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IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Executive Board - Sixty-Third Session

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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IFAD/NGO EXTENDED COOPERATION
PROGRAMME (ECP)**

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its Thirty-First Session, held in September 1987, the Executive Board approved the establishment of the IFAD/Non-Governmental Organizations Extended Cooperation Programme (IFAD/NGO ECP). The aim of the programme is to enhance the Fund's cooperation with NGOs, especially those involved in assisting the rural poor, landless, small-scale farmers, rural women, pastoralists, artisanal fishermen, and other IFAD priority target groups; and, more specifically, to promote pilot activities for future IFAD investments or support ongoing projects. Activities under the NGO/ECP to date include: (i) testing new agricultural technologies for application to the agro-ecological and socio-economic conditions of IFAD's poorest beneficiaries; (ii) testing new institutional approaches/mechanisms in various sectors and subsectors of interest to IFAD, including rural credit, and the adaptation of farming system technology; and (iii) training programmes for beneficiaries and agricultural/rural extension personnel aimed at improving resource management through more effective systems of organization, such as women farmers' groups, water users' associations and other forms of grass-roots networks.

2. Under the IFAD/NGO ECP, NGOs are selected to provide IFAD with prototypes and instruments of intervention for subsequent replication in the Fund's projects and, in some cases, to assist in the decision-making process and to enhance beneficiary participation. To support the above activities, the grants that IFAD provides are disbursed directly to the NGOs involved.



3. In approving the establishment of the IFAD/NGO ECP in 1987, the Executive Board authorized the President of the Fund to approve single grants to NGOs of up to USD 75 000, and requested him to present yearly reports on any arrangements concluded under the facility during the previous year. The present report constitutes the tenth such presentation to the Executive Board.

II. NGO/ECP ACTIVITIES IN 1997

4. To date, the IFAD/NGO ECP facility has financed, *inter alia*: promotion of pilot field activities to lay the groundwork for future IFAD investments; support for strengthening beneficiary participation in ongoing projects; and enhanced links between IFAD and the worldwide NGO community through annual consultations. In 1997, 23 NGOs have received grants for 22 activities under this facility, for a total amount of USD 1 624 852 (SDR 1 193 337), as summarized below. Further details on each grant are provided in the annex.

5. To consolidate the IFAD/United Nations Industrial Development Programme (UNIDO) pilot project activities initiated in 1992, a grant has been provided to Sahel D.E.F.I.S. for a project providing **Support for Multi-purpose Platforms** in Burkina Faso. Over the long term, the lessons drawn from the project should make it possible to finalize the recommendations contained in the manual developed by an IFAD/UNIDO team, in particular with regard to the social and economic aspects.

6. The rationale and objectives of the **Participatory Assessment of Alternative Systems of Rural Microfinance Within the Framework of a Demand-Driven Approach to Agricultural Intensification** in Cameroon is to open up new prospects for fostering broad-based collaborative partnerships for sustainable agricultural development. The project, which will be implemented by two local NGOs, Appropriate Development for Africa Foundation (ADAF) and Benevolent Community Education and Rural Development Society (BERDSCO), was designed to bring together NGOs active in rural finance alongside government technical services, the private sector and beneficiaries. Key findings and lessons of value to IFAD, the Government and other development partners, in terms of future investment and assistance, are expected to be identified.

7. The objectives of the **Experimentation Programme on Water-Lifting Devices in Mauritanian Palm Groves**, within the context of the IFAD-financed Oasis Development Project - Phase II, are to test alternative and cheaper water-lifting devices through the selection of better equipment and operations. Three pumping systems, using different sources of energy (wind, solar and electricity), will be tested. The project will be implemented by the *Groupe de recherche et d'échanges technologiques* (GRET) of Mauritania.

8. A second grant has been provided to GRET in 1997 for a **Training and Exchange Programme for Oasis Farmers** aimed at developing a programme of experimentation and promotion for appropriate, environmentally-friendly water-lifting technology in the oases, within the context of the IFAD-financed Oasis Development Project - Phase II.

9. The aim of the **Civil Society Partnership in Support of Rural Households: the Case of Cassava Production, Agro-Processing and Marketing Project** in Nigeria is to improve production, agro-processing and marketing of cassava and thereby to contribute to rural poverty alleviation. The project will be implemented jointly by three civil-society organizations, Farmers Development Union (FADU), Leventis Foundation Nigeria (LFN) and Nigeria Integrated Rural Accelerated Development Organization (NIRADO).



10. The grant for **Creating a Regional Network in Africa: FIDAFRIQUE** aims at designing an Internet-based network among ongoing and future IFAD projects in West Africa. The purpose of the network is to enhance communications among staff at project sites, cooperating institutions, government agencies and IFAD headquarters. The executing NGO, Service for Information Technology in International Agriculture (SITIA), has acquired extensive experience in designing and administering computer-based information services to meet the needs of agricultural projects and institutions in developing countries.

11. Two grants have been provided to Relief International, United States, for **Support to IFAD's Livestock Restocking Projects** in Burundi and Rwanda to improve the capacities and livelihoods of the poorest rural households through the provision of community-based livestock loan schemes. The two pilot projects should lay the groundwork for the design, testing and identification of strategies for the respective governments to implement larger programmes through IFAD loans.

12. The overall aim of the grant for **Support to Communication Activities Associated with the IFAD-financed Mara Region Farmers' Initiative Project** in the United Republic of Tanzania is to contribute towards improving the project's implementation mechanisms through enhancing capacities for internal and external communications. The project will be implemented by the Worldview International Foundation, an international NGO based in Norway, which is committed to improving communications support for sustainable development worldwide.

13. The objective of the **Development Through Education of the Social and Cultural Conditions of the Tibetan Population of Hainan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Qinghai Province Project** is to complement activities linked to the education component of the ongoing IFAD project in the Hainan Prefecture of Qinghai Province in China. An Italian NGO, Association for International Solidarity in Asia (ASIA), will add Tibetan elements to the existing education facilities within IFAD's ongoing project, with a view to increasing the relevance of the new facilities to the predominantly-Tibetan population in the project area.

14. In order to pilot test participatory planning mechanisms in different rural communities, including indigenous people and Muslim communities in Western Mindanao, a grant has been provided to the Philippines Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA), as the lead NGO, for the Western Mindanao Community Initiatives Project. The results of the pilot tests will provide inputs for the participatory planning process proposed for a new IFAD project, which is currently under preparation for region IX. The grant will be used also to support community and livelihood projects in the communities.

15. The goal of the **Propagating Partnerships for Sustainable Food Security Project** in the Latin American region is to promote implementation of sustainable agriculture technologies in Central America, focusing specifically on disseminating participatory approaches to agricultural development and increasing institutional/policy capacities to undertake integrated farming. Project activities will be coordinated by the World Resources Institute (WRI), a United States-based organization.

