IFAD  
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
Executive Board – Seventy-Second Session  
Rome, 25 - 26 April 2001

PLANNED PROJECT ACTIVITIES  
2001 – 2002

1. At the Second Session of the Executive Board, it was agreed that information on planned project activities would be presented to the Executive Board on a regular basis to enable Members to keep abreast of developments in IFAD’s project pipeline and, should they so desire, to comment on planned projects at an appropriate stage of the project cycle. Accordingly, such information has been provided to each subsequent session of the Executive Board in the form of annexes to documents submitted under the relevant agenda items.

2. At an early session of the Board, some Members requested that the nature and intended purpose of the annexes be clarified. The requested explanation was provided at the Eighth Session and is repeated below for convenience. The information contained in Annex E was requested by the Board at its Thirty-Fifth Session.

(a) Annex A

Annex A is a vehicle for bringing before the Board a summary of available information on projects that have reached an advanced stage of design and are thus likely to be presented at one of the Board’s forthcoming sessions. Since the comments of Executive Board members on the project summaries presented in Annex A are obtained at the session at which the relevant document is considered, such project summaries are not included in the Annex A portion of documents placed before the Board at subsequent sessions.
(b) Annex B

Annex B provides a comprehensive list of pipeline projects that were reviewed by the Fund’s Technical Review Committee to ascertain their suitability for IFAD support. The annex includes projects that have been identified only, those that have reached an advanced stage of processing (and have consequently been included in the Annex A portion of the document or of a previous document), and projects that are being presented to the Board for approval at the same session. Thus, Annex B provides a list, for ready reference, of all projects in the pipeline. In addition, Annex B provides information on Country Strategic Opportunities Papers (COSOPs) so far reviewed by the Operational Strategy Committee (OSC) and on the COSOPs planned for 2001. This information will allow Executive Board Members to discuss issues related to the selection and review of COSOPs.

(e) Annex C

Annex C summarizes in tabular form the amounts provided for activities under the Project Development Fund facility within the technical assistance (TA) grant programme included in the Programme of Work and Budget of IFAD, approved by the Governing Council.

(d) Annex D

Annex D provides brief descriptions of TA grants under the Special Operations Facility that have been approved by the President, pursuant to the authority delegated to him by the Executive Board.¹

(e) Annex E

Annex E contains a summary of information available – for comment thereon by the Board, if so desired – on proposed TA grants for agricultural research and training that, having reached an advanced stage of design, are likely to be presented to the Board at a forthcoming session.

3. The information contained in Annexes A, B and E is intended only to provide an indication of developments in the Fund’s operations at various stages of the project cycle. Some of the projects or grants listed may not materialize, while others not yet listed may enter the pipeline at a later stage. It should be noted that the inclusion in these annexes of one or projects or grants for a country does not imply any definitive judgement concerning the suitability of a given project or grant or with regard to the amount of assistance that may be appropriate for any given country or the number of projects to be financed.

4. The foregoing explanation applies both to previous documents and to the annexes attached to the present document.

¹ Descriptions of any TA grants approved by the President since the Board’s last session will be tabled at the current session.
**Region:** Western and Central Africa (Africa I)  
**Project Name:** Poverty Reduction Project in Aftout-South and Karakoro  
**Country:** Mauritania  
**Per Capita GNP**: 380

**Project Cost (USD million):** 17.0  
**Population (million):** 3

**IFAD Loan (USD million):** To be determined  
**Leading External Financier**: IFAD

**Proposed Terms:** Highly concessional  
**Cofinanciers:** Discussions ongoing with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the OPEC Fund

**Present Status:** Under formulation  
**Appraising Institution and Loan Administrator:** IFAD and to be determined

**Project Objectives**

A large proportion of Mauritania’s rural poor is made up of *adwaba* settlers. So far, these communities, who are most affected by various forms of exclusion, have received little material support and practically nothing in terms of capacity building at the grass-roots level. They also face severe problems in obtaining access to social infrastructure and services and to productive assets, such as land and financial capital, and have practically no access to markets. The overall aim of the proposed project is to reduce poverty among the *adwaba* settlers, especially the most vulnerable social groups among them, and improve their incomes and living conditions in a sustainable manner. These goals will be achieved by actions leading to: (i) improved governance at the local level; (ii) effective empowerment of the target population (participation in decisions affecting their lives and development of their organizational and managerial capabilities); and (iii) increased access to basic social infrastructure and to more diversified income-earning opportunities through decentralized funding mechanisms.

**Project Beneficiaries**

The project will target the populations of the *adwaba* settlements in the Departments of Mbout, Kankossa and Ould Yenge, located respectively in the administrative regions of Gorgol, Assaba and Guidimaka. The population in the project area is estimated at about 165,000, or about 35,000 households, most of whom live in rural areas. Eighty per cent of the rural population in the three Departments is considered to be poor. The project will specifically target the three most vulnerable groups: (i) small subsistence farmers, most of whom are former herders who have lost most of their productive livestock capital and become sedentary farmers operating under extremely adverse conditions; (ii) women-headed households living under very precarious conditions without access to land, financial capital and information; and (iii) rural youths.

**Project Components**

(a) **Support to Organizational and Managerial Capability**

Through this component, the project will support the capacity building of community-based organizations, beneficiary associations and key implementing partners, especially the rural communes.

