



**IFAD**  
**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**Executive Board — Sixty-Sixth Session**

Rome, 28-29 April 1999

**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, of 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 27 grants for Agricultural Research, Other Research, Training and Other, approved under this arrangement during 1998.

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	Centre for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE): Regional Workshop on Preparation and Financing of National Action Programmes to Combat Desertification as a Follow-Up to the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) (Cairo, Egypt, 7-9 July 1998)	35 000	An IFAD grant of USD 35 000 was made available to CEDARE in order to finance a regional workshop on the preparation and financing of national action plans. The workshop provided training for national CCD focal points from 12 countries in the Near East and North Africa in formulating national action plans for CCD follow-up. It was supported by the CCD Secretariat and training was conducted by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office. The workshop also served to create opportunities for networking and building partnerships among the national CCD focal points, research institutes and donor agencies represented at the workshop.
ED	Follow-Up to the Microcredit Summit - Scholarship Fund - IFAD's contribution towards the financing of practitioners' attendance at the Meeting of Councils	10 000	At the Microcredit Summit held in February 1997 in Washington, D.C.; international financial institutions were requested to contribute a minimum of USD 10 000 for scholarships towards financing the attendance of grass-roots leaders at the Microcredit Summit's Annual Meeting of Councils to the year 2005. IFAD agreed to this request and contributed initially in 1997 and again in 1998.
ED	International Development Conference: Global Meeting of Generations (GMG) - Vision and Action for Equitable Development in the Twenty-First Century	40 000	<p>The GMG is the centrepiece of a four-year programme aimed at integrating emerging social entrepreneurs and innovators into the development process. The GMG's programmatic goals and orientation are closely linked to the objectives of IFAD in fighting rural poverty, particularly in its emphasis on strengthening indigenous capabilities. The GMG has the distinct goal of creating intergenerational dialogue on issues such as fighting poverty, promoting environmental concerns and planning for demographic realities. In introducing the Common Futures Forum, the GMG will be also offering a new vehicle for identifying, cultivating and rewarding social entrepreneurs across the globe, who find innovative ways to reduce poverty, change policy and sustain the environment, particularly to benefit the poor. The forum will help establish these young leaders as important players with policy-makers and the media, and facilitate exchanges of lessons learned within the group.</p> <p>By playing a pivotal role in the development of the conference and the Common Futures Forum, IFAD has an opportunity to make significant advances in several key organizational "thrusts", including building local capacity, expanding outreach, fostering greater public awareness of IFAD, securing closer partnerships with civil society and enhancing partnerships with international organizations.</p>



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ED	Seminar, "Partners for Prosperity: Public and Private-Sector Collaboration in Combating Rural Poverty", Washington D.C., 4 June 1998	45 000	The seminar was organized in the context of IFAD's Twentieth Anniversary with the participation of United States Administration representatives, members of Congress and leaders in the non-governmental organization (NGO) and business communities. Working group sessions focused on the importance of building stronger public/private-sector partnerships in three key areas, which were also the topics of the seminar: promoting microfinance, combating desertification and ensuring access of the rural poor to productive resources such as land and water. Each group developed a set of concrete recommendations which, along with the seminar proceedings, have been published in numerous outlets to maximize their outreach. These include NGO newsletters, private-sector publications and the United States Congressional Record. The special IFAD exhibition, "From Hope to Harvest", was also displayed at the seminar.
ED	Sharpening IFAD's Strategic Focus on Rural Poverty: Brainstorming Session	100 000	<p>The grant supported activities designed to lay the groundwork for a publication and statement regarding the Fund's experiences in rural poverty alleviation, and to sharpen the institution's strategic focus for operations in the coming millennium.</p> <p>In pursuance of this objective, the grant supported the preparation of an issues paper on IFAD's Strategic Focus on Poverty by Prof. Michael Lipton and his associates at the Poverty Research Unit of Sussex University. The grant also financed a <b>brainstorming session on 20-21 September 1998</b>, at which development practitioners and academicians, in conjunction with IFAD staff and a number of IFAD Executive Board members, were brought together to discuss and analyse IFAD's understanding and experience in poverty alleviation. The brainstorming session led to recommendations as to the selection of themes for further in-depth studies in Phase II of the study.</p>
ED/PA	Support to the organization of the Second Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-II) (Dakar, Senegal, 30 November - 11 December 1998)	100 000	At the First Conference of the Parties (COP-I) of the CCD, IFAD was chosen as the institution to host the Global Mechanism. While IFAD has consistently supported the Convention and its implementation, the Convention has also provided an important instrument for enhancing the Fund's efforts to promote local initiatives in dryland areas. The main objective of this grant has been to prepare and issue of reports and documents, cover conference arrangements and administrative expenses, and support the participation of development experts from the countries involved in the COP-II deliberations in Dakar, Senegal.