16. In order to lay the groundwork for future IFAD activities in Guatemala, a grant has been provided to the Rigoberta Menchu Tum Foundation for **Strengthening of the Technical and Human Resources of the Foundation for the Activities of Participatory Development of the Indigenous Communities**. The Foundation intends to establish an office in the Quiche Department in order to improve the quality and quantity of preparatory work, project implementation and monitoring and to improve its institutional profile, with special emphasis on the administrative system.



17. A grant has been provided to the National Peasant Union (NPU) of Honduras for the **Creation and Strengthening of Savings and Rural Credit Banks Project**. The general objective of the project is to help create and strengthen savings and rural credit banks targeted at poor rural families, which will allow them to engage in income-generating activities to improve their income and living standards. The project also aims at consolidating peasant microenterprises by reinforcing food security and maximizing human resources. Some 800 peasant families are expected to benefit from the project.

18. The general objective of the **Rural Credit Project for Peasant Women in the Communities of Sangarara and Marcaconga** in Peru is to strengthen rural women's activities in a sustainable manner, by means of microcredit, in two peasant communities. The project constitutes a pilot experiment within IFAD's strategy to develop rural financial markets in the area of the IFAD-financed Development of the Puno-Cuzco Corridor Project. The project will be implemented by the Institute for the Promotion of Peasant Marketing (IFOCC), a local NGO based in Cuzco.

19. The grant relating to **Communication Strengthening for Project Implementation Support** aims at assisting ongoing IFAD-financed projects in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region to build up their capacity for effective communication and promote the adoption of appropriate technologies. The project, to be implemented by the Worldview International Foundation (WIF), will benefit the beneficiaries of IFAD-financed projects; the management and technical staff of such projects; and the communications activities of the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD). These centres are providing technical backstopping to improve the performance of IFAD's projects in the NENA region and strengthen their impact on rural poverty alleviation.

20. A grant has been provided to the Agriculture Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA) for a project in **Support of Targeted Technical Assistance for the Southern and Eastern Regions Rural Rehabilitation** in Macedonia. The project aims at developing and implementing a training programme, and its subsequent monitoring, to ensure that design elements and principles are put into practice. Activities will be coordinated with the IFAD-financed Project Coordination Unit in the Macedonian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy.

21. The aim of the grant for the **Gaza Strip and Jericho Relief and Development Programme** is to increase the food production and incomes of the poorest people in the rural areas. A business services centre has been set up in Gaza City to provide training for potential women entrepreneurs under the income-generating activities for women component of the Programme. IFAD intends to extend these activities to rural women living in the West Bank through the creation of a business services centre in Jericho. Activities will be directed by two NGOs, Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS) and Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC), both of which are collaborating with IFAD in the Relief and Development Programme.

22. A grant has been provided to the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification to facilitate the participation of NGOs at the first Conference of the Parties of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention to Combat Desertification. This will also facilitate the exchange of perceptions and ideas between communities, NGOs, governments and intergovernmental agencies.



23. The aim of the **Enhancing Farmers' Capacity for Agrarian Reform and Poverty Alleviation Project** in The Philippines is to empower local communities through land-tenure improvements and support services for socio-economic activities. The project will be implemented by the Asian NGOs Coalition for Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development (ANGOC), within the context of follow-up activities to the Conference on Hunger and Poverty held in Brussels in November 1995.

24. Technologien, Bau-und Wirtschaftberatung (TBW), a German NGO, has received a grant for the preparation of a consultative **Study for Furthering North-South NGO Partnership in Support of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**. The study will seek to further the understanding of "partnership" under the Convention from the northern and southern perspectives. It will review past experiences and mutual expectations on the quality and format of such partnership.

25. The objective of the **Plant-Growth Stimulant as a Way of Solving Desertification - Experiment in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Province, China** is to test a new liquid complex fertilizer and plant-growth stimulant, known as Global Green, which may assist in solving problems relating to desertification. The project will be implemented by a Japanese organization, Japan Global Green Association (JGGA), which has already undertaken a similar experiment in the Minqin District of Kansu Province in China.



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REGION/GRANT TITLE/COUNTRY (in alphabetical order)	GRANT AMOUNT		NAME OF NGO AND COUNTRY
	USD	SDR	
AFRICA I			
Support for Multi-Purpose Platforms (Burkina Faso)	75 000	55 586	Sahel D.E.F.I.S., Burkina Faso
A Participatory Assessment of Alternative Systems of Rural Microfinance Within the Framework of a Demand-Driven Approach to Agricultural Intensification (Cameroon)	75 000	55 306	Appropriate Development for Africa Foundation (ADAF) and the Benevolent Community Education and Rural Development Society (BERDSCO), Cameroon.
Experimentation Programme on Water-Lifting Devices in Mauritanian Palm Groves (Mauritania)	75 000	54 976	Groupe de recherche et d'échanges technologiques (GRET), Mauritania.
Training and Exchange Programme for Oasis Farmers (Mauritania)	75 000	54 650	Groupe de recherche et d'échanges technologiques (GRET), Mauritania.
Civil Society Partnership in Support of Rural Households: the Case of Cassava Production, Agro-Processing and Marketing (Nigeria)	75 000	55 306	Farmers Development Union (FADU), the Leventis Foundation Nigeria (LFN) and the Nigeria Integrated Rural Accelerated Development Organization (NIRADO), Nigeria.
Creating a Regional Network in Africa: FIDAFRIQUE (West and Central Africa)	60 260	44 353	Service for Information Technology in International Agriculture (SITIA), United States.
AFRICA II			
Support to IFAD's Livestock Restocking Project (Burundi)	75 000	55 333	Relief International, United States.
Support to IFAD's Livestock Restocking Project (Rwanda)	75 000	55 333	Relief International, United States.
Support of Communication Activities Associated with the IFAD-financed Mara Region Farmers' Initiative (United Republic of Tanzania)	75 000	54 307	Worldview International Foundation (WIF), Norway.
ASIA			
Development Through Education of the Social and Cultural Conditions of the Tibetan Population of Hainan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Qinghai Province (China)	75 000	55 073	Association for International Solidarity in Asia (ASIA), Italy.
Western Mindanao Community Initiatives (Philippines)	60 000	43 846	The Philippines Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRRA), Philippines.