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1. 1999 data; GNP in United States dollars.
2. The external financier who, at the request of the Government, takes the lead in project design, pre-appraisal processing and the mobilization of external resources.
3. Former slaves and other lower castes that, after independence, settled in camps around towns and along major roadways.
(b) **Social and Productive Community Infrastructure**

The project will contribute to financing: (i) the rehabilitation and/or establishment of social and economic infrastructures, such as basic education and primary health facilities, potable water infrastructure, and critical access roads and works; and (ii) the rehabilitation and/or construction of productive community infrastructures that will help maintain or improve, in a sustainable manner, the natural resource base for agriculture and livestock activities (flood recession, small irrigation and tree plantation).

(c) **Income-Generating Activities**

Through grass-roots beneficiary associations, the project will promote the development of individual and group farm and non-farm income-generating activities, particularly those initiated by the most vulnerable groups.

(d) **Project Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation**

Financing will be provided for the coordination, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of all project activities and for the financial management of the project. To that end, a small autonomous project coordination and management unit will be established under a renewable two-year contract arrangement.

**Project Implementation**

The six-year project will be implemented under the overall responsibility of the Commissariat for Human Rights, Poverty Reduction and Insertion.

**Important Features**

This first new IFAD operation in Mauritania since 1994 reflects the strategic thrusts of the COSOP approved in May 2000 in that it targets one of the most vulnerable groups and focuses on marginal agricultural areas where provision of support and services by Government and donors has been sparse. The project will contribute significantly to ongoing dialogue with the Government on the questions of local governance and decentralization, by providing tools and instruments for the transfer of responsibilities, resources and capabilities to local government. It will also place heavy emphasis on the empowerment of the most vulnerable groups to ensure their effective participation in decision-making and on capacity-building at the grass-roots level. Replication and sustainability will be overriding concerns in both design and implementation. A participatory diagnostic process was implemented. Formulation will rely heavily on intensive consultations with beneficiary representatives, rural communes, and potential public and civil-society partners.

**Main Issues**

The following issues will be addressed during formulation/appraisal: (i) proper sequencing between capacity-building activities and delivery of basic infrastructure; (ii) processes that ensure effective participation of beneficiaries, and limit interference from local administrative authorities in the determination of local development priorities; (iii) tools and instruments for decentralized funding mechanisms, and their management in a responsive and transparent manner; (iv) ensuring beneficiary commitment to take full responsibility of operation and maintenance costs of community projects to be established under the project, as a key to ensuring sustainability; and (v) finalization of implementation and cofinancing arrangements.
Previous IFAD Operations in Mauritania

To date, eight loans have been approved, for a total of SDR 36.6 million. Three of the projects were cofinanced and five were initiated by IFAD. The loan for the Maghama Improved Flood Recession Farming Project is due to close in June 2001, and the second phase of the Oasis Development Project is due to end in June 2002.
Programme Objectives

Poverty is widespread in the northern States of Nigeria, where there is a very high incidence of household food insecurity among the rural population. The development objective of the proposed programme is to improve the livelihoods and living conditions of rural communities in the area, with special emphasis on women and other vulnerable groups. This objective will be pursued by: (i) empowering the rural poor to make a critical analysis of their constraints, opportunities and support requirements, and to increasingly manage their own development; and (ii) supporting the institutionalization of policies, processes and capacity building in such a way that public resources and service providers become more relevant and responsive to the rural poor.

Programme Beneficiaries

Six-to-eight northern states of Nigeria will receive support under the programme, in terms of support to rural decentralization and community-based development, and demand-driven agricultural support services. Potential states include Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, Kano, Jigawa, Yobe and Borno, which are among the poorest in Nigeria. About two thirds of the population (some 20 million people or 3.5 million households) are rural and depend on agriculture for their livelihood. The overwhelming majority of poor, rural inhabitants, with income below the poverty line, will constitute the target group. Women play a significant role in the rural economy but are more affected by poverty because of their vulnerable socio-economic position and low levels of education. Sixty per cent of women-headed households are poor. Special attention will be given to ensuring that the extremely poor are reached through tailor-made support.

Programme Components. These will include two funding mechanisms:

(a) Capacity Building Fund (CBF)

Support will be provided for: (i) awareness raising, participatory needs assessments, group and community organization development; basic, non-formal education and training (functional literacy, numeracy; HIV/AIDS prevention); and M&E; (ii) facilitation of policy development to rationalize and decentralize public rural development institutions; and strengthening these institutions’ capacities through training to identify and respond to demand for services from rural communities.