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ED/PL	First Africa-Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Forum on Combating Desertification (Recife, Brazil, 14-16 October 1998)	30 000	<p>The forum brought together a number of representatives from countries in the two regions to identify potential areas of cooperation within the framework of the CCD. The countries shared experiences and discussed issues of significance in the process of formulating their national and regional action programmes to combat desertification, as recommended by the CCD. The main objective was to foster international cooperation and partnership among affected countries in the two regions in the fight against desertification.</p> <p>The forum adopted a framework for action on Africa/LAC cooperation in combating desertification. The initiative also strengthened south-south cooperation in promoting the implementation of the CCD.</p>
ED/VC	Grant to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for Prevention of Land Degradation, Enhancement of Carbon Sequestration and Bio-Diversity Conservation through Land-Use Changes and Sustainable Land Management in LAC	85 000	<p>The CCD and the Conventions on Climate Change and Bio-Diversity emphasize the importance of tropical lands in terms of sustaining production systems and livelihood of poor farmers through land conservation and the enhancement of agro-biodiversity.</p> <p>There is an urgent need to reverse land degradation and carbon losses through the promotion of land-use systems and land-management practices that provide economic gains and environmental benefits: greater agro-biodiversity, improved conservation and environmental management and increased carbon sequestration. This grant emphasizes the synergy between the three conventions and the incremental and global benefits for both sustainable development and environmental protection. The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assess the qualitative and quantitative assets of the major land-use systems and land-management practices in LAC in terms of soil fertility and soil productivity, agro-biodiversity and carbon stock/carbon sequestration potentials; and</li> <li>• evaluate the possibility and options for land-use changes and land-management practices to prevent land degradation, conserve agro-biodiversity and enhance carbon sequestration.</li> </ul>



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OE	Community-Based Participatory Monitoring of Trends in Food and Nutrition Security	80 000	The study will pursue relevant indicators for food and nutrition security with attention to short-term seasonal variations and longer-term trends. Especially important will be obtaining data across sites that measure progress over time, and the impact of development efforts, in terms of the reduced incidence of nutrition insecurity or of stunted and wasted children. The Office of Evaluation and Studies (OE) is exploring the possibility of launching activities under this grant in two-to-three countries in Asia and in one-to-two countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In Asia, activities are foreseen in India and Nepal (the recent Nepal Country Programme Evaluation showed that, on average, each second child in the rural areas of Nepal is nutrition insecure). Similarly, nutrition insecurity is high in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The case for starting an activity in Zambia is especially strong, given OE's involvement in evaluations of food and nutrition security in the country.
PA	Implementation workshops (Guinea and Mauritania)	25 000	Two national workshops were held in March 1998. Objectives included: to better understand IFAD administrative procedures for project implementation; to develop an <i>esprit de corps</i> among all those with a role to play in administering IFAD-supported projects in the countries; and, through the attainment of the first two objectives, to facilitate more effective implementation of IFAD-supported projects in the countries.
PA	Study of IFAD-Funded Artisanal Fisheries Projects in Africa I Region	75 000	The division is engaged in a review of artisanal fisheries projects funded by IFAD in West and Central Africa. IFAD has, during the past 20 years, funded some 17 stand-alone artisanal fisheries projects in 15 countries, of which seven were in West and Central Africa. The objectives of the study are to understand the potentials and limitations of artisanal fisheries development and to look into possible changes to the formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of fisheries investment projects and the organizational/institutional systems which could improve their overall performance. It is also necessary to analyse and assess the direct and indirect impact of these projects and to draw attention to the most salient lessons learned, with a view to improving performance of these interventions. The findings should provide a perspective on operational, strategic and policy aspects of the portfolio of investment projects.