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LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN			
Propagating Partnerships for Sustainable Food Security (Regional)	75 000	55 333	World Resources Institute (WRI), United States.
Strengthening of the Technical and Human Resources of the Foundation for the Activities of Participatory Development of the Indigenous Communities (Guatemala)	55 000	40 151	Rigoberta Menchu Tum Foundation, Guatemala.
Creation and Strengthening of Savings and Rural Credit Banks (Honduras)	70 000	51 619	National Peasant Union (NPU), Honduras.
Rural Credit for Peasant Women in the Communities of Sangarara and Maracaonga (Province of Cuzco, Peru)	45 000	33 183	Institute for the Promotion of Peasant Marketing (IFOCC), Peru.
NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA			
Communication Strengthening for Project Implementation Support (Regional)	65 000	47 810	Worldview International Foundation (WIF), Norway.
Support of Targeted Technical Assistance for the Southern and Eastern Regions Rural Rehabilitation (Macedonia)	75 000	55 202	Agriculture Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA), United States.
Income-Generating Activities for Women under the Relief and Development Programme in Gaza and Jericho (Palestinian Autonomous Territories)	75 000	55 710	Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS), Italy. Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC), Palestine.
ECONOMIC POLICY AND RESOURCE STRATEGY DEPARTMENT	BENEFICIARY		
NGO Forum for the Convention to Combat Desertification - Conference of Parties	75 000	53 973	Interim Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
Enhancing Farmers' Capacity for Agrarian Reform and Poverty Alleviation (Philippines)	75 000	53 973	Asian NGOs Coalition for Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development (ANGOC), Philippines.
Study for Furthering North-South NGO Partnership in Support of the Implementation of the UNCCD	45 000	32 905	Technologien Bau- und Wirtschaftsberatung (TBW), Germany.
Plant-Growth Stimulant as a Way of Solving Desertification-Experiment in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Province, China	75 000	55 320	Japan Global Green Association (JGGA), Japan.
Eight IFAD/NGO Consultation	99 592	72 669	Meeting 13-15 October 1997
TOTAL	1 624 852	1 193 337	



1997 NGO/ECP GRANTS

Country and Grant Title: Burkina Faso: Support for Multi-Purpose Platforms

Name of NGO: Sahel D.E.F.I.S., Burkina Faso.

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 75 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 55 586)

Objectives and Activities:

The project intends to build on the experience acquired under the technical assistance grant provided for the development and dissemination of appropriate food processing equipment for rural women in sub-saharan Africa, approved by IFAD in 1992. The grant was cofinanced by UNIDO and implemented by that organization in Mali and Burkina Faso. During the course of implementation, the project concept evolved to a multi-purpose platform which combined the originally targeted food processing equipment with other machinery, such as sawing and welding equipment, water pumps, battery charges, etc.

In 1995, IFAD and UNIDO recommended that an in-depth assessment be made of achievements, that more emphasis be placed on the development of a sustainable socio-economic mechanism for the financing and management of the equipment, and that a manual be prepared covering both technical and managerial issues so as to allow for the replication of positive lessons learned during the pilot project. As a result, a consolidation phase was designed and additional funds were provided by IFAD and UNIDO.

The manual is now being finalized by an IFAD/UNIDO team. However, the development of the above-mentioned mechanism requires further intensive field work and, most importantly, a thorough understanding of the target groups and their socio-economic situation and aspirations. Five platforms were installed in Burkina Faso during the pilot phase but the conditions under which they are being managed do not allow for regular maintenance and equipment renewal and do not assure the sustainability or replicability of the project.

In view of the above, Sahel D.E.F.I.S., which is an umbrella organization for a number of local NGOs in Burkina Faso, intends to: (i) assess the socio-economic situation and technical status of the platforms; (ii) strengthen the management committees and training activities (in management and maintenance) for their members to ensure institutional and capacity-building at the field level; and (iii) establish a financial mechanism for the purchase of new equipment and spare parts, by exploring and tapping all sources of local funding in support of NGO initiatives.

Sahel D.E.F.I.S. is actively involved in poverty alleviation and anti-desertification activities in the Sahel region. It currently provides financial support to ten local income and employment-generation activities in three West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso and Togo. A founding member of the Action Plan to Combat Desertification network and an active participant in international meetings and workshops on desertification, Sahel D.E.F.I.S. has also participated in designing a methodology for ensuring popular participation in the development of national and subregional action programmes under the Convention to Combat Desertification.



Country and Grant Title: **Cameroon:** Participatory Assessment of Alternative Systems of Rural Microfinance Within the Framework of a Demand-Driven Approach to Agricultural Intensification

Name of NGOs: Appropriate Development for Africa Foundation (ADAF) and the Benevolent Community Education and Rural Development Society (BERDSCO), Cameroon.

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 75 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 55 306)

Objectives and Activities:

The project constitute an integral part of preparatory activities for resumption of IFAD activities in Cameroon, after six-and-a-half years of suspension due to loan arrears. IFAD has been approached by the Government of Cameroon to assist in designing mechanisms in support of agricultural intensification through increased fertilizer consumption, to be financed, *inter alia*, with funds available through the Government's fertilizer subsector reform programme. Given the importance of ensuring that such mechanisms do not lead to undue subsidization and market distortions, the possibility of farmers borrowing from the microfinance institutions to which they belong will need to be explored as a first priority.

While credit has been identified as one of the priority areas for future IFAD interventions in Cameroon, it would be important, at this juncture, to clarify the following issues which may affect the pace, scope and nature of any such involvement: (i) factors determining the demand for rural financial services for both on-farm and off-farm activities; and (ii) the conditions under which the services of existing microfinance institutions, coupled with market-based supply of inputs through private sector channels, can be interfaced in a sustainable manner.

The project is expected to facilitate the establishment of broad-based collaborative partnerships for sustainable agriculture development, providing a testing ground for a demand-driven market-based approach to rural micro-finance services coupled with agricultural intensification through increased use of inputs, particularly fertilizers. It was conceived to bring together, in terms of participatory action-research, NGOs active in rural finance alongside government technical services, the private sector and beneficiary populations. Findings and lessons of value to IFAD, the Government and other development partners, within the context of future investment and assistance, are expected to be identified.

The two NGOs concerned, Appropriate Development for Africa Foundation (ADAF) and Benevolent Community Education and Rural Development Society (BERDSCO), are already working on alternative and innovative approaches to microfinance in Cameroon. Other microfinance networks with relevant experience will be encouraged to participate in the project. The objective of ADAF is to improve the living conditions of the socially weak in Cameroon and the Central African subregion. BERDSCO is a 90% women-dominated NGO engaged in delivering microcredit to women's groups and in credit management for women's entrepreneurial development and income-generating activities.



Country and Grant Title: **Mauritania:** Experimentation Programme on Water-Lifting Devices in Mauritanian Palm Groves

Name of NGO: Groupe de recherche et d'échanges technologiques (GRET), Mauritania.

