



**IFAD**  
**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**Executive Board – Sixty-Ninth Session**

Rome, 3-4 May 2000

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

1. At its Fifty-Second Session held in September 1994, the Executive Board authorized the President to approve all grants under the above-mentioned heading, 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 28 grants for Agricultural Research, Other Research, Training and Other approved under this arrangement during 1999.

**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	Asian Regional Thematic Programme Network on Agroforestry and Soil Conservation in Arid, Semi-Arid and Dry Sub-Humid Areas	50 000	As part of a Programme for Asia comprising six Thematic Programme Networks (TPNs) backed by a regional coordination unit, TPN-2 on agroforestry management and soil conservation was launched in 1998 to promote economically viable and environmentally sound farming systems based on soil fertility-enhancing agroforestry technologies to curtail widespread deforestation and watershed degradation (the draft proposal will be finalized by the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, India). The proposed activities under TPN-2 fall under the mandate and objectives of the Global Mechanism. The major forecasted activities required to achieve TPN-2 objectives are to: (i) formulate, adopt and implement the TPN-2 programme of work with due consideration for cross-sectoral issues; (ii) build up and strengthen local, national and regional networks among stakeholders to promote agroforestry in combating desertification; and (iii) develop the capacity of stakeholders to undertake research and formulate and implement agroforestry projects aimed at restoring desert-prone land.
ED	Asian Regional Thematic Programme Network on Rangeland Management and Sand Dune Fixation	50 000	TPN-3 on Rangeland Management in Arid Areas (including the fixation of sand dunes), which was approved at the Ministerial Conference in Beijing, China, in 1997, will draw on successful rangeland management experiences entailing the marriage of modern science with indigenous knowledge in pursuit of optimal development of the local economy. Given the keen interest expressed by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian Forest and Range Organization has been preparing TPN-3, which will be hosted by a local institute.
ED	Bread for the World Institute (BWI – Support for research and writing (USD 50 000) and for ED to engage experts and participate in the consultations and dissemination of the Report (USD 30 000)	80 000	A grant of USD 50 000 was made available to BWI in support of the production of the report entitled: A Programme to Overcome Hunger: Hunger 2000. Specifically, IFAD will contribute USD 50 000 per year over a three-year period (1999-2001) towards BWI's next three annual Hunger Reports focused on overcoming hunger and malnutrition worldwide (BWI has overall editorial control of the report). The general objectives are to contribute to: (i) the building of political commitment worldwide to overcome hunger through joint research, policy analysis, and dissemination of a comprehensive programme; and (ii) a public education campaign that actively builds on the work of BWI's next three annual reports on the state of world hunger. The report lays out a feasible programme to end hunger in the United States and significantly overcome malnutrition worldwide before the year 2015, by focusing on leading policies, strategies, resources, cost estimates, projected timetables and case studies of effective policies and programmes. A grant of USD 30 000 has been provided to support cooperation between IFAD and BWI in the formulation of the international component of the Hunger 2000 Report. IFAD contributed to the analysis of major policies that could end hunger; primary-source case study materials on effective policies, programmes and practices for overcoming hunger and poverty; analysis and review of cost estimates; and analysis of the comparative context of policies to eradicate hunger and a development cooperation framework at the international level. IFAD reviewed the final manuscript and assisted in organizing a media launch of the report and its dissemination to international agencies, governments and civil-society organizations.