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PD	International workshop on "Innovations in Microfinance for the Rural Poor - Exchange of Knowledge and Implications for Policy" (Accra, Ghana, 9-13 November 1998)	100 000	The workshop provided a forum for more than 65 microfinance practitioners, policy-makers, researchers and representatives of international development organizations. It used a mixed methodology of plenary presentations of thematic and systemic papers; group work using the visualization methodology; panel discussions; and an information market. The exchange of experience in microfinance led to the identification of promising innovations and best practices in microfinance; definition of a policy agenda for the way forward ("the Accra Declaration") which focuses on the need for further innovation towards sustainability of rural finance systems; an inventory of operational follow-up opportunities; and establishment of an informal network of participants. The proceedings of the workshop will be available in mid-1999. The workshop was cofinanced between IFAD, the German Foundation for International Development and the International Food Policy Research Institute. In December 1998, the Executive Board approved a grant to ensure operational follow-up on the workshop.
PD/PI	Workshop on Microfinance in IFAD-Supported Projects in China	50 000	The workshop brought together policymakers from the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance, and the Central Bank; the operational staff of IFAD, World Food Programme and other international agencies; and representatives of the Canadian International Development Agency, the Australian Agency for International Development and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency. The workshop reviewed IFAD's experience in microfinance in China, assessed the achievements made to date, and identified operational and policy challenges for future development of a sustainable rural finance system. The workshop was based on a technical background paper prepared by IFAD's national partners and resulted in a comprehensive issues paper. This issues paper was well received by an IFAD-supported international workshop on microfinance held in Accra in November 1998, and constitutes a basis for IFAD's continuous policy dialogue with its national partners.



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PI	Indigenous Peoples' Development Programme in Selected Countries of the Asia and the Pacific Region: Documentary Video for Awareness-Creation Among Donors and the General Public	100 000	<p>It is estimated that of, the 250 million indigenous peoples worldwide, almost 70% are in the Asia and the Pacific Region. Although most of them live in relatively resource-rich forest and mountainous areas, in many countries they are among the poorest - suffering from low literacy rates, poor health conditions, low life expectancies, civil disorder and environmental vulnerability. IFAD's analysis of the impact of the Asian financial crisis on the rural poor in Indonesia and Thailand has shown that areas inhabited by indigenous people have been the among the most affected by the economic downturn. Following the financial crisis, the expansion of extensive cultivation and massive logging to promote plantation crops such as oil palm have further aggravated the situation, seriously affecting access to forest resources. The assessment of the crisis has also shown that the rainfed uplands, mountains and areas with a concentration of indigenous peoples will not benefit much from programmes of other major donors that concentrate mostly on relatively accessible and advantaged areas. With a mandate of poverty alleviation in marginal rural areas, IFAD, which is uniquely well-placed to take the lead in implementing projects focusing on the indigenous peoples, is in the process of designing a programme to assist them in improving their access to natural resources, enhancing their terms of trade vis-à-vis other areas, and building their resilience to cope with crises. IFAD's efforts to draw the attention of potential donors and governments to the programme for indigenous peoples' development will be greatly facilitated if well-prepared documentary videos are made, using stories from some of the affected countries. The proposed grant will be used to produce such a documentary in selected countries in the Asia and the Pacific Region, highlighting the socio-economic condition of these people, the impact of the financial and other crises on their livelihood, the constraints they face and the opportunities and options available for improving their livelihood.</p>