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 75 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 54 976)

Objectives and Activities:

This project supplements the IFAD-financed research and development proposal formulated by the International Program for Technology Research in Irrigation and Drainage to assess small-scale aquifers and optimize equipment for small-scale irrigation in West Africa where overexploitation of groundwater resources has been a major problem, especially in Mauritania, since the traditional water-lifting devices were replaced by portable motor pumps. As the capacity of the portable pumps is in excess of yields, the wells dry up very rapidly and, in the absence of proper air filters, the engines have to be replaced every other year. There is, therefore, considerable scope for decreasing operating costs through the selection of better equipment and more appropriate technology, which would increase producers' margins and render small-scale irrigation viable.

The grant will finance a programme of experiments on water-lifting devices in Mauritanian palm groves in order to: (i) determine the most adequate pumping systems with different sources of energy — wind, solar and electricity (either from an existing grid or from a generator) — with a view to improving the attribution of credit to beneficiary cooperatives; and (ii) provide training to project beneficiaries in developing efficient management strategies, evaluating needs and identifying suitable solutions.

The Groupe de recherche et d'échanges technologiques (GRET), a French NGO, has acquired considerable experience in Mauritania. It was founded in 1976 and operates in more than 20 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. GRET has been active in Mauritania since 1990 and is mainly financed by the Governments of France and Mauritania and by the beneficiaries.



Country and Grant Title: **Mauritania:** Training and Exchange Programme for Oasis Farmers

Name of NGO: Groupe de recherche et d'échanges technologiques (GRET), Mauritania.

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 75 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 54 650)

Objectives and Activities:

The two major droughts which afflicted Mauritania in the 1970s and 1980s significantly changed the country's social environment, leading to the sedentarization of what was once a mostly nomadic population and a mass exodus from the rural and oasis centres to the two main urban areas of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou.

Oasian agriculture is the most viable and sustainable form of agricultural development in arid and desert ecosystems since it makes efficient use of underground aquifers and surface-water harvesting techniques.

This innovative project will finance a training and exchange programme between oasis farmers in Morocco and Mauritania to facilitate exchanges of experience and ideas among people living in similar conditions. To this end, a group of Mauritanian oasis producers — selected from the target population of the IFAD-financed Oasis Development Project - Phase II - will visit oasian systems in Morocco and become familiar with local practices and know-how. Subsequently, a number of Moroccans will live in selected Mauritanian oases for a few months to exchange and transfer knowledge and experience. Oasis farmers in Morocco, especially beneficiaries of the two ongoing IFAD's projects in the Provinces of Ouarzazate and of Errachidia, have a lot to offer their counterparts in Mauritania.

The project will be implemented by GRET, in collaboration with TARGA Aide Maroc. GRET was selected to carry out the project on the basis of its experience in training and information dissemination activities, its fruitful field collaboration with the Oasis Development Project - Phase II, and because of its unique knowledge and experience in the oases of Mauritania.



Country and Grant Title:	Nigeria: Civil Society Partnership in Support of Rural Households: the Case of Cassava Production, Agro-Processing and Marketing
Name of NGOs:	Farmers Development Union (FADU), Leventis Foundation Nigeria (LFN) and Nigeria Integrated Rural Accelerated Development Organization (NIRADO), Nigeria.
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 55 306)

Objectives and Activities:

The purpose of the project is to improve the production, agro-processing and marketing of cassava, and thereby contribute towards rural poverty alleviation. This will be achieved by: (i) increasing food production, raising incomes and improving the nutritional status of rural households; and (ii) testing the feasibility of building broad-based partnerships of civil-society organizations, with a view to achieving sustainable agricultural development.

After a long period of relative neglect, cassava is now widely recognized as a major foodsecurity crop that has many advantages over cereals and great potential for increasing income-generating opportunities for the rural poor. The medium-term economic prospects for Nigeria suggest that, given the population growth rate, the demand for cheaper food staples like cassava is likely to increase, with an accompanying shift away from more expensive carbohydrates such as rice. Furthermore, there is a strong unmet demand for cassava products from the baking, food, textile, livestock and pharmaceutical industries.

The three NGOs selected to implement the project, Farmers Development Union (FADU), Leventis Foundation Nigeria (LFN) and Nigeria Integrated Rural Accelerated Development Organization (NIRADO), have more than 30 years' cumulative experience in working directly with farmers and community-based organizations to promote agricultural and rural development in Nigeria. In addition, they have all contributed significantly to the implementation of past and ongoing IFAD-financed projects in Nigeria through their respective skills in capacity-building, outreach and technical support (FADU); agricultural training (LFN); and community development (NIRADO).

This coalition of civil-society organizations around a demand-driven approach to cassava development will facilitate the pooling of knowledge, experience and resources and thereby generate a critical mass in terms of impact on the target group. In addition to sustaining the momentum of IFAD's past and ongoing projects in Nigeria, this approach is expected to generate valuable lessons for future IFAD interventions, both in Nigeria and elsewhere.



Country and Grant Title: West and Central Africa: Creating a Regional Network in Africa: FIDAFRIQUE

Name of NGO: Service for Information Technology in International Agriculture (SITIA), United States.

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 60 260 (equivalent to approximately SDR 44 353)

Objectives and Activities:

The objective of this project is to design an Internet-based network among ongoing and future IFAD projects in West Africa. The purpose of the network is to improve communications among project site staff, cooperating institutions, government agencies and IFAD headquarters.

Cost-effective free flows of information are crucial to improving the management capacity and responsiveness of agricultural projects in developing countries. In recent years, technology has advanced very rapidly and even the most distant areas can now be linked with the outside world at reasonable cost.

The benefits to be gained from improved information flows via Internet connections, primarily in the form of electronic mail, are twofold: first, communications through the Internet are easier and cheaper than letters, faxes or telephone calls, and it has been estimated that investments in electronic mail link-ups can be amortized very rapidly (within one or two years); and, second and most importantly, significant productivity increases can be achieved because easy access to better methods of communication render them more frequent and effective, thus resulting in improved project implementation and fewer delays.

The United states-based executing NGO, Service for Information Technology in International Agriculture (SITIA), has extensive experience in designing and administering computer-based information services to meet the needs of agricultural projects and institutions in developing countries. SITIA's mission is to promote and enhance sustainable agricultural practices and natural resource conservation through the development and deployment of appropriate information technologies. SITIA provides information technology solutions to ensure that farmers, extension workers, scientists and others have access to, organize, publish and exchange agricultural information.