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ED	Bridging the Popular Coalition's formative period to its next stage in enabling the land-poor to acquire capital and productive assets	100 000	The overall goal of the grant was to provide a bridge between the Popular Coalition's ongoing programme of activities and a new multidonor-financed programme, to be drawn up in the first quarter of 2000.
ED	Contribution to an International Expert Meeting on Special Needs and Requirements of Developing Countries with Low Forest Cover and Unique Type of Forests: Tehran, Iran, 4-8 October 1999	30 000	The grant was made available to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to finance the participation of selected experts from developing countries at the meeting. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also made commitments to the meeting, both financial and technical. The outcome of the meeting is intended to serve as an input to support the programme of work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) in accordance with the guidelines established by the first session of the IFF. The meeting should be seen in light of the fact that many countries with low forest cover have large and increasing populations that live in and around forests, which leads increasing demand for forest products and services. There is an urgent need to protect, restore and rehabilitate these ecosystems for the well-being of people who depend upon them.
ED	Contribution toward the Knowledge Network on Land Reform and Tenurial Security – Phase II	100 000	The network, launched in 1998 by the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty, is composed of 24 national and seven regional nodes. The IFAD grant assisted one regional and five national nodes in undertaking their planned projects. Activities included: (i) collecting information for dissemination both region- and nationwide; (ii) at the regional level, organizing workshops with community-based organizations for the purpose of increasing awareness on land tenure, resource access and titling in the respective countries; and (iii) establishing electronic networks to facilitate linkages within local communities. Phase II, which has also received financial support from the Italian Government and technical support from FAO, is an ongoing programme, currently at its mid-term stage, that will be completed by the end of 2000. Phase III is under preparation, following expressions of interest from both Popular Coalition members and potential donors.
ED	Contribution to the World Civil Society (WOCSOC) Conference: Montreal, Canada, 8-11 December 1999	40 000	The grant contributed towards the costs of two events organized by the Forum Internationale de Montreal: (i) a preparatory meeting in September 1999 for the WOCSOC Conference; and (ii) the WOCSOC Conference in December 1999. Part of the amount was used to cover travel expenses, thereby allowing participation of IFAD staff at the two meetings. The principal objectives of the Conference were to highlight the similarity between goals and opportunities shared by civil society and the United Nations and to strengthen international cooperation in the new millennium. The meeting brought together civil-society leaders from around the world and leaders from the United Nations system, governments, business, academia and the media in order to propose changes and actions for new global governance partnerships and to create a wider base for support to the United Nations.





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ED	World Congress of Young Farmers/Scholarship Programme for Young Agricultural Leaders from Developing Countries: Orlando, United States, 20-24 February 2000.	65 000	The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), the largest general farm organization in the United States, organized the World Congress of Young Farmers, bringing together more than 1 000 of the world's young agricultural leaders to exchange insights on achieving sustainable agricultural production to feed the world in the twenty-first century. AFBF requested the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA), a non-governmental organization (NGO), to secure funding for a scholarship programme that would enable promising young farm leaders from developing countries to contribute to and attend the Congress. As part of the scholarship programme, a grant of USD 65 000 was made to CNFA to sponsor attendance at the Congress of ten young farmers from Central African Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, India, Mali, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, who had proved to be successful agents of change in IFAD-sponsored projects, and their participation in follow-up visits to selected farms in the United States. The Congress gave those farmers the opportunity of joining the growing international network engaged in developing sustainable strategies for increasing food production, and of being exposed to state-of-the-art methods of sustainable agricultural production. It is expected that such experience will be fed back into the IFAD projects that the selected farm leaders are associated with. Furthermore, IFAD's participation in, and support to, the Congress will enhance IFAD's visibility and generate goodwill for IFAD among important decision-makers in the United States.
ED	Preparation of five regional case studies for the Tenth IFAD/NGO Consultation: Partnerships for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security Through Projects and Programmes	100 000	The technical assistance grant (TA) has financed five case studies in five countries, namely, Armenia, Benin, Chile, India and Zambia, aimed at illustrating major issues relevant to the formation and strengthening of tripartite partnerships between governments, IFAD and the NGO community. The case studies will identify and assess: (i) the most effective means and mechanisms to foster meaningful IFAD/NGO/government partnerships; (ii) the most frequently-faced constraints; and (iii) the value-added of NGO participation. Although focusing on specific experiences and lessons learned, to the extent feasible, the studies will also identify and explain concrete ways in which NGOs collaborate as active partners in IFAD loans; and in that context, assess how easy or otherwise it is to work with NGOs. This will provide IFAD with valuable knowledge and lessons from its collaboration with NGOs in the field – lessons and knowledge that will be anchored in a thorough examination and analysis of concrete experience and feedback from a number of important stakeholders. In so doing, the studies will provide – together with the results of the planned assessment of the IFAD/NGO Extended Cooperation Programme – the basis for articulation of a policy on IFAD/NGO collaboration. The studies will also facilitate meaningful interaction and exchanges during the Tenth IFAD/NGO Consultation and lead to the preparation of a set of concrete recommendations for each partner: IFAD, governments and NGOs.
ED	Second Forum of Mayors on Cities and Desertification: Bonn, Germany, 11-12 June 1999	90 000	As a parallel event to the First Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) held in Rome, Italy, in October 1997, a second Forum of Mayors on Cities and Desertification was held in 1999. This was cofinanced with the City of Bonn, private-sector partners, the CCD Secretariat and IFAD. The Fund played a major role in organizing the Forum, which focused on the roles and responsibilities of cities and municipalities in territorial management inasmuch as cities can either support activities applied to ecosystem management of surrounding countryside or be involved in their own urban environment. Project partnership, awareness-raising and policy issues were also