Originating Department/ Division	Grant Title	Amount USD	Scope of the Grant
PI	Use of Multimedia Material and Information Technology Presentations for IFAD Projects in the Asia and the Pacific Region: IFAD's Successes in Rural Poverty Alleviation	40 000	<p>It is generally recognized that IFAD has not been able to disseminate information on the many successes in rural poverty alleviation it has achieved in numerous countries. Other United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have done relatively better in the area. Efforts to create awareness among the general public and Member Countries about the good work IFAD is doing is crucial to maintain and enhance their support.</p> <p>The Asia and the Pacific Division (PI) plans to play an active role in making the world more conscious of the Fund's activities. In 1998, IFAD started a process of deeper networking with various stakeholders as Country Portfolio Managers and other professionals come in close contact with senior government officials and other stakeholders in the course of project design, implementation and M&amp;E work.</p> <p>Structured presentations might be made relating to the Fund's work and to success stories by making use of professionally-prepared multimedia material. However, the preparation of such material by PI professionals would take much of their time thus, adversely affecting their project development and supervision responsibilities - hence the need for external professional help in its preparation.</p> <p>Within the overall objective of generating the support of Member Countries for these activities, the grant will be used for preparing multimedia material for awareness creation. This work takes on increased importance in view of the impelling need to start work on the Consultation to Review the Adequacy of the Resources Available to IFAD. It is intended to use a team of graphic artists and computer programmers to produce high-quality multimedia material, which can be used in a ready-made fashion by IFAD staff during visits to their countries of responsibility.</p>





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PN	Study on Rural Microfinance in Tunisia	70 000	<p>Since its creation, IFAD has advocated the potential of financial services in the sustainable eradication of rural poverty. The orientation and basic rationale for the proposed study have their origins in IFAD's experience of working with the rural poor in Tunisia, and fit closely with the current IFAD Corporate Strategy in Rural Microfinance. One of the fundamental thrusts of the country strategy for Tunisia, constituting key links to the Corporate Strategy, is the development of rural financial services accessible to the rural poor. In the North African context in general, and in Tunisia in particular, access to formal credit by IFAD's target groups is becoming more and more constrained by ongoing economic reforms, their inability to provide necessary guarantees due to land tenure issues, and/or former indebtedness. This led IFAD to the introduction of small credit operations run by local NGOs in the most recent generation of IFAD projects. These are limited, however, in their coverage and scope. The study will allow IFAD to review constraints on and opportunities for rural microfinance in the country through analysis of the institutional and legal framework. Various experiences in the country will be assessed. The major objective will be to draw lessons of experience to improve and further refine the design and implementation of future interventions involving the provision of rural financial services to the poor. The expected output will provide a platform for further policy dialogue with the Government of the Republic of Tunisia, which may be eventually translated into a policy initiative in microfinance.</p>
PN	Training Workshop for the Project Management Information System (ProMIS) (Amman, Jordan, 29 November - 3 December 1998)	29 000	<p>The objective of the workshop was to launch the ProMIS software package on a pilot basis in several projects within the Near East and North Africa Region. The training programme was directed to project managers and/or M&amp;E units of IFAD-financed projects in Gaza and the West Bank, Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon, Maldives, Syria and Turkey. The outcome of the training enabled the Near East and North African Division (PN) to enhance ProMIS and incorporate it into the reporting and M&amp;E systems of its projects in the above-mentioned countries.</p>



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PN	Workshop to Exchange Experiences in Project Start-up and Implementation in Eastern Europe and Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Ohrid, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, October 1998)	60 000	<p>The workshop was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with the ultimate goal of improving IFAD's regional portfolio performance. It was attended by 34 participants, including senior staff of IFAD-supported projects in the region, government officials, representatives of the NGO community and development agencies, and IFAD staff. Participants were brought together to exchange experiences on three main themes: (i) project start-up and programming; (ii) rural financial services in transitional economies; and (iii) water management activities.</p> <p>Through this workshop, IFAD has been able to compile knowledge and practical applications for future IFAD operations in the region, and thereby build a framework for more responsive and focused project activities.</p>
PN	Workshop on Participatory Management of Rangelands (Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) headquarters, Damascus, Syria, 23-25 November 1998)	60 000	<p>The three-day workshop, organized by PN in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Syrian Arab Republic, was attended by 35 participants from Algeria, Gaza and the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen; FAO, the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and ACSAD were represented by their respective Rangelands Development Specialists. The objective of the workshop - which was conducted in Arabic through a combination of panel presentations, open discussions, case studies, and finalization of workshop recommendations - was to assist concerned parties in the Arab region to better understand the concept and methodology of the participatory approach as it applies to the management of communal natural resources, including rangelands. It was also viewed as an important tool to support IFAD's commitment to promoting the participatory approach. Two days were devoted to discussion of papers dealing with participatory rangelands management at three levels: national, local and project. The latter was made through a presentation on the lessons learned from the IFAD-financed Livestock and Rangeland Development Project in the Eastern Region of Morocco. There were also seven short presentations and related discussions, which offered workshop participants an excellent opportunity to interact with the representatives of FAO, ICARDA, ACSAD, AOAD, Algeria and Syria (two presentations: one on the Syrian experience with rangelands development, and the other on the recently-approved IFAD-financed Badia Rangelands Development Project). A field trip to the Syrian Badia area, organized on the second day, gave non-Syrian participants a chance to familiarize themselves with the realities and challenges facing herders and decision-makers insofar as rangelands development is concerned. Because of the importance of rangelands management through participation, the opening ceremony was attended by the Minister of Agriculture of the Syrian Arab Republic, and the workshop was highly publicized through intensive media coverage.</p>