(b) Community Development Fund (CDF)

This component will support community-based initiatives in response to demand arising from the participatory needs assessment and planning process. Three areas are envisaged: (i) sustainable agricultural development, to support follow-up activities focused on assisting farm households to investigate, develop and adopt several locally-appropriate and improved land husbandry practices within their individual farm holdings (both upland and wetland), communal grazing and woodland areas and settlement areas. This will include practices aimed at better integration and intensification of crop and livestock production and the resolution of conflicts between farmers and herders; (ii) rural
enterprise development and credit support services, through: (a) assistance in identifying the constraints faced by, and needs of, interested enterprise groups and in formulating development plans. These will include assistance in group formation, market analysis and linkages and in the assessment of financial viability, organizational sustainability and training and credit requirements; (b) facilitating linkages between rural enterprises, including farmer groups, and financial institutions; (c) provision of TA and capacity building for the grouping and transformation of traditional savings and credit groups into registered financial associations with greater financial mobilization capacity; and (d) identification and implementation of mechanisms for the inclusion of the poorest populations into viable enterprises; and (iii) community infrastructure, including safe water supplies, water for livestock, irrigation, community access and transport, health and education facilities, housing for health and education workers, on-farm storage and processing; and, at the multi-village level, inter-community access roads, health and off-farm storage and processing facilities. Support will also be provided to ensure community commitment and capacity in operation and maintenance.

Programme Implementation

The six-year programme will be implemented under the overall responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Overall responsibility for policy coordination and monitoring will rest with the National Planning Commission. Individual State ministries of agriculture will coordinate implementation within their States, through local government authorities and communities.

Important Features

The proposed programme is consistent with the framework for partnership outlined in the COSOP for Nigeria, and will draw on experience and lessons learned during the implementation of the IFAD-funded Katsina and Sokoto State Agricultural and Community Development Projects. The findings of a recently completed impact assessment will be internalized, and a process and demand-driven approach adopted. Through the CBF, the programme will contribute to the development of an enabling institutional, financing and policy framework for community-based rural development. CDF-supported interventions will seek to respond to the demands of the rural poor, especially women and other vulnerable groups. Partnerships with other donors, including the World Bank and possibly AfDB, and other stakeholders will also be strengthened so as to mobilize needed resources, share experience and strengthen policy discussions with the Government of Nigeria.

Main Issues

The following issues will be addressed during appraisal: (i) finalization of institutional arrangements, and in particular the respective roles of federal, state and local government entities; (ii) clearly bringing out the status of rural women and the Fund’s gender strategy; (iii) ensuring coordination with other donor-supported interventions, particularly the World Bank-supported Community Poverty Reduction Project; (iv) finalization of cofinancing arrangements; and (v) elaboration of an M&E strategy for effectively monitoring both local capacity development and poverty alleviation impact.

Previous IFAD Operations in Nigeria

To date, IFAD has financed five projects for a total of SDR 54.9 million. The Roots and Tubers Expansion Programme is expected to become effective on 13 May 2001.
Region: Eastern and Southern Africa (Africa II)  
Country: Mozambique  
Per Capita GNP: 230  
Population (million): 17  
Project Name: Sofala Bank Artisanal Fisheries Project  
Project Cost (USD million): 23.1  
IFAD Loan (USD million): To be determined  
Proposed Terms: Highly concessional  
Present Status: Formulation completed  
Leading External Financier: IFAD  
Cofinanciers: Discussions ongoing with the Belgian Survival Fund, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and the Icelandic International Development Agency  
Appraising Institution and Loan Administrator: IFAD and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Project Objectives

Mozambique is one of the world’s poorest countries, with 70% of the population living below the poverty line. The coastal communities are among the remotest and poorest in the country as a whole and characterized by a consistent pattern of poverty and isolation. While many constraints to the development of artisanal fisheries in the province of Nampula are being addressed through the Nampula Artisanal Fisheries Project (334-MZ), these constraints are still evident in other areas. Therefore, the primary objective of the proposed project is to improve the living standards of the fishing communities. Its immediate objectives are to: (i) create the biological, economic and technical conditions necessary for fishing households to increase their incomes and food security; (ii) empower both communities and fishermen, while responding to their articulated needs; and (iii) support the Government in developing an enabling environment for development of the artisanal fisheries sector. To achieve this objective, the project will: (i) assist fishermen to diversify their fishing techniques as a means of increasing both production and incomes; (ii) encourage them to reduce post-catch losses and add value to their produce through improved processing techniques and better linkages with input suppliers and produce markets; (iii) provide access to financial services that are more responsive to the needs of fish traders, skippers and fishermen, and of members (predominantly women) of the fishing communities; (iv) empower communities to take control of the planning, implementation and management of their own development activities; (v) improve access to social services through the provision of water-supply points and other social infrastructure as well as the rehabilitation and maintenance of roads; and (vi) support the development of a legislative, policy, strategic and investment framework, better suited to the challenges and opportunities currently facing artisanal fishermen.

Project Beneficiaries

The project will be located in the area corresponding to the Sofala Bank, which covers three provinces (Nampula, Zambezia and Sofala) and 15 districts. The area has more than 25 000 artisanal fishermen, located in 295 fishing centres and using 7 300 boats. The primary target group will consist of artisanal fishermen and their families; women will also represent a specific beneficiary group. Other direct beneficiaries will include fish traders, fishing gear suppliers, fish processors and boat builders. The estimated number of potential beneficiaries is in excess of 162 000.

Project Components

(a) Artisanal Fisheries Management and Development

The project will support (i) the establishment of a system in the project intervention area to collect statistical information on artisanal fisheries catches and of operational and legally-recognized fisheries co-management mechanisms. The intention here is to promote the sustainability of fisheries resources and reduce conflicts among artisanal fishermen and between artisanal and industrial/semi-
industrial fishermen; (ii) diversification of fishing techniques and improvement of current practices through the adoption of a participatory and adaptive methodology; (iii) fish processing, to reduce post-capture losses, improve fish handling and storage conditions, including the use of ice; (iv) improved fisheries input supply, in collaboration with the private sector; and (v) fish marketing, by improving fishermen’s access to appropriate markets, both national and international, in order to increase the value of their catch.