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			important topics for discussion and the Forum gave IFAD and the Global Mechanism (GM) an opportunity to further raise awareness and ensure direct involvement of Mayors both from the North and the South in addressing problems of desertification. For the GM, the Forum provided an opportunity for lobbying with Mayors to use their influence with their respective governments to support implementation of the CCD. The Second Forum was expected to result in the following: (i) recognition and discussion of the global importance of desertification-migration-urbanization issues by a wider range of municipalities and cities; (ii) exchange of experiences, problems and ideas leading to the amendment of municipal codes; (iii) review and further testing of various CCD-relevant approaches to territorial planning at the level of small regions to combat desertification; (iv) adoption of guidelines for partnerships and listing of potential cooperation projects; (v) establishment of an informal inter-city network related to desertification-migration-urbanization issues, in cooperation with other related institutions and networks; and (vi) agreement on a media and public-awareness strategy.
ED	Asian Regional Thematic Programme Network Support to the Establishment of a Regional Desertification Monitoring and Assessment Network in Asia	70 000	The grant for TPN-1, with China as network coordinator and beneficiary country, was made to CCD. The aim is to strengthen Asia's regional capacity to monitor and assess desertification, sharing consolidated results of scientific and policy studies generated within member countries. The funds allocated contributed to the cost of hosting a TPN-1 Launching Meeting. They will also be used to finance necessary follow-up activities. The funding will also support the Asia-Africa Technical Workshop on Early Warning Systems and the Second Asian Meeting of CCD National Focal Points (the cost of the latter is estimated at USD 320 000).
OE	Contribution to the Second Global Knowledge Conference: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 7-10 March 2000	100 000	The Fund participated in the Second Global Knowledge Conference (GK-II) with the objective of highlighting the importance of rural people's creativity, knowledge and experience in the development process. GK-II was organized by the Government of Malaysia and the Global Knowledge Partnership, of which IFAD is a founding member, together with World Bank and other international development institutions. The grant was used to cofinance the organization of the Conference, which brought together more than 1 000 people from the public and private sectors, civil society, NGOs, research institutions and universities. As a cofinancier of the event, the Fund was able to influence the design and topics discussed at the Conference and to insure that sufficient time and attention was reserved for issues of concern to IFAD: that is, the knowledge and innovation of rural people. IFAD organized several activities in this context, including: (i) implementation of an international competition to scout for knowledge and innovations among rural people through IFAD projects; (ii) production of a video documentary based on case studies illustrating linkages between local knowledge and poverty eradication; (iii) an expert panel discussion on issues related to grass-roots knowledge; and (iv) an exhibition stand. Finally, through Conference resources, IFAD ensured the participation of 25 persons from developing countries, most of whom were connected with IFAD projects and other activities.