Country and Grant Title:	Burundi and Rwanda: Support to IFAD's Livestock Restocking Project
Name of NGO:	Relief International (RI), United States.
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000 each (equivalent to approximately SDR 55 333 each)

Objective and Activities:

The overall goal of the project will be to improve the capacities and livelihoods of the poorest rural households through the provision of community-based livestock loan schemes. The project has been designed to ensure that restocking is not be a limited exercise in livestock marketing, as this has no lasting effect on household economic security. The project, which takes into consideration the special needs and socio-economic environment of targeted communities, including herding skills, motivation, and ability to participate in a loan repayment scheme, will target households with an ability to engage in animal production. The primary target group will be formerly displaced populations which have recently returned to their places of origin.

For this purpose, two grants, one each for Burundi and Rwanda, have been provided to Relief International (RI), an NGO based in the United States. RI has an integrated approach to programme design and implementation that emphasizes the transition from emergency to development. Since 1990, RI has expanded its relief work to disaster victims in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Chechnya, Iran, Kurdistan, Tajikistan and Vietnam, and intends to set up offices in Burundi and Rwanda.

The specific objectives of the project are to: (i) initiate the foundation for the development of a sustainable in-kind livestock credit operation which allows for the repayment/availability of at least 75% of original loans to other pre-identified households within 12 months; and (ii) raise the capacity of rural communities and local government officials to ensure sustainability of the operations and to expand the credit mechanism to other areas.

While considering the risks arising from the security and policy environment of Burundi and Rwanda, implementation of the two pilot projects is expected to benefit from RI's experience of working under similar conditions and its ability to follow a flexible approach to solving problems. Successful implementation of the pilot projects will directly benefit 200 poor households and reach other farmers who will receive livestock from repayments of the revolving livestock fund for many years to come.

Most importantly, these pilot projects will lay the groundwork for the design, testing and identification and implementation strategies for larger programmes to be implemented by the respective governments through IFAD's loans. Therefore, the projects will accelerate the development of larger proposals and cover part of the costs involved in the design work for future projects.



Country and Grant Title: **United Republic of Tanzania:** Support to Communication Activities Associated with the IFAD-financed Mara Region Farmers' Initiative Project

Name of NGO: Worldview International Foundation (WIF), Norway.

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 75 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 54 307)

Objectives and Activities:

The overall aim of the project is to contribute towards improving the implementation of the IFAD-financed Mara Region Farmers' Initiative Project (MARAP) in United Republic of Tanzania, through the enhancement of capacities for internal and external communication. Mara Region, with its large concentration of resource-poor people, has been largely ignored by external donors. MARAP was designed to address a multisectoral sector of developmental constraints, relying to the greatest possible extent on non-public entities for implementation. Private contractors, design consultants, farmers' groups and NGOs will assume responsibility for a substantial part of MARAP's implementation.

Worldview International Foundation (WIF), an international NGO committed to communications support for sustainable development worldwide, will undertake a participatory assessment of communication needs. Subsequently, implementation of active communications support will be carried out over a period of 12 months, in partnership with the implementing agencies of MARAP.

The specific objectives of the project will be to: (i) improve coordination by MARAP staff of activities under the various components; (ii) enhance the capacities of target communities to learn and take advantage of the support and assistance being offered through MARAP, articulate appropriate proposals for assistance and implement minor activities under their own responsibility; and (iii) promote of a constructive and participative dialogue in responding to requests from communities.

The result of WIF's support will be enhanced grass-roots capacity for genuine participation in MARAP activities through improved means and modes of communication. The project will seek to establish communications channels in the project area, which will reap direct (within MARAP) and indirect (general capacity-building at regional level) benefits to some 280 000 rural people. Apart from improved MARAP performance, an additional benefit to IFAD will be the valuable experience in enhanced communications within an IFAD-assisted project.

The early establishment of a constructive dialogue between the project stakeholders based on participatory approaches will go a long way towards catalysing a grass-roots approach whereby community requests genuinely reflect local preferences.



Country and Grant Title:	China: Development Through Education of the Social and Cultural Conditions of the Tibetan Population of Hainan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Qinghai Province
Name of NGO:	Association for International Solidarity in Asia (ASIA), Italy.
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 55 073)

Objectives and Activities:

The aim of the project is to complement activities under the education component of the ongoing IFAD-financed project in Hainan Prefecture of the Qinghai Province in China, in order to increase the relevance of the new facilities to the predominately-Tibetan population of the project area. Lack of education and illiteracy are two of the greatest problems affecting Hainan Prefecture. The Tibetan population has remained largely illiterate due to the lack of schools both in the herding communities and in the agriculture areas. Many factors influence the educational level of the Tibetan population, such as lack of schools, distances from village to schools, cost of education and family labour requirements.

Project interventions will be designed to provide *in situ* education facilities and ensure that procedures for the involvement of Tibetan families do not inhibit their participation. Additional facilities are required, especially in the remote areas, to improve the quality and expertise of the Tibetan teaching staff and address the problem of adult literacy, thus developing the Tibetans' ability to alleviate their poverty.

A grant has been provided to the Association for International Solidarity in Asia (ASIA), a Rome-based non-profit association set up in 1988, to help people whose ethnic, cultural and environmental survival is seriously threatened. ASIA's projects are mainly directed at populations of Tibetan culture in India, Nepal and Tibet, and are based on the use of local resources and technologies.

The initiative will be implemented in the intervention area of the above-mentioned IFAD project and will aim at the construction or renovation, in Tibetan style, of some of the 48 primary schools it covers. ASIA will also contribute to the training of teachers selected from 94 teachers recruited under IFAD's project. In order to involve the local Tibetan population and achieve a bottom-up approach, Tibetan village communities will be set up with the aim of involving them in the renovation of the schools under the supervision of ASIA.



Country and Grant Title:	Philippines: Western Mindanao Community Initiatives Project
Name of NGO:	The Philippines Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA), Philippines.
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 60 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 43 846)

Objectives and Activities:

The objective of the Western Mindanao Community Initiatives Project is to pilot test participatory planning mechanisms in different rural communities, including indigenous people, Muslim groups, small farmers, ex-combatants and fishermen. The results of the pilot test will provide inputs for the participatory planning process proposed for the IFAD project under preparation for Region IX.

The following activities will be addressed: (i) establishment of a database to be used as a benchmark for the elaboration of specific targets in agreement with the communities. The database will make it possible to rank targets according to conditions in the area; (ii) consensus building between the partners on targets and approaches; (iii) targeting such approaches in major sectors and areas; and (iv) identification of appropriate operational mechanisms to attain targets.

The project will be implemented by Philippines Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA), a local NGO created in 1974, which will be responsible for overall management, supervision and monitoring and evaluation. Partner NGOs will handle specific functions relating to project outputs. Government institutions will play a vital role in supplying technical guidance to the operation, while the communities will play a central role in organizing themselves into groups and ensuring validation of the data and the targets.