(b) Financial Services

The project will improve the target group’s access to appropriate financial services (including savings and credit facilities) in order to promote fishing, marketing and other economic activities. Loans will be provided to traders and individual enterprises. Group loans and individual loans to small-scale traders and skippers will be delivered through local NGOs. Savings and loans community credit systems will also be developed.

(c) Community Development

The activities promoted will aim at empowering communities to take control of the planning, implementation and management of their own development activities. Financing will be provided for microprojects and community projects and for the strengthening of baseline organizations. Project staff will be trained in participative methods.

(d) Rural Infrastructure

Support will be provided for (i) the rehabilitation of rural access roads that are crucial to fishing communities, and for the establishment of community maintenance systems; and (ii) social infrastructure, through the rehabilitation/construction of wells/boreholes equipped with manual pumps, and the creation of maintenance committees.

(e) Institutional Support

Financing will be provided for (i) strengthening the capacity of major institutions linked to small-scale fisheries, in particular the provincial representations of the National Institute for the Development of Small-Scale Fisheries (IDPPE) and the National Institute for Fisheries Research; (ii) creation of a project coordination unit (PCU); (iii) establishment of an operational M&E system; and (iv) development of a legislative framework, policy and strategy for artisanal fisheries.

Project Implementation

The five-year project will be implemented under the overall responsibility of the Ministry of Fisheries. A PCU within IDPPE will be responsible for the project’s overall planning, implementation and monitoring management, while the three provincial delegations of IDPPE will carry out a similar role at that level. Overall project coordination and policy guidance will be provided by central and provincial steering committees, chaired by the Minister of Fisheries and Provincial governors, respectively, and with representation from the key institutions and stakeholders involved in the project.

Important Features

While the proposed project will adopt and build upon the successful features of the ongoing Nampula Artisanal Fisheries Project, it displays a number of new and innovative features. It will probably be the first time a borrowing government in the Africa II region takes responsibility for developing its own project proposals and ownership over the design process, thereby engendering a
local sense of project ownership and providing a training exercise for government staff. It will also be the first time an intervention in support of the Mozambican artisanal fisheries sector seeks to: (i) take on, from the outset, the challenges of empowering fishermen and their communities in the areas of fisheries resource management, market access, savings and credit, and the planning and management of their own development activities; (ii) promote market linkages as a key thrust of the project – focusing on the value of the product to the fishermen; (iii) promote a legislative, policy and strategic agenda, and provide government with the support to pursue it; and (iv) bring together a number of donors in a coalition in support of the sector. Finally, the project expects to provide a broader stimulus to the local economies through its support to the rehabilitation and maintenance of access roads.

**Main Issues**

The following issues will be addressed during appraisal: (i) consider the possibility of project phasing after reviewing the characteristics of the project area and other ongoing projects; (ii) firm up cofinancing arrangements with potential bilateral donors; (iii) ensure coordination of donor interventions within the artisanal fisheries sector, in particular those related to appropriate institutional arrangements in view of a forthcoming AfDB-financed fisheries project; (iv) ensure that a clear and revised statement artisanal fisheries strategy is finalized so as to provide the essential framework for interventions in the sector; and (v) finalize the resolution of roads maintenance-related issues in a satisfactory manner to ensure sustainability of investments.

**Previous IFAD Operations in Mozambique**

IFAD has financed six projects for a total of SDR 72.7 million. Of these, one project was financed through the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification. Three projects are currently under implementation. The PAMA Support Project is expected to become effective on 5 April 2001.
Programme Objectives

Orissa, one of India’s poorest States, contains one of the country’s greatest concentrations of tribal people, who live in conditions of extreme vulnerability. The overall goal of the proposed programme is to ensure household food security and enhance the livelihood opportunities and quality of life of the tribal communities in South-West Orissa, where poverty and deprivation are pervasive. To that end, the specific objectives of the programme are to: (i) empower and build up the capacities of rural communities, in particular the marginal groups; (ii) enhance the institutional capacity of government organizations, local self-government institutions (Panchayat Raj institutions), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), etc; (iii) promote activities that generate sustainable increases in the production and productivity of land and water resources in a sustainable and equitable manner; (iv) harness indigenous knowledge and blend it with technological innovations; and (v) encourage the development of a pro-tribal enabling environment and improve land tenure and non-timber forest product policies.

Programme Beneficiaries

The programme will cover the 30 most backward blocks with tribal concentrations in seven districts of Southern Orissa. Almost three quarters (73%) of the total population in the area are tribals and scheduled castes, tribals constituting the majority (61%) of total households. Targeting will give priority to the tribal communities, landless and women-headed households. Approximately 338 000 persons from 75 000 households living in 1 080 villages and 360 microwatersheds are expected to benefit directly from the programme. Communities will also benefit from stronger local institutions, including over 1 000 village development committees (VDCs) and 3 200 self-help groups (SHGs).

