



**IFAD**  
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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT**

TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON A PROPOSED

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT**

FOR

**AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING**

BY A

**NON-CGIAR-SUPPORTED INTERNATIONAL CENTRE**





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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD  
TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON A PROPOSED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT  
FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING BY A  
NON-CGIAR-SUPPORTED INTERNATIONAL CENTRE**

I submit the following Report and Recommendation on a proposed technical assistance (TA) grant for agricultural research and training by a non-CGIAR-supported international centre in the amount of USD 1 295 000.

**PART I - INTRODUCTION**

1. The present report recommends the provision of IFAD support to the research and training programme of the non-CGIAR-supported international centre: International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR).
2. The documents relating to the TA grant for approval by the Executive Board are contained in the annex to this report:

International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR): Development and Diffusion of Technologies for Smallholder Bamboo- and Rattan-Based Producers – Phase II.

3. The objectives and content of the applied research programme under reference are in line with the evolving strategic objectives of IFAD, and the policy and criteria of its TA grant programme for agricultural research and training.
4. The strategic objectives of IFAD's support for technology development relate to: (a) its target groups and their household food-security strategies, specifically in remote and marginalized agro-ecological areas; (b) technologies that build on traditional knowledge systems, are gender-responsive, and enhance and diversify the productive potential of resource-poor farming systems by improving productivity and addressing production bottlenecks; (c) access to productive assets (land and water, financial services, labour and technology, including indigenous technology) and sustainable and productive management of such resources; (d) a policy framework that provides the rural poor with an incentive to reach higher levels of productivity, thereby reducing their dependence on transfers; and (e) an institutional framework within which formal and informal, public- and private-sector, local and national institutions provide services to the economically vulnerable, according to their comparative advantage. Within this framework, IFAD also intends to develop commodity-based approaches to rural poverty alleviation, specifically targeting those items that are produced and consumed by the rural poor. Finally, the establishment of a consolidated network for knowledge-gathering and dissemination will enhance the Fund's capacity to establish long-term strategic linkages with its development partners and to multiply the effect of its agricultural research and training programme.
5. The proposed TA grant responds to all the foregoing strategic objectives inasmuch as it seeks to build on adaptive and applied research results and institutional linkages established under the initial phase of the programme. Action-research will be undertaken with rural poor communities to step up the adoption of a broad range of profitable prototype technologies based on bamboo and rattan use, post-harvest processing, value-addition and links to markets. INBAR will locate much of the participatory research and development activities in selected IFAD loan projects in bamboo- and



rattan-rich regions of Asia, Africa and Latin America in order to improve the direct impact of action-research on non-timber-forest-products-based rural microenterprises promoted by such projects.

## **PART II - RECOMMENDATION**

6. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed TA grant in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Development and Diffusion of Technologies for Smallholder Bamboo- and Rattan-Based Producers – Phase II, shall make a grant not exceeding one million two hundred and ninety five thousand United States dollars (USD 1 295 000) to the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board in this Report and Recommendation of the President.

Fawzi H. Al-Sultan  
President



**INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR BAMBOO AND RATTAN (INBAR):  
DEVELOPMENT AND DIFFUSION OF TECHNOLOGIES FOR SMALLHOLDER  
BAMBOO- AND RATTAN-BASED PRODUCERS - PHASE II**

**I. BACKGROUND**

1. Bamboo and rattan play a prominent role in increasing employment by generating income and improving the nutritional status of the rural poor; they may also provide the resource basis for an expanding small- and medium-scale enterprise sector in Africa, Asia and Latin America, providing employment and income-generating opportunities to alleviate poverty. As such they constitute excellent entry points for rural poverty-alleviation initiatives. Both products are relevant to IFAD's mission as they and their end-products are mostly produced by poor smallholders and contribute significantly to their off-farm income.
2. These two important non-timber forest resources contribute to the well-being of over 2 billion poor and disadvantaged people. Having been used for countless years in a wide range of day-to-day applications, both as woody material and as food, they form the backbone of everyday rural life and will continue to do so as populations increase. The widespread use of these materials in housing by the poor has led them to be known as the "poor man's timber".
3. INBAR was established as a multi-disciplinary network to provide a systems approach to addressing social, economic, policy, and institutional and technical issues. Its mission is to improve the well-being of producers and users of bamboo and rattan within the context of a sustainable resource base by consolidating, coordinating, and supporting strategic research, adaptive research, and development. To fulfil this global mission, INBAR is mandated by its charter to identify, coordinate and support research in collaboration with partner national institutions and organizations, and to strengthen national and local, regional and international coordination, cooperation and collaboration.
4. Together with its partners, INBAR develops, provides and promotes appropriate technologies and solutions with regard to bamboo and rattan to benefit people and the environment. It aims to enhance the quality of life of poor and disadvantaged people in developing countries and to make a favourable impact on forests and degraded environments. As a global network, INBAR links up governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities, research institutions, the private sector and smallholder producer groups, and acts as a knowledge broker providing leadership, coordination and support for strategic development-led research activities involving bamboo and rattan. Its programmes cover livelihood and economic development and social aspects; engineering; natural resources management; use of the products; and diffusion of validated technology and information.
5. An IFAD grant of USD 700 000 (1993-96, through the Centre for International Forestry Research), coupled with support from the International Development Research Centre, contributed towards the establishment of a regional network for bamboo and rattan. IFAD's contribution financed the development of a socio-economic research dimension to the formal collaborative research and development network, focusing initially on the Asian region. In 1996, the first IFAD grant in direct support of INBAR's operations as an institution (USD 900 000 over the period 1997-2000) contributed to (i) strengthening the adaptive/action-research part of the programme to improve technology diffusion and upscaling; and (ii) promoting transfers of promising and appropriate bamboo and rattan technologies from Asia to Africa.
6. An informal network of Asian National Agricultural Research Systems and NGOs has been in operation since 1984, linking network partners and researchers in 49 countries throughout the world.

