



IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Executive Board – Sixty-Ninth Session
Rome, 3-4 May 2000

PLANNED PROJECT ACTIVITIES
2000-2001

GRANTS UNDER THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS FACILITY
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

1. At its Third Special Session held on 17 January 1986, the Executive Board authorized the President to provide for preparatory activities directly related to the Fund's lending operations under the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification, to be undertaken before or after loan effectiveness, by assisting with funding up to the level of USD 600 000 and USD 250 000, respectively, for each proposal.
2. At its Eighteenth Session in January 1995, the Governing Council adopted Resolution 85/XVIII which extended the authority of the President to approve Special Operations Facility (SOF) grants under the Regular Programme. Such grants would be provided to IFAD borrowers entitled to highly concessional terms and on the basis of strict priority criteria.
3. A description of 12 grants approved by the President of IFAD under the SOF, designated as Annex D of document EB 2000/69/R.35, is attached.

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Region	Country	Project Title	Amount (USD) ¹	Scope of the Grant
Africa I	Cameroon	National Microfinance Programme Support Project	75 000	To assist in financing preparatory activities to ensure smooth implementation start-up. Specific activities will include: (i) expediting the fulfilment of conditions for loan effectiveness, including the preparation of a workshop to validate the draft National Microfinance Policy Paper; (ii) expediting the fulfilment of disbursement conditions, including elaboration of an operational manual, preparation of the first year's annual work programme and budget (AWPB), and expediting procedures for the selection of key project staff; (iii) elaborating specific proposals with a view to improving, as and when needed, the composition and functioning of the existing unit in the Ministry of Finance in charge of microfinance; (iv) undertaking initial activities to operationalize the interface between the project and other relevant initiatives on microfinance institutions; and (v) supporting initial preparatory activities related to timely execution of specific project components.

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



Region	Country	Project Title	Amount (USD) ¹	Scope of the Grant
	Cape Verde	Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme	60 000	To finance start-up activities aimed at enhancing timely programme implementation. This will be achieved by hiring a facilitator and programme implementation specialist to: (i) follow-up on the preparation of conditions for effectiveness; (ii) assist Government in establishing the Project Desk and selecting project support unit personnel; (iii) prepare the first year's AWPB, bidding documents and programme implementation manuals; (iv) select NGO implementing partners; and (v) prepare the launching workshop.
	Guinea	Programme for Participatory Rural Development in Haute-Guinée	90 000	To support start-up and early implementation activities for this Flexible Lending Mechanism programme. Funds will be used to recruit a facilitator, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) specialist and local partner to carry out the following: (i) follow up on conditions for programme effectiveness; (ii) assist Government in selection of personnel for the programme coordination unit; (iii) prepare the first year's AWPB; (iv) prepare bidding documents; (v) select an accounting firm to prepare programme implementation manuals; (vi) launch baseline surveys; (vii) mount a support mission for the establishment of an M&E system; and (viii) prepare the launching workshop.



Region	Country	Project Title	Amount (USD) ¹	Scope of the Grant
	Niger	Rural Financial Services Development Programme	75 000	To assist in timely programme implementation. A facilitator and programme implementation specialist will be recruited to: (i) follow up on conditions for effectiveness; (ii) assist Government in setting up a programme management unit; (iii) prepare the first year's AWPB, bidding documents and programme implementation manuals; (iv) prepare the launching workshop; and (v) hold discussions with microfinance institutions regarding their participation in the programme.
	Nigeria	Roots and Tubers Expansion Programme	50 000 40 000 (supplement)	To assist in preparatory activities for smooth implementation start-up and sharpen the programme's focus on agro-processing and market expansion. Funds will be used to recruit consultants to assist in expediting conditions for effectiveness and undertaking the following: (i) facilitate recruitment of key staff; (ii) prepare the programme implementation manual; (iii) elaborate subsidiary loan agreements and AWPBs; (iv) facilitate the establishment of agro-processing and market expansion groups at state and federal levels; (v) elaborate a memorandum of understanding between the participating state and the concerned research institution, and a two-year human resource development plan; (vi) facilitate activities at state level in relation to the timely release of counterpart funding; and (vii) prepare and conduct a workshop on cassava-based commodity systems, including identification of stakeholders, opportunities and constraints.