Programme Components

(a) Empowerment and Capacity Building

At the community level, activities will focus on: (i) creation of awareness with regard to tribal rights, gender and equity issues, improved natural resource management, identification and planning of local development actions, etc., through sensitization, training and exposure visits; (ii) effective community/group involvement in participatory microplanning exercises; (iii) developing the managerial capacity of existing and new community-based institutions; and (iv) developing the technical skills of village volunteers. Support will be provided also for building up the capacity of support agencies (Government and NGO staff).

(b) Livelihood Systems Enhancement

Support will be provided for: (i) land and water management, by undertaking microwatershed development works. The works eligible for financing through the Land and Water Management Fund will include land and water conservation structures and rehabilitation or construction of small-scale...
irrigation structures; (ii) rehabilitation/upgrading of rural infrastructure through a participatory microplanning process; (iii) collaborative forest management for the purpose of assisting communities to regenerate degraded forest land; (iv) enhancement of production systems through improvements in agricultural productivity, animal husbandry and access to village credit; (v) promotion of participatory community health and nutrition by fostering and building the capacity of village health committees; (vi) functional education for children; and (vii) establishment of a Development Initiatives Fund to finance promising activities.

(c) Programme Management

Support will be provided for the establishment of an apex registered society to manage the programme at the State level and for the revitalization of Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) at the district level, through support for incremental salaries and operating costs, training and the establishment of M&E systems.

Programme Implementation

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs at the central level and the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes Development Department at the State level will be the nodal agencies for this ten-year programme. At the grass-roots level, the SHGs and VDCs will be the main implementing agencies, with the ITDAs at the district level and an autonomous society, the Orissa Apex Tribal Development Agency, at the State level. At the block level, facilitating NGOs will provide support to SHGs and VDCs for capacity-building, microplanning and supervision.

Important Features

The programme is in line with the COSOP, which identified the tribal communities as a priority target group in India. It will build on the experience gained through the Orissa Tribal Development Project (214-IN), contribute to developing innovative approaches that can serve as replicable models to be taken up on a larger scale by Government and/or other donors, devolve responsibility to the communities and strengthen the role of community institutions in planning and managing development initiatives. The programme, which will be financed within the framework of the Flexible Lending Mechanism (FLM), will follow a highly process-oriented, flexible and demand-driven approach to ensure the relevance of its activities to the needs and aspirations of the beneficiaries. It will ensure that programme planning and execution is participatory and promote self-reliant sustainable development among the tribals in Orissa. IFAD’s concern for the development of women will be addressed by assuring women of equal wages, drawing them more into the public life of the community and developing their managerial capabilities. The involvement of NGOs, as key partners in programme implementation, will be far greater than in previous IFAD-funded interventions in India.

Main Issues

The following issues will be addressed during appraisal: (i) review the issue of sustainability; (ii) reconsider the phasing of the programme, in line with FLM; (iii) reflect the lessons learned from IFAD’s past experience; (iv) clarify gender concerns related to the productive area and bring out clearly the provisions made for enhancing women’s representation in community-level programme institutions; (v) spell out the selection criteria for NGO partners; (vi) put in place an effective coordination mechanism for ensuring proper linkages within and among the villages of the watersheds to be supported under the programme; and (vii) further assess how to measure the longer-term impact of the programme on policy issues related to forestry, energy, etc.
Previous IFAD Projects in India

To date 15 projects (two cofinanced and 13 IFAD-initiated) have been approved for a total of SDR 297.9 million. Five projects are currently under implementation. The loan agreement of the Bihar-Madhya Pradesh Tribal Development Programme (subsequently renamed Jharkhand-Chattisgarh Tribal Development Programme) has been resigned. This was required to address a number of legal issues and because of the creation of two new States in the tribal areas of the project area. Soon after that, the project will be declared effective. The National Microfinance Support Programme was approved in May 2000. Loan signing and effectiveness is expected shortly.
Programme Objectives

Unlike in some other countries, poverty in Lebanon is not endemic structural poverty but rather it is income poverty resulting from urban-rural and regional inequalities in per capita incomes and lack of opportunities. Despite the country’s well developed commercial banking system, access to financial services is a key constraint to increasing rural household incomes in the absence of formal financial institutions. This is aggravated by an institutional vacuum in the area of cooperative rural finance services that prevents rural households, particularly low-income households, from having access to financial services. It also prevents the poor from engaging in productive activities, including small or medium on- and off-farm income-generating activities. Against this background, the overall goal of the proposed programme is to reduce rural poverty through increasing household incomes in rural areas. To that end, the programme will support the development of rural financial services through: (i) an appropriate policy environment, including a legal and regulatory framework for growth and expansion of rural financial institutions; and (ii) support for the establishment and development of a dynamic, responsive, sustainable and efficient rural cooperative framework for the purpose of providing low-income rural households with access to financial services and support services.

Programme Beneficiaries

While national in scope, during the first phase, the programme will limit interventions to 11 cazas (districts) in four administrative provinces, where there is a high concentration of low-income households. The whole of Southern Lebanon is included. The target group will comprise some 250 000 people in about 50 000 households, including agricultural smallholders, landless, rural women and fishermen, who are or will be members of rural producers’ cooperatives (RPCs) or rural saving and credit cooperatives (RSCs). The programme will support the establishment and development of an estimated 75 RSCs with over 7 500 households as members. In addition, more than 200 RPCs will be strengthened in order for them to provide services to an estimated 20 000 rural households. The programme is expected to offer more options to women through their membership in RPCs or RSCs.