In response to requests from several developing countries, INBAR was incorporated in 1997 as an independent international centre headquartered in China and serving Africa, Asia and Latin America. Currently, 21 countries are primary members of INBAR which, as an international organization, operates in a decentralized networking manner.

## II. RATIONALE / RELEVANCE TO IFAD

7. Three independent evaluations have been undertaken of INBAR: in 1995 and 1996 and, more recently, in 1999/2000. The findings of the December 1999 – January 2000 evaluation were that the network should place greater emphasis on livelihood development at the local level, and that research should be further dovetailed with development initiatives so as to improve the impact of bamboo- and rattan-based activities on smallholder incomes and household food security.

8. The evaluation mission presented its findings at a seminar held at IFAD in February 2000. It was noted that, through its organizational framework and function as a decentralized network, INBAR has made significant progress in laying the groundwork for the testing and diffusion of bamboo- and rattan-based technologies. IFAD staff from several regional divisions participated in the seminar and expressed keen interest in enhancing linkages between INBAR activities and expertise and the Fund's loan portfolio, particularly in Asia, the Near East and North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. It was also noted that, given the large number of prototype technologies now available, there was significant scope for INBAR to locate adaptive or action-research with communities currently addressed by several IFAD projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America, particularly through INBAR's newly-established Livelihoods Development Programme.

9. INBAR is associated with a fast-growing network-building process and has forged strategic partnerships that allow both for the enhancement of a number of collaborative activities and for the continued expansion of technology transfer (Asia – Africa), information services, grass-roots livelihood and economic development and natural resources management activities. Collectively, these efforts will lead to the availability of a large number of avenues through which bamboo- and rattan-based rural activities can play a significant role in development and rural poverty alleviation. Coupled with programme funds provided by IFAD and the Government of The Netherlands for Phase I activities, INBAR has acquired greater status and recognition as an international organization that assists countries with bamboo and rattan resources to leverage funds for the development of their own national development programmes, as demonstrated in countries such as China, Ecuador, India and Nepal.

10. A large number of INBAR case studies and production-to-consumption analyses in developing countries show that there is potential for replication of the above-mentioned activities under the proposed programme. At several levels, the expanding INBAR network is well placed to reach target groups such as the socio-economically disadvantaged rural populations of developing countries whose subsistence lifestyles are often directly linked to environmental degradation. In this context, INBAR and IFAD share the same target population. Through its network expansion activities, INBAR will further develop new partnerships under the proposed programme, particularly with grass-roots NGOs, cooperatives and entrepreneurial organizations.

11. A follow-up phase of IFAD grant support, cofinanced by a grant from The Netherlands for bio-physical research, will help build on INBAR achievements in applied research outputs, knowledge generation and information collection (through socio-economic studies). It will help to introduce remunerative bamboo- and rattan-based options to communities benefiting from development projects financed by IFAD and other partners.



### III. THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

12. During the proposed second phase INBAR will expand its ongoing research and development agenda, the principal goal being livelihood development through the following specific objectives:

- (i) to increase livelihood opportunities through action-research projects using bamboo and rattan technologies;
- (ii) to engage in improved smallholder product and market development based on successful bamboo/rattan technologies;
- (iii) to build awareness in producer countries of the benefits of using bamboo/rattan through increased information dissemination and socio-economic data collection; and
- (iv) to strengthen national, regional and international coordination, cooperation and collaboration in livelihood development using bamboo/rattan by means of increased networking.