Expected outputs include: (i) a detailed plan of activities; (ii) clear boundaries of the project areas, delineated with maps and details of the municipalities covered; (iii) data on the demographic and economic features of the municipalities, to include educational and nutritional status, main crops and industries, total number of banks in the target areas and current levels of assistance; (iv) a profile of the target groups established; (v) participatory assessment planning, to be undertaken, subject to revalidation and further fine-tuning, during project implementation; and (vi) community projects undertaken in the areas involved.



Country and Grant Title:	Regional: Propagating Partnerships for Sustainable Food Security
Name of NGO:	World Resources Institute (WRI), United States.
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 55 333)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:

The purpose of the Propagating Partnership for Sustainable Food Security Project in the Latin America region is to promote the implementation of sustainable agriculture technologies in Central America, focusing specifically on spreading participatory approaches to agricultural development through NGO-government exchanges and training sessions. The project aims at increasing institutional and policy capacities to carry out integrated farming activities and strengthening equity of opportunities in pest/crop management practices.

More specifically, the project's objectives are to: (i) support and spread participatory approaches for the implementation of integrated pest/crop management methods through exchanges and training visits among groups experienced in such methods, and enhance cross-fertilization of effective and sustainable agricultural practices among NGOs, farmers, and government agencies; (ii) facilitate policy dialogue among decision-makers, farmer representatives and NGOs, to increase awareness of farmers' needs and gain support for creating additional partnerships for sustainable agriculture; and (iii) strengthen and promote institutional innovations that address opportunities for equity in integrated crop/pest management programmes, and, in particular, build opportunities for rural women.

Project activities will be coordinated by the World Resources Institute (WRI), a United States-based organization. Its aim is to help governments, the private sector, environmental and development organizations and others, to ascertain how societies can meet human needs and nurture economic growth without destroying the natural resources and environmental integrity that make prosperity possible.

The outcome of this project is expected to include: (i) provision of valuable information to project participants to help improve their farming practices; (ii) development of training material on key lessons drawn from various sustainable agriculture interventions and from the participatory approach; (iii) organization of policy dialogue sessions on integrated farming methods, with the participation of farmers and decision-makers; and (iv) recommendations to better address social equity issues in sustainable agriculture, particularly gender balance, and support for institutional innovations and policy incentives aimed at reaching people often excluded from such opportunities.



Country and Grant Title:	Guatemala: Strengthening of the Technical and Human Resources of the Foundation for the Activities of Participatory Development of the Indigenous Communities
Name of NGO:	Rigoberta Menchu Tum Foundation, Guatemala.
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 55 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 40 151)

Objectives and Activities:

The aim of the project is to lay the groundwork for future IFAD activities in Guatemala, and particularly for the Programme for Rural Development and Reconstruction of the Quiche Department expected to become effective in March 1998. Support for institutional strengthening will be provided to the Rigoberta Menchu Tum Foundation in compliance with the terms of the peace agreements. This will include training, provision of support staff, equipment, secretarial support and improve communications systems. The Foundation will establish an office in the Quiche Department in order to improve its preparatory work, project implementation and monitoring, and upgrade its institutional profile with special emphasis on the administrative system.

Specific objectives of the project are to: (i) provide training for a group of at least ten technicians in issues relating to inter-institutional work and integrated community development; (ii) contract the services of qualified personnel in accounting, management and other fields relating to institutional strengthening; (iii) enable the Foundation to improve delivery of inter-institutional activities; (iv) purchase equipment for the new office in the Quiche Department; and (v) procure computer equipment for the Foundation's headquarters.

The main objective of the Foundation, which is based in Guatemala, is to work for development, poverty alleviation, justice, democracy and peace for the indigenous people. It provides services/support to rural development and education using a participatory approach, and applies lessons learned from past experience. It will also coordinate NGO activities within the project as a number of local NGOs will assist in the design of several interventions during implementation, in accordance with beneficiary demand.



Country and Grant Title:	Honduras: Creation and Strengthening of Savings and Rural Credit Banks Project
Name of NGO:	National Peasant Union (NPU), Honduras.
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 70 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 51 619)

Objectives and Activities:

A grant has been provided to the National Peasant Union (NPU) for the Creation and Strengthening of Savings and Rural Credit Banks Project. IFAD's projects in Honduras have constantly supported the creation of savings and rural credit banks formed by and aimed at rural families with scarce economic resources. Besides making funds available to their members, the banks assist in the development of collective investment projects which, in turn, generate producer-to-producer forms of technology transfer. The project's aim is to enable rural families to have access to financial resources through a credit fund directly administered by their own organizations, thus necessitating institutional-strengthening.

The rural poor of the project area, situated in the central and southern part of Honduras and closely linked to the IFAD-financed Agricultural Development Programme for the Western Region (PLANDERO), are extremely poor, having annual incomes of about USD 1 200 per annum. With an average family size of eight, the main productive activity in the area is growing basic grains such as maize and beans for self-consumption although there is potential for fruit and vegetable growing and for developing trade.

The project's strategy is to develop financial mechanisms to meet producers' needs through savings and credit technologies, by means of: (i) mobilization of savings; (ii) incorporation of women into the process; (iii) application of an innovative system of guarantees based on solidarity; and (iv) development of a simple process of granting loans. The project will have two basic components: a programme of financing for rural producers; and training for new communities wishing to take part in the project.

The NPU is an umbrella NGO for some 1 200 producer organizations at the national level. It has a national executive committee and regional committees in each department of Honduras. At the national level, a credit committee is responsible for approving financial resources channelled to the regional branches, and for processing loan requests and establishing credit-recovery policies.

The NPU will provide training with the support of the Honduran Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock. Project resources will be used only for teaching material and books. As far as training for the new communities is concerned, NPU will work with producers already operating in the area as a means of rapidly transferring knowledge aimed at achieving a multiplier effect.



Country and Grant Title: **Peru:** Rural Credit for Peasant Women in the Communities of Sangarara and Marcacongar, Province of Cuzco.

Name of NGO: Institute for the Promotion of Peasant Marketing (IFOCC), Peru.

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 45 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 33 183)

Objectives and Activities:

The general objective of the Rural Credit for Peasant Women in the Communities of Sangarara and Marcagonga Project in Peru is to strengthen rural women's activities in a sustainable manner, through the provision of microcredit in two peasant communities. The project is a pilot experience within IFAD's strategy to develop rural financial markets in the area of the IFAD-financed Development of the Puno-Cuzco Corridor Project approved by the Executive Board in December 1997, and aims at introducing private sector or market-based approaches to the delivery of production support services, including credit lines.