Programme Components

(a) National Microfinance Policy Development, Including Cooperative Policy

The absence of a microfinance policy and legal framework is a constraint on the growth and expansion of the microfinance sector. To overcome this, the programme will assist in developing an appropriate policy framework by supporting a national microfinance policy group through provision of TA for policy studies (microfinance and cooperative policy) and organizing national and regional seminars and exposure visits/study tours for group members. The Directorate of Cooperatives will
work through the group on aspects relating to RSCs, particularly the legal framework and regulatory and supervisory mechanisms.

(b) Institutional Support

Support will be provided for: (i) the establishment and development of RSCs, including community mobilization, sensitization, awareness building, training, TA and seed capital; (ii) strengthening of RPCs, including diagnostic reviews and studies accompanied by training and TA; (iii) capacity building of the Directorate of Cooperatives through adequate staffing, skills development through training and provision of TA; (iv) restructuring and strengthening of the National Union for Cooperative Credit through additional staff, equipment and training; and (v) development of innovative lending and savings products.

(c) Credit Line

The programme will provide two lines of credit, to: (i) RSCs for sub-lending to members for financing seasonal crop production or investments in agriculture and working capital/investment finance for a range of rural microenterprises in the non-farm and off-farm sectors (livestock, fisheries, etc); and (ii) RPCs (including exclusively women’s cooperatives) with short-term working capital for input distribution and investment finance for enterprises that are financially, technically and commercially viable.

(d) Programme Management Unit (PMU)

Support will be provided for the establishment of an autonomous PMU and the provision of incremental salaries, operational costs, TA, equipment and vehicles. The M&E of programme achievements will be the responsibility of PMU.

Programme Management

Overall responsibility for the implementation of the 10-year programme will rest with the Ministry of Agriculture. The PMU will be responsible for day-to-day programme management and coordination. A programme steering committee will oversee and guide the implementation of the programme. The national microfinance policy group, to be chaired by the Minister of Finance, will be responsible for the development of a microfinance policy.

Important Features

In line with the recommendations of the COSOP for Lebanon, IFAD’s medium-term strategy will focus on institutional capacity building for demand-driven pro-poor rural financial services and associated key non-financial services. The programme will be implemented in three phases within the framework of the FLM, as a degree of flexibility is required to adjust to emerging developments in rural financing mechanisms, the cooperative sector and rural economy and to build on experience and lessons learned during implementation. The programme includes a number of important features, such as: policy development and dialogue, including support for establishing a national microfinance policy group to provide a facilitating environment for the growth of the microfinance institution industry; support for establishing new rural financial cooperatives; partnership building with the private sector by establishing links between rural financial and producers’ cooperatives and commercial banks; mobilization of a significant proportion of credit from local lending institutions; and the development of innovative lending products, viz. micro-leasing. NGO services will be largely used to mobilize the beneficiaries and provide training in skills improvement and business planning.
Main Issues

The following issues will be addressed during appraisal: (i) clarify further the state of rural poverty in the country, with focus on elaborating specifics such as the situation of the target groups, their main concerns and constraints, and targeting mechanisms; (ii) refine the triggers in the context of FLM; (iii) devise an incentive structure for the involvement of commercial banks in the programme for such activities as loan supervision, and build adequate safeguards for ensuring service delivery to the intended target groups; (iv) ensure close collaboration with other partners to pursue active dialogue with the Government on policy issues related to microfinance and cooperatives; and (v) firm up cofinancing arrangements.

Previous IFAD Operations in Lebanon

Three projects (two cofinanced and one IFAD-initiated) have been approved for a total of SDR 22.7 million. All three projects are under implementation.
BRIEF OVERVIEW

PART I - PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION (2001–2002), CLASSIFIED BY STAGE OF PROCESSING

PART II - LIST OF COSOPS UNDERTAKEN SINCE 1995 AND REVIEWED BY OSC
COSOPs

1. COSOPs were introduced in 1995 as part of the re-engineered project development cycle (President’s Bulletin No. 95/04 of September 1995 refers), for the purpose of delineating a medium-term strategic framework for country operations from which specific project interventions might flow. The COSOPs were conceived as management’s internal ‘living’ documents to provide a basis for a monitorable country-level plan of action and to condition the entry of new projects into the pipeline. The preparation of a COSOP is the responsibility of the Country Portfolio Manager, working under the direction of the Regional Director and assisted by limited consultancy support and the advice of a Project Development Team. COSOP drafts have been reviewed by the Operational Strategy Committee (OSC), chaired by the President, revised as appropriate and cleared by the Assistant President, Programme Management Department.