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PA	Ghana – Rural Bank/NGO Partnership for Promoting Savings and Effective Microenterprise Management through Families	50 000	The objective is to test new approaches to small-scale credit, with an NGO acting as social intermediary and a rural bank as the formal microfinance institution. Linking the two will reduce transaction costs in micro financial intermediation. Strengthening the family kinship might also increase borrowing capacity from formal institutions. The innovative approach of the TA grant, which is being implemented in close collaboration with an ongoing IFAD loan in Ghana, will be tested for a period of three years.
PA	In-Country Assessment of Vegetable Market Development in West Africa	75 000	To review the status of vegetable research in West Africa, on the basis of selected countries.
PA	Nigeria Implementation Workshop	20 000	To review portfolio performance and draw lessons for implementation of ongoing projects.
PA	Workshop on Decentralized Rural Development: Mauritania	20 000	Forum for review of the institutional framework for rural development by key stakeholders.
PA	Workshop on Rural Financial Services and Microenterprise Development: Accra, Ghana	20 000	Exchanges of information with regional and interested donor partners on rural financial services and microenterprise development.
PD	Local Capacity Building through Field-Level Support and for Knowledge Management Related to the Logical Framework	100 000	The grant will be used to undertake preparatory work in support of a larger TA grant to be submitted for approval to the Executive Board at its Sixty-Ninth Session. The grant under reference was approved in order to assist IFAD in identifying means of using the logical framework approach to improve both project design and implementation. Activities financed under this grant will focus on 'global' issues related to reorienting internal processes to focus on impact and on others related to instilling results-based management in IFAD projects.
PF	IFAD/German Agency for Technical cooperation (GTZ) Regional Workshop on Local Stakeholder Involvement in Sector Programmes in Eastern and Southern Africa: Lusaka, Zambia, September 1999	50 000	While it is generally recognized that stakeholder participation in sector-wide reform programmes is a requirement for their success, national and local ownership are often lacking and experiences have been mixed. The forum, which was cofinanced by GTZ and IFAD, brought together more than 60 representatives from six Eastern and Southern African countries, Ghana and international development organizations to exchange experience and identify lessons learned and best practices on stakeholder participation in sector programmes. The proceedings of the Forum will be available in the second quarter of 2000.
PI	Grant to cover part of the cost of using the technical assistance services of <i>Développement international Desjardins</i> (a Canadian NGO) to support the training and capacity-building of rural credit cooperatives in IFAD project areas	50 000	The grant will provide technical support and training to the rural credit cooperatives in IFAD projects in China to improve financial services to poor households.
PI	IFAD share of costs of the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit operations and the publication of related reports	95 000	The grant will be used to update the provisional and country-level analysis for developing new pipelines to define township-level project areas and undertake project impact assessment.
PN	Cofinancing of preparatory activities for the Programme for Regional Action on Participatory Natural Resource Management in the Middle East and North Africa	60 000	Irrigated agriculture uses 80-90% of the scarce water resources in the Middle East and North Africa. There is significant overdraft of groundwater in many countries and the efficiency of use of surface water is poor, mainly due to lack of proper water charge/price signals. In the past, governments have invested heavily in irrigation structures, but budgetary crises have curtailed funds for operation and maintenance (O&M), leading to deterioration of irrigation infrastructure. It has therefore become evident that the long-term



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			<p>viability of most water supply systems is increasingly dependent on improved systems management and a disciplined approach to the allocation of the scarce resource among strongly competing demands. Governments all over the region view the transfer of irrigation water management responsibility (O&amp;M, distribution and pricing/cost recovery) to users as a viable option for improving water-use efficiency and ensuring sustainability of irrigation systems. Most often, participatory water management (PWM) relies on the formation of water users' associations that group the users of a well or canal into a beneficiary organization that manages water delivery. IFAD has supported PWM and the transfer of water management responsibility in many of its projects in the region, including Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Gaza and the West Bank, Lebanon, Morocco, The Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen. PN intends to design a TA grant to be used for research to support countries in the NENA region to overcome constraints to efficient PWM. The lessons learned will be used to enhance the design and implementation of future IFAD-funded projects and, in particular, the relevance of establishing an enabling legal and policy environment for farmers to assume water management functions.</p> <p>IFAD will use the proceeds of the grant to hire a team of two consultants (an economist/institutions specialist and a water/irrigation specialist) to visit the four countries selected, assess ongoing PWM practices, and hold discussions with stakeholders to solicit the reaction of government and farmers on PWM and determine their interest in supporting action research and support in this field. The consultants will also examine the operations of the projects and determine both the constraints on efficient PWM and support to be provided by the grant in terms of training, empowerment, backstopping for management and maintenance functions. The consultants will then prepare a preliminary design document for a TA grant on PWM for the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region.</p>
PN	Marine Resources and Environmental Surveys in the Red Sea, Northwest Arabian Sea and the Gulfs	68 000	<p>Regular marine resource surveys, an indispensable tool for improved management and sustainable exploitation of fisheries, also provide numerous additional benefits such as means of undertaking basic marine research, and executing environmental monitoring programmes. Furthermore, such surveys benefit all users of marine living resources inshore, and artisanal fishermen (under IFAD-financed fisheries projects in NENA region in particular) and other national and regional clients that require information about the marine environment. The overall goal of the project will be to implement and improve management of fisheries resources in the survey areas by assisting regional country groups (Red Sea, Northwest Arabian Sea and the Gulfs) for the purpose of: (i) planning and executing regular marine resources assessment surveys; (ii) developing the institutional ability to analyse marine resource survey data and produce appropriate summary documents; (iii) producing resource management advice based on the outcome of the resource surveys; and (iv) in association with the fisheries assessments, collecting related and relevant marine environmental and oceanographic information. An appropriate programme of regional capacity-strengthening will be designed in conjunction with this project. As a long-term result, the project aims to achieve the sustainable development of marine resource assessment surveys in the three regions, and potentially sustainable fisheries resources through the implementation of effective fisheries management. This will be achieved through the development of national institutional capacity to undertake all activities related to marine resource surveys and analysis of the data collected by such programmes.</p>