Region	Country	Project Title	Amount (USD) ¹	Scope of the Grant
Africa II	Mozambique	PAMA Support Project	60 000	To expedite project start-up. A facilitator and a procurement specialist will be funded from the grant to carry out the following: (i) tender for and select staff for project facilitation units and select staff for the project coordinating agency; (ii) prepare a work and procurement plan and initiate the procurement process; and prepare the first year's AWPB and memorandum of understanding; (iii) prepare procedures to be following during start-up; (iv) identify representatives to participate in the National PAMA Consultative Council; and (v) spread awareness among key stakeholders of start-up, project objectives and arrangements.
	Uganda	Area-Based Agricultural Modernization Programme	90 000	To expedite programme start-up. Financing will be provided to undertake a number of pre-implementation activities, including: (i) the preparation of a programme operational manual and draft procurement documents; (ii) a socio-economic assessment of the district and priority sub-counties; (iii) support to districts for the preparation of the first year's AWPB; and (iv) start-up workshops in each programme district. A short-term facilitator, a procurement specialist and local consultants will be recruited.



Region	Country	Project Title	Amount (USD) ¹	Scope of the Grant
	Zambia	Forest Resource Management Project	85 000	To facilitate project effectiveness and timely project start-up. A project expeditor/management specialist and a procurement specialist will be recruited to undertake a number of pre-implementation activities, including: (i) selection and recruitment of project facilitation unit staff; (ii) selection and establishment of contracts with the contracted agencies for communal management of forest resources; and (iii) preparation of first year's AWPB, procurement plan and project implementation manual.
	Zambia	Smallholder Enterprise and Marketing Programme	80 000	To facilitate programme effectiveness and early programme start-up. Funds will be provided to recruit a programme expeditor/management specialist and a procurement specialist to undertake a number of pre-implementation activities, including: (i) procurement and contracting of a firm to manage the programme coordination office; (ii) preparation of tender documents for procurement and contracting for group development and roads activities; (iii) preparation of the first year's AWPB, programme procurement plan and project implementation manual; (iv) preparation of model tender documents for smaller contracts; and (v) preparation of a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and other government parties.



Region	Country	Project Title	Amount (USD) ¹	Scope of the Grant
Asia and the Pacific	Bhutan	Second Eastern Zone Agricultural Programme	50 000	To facilitate early implementation and start-up of the programme, which will be implemented within the framework of the Flexible Lending Mechanism. The proceeds of the grant will be used to: (i) assist in the preparation of the programme's operational plan; (ii) organize a start-up workshop; and (iii) provide technical assistance and training for the establishment of monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems, diagnostic studies, etc.
Latin America and the Caribbean	Nicaragua	Technical Assistance Fund Programme for the Departments of León, Chinandega and Managua	75 000	To facilitate early implementation, local and international consultants will be recruited to undertake a number of preparatory activities. These will include: (i) the formal establishment and organization of a foundation to administer the funds; (ii) revision of the draft operations manual and mechanism to transfer funds to beneficiaries; (iii) elaboration of an administrative and financial procedures manual; (iv) initiating the preparation of a registration of service providers; and (v) visiting similar experiences in other Latin American countries such as Bolivia, Chile and Peru.
Near East and North Africa	Yemen	Al-Mahara Rural Development Project	75 000	To finance start-up activities to facilitate project implementation. The proceeds of the grant will be used to finance: (i) initial project orientation for the staff; (ii) general and specific training in English, procurement, financial management, personnel management and AWPB preparation; (iii) start-up workshops with project beneficiaries and the relevant local and central staff; (iv) translation of key documents; (v) preparation of tender documents and the project operations manual; and (vi) a baseline survey.