2. As of 31 December 2000, approximately 71 COSOPs had been prepared and approved by the OSC (see Part II of Annex B).

3. In 2001, Regional Divisions plan to undertake and/or revise 25 COSOPs, as follows:

   Africa I: Central African Republic, The Congo, Guinea Bissau, Senegal and Togo
   Africa II: Angola, Comoros, Kenya and Rwanda
   Asia: Central Asia, India, Iran, Laos, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
   Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC): Chile, El Salvador, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru
   NENA: Djibouti, Romania, The Sudan and Syria

Highlights on Regional Pipeline and Pipeline Projects

4. IFAD continued to encounter difficulties in designing and implementing projects in the Africa I region owing to political instability and the serious arrears problems of a number of countries. This situation notwithstanding, there are signs of good progress in reactivating several dormant country programmes. IFAD is now fully engaged in building project pipelines in Cameroon and Nigeria – countries that, prior to 1999, had received their last loans in the early 1990s. The Community Development Project in Cameroon is under development for 2001, and the Northern States Community-Based Rural Development Programme in Nigeria is being developed for presentation to the Board during 2001 (see Annex A). Inception-related work is currently under way for several projects in the region. Therefore, the number of projects in the Africa I region is likely to increase in the coming months, once inception reports have been reviewed and approved by IFAD Management. A number of strategic partnership initiatives have been launched with other donors: for instance, a joint reflection of rural services delivery will be initiated in collaboration with the Government of Nigeria, World Bank, AfDB and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with a view to developing a common approach. In Nigeria, IFAD also expects to cofinance a World Bank-led multi-donor national rural finance programme in 2002. In Cameroon, a joint programme for community-driven rural development is being developed in partnership with GTZ. In Sao Tome and Principe, the French Agency for Development (AFD) will assist in the strengthening of grass-roots organizations and development of microproject appraisal methods and procedures. In this context, AFD is currently designing a parallel fisheries project to complement IFAD’s investment in the

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1 For Central African Republic and Togo, COSOPs will be undertaken only if the situation in the country permits.
Participatory Smallholder Agriculture and Artisanal Fisheries Development Programme to be submitted to the April 2001 Session of the Executive Board.

5. In the Africa II region, the extremely mixed overall socio-economic context is having an adverse effect on pipeline development. Instability in the D.R. Congo continues to affect civil security in the border areas of neighbouring countries, but the reconciliation process seems to be taking hold in Burundi and Rwanda. Political tension is contributing to poverty and instability in Angola and part of the Great Lakes Region. Agitation with regard to land reform in Zimbabwe has caused tension in Southern African rural society. In 2000, IFAD participated in the Horn of Africa Initiative, launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to coordinate development assistance to agriculture and rural poverty-eradication efforts. With the arrival of United Nations observers, tension between Eritrea and Ethiopia is expected to subside so that the displaced populations can return to their homes. This augurs well for the resumption of IFAD operations in Ethiopia and Eritrea. In other countries, pipeline development is improving and new interventions, based on strong partnerships and collaboration with governments, are being prepared for Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. The Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management Programme in Lesotho, deferred from 2000, is now scheduled for presentation at the Seventy-Third Session of the Executive Board in September 2001. The Government of Lesotho is expected to take a final decision on this highly concessional loan by the end of March 2001. A meeting to strengthen operational collaboration with AfDB is planned for the second quarter of 2001. Meanwhile, prospects have improved considerably for a significant increase in cofinancing, with joint operations in the pipeline for both Swaziland and the United Republic of Tanzania.

6. Among the rural poor in Asia, upland dwellers, indigenous populations and particularly women in all these categories, are bypassed by economic growth and development. Their progressive marginalization, resulting from social exclusion, geographic isolation and rapid environmental degradation, contributes to political instability and gives rise to violence in countries such as India (in the north-east), Indonesia, Nepal and The Philippines. In response to these alarming trends, IFAD has reoriented its strategy, as reflected in the design of its new projects, by focusing on upland and marginal areas so as to bring them into the mainstream of economic and social development. The Northern Mindanao Community Initiatives and Resource Management Project (The Philippines) is now expected to be submitted to the Board in September 2001. In February 2001, IFAD fielded a reconnaissance mission to the State of Gujarat (India), where more than 20,000 people died following the earthquake that hit the area the previous month. Subject to the mission’s findings, IFAD may propose to finance a disaster-mitigation and coping-ability building project on a loan basis. It has not been possible to develop pipeline projects in Afghanistan and Tajikistan due to security/political instability problems. In Pakistan, IFAD will be cofinancing the Asian Development Bank (AsDB)-initiated North-West Frontier Province Barani Area Development Project – Phase II.

7. IFAD’s strategy in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region takes account of current economic, social and political scenarios, as well as the institutional priorities stemming from IFAD’s mandate. Political and economic instability, particularly in the Andean countries – Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela – is likely to continue into 2001, putting additional constraints on rural development and poverty-alleviation efforts. The Productive Initiatives Support Programme in Rural Areas in Haiti is likely to be deferred to 2002, pending demonstration of political and financial commitment on the part of the recently installed Government. In the Central-American subregion, Honduras and Nicaragua will continue their reconstruction efforts. IFAD was one of the first international financing institutions (IFIs) to respond to the needs of countries affected by Hurricane Mitch. In Honduras, IFAD approved the National Fund for Sustainable Rural Development Project (FONADER) in 2000 and a second intervention (National Programme for Local Development, PRONADEL) is scheduled for Board presentation in April 2001. More recently, El Salvador was struck by two earthquakes that led to tragic human losses. In response to the appeal for support by the international community, a new intervention in the affected areas is contemplated. The possibility of
parallel cofinancing of the National Rural Modernization Fund is under discussion with the Government of El Salvador and other major donors, such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank. In Grenada, the forthcoming IFAD-initiated Rural Enterprise Project will be cofinanced by the Caribbean Development Bank.