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PN	Programming costs, translation and meeting expenses for follow-up to Cairo workshop suggestions	90 000	<p>Since the approval of the 1998 TA grants, several important milestones have been reached. A new software version was developed to introduce a more robust programme framework; compatibility with Windows-98 was achieved; programme bugs and errors in the preliminary version have, for the most part, been removed; and a workshop was held to introduce the software to management information system (MIS) officers of selected projects, during which ProMIS user-friendliness was examined. Constraints and strengths were identified and suggestions provided with respect to ProMIS set up, data entry and reporting modules. During the course of 1999, workshop participants continued to test ProMIS on-the-job with a view to assessing its performance, identifying bugs and providing suggestions for improvements. The grant will be used to follow up on workshop suggestions and progress achieved to date. Activities to be undertaken include: (i) further testing of the software and removal of identified bugs; (ii) verification of relational integrity of data within the ProMIS database; (iii) introduction of key modifications and enhancements based on user observations and suggestions; (iv) improving survey and questionnaire formats and developing the impact reports; (v) introduction of French and Arabic interfaces; (vi) preparing a user manual and modifying user interface where required; (vii) programming a help facility and providing thorough on-line guidance to users; (viii) preparation of a module for expansion of ProMIS use to IFAD's Near East and North Africa Management Training in Agriculture; and (ix) holding a meeting of MIS officers and management to improve the software.</p>
PN	Support to develop a standard national curriculum for women rural extension agents: Yemen.	85 000	<p>The mainstream extension service in Yemen, which is staffed only with men, does not provide extension to women as it is not socially accepted that women meet with non-family male members and there are social taboos against women travelling away from the home. In the past, women rural extension agents (FREAs), who are often recruited by development projects to deliver extension messages to women, have concentrated on health, literacy, sewing, embroidery and handicrafts; due attention has not been given to crop and livestock production where women contribute 70% and 90%, respectively, of the labour. The grant will support the development of a national curriculum for FREAs. It will be used to link the Rural Women Development Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, in a consultancy arrangement, with an NGO or a training institution that will help it to assess the present situation, solicit beneficiary views as to the mix of skills they require, and use them in developing the curriculum. The proposed curriculum will be directed towards low- and middle-level FREAs recruited locally from the villages in which they will be expected to serve. It will provide training in communication skills and participatory approaches, including facilitating group meetings and problem identification and solution. It will also include basic training in small ruminant livestock production, some crop production packages and home economics. While the training will be agriculturally biased, it will also cater for demand in fields such as food processing, marketing and rural water supply. During the process, options for providing linkages for this type of non-mobility based extension (including the possibility of using advance communication techniques to link village extension workers for information transfer and market intelligence) will be explored.</p>







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PT	Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) – Phase II: IFAD Support to the Development and Implementation of a GFAR Research Agenda for Participatory Technology Development for Smallholders Through Collaborative Research, 1999-2000 (Phase II)	100 000	The grant will continue to support the Global Forum - National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) Secretariat with the objective of strengthening partnerships research in international agriculture 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. It will also support the Forum on Agricultural Research 2000, to be held in Dresden, Germany, in May 2000.
PT	IFAD's contribution to the Microcredit Summit Follow-up Campaign – Scholarship Fund for 1999	15 000	At the Microcredit Summit held in Washington, D.C., United States, February 1997, international financial institutions were requested to contribute a minimum of USD 10 000 for scholarships to help finance the attendance of grass-roots leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific Islands, Africa, the Middle East and/or Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent states at the yearly meetings of the Summit's follow-up campaign until the year 2005. IFAD agreed to this request and is contributing annually, in principle, for the full period, thus entailing an institutionalized contribution from the Fund. As of 1999 onwards, the requested contribution increased to USD 15 000 to enable additional participants from Africa to attend. A grant in the amount of USD 15 000 was therefore made to cover the Fund's contribution for the year 2000.
VC	Preparation of manuals and guidelines for borrowing countries and grant recipients	100 000	The objective of the grant is to develop a set of guidelines, manuals and documents that will help borrowers or recipients of IFAD loans and grants in their financial administration of projects. This will cover (i) procurement of goods and works and recruitment of consultant services; and (ii) audit and financial management in general accounting systems and internal/external controls.

Notes:

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