The project's specific objectives are to provide credit to rural women in two peasant communities to enable them to initiate profitable activities of their own choice, such as marketing, handicrafts, animal rearing, etc. The Institute for the Promotion of Peasant Marketing (IFOCC) will follow the same procedures it uses in its own credit programmes.

IFAD's financial support to this project will be exclusively used for loans to meet the financial needs of 80 low-income rural women in the Sangarara and Marcaconga peasant communities. These women have no access to credit from the financial institutions providing microfinance services in the area. The project will benefit indirectly some 400 family members, whose living conditions will improve as a result of the 160 loans the project will provide each year for investment in income-generating activities.

IFOCC is a Cuzco-based NGO created in 1990. It is legally authorized by Peruvian law to receive reimbursable and non-reimbursable financial resources from international and national sources, and to deliver loans. Its main objective is to promote and consolidate the productive, managerial and marketing assets and skills of peasant organizations, thereby helping to improve peasant families' incomes and quality of life. While IFOCC mainly works in the field of microcredit, it is also active in infrastructure works, technical assistance and other rural development activities.



Country and Grant Title: **Regional:** Communications Strengthening for Project Implementation Support

Name of NGO: Worldview International Foundation (WIF), Norway.

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 65 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 47 810)

Objectives and Activities:

The grant for Communications Strengthening for Project Implementation Support aims at assisting ongoing IFAD-financed projects in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region to build up their capacity for effective communications and promote the adoption of appropriate technologies. The project will assist: (i) beneficiaries of IFAD-financed projects in the NENA region; (ii) management and technical staff of such projects; and (iii) the communications activities of the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). The resulting improved institutional-capacity in project implementation will provide long-term benefits to ongoing investment projects and have an impact on national programmes and future IFAD operations in the area. The communications materials produced will provide a rich source of information on the valuable experiences generated by IFAD's projects.

The project will be implemented by the Worldview International Foundation (WIF), an international NGO based in Norway, which specializes in communications in the Third World. WIF plans to achieve the objectives of the project through: (i) identification of themes relevant to applied research and transfer of technology; (ii) formulation of appropriate messages and adequate communications methodology; and (iii) production and distribution of videos.

WIF is well placed to implement this proposal in a cost-effective manner in view of its experience with grass-roots projects focusing on basic needs such as agricultural development, community development, empowerment of women, child survival, nutrition-health, environment population concerns, prevention of AIDs, etc. The Foundation has grass-root projects in 12 countries which reach more than 12 million people each year.



Country and Grant Title: **Macedonia:** Support of Targeted Technical Assistance for the Southern and Eastern Regions Rural Rehabilitation Project

Name of NGO: Agriculture Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA), United States.

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 75 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 55 202)

Objectives and Activities:

A grant was provided to the Agriculture Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA) for a project to support targeted technical assistance for the IFAD-financed Southern and Eastern Regions Rural Rehabilitation Project (SERRP) in Macedonia. Given that the newly-independent Macedonia is still struggling to adapt to a free-market economy and the banking community has no history of rural lending or trained personnel to carry out such operations, a training and outreach programme is of importance both to the lenders and to the borrowers.

The activities to be implemented by ACDI/VOCA comprise the development, implementation and monitoring of a training programme and subsequent monitoring to ensure that design elements and principles are put into practice. The training programme will be consistent with Macedonian conditions and focus on the training of officers in the participating banks, extensionists in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, and beneficiaries in designated districts.

Apart from the benefits it will provide in terms of increased income from improved livestock and crop production in the longer term, the project will contribute to the rapid start-up of SERRP activities and establish a sound framework for training credit officers, extension personnel and beneficiaries. The proposal also represents the development of a strategic alliance with new partners in Eastern Europe, which could be expanded to other countries.

VOCA is a private, non-profit international development organization that works to increase economic opportunities and incomes for small farmers and agro-businesses through short-term technical assistance by highly-skilled volunteers. In 1996, VOCA formally joined the Agricultural Cooperative Development International (ACDI) to form a new organization, provisionally referred to as ACDI/VOCA. Its headquarters are located in Washington D.C., while country offices are maintained in the countries whose ACDI/VOCA is implementing country programmes.



Country and Grant Title:	Palestinian Autonomous Territories: Gaza Strip and Jericho Relief and Development Programme
Name of NGOs:	Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS), Italy, and the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC), Palestinian Autonomous Territories.
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 55 710)

Objectives and Activities:

The purpose of the grant relating to income-generating activities for women under the Gaza Strip and Jericho Relief and Development Programme is to increase the food production and incomes of the poorest people living in rural areas. In December 1993, the Executive Board approved an IFAD grant of USD 3.0 million to assist in financing the Relief and Development Programme which became effective in July 1994 and has recently been extended for another two years.

Under the income-generating activities for women component of the programme, a business service centre has been set up in Gaza City to provide training for potential women entrepreneurs. Credit is available for the establishment of small, women's enterprises through scheme implemented in collaboration with a commercial bank. IFAD now intends to extend income-generating activities to rural women living in the West Bank through the creation of a business service centre in Jericho.

The Jericho business service centre, which will be run along the same lines as that in Gaza, will select potential women entrepreneurs/borrowers, provide them with the training necessary to create and manage a small enterprise, and assist them in the preparation of feasibility studies of the proposed enterprises and the compilation of loan applications. The centre will also prepare loan appraisals in line with the loan criteria; assist potential borrowers in finding guarantors and collateral; participate in the credit committee; certify the ability of borrowers to run the businesses; monitor and tutor borrowers in the management of their enterprises; and encourage individuals and group borrowers to allocate savings to facilitate the repayment of loans.

The project will be implemented by two NGOs, the Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS), an international NGO, and the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC). Collaboration between AIDOS and PARC has been fruitful and productive over the last two years. The role of PARC is to assume management responsibilities for the business service centre, maintain contact with the beneficiaries, prepare annual work plans and budgets and assist in the centre's activities. AIDOS will provide technical assistance, training, resource persons and overall management guidance.



Country and Grant Title:	NGO Forum for the Convention to Combat Desertification
Name of NGO:	Interim Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 53 973)

Objectives and Activities:

The first Conference of the Parties of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention to Combat Desertification took place in Rome from 29 September to 10 October 1997. The Convention breaks new ground by enshrining a bottom-up approach to international law by repeatedly emphasizing the importance of full participation, stressing the special role of non-governmental organizations and ensuring them an important role in implementation.

During the interim period, NGOs have taken a number of initiatives at the local, national, subregional and world level aimed at creating awareness of the Convention among local communities and NGOs; and, furthermore, elaborating on the role that NGOs can and should play in ensuring the successful implementation of the Convention.