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PN	Workshop on Role of Local Governments in Project Implementation in the Near East and North Africa Region (Aghadir, Morocco, mid-May 1999) (Supplement to Grant No. 369)	15 000	The objective of the grant is to cover the cost of a workshop on decentralization, participation and sustainability to review experience in deconcentration and decentralization in the Near East and North Africa Region. The activity foreseen under the grant will aim at fostering implementation performance and impact generation of IFAD-supported initiatives in the region.
PT	Establishment of a Facility for the Conservation of Indigenous Plant Genetic Resources in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	100 000	Grant-financed activities will respond to the urgent need to preserve the indigenous plant genetic resources in North Africa, provide a good source of seeds for farming communities who lose their crops (and seeds) in drought years, and support complementary research activities on germplasm improvement which will both benefit the country and have global benefits by making available stress-tolerant varieties of crops and forage currently threatened by extinction. With the assistance of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, the proposed grant will support the establishment of an appropriately equipped indigenous plant genetic resource conservation unit.
PT	Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR): IFAD Support to the Development and Implementation of a Research Agenda for Participatory Technology Development for Smallholders, 1998-2000	100 000	The grant will support the Global Forum-National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) Secretariat with the objective of strengthening research to become more farmer-participatory in nature and thus more responsive to their needs. The international, national and private-sector agriculture research institutions will streamline research administration while seeking to improve management, governance and accountability. The grant will assist in developing the involvement of all relevant partners in the NARS, which include farmer organizations, the private sector, NGOs and agricultural universities in developing countries; and increase emphasis on linking regional and international agricultural research centres to national and local institutions with capacity to conduct downstream, farmer participatory research.
PT/OE	Development of a Methodology for the Impact Assessment of Agricultural Research	90 000	The programme will help develop a framework for evaluating the impact of the Fund's technical assistance grants for agricultural research in terms of their contribution to the capacity and performance of client organizations, and provide the Fund's clients with feasible, credible and accurate methods for organizational self-assessment. The outputs will include an appropriate methodological framework for institutional impact assessment and a manual for organizational impact assessment.
VC	China - Regional Workshop on Financial Administration, 1998	50 000	The workshop concentrated on local capacity-building through training of key financial and administrative project staff in the Asia region, with a view to ensuring efficient use of IFAD funds.





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VC	Integrated Computerized Financial System for Projects, 1998/99	50 000	As a result of financial administration workshops in Central America and given the need to establish proper accounting and financial systems in IFAD projects, a pilot programme is under implementation with the assistance of the Regional Unit for Technical Assistance in three projects in the Central American region for the establishment of a computerized integrated financial system for IFAD projects. A review of the system will be carried out during the first quarter of 1999.
VC	Regional Workshop on Financial Administration, to be held in 1999	50 000	The workshop will focus on building local capacity in the field of financial administration for projects in francophone countries in Near East and North Africa.
VC	Regional Workshop on Financial Administration, to be held in 1999	50 000	This workshop will aim to increase the financial administration capacity of project staff in IFAD projects in the Caribbean region and in anglophone countries in the vicinity.

## Notes:

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