13. The above-mentioned activities are described in detail in the full project design document; a logframe outlines both the specific activities and monitorable indicators and the indicative costs of each activity. The second-phase strategy will place emphasis on mounting programmes in Africa and Asia, and initiating a number of new activities in Latin America to work with outreach organizations and national programmes, primarily focusing on action-research programmes to enhance livelihood development. Emphasis will be placed on project components that aim at assimilating and using bamboo/rattan technologies to alleviate rural poverty, primarily through improved income-generation and empowerment (for instance, of poor rural women through processing and marketing), and at enhancing natural resources management through deployment of degraded land into bamboo plantations or by conserving forest stands through rattan production.

14. Building on the success of Phase I, INBAR will work more closely with IFAD investment projects and enhance the incorporation of bamboo and rattan components into project design. Wherever possible, action-research projects will be located in IFAD project locations.

### IV. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

15. The outputs expected from the second phase include the transfer of technology modules (TOTEMs): documentation of relevant information on bamboo/rattan technologies and products (and their improvement) to develop a menu of options for NGOs and other development agencies involved in livelihood development using bamboo/rattan. Twenty-four TOTEMs will be produced on key bamboo/rattan technologies. Product development will include the design of several new products and improved traditional handicraft products. The products will be selected from a range of product categories and test-marketed following their development. Small, low-cost, multipurpose hand-operated tools will be developed for smallholders to enable them to produce small veneer from bamboo to make matchboxes and similar articles. This will complement the current development of bamboo matchsticks, incense sticks and mat boards and expand the range of economic activities undertaken. Training and capacity building programmes will be implemented as part of the action-research projects, and training materials will be produced to enable INBAR's NGO partners to implement livelihood development activities and for entrepreneurship development. The marketing of handicrafts will be facilitated through various options, including the Internet and trade fairs to coincide with bamboo and rattan congresses. Directories of organizations and artisans, and catalogues of products will be produced to facilitate the development of marketing linkages at various levels, starting from the village communities through various levels of partnership arrangements to actors involved in international trade, thus ensuring an adequate level of remuneration at the level of the smallholder producer.



16. In line with the successful approach adopted during Phase I and using such means as awareness-building, networking, technology transfer and other technical activities, programmes and proposals will be developed in partnership with national partners for support by bilateral and multilateral donor agencies in order to obtain resources needed to make a positive impact on the socio-economic and environmental baseline. As in Phase I, INBAR will leverage significant levels of external funding for national bamboo development.

17. Livelihood development action-research projects will be developed at workshops attended by NGOs, grass-roots agencies and key stakeholders, including IFAD country portfolio managers and other relevant headquarters staff. Individual workshops will be convened at each project location in accordance with different development needs. Potential donors will be invited to such fora and, where possible, linkages developed with related donor-funded and national programmes. Discussion will also centre on various mechanisms for empowering the poor based on successful programmes operating elsewhere. Pilot validation projects will be supported by INBAR in five countries, located in regions of interest to IFAD (i.e. in areas where current IFAD projects are operational or might be implemented), and where opportunities exist for using bamboo and/or rattan as a means of developing livelihoods. Funding agencies will be approached to provide support to other projects.

18. Implementation mechanisms will include networked NGOs working in target bamboo/rattan areas. Examples of NGO involvement include the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in India and Proshika in Bangladesh. Additional NGO partners of a similar nature will be sought in other countries. Village councils/*panchayats*/institutionalized self-help groups will be associated in community mobilization and training; government or parastatal agencies (where available) and the private sector will be involved in the development of commercial linkages between the poor and markets.

19. All activities will be backstopped by a strong information service. Technical, commercial, strategic and socio-economic information will be needed by INBAR to steer its networking activities and by national programmes to plan and carry out their work. The International Bamboo and Rattan Information Services will be expanded for this purpose.

## V. INDICATIVE PROGRAMME COSTS AND FINANCING

20. The proposed IFAD grant of USD 1 295 000 over a four-year period will cover a specific set of activities, including action-research initiatives in IFAD investment projects. The grant will be additional to other donor support provided to INBAR and is meant to improve the latter's outreach through its newly-established Livelihoods Development Programme.

Cost Category	Year I	Year II	Year III	Year IV	TOTAL
Action-research	100 000	250 000	85 000	40 000	475 000
Product and market development	5 000	80 000	100 000	30 000	215 000
Livelihoods development (pilot support)	0	15 000	15 000	15 000	45 000
Technical assistance/consultancies	100 000	100 000	100 000	100 000	400 000
Incremental administrative backstopping	25 000	50 000	50 000	35 000	160 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>230 000</b>	<b>495 000</b>	<b>350 000</b>	<b>220 000</b>	<b>1 295 000</b>