In order for these experiences to be shared with other actors involved in the implementation of the Convention, such as representatives of affected and non-affected countries, and UN and donor agencies, a grant has been provided to the Secretariat of the Convention to ensure the participation of a group of NGOs. The grant has been used to formulate their programme for the Conference of the Parties, thus providing an excellent opportunity for an exchange of experiences. The objectives were to: (i) enhance the idea of equal partnership between representatives of civil society and government during the Conference; (ii) facilitate participation in the Conference of representatives of NGOs worldwide; and (iii) facilitate a one-day NGO workshop prior to the Conference, thus allowing NGO representatives to coordinate and prepare collective inputs to the Conference.

The specific objectives were to: (i) provide information and facilities for the exchange of thoughts, perceptions and ideas between communities, NGOs, governments and intergovernmental agencies; (ii) inform decision-makers of the needs of local people; (iii) highlight ongoing participatory mechanisms conducive to implementing the Convention; (iv) demonstrate successful pilot projects relating to the implementation of the Convention and to local communities; and (v) demonstrate the integration of local knowledge within the framework and processes of national action programmes in order to reinforce the community value system.



Country and Grant Title:	Philippines: Enhancing Farmers' Capacity for Agrarian Reform and Poverty Alleviation
Name of NGO:	Asian NGOs Coalition for Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development (ANGOC), Philippines.
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 53 973)

Objectives and Activities:

The aim of the Enhancing Farmers' Capacity for Agrarian Reform and Poverty Alleviation Project in the Philippines is to empower local communities by means of land tenure improvements and support services for socio-economic activities. The project was formulated by the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development (ANGOC) with a view to translating the mission and objectives of the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty into a concrete field action programme. Specifically, the project will: (i) assist indigenous people to facilitate the issuance of tenurial rights; (ii) strengthen the capacity of community organizations and transform them into viable economic units; (iii) redirect agriculture production systems towards household food security and resource conservation; and (iv) establish market mechanisms for surplus products.

Seven rural communities in Northern Mindanao, comprising about 1 200 households, will benefit directly from the project and another 1 000 may benefit from the issuance of certificates of ancestral domain, thus bringing the total number of beneficiaries to around 13 000. Farm productivity is expected to increase as land tenure security is improved and entrepreneurial and organizational capacities are enhanced. It is estimated that the incomes of the direct beneficiaries will increase by 30% by the end of the project. The conservation of agricultural resources will be improved through the introduction of sustainable farming practices and technologies, and food security will increase as cropping systems are diversified and intensified.

ANGOC was established in 1979, bringing together NGOs from ten Asian countries to act as a forum and clearing house among NGOs to exchange experience, expertise and information; catalyser and servicing agency for regional programmes on training, research, publications, etc.; and as a liaison group for Asian NGOs. It will have overall responsibility for coordinating the project in partnership with cooperating agencies. A project advisory committee will be established, composed of representatives of participating agencies, local farmers, women's organizations and local NGOs.



Country and Grant Title: Germany: Study for Furthering North-South NGO Partnerships in Support of the Implementation of the UNCCD

Name of NGO: Technologien Bau-und Wirtschaftsberatung,(TBW), Germany.

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 45 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 32 905)

Objectives and Activities:

The objective of the study is to elaborate a framework and recommendations for concrete agreements in fields identified as priorities for cooperation in partnership between Northern and Southern NGOs within the context of the Convention to Combat Desertification. The study aims to support the preparation of concrete and feasible arrangements to increase coordination and harmonized shares in, and contribution to, the implementation of the Convention on the part of civil society.

The study will address the following issues: (i) understanding of partnerships under the Convention, both from a northern and a southern perspective; (ii) review of past experiences and mutual expectations regarding the quality and format of such partnerships; and (iii) assessment of fields of priority for concrete, short-term North-South cooperation designed to improve the contribution of civil society to the implementation of the Convention. The results will be compiled according to sectoral, institutional, regional and methodological issues and responses and contributions will be analysed according to the main items of interest to the study.

It is hoped that the following results will be obtained: (i) a comprehensive overview of NGO partnerships and a realistic assessment of the supply and demand situation; (ii) articulation, formulation and prioritization of mutual expectations by the potential partners; and (iii) identification of possible short-term and/or mid-term arrangements between Northern and Southern NGOs.

The Working Group on Desertification of Technologien Bau-und Wirtschaftsberatung (TBW), an NGO based in Germany, is one of the ten thematic working groups of the Forum on Environment and Desertification, which coordinates the activities of about 80 German NGOs and of networks representing approximately 200 NGOs. It was founded during the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1991 and was then re-established in 1993 to follow up on the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The main objectives of the Working Group are to: (i) participate in the preparation and implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification; (ii) lobby at the political, governmental and non-governmental levels for the ratification and implementation of the Convention, highlighting the importance of civil-society participation; (iii) disseminate information on the global dimension of desertification; and (iv) further and facilitate networking between NGOs active in the fight against desertification.



Country and Grant Title: **China:** Plant-Growth Stimulant as a Way of Solving Desertification - Experiment in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Province

Name of NGO: Japan Global Green Association (JGGA), Japan.

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 75 000 (equivalent to approximately SDR 55 320)

Objectives and Activities:

The objective of the grant for the Plant-Growth Stimulant as a Way of Solving Desertification -Experiment in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in China, is to test a new liquid complex fertilizer and plant-growth stimulant known as Global Green. When applied to soil, the stimulant increases the water-retaining characteristics of the soil in such a way that the plants have a continuous supply of water and nutrients. This production technique produces an adhesive stimulant, a high-polymer compound, that contains the nutrients necessary for plant growth.

As Global Green is a complex organic high-polymer compound, there is some concern about the effects of residues when the stimulant is used over a long period of time. If diluted according to the instructions, it is broken down by micro-organisms in the soil and disappears, leaving no residue, no accumulation and no negative side effects. If the experiment is successful, it could be expanded to other areas affected by desertification, both within and outside China.

The Japan Global Green Association (JGGA), a Japan-based NGO, will implement the project as a follow-up to a previous experiment in the Minqin District of Kansu Province in China which gave positive results for the raising of crops. However, further experiments are needed on plants in sand dune (semi-stationary) areas and on normal agricultural crops. The Autonomous Province of Inner Mongolia was selected for this purpose as it is one of the most badly-affected areas of China and thus best suited for observing the Global Green's effect on growth.

For many years, JGGA has been engaged in "greening the earth". Its main objectives are to prevent the development of wastelands, deserts and arid lands, and to revive the earth by planting green areas. JGGA's also aims at improving the environment and increasing agricultural production and, to this end, promotes studies and laboratory research.