-up after loan effectiveness. Financing will be provided for: (i) selection and recruitment of programme staff; (ii) preparation of the first year's work programme and budget; (iii) preparation of the procurement plan; (iv) setting up of the MIS; and (v) organization of a start-up workshop.
	Mali	Sahelian Areas Development Fund Programme	90 000	To support necessary preparatory activities. The proceeds of the grant will be used to recruit consultants to undertake a detailed sociological study of the target group's internal participatory instruments and mechanisms, and the socio-economic environment. The results of the study will be incorporated into the design of the programme for rural development, which will be based on priority-setting and implementation by the beneficiaries.

ANNEX D

1/ This figure is subject to revision in the light of actual expenditure, but will not exceed the amount stated.

2/ Grant approved under the title "Women Marketing and Microfinance".



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Region	Country	Project/Programme Title	Amount (USD) 1/	Scope of the Grant
Africa I (continued)	Senegal	Village Management and Development Project	78 000	To facilitate project start-up activities. The proceeds of the grant will be used as follows: (i) pending the rehabilitation of the offices of the Project Management Unit, rental of office space for 12 months to house project headquarters at Louga; (ii) purchase of a four-wheel drive vehicle and computer equipment for the planning service of the PCU, including operating costs; (iii) recruitment of a project facilitator to assist the Government in drawing up various agreements and procurement documents; selection and training of project staff; and organization of a start-up workshop; (iv) training project staff in the areas of management and monitoring and evaluation (M&E); (v) exchange visits to other IFAD-supported projects in Senegal to learn from their experience; and (vi) organization of a project start-up workshop.
Africa II	Angola	Northern Fishing Communities Development Programme	60 000	To facilitate implementation and timely start-up of preparatory programme activities. Funds will be used to: (i) establish the programme's financial management system; (ii) develop a system for the payment of performance awards to selected programme staff; and (iii) expedite programme activities, including the first procurement process.

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Region	Country	Project/Programme Title	Amount (USD) 1/	Scope of the Grant
Asia and the Pacific	Bangladesh	Aquaculture Development Project	70 000	To facilitate early project start-up and implementation. Consultants (national and international) will assist in: (i) reviewing and preparing project proforma; (ii) establishing a participatory monitoring system; (iii) preparing tender documents and the first annual workplan; (iv) a pre-implementation and start-up workshop; and in (v) specific studies, including the review of credit and marketing channels; women's participation and involvement, etc.
	D.P.R. Korea	Crop and Livestock Rehabilitation Project	60 000	To undertake a number of start-up activities. Financing will be provided for: (i) preparation of a special credit manual for Part C of the project; (ii) preparation of the first year's annual work plan and budget; (iii) setting up of a project accounting system to internationally-accepted standards and training national staff in its preparation; (iv) assistance in procurement for the project; and (v) setting up a project monitoring and reporting system.

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Region	Country	Project/Programme Title	Amount (USD) 1/	Scope of the Grant
Asia and the Pacific (continued)	Laos	Northern Sayabouri Rural Development Project	50 000	To facilitate early start-up and implementation of the project. The proceeds of the grant will be used for: (i) a three-day workshop in the project area, with the participation of project management staff, representatives of potential project beneficiaries and concerned line agencies; (ii) translation and distribution of the appraisal report, and preparation and distribution of project literature to beneficiaries; (iii) an awareness-creation programme to promote preparedness and awareness among project beneficiaries, particularly ethnic groups in mid- and upland areas, and line agencies from district to village level; (iv) project staff visit to the IFAD-financed Bokeo Food Security Project (Loan No. 351-LA) to share experience in project management and implementation; and (v) training and project-related start-up activities.
	Viet Nam	Ha Giang Development Project for Ethnic Minorities	50 000	To facilitate and accelerate the start-up of project implementation. Financing will be provided for: (i) recruitment of two project expeditors for management and technical matters; and (ii) training activities for staff of the PCU and implementing agencies.

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Region	Country	Project/Programme Title	Amount (USD) 1/	Scope of the Grant
Near East and North Africa	Gaza and the West Bank	Participatory Natural Resource Management Programme	90 000	To finance early implementation activities to ensure rapid programme start-up. These will involve: (i) finalizing the management agreement with the selected commercial bank(s); (ii) fine-tuning the participatory monitoring system, including creation of an appropriate MIS; (iii) concluding an agreement with the selected NGO; (iv) undertaking a baseline survey; (v) preparing a project accounting system and manual; (vi) developing a format for progress reports and annual programmes of work and budget; and (vii) holding a start-up workshop.

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