8. IFAD’s Near East and North Africa region includes the traditional borrowing countries in North Africa and the Middle East and newer transitional states in eastern and central Europe and the Caucasus. Pipeline development is proceeding well. COSOPs for five traditional borrowers were completed and reviewed in 2000 (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Yemen (revision)) in order to identify interventions in the highest-impact sectors. The COSOP for Armenia was also completed and a new project – the Agricultural Services Project – is scheduled for presentation at the Seventy-Second Session of the Executive Board. IFAD support is also being focused on mountain-area development in Algeria, a traditional borrowing country of North Africa. The Pilot Project for the Development of Mountain Agriculture in the Province of Skikda in Algeria is scheduled for presentation to the Board in September 2001. Growing concern regarding the Middle East peace process has had a negative impact on the economy of the West Bank and Gaza, where IFAD is planning another intervention (the Natural Springs Rehabilitation Programme). Collaboration with other donors and IFIs is positive. In Armenia, IFAD and the World Bank are engaged in policy dialogue and are working on the development of highly complementary, parallel programmes. In Yemen, IFAD, AFESD and the International Development Association (IDA) are involved in discussions with Government regarding the restructuring of the Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank. The OPEC Fund has agreed to cofinance the Livestock and Rural Finance Development Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in an amount of USD 5.0 million. In Lebanon, good cofinancing prospects also exist for the Cooperative Rural Finance Programme from the World Bank, AFESD, IsDB, UNDP, the OPEC Fund and bilateral donors. In Egypt, IFAD is processing the West Noubaria Rural Development Project in collaboration with the other Rome-based United Nations Food Agencies within the context of the Rome Millenium Initiative, under which Italian Debt Swap proceeds with Egypt will be used to cofinance the poverty alleviation and food security enhancing initiative supported by the abovementioned Rome-based Agencies.

Project Pipeline

9. Preparation of the country strategic framework has become a crucial step in the Fund’s operations. Efforts have continued throughout 2000 to complete and/or revise COSOPs to ensure the relevance of new interventions, both to emerging challenges and to the needs of the rural poor. A total of 16 COSOPs were reviewed by the OSC in 2000. The total official pipeline consists of 44 projects, spread among the various regions. Compared with 1999, the level has diminished slightly (see Chart 1 below).
10. In terms of regional distribution, the 44 official pipeline projects (43 IFAD-initiated and one cofinanced) are broken down as follows: seven (16%) in Africa I; 9 (20%) in Africa II; 11 (25%) in Asia; 9 (20%) in LAC; and eight (18%) in NENA (Chart 2). The pipeline includes one project initiated by other financiers (AsDB).

Chart 2: Percentage Distribution of Projects by Region, April 2001

11. Pipeline projects included in Annex B cover 42 countries (Chart 3): seven (17%) in Africa I; nine (21%) in Africa II; 10 (24%) in Asia; eight (19%) in LAC; and 8 (19%) in NENA (Chart 3).
12. Sixteen (or 38%) of the pipeline projects are in sub-Saharan Africa and other new projects for that region are expected to enter the pipeline in the coming months. Assistance to countries with food-security problems continues to be of the highest priority for IFAD. Sixty-nine per cent of the pipeline projects are for low-income, food-deficit countries as defined by FAO. Almost 40% of the pipeline projects are for least developed countries, as classified by the United Nations.
## PART I - PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION (2001-2002)
### CLASSIFIED BY STAGE OF PROCESSING

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<th>GNP Per Capita Income (1999) (USD)</th>
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### APPRAISAL COMPLETED

Africa II
- Lesotho | 2 | 550 | Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management Programme | Agricultural development | 10.0 | Mr Gicharu | Jun 1999 | EB 69/May 00 | Sep 2001 |

### UNDER APPRAISAL

Africa II
- Malawi | 11 | 190 | Rural Livelihoods Support Programme | Rural development | To be determined | Mr Sorensen | Nov 1999 | EB 71/Dec 00 | Sep 2001 |
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<td>NENA Egypt</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>1 400</td>
<td>West Noubaria Rural Development Project</td>
<td>Rural development</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>Mr. Rahman</td>
<td>Nov 2000 (revision)</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
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<td>Turkey</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>2 900</td>
<td>Participatory Livestock, Forage and Rangeland Development Programme</td>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>Mr Hassani</td>
<td>Jun 2000</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
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<td>Yemen</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>Dhmar Rural Development Project</td>
<td>Rural development</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>Mr. Rahman</td>
<td>Mar 2000 (revision)</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
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<td>West Bank and Gaza</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>1 610</td>
<td>Natural Springs Rehabilitation Programme</td>
<td>Irrigation</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>Mr Hassani</td>
<td>Jun 1997</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Africa II South Africa</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>3 160</td>
<td>Rural Financial Systems Development Project</td>
<td>Rural credit</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>Mr Heinemann</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
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<td>Asia Laos</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>Support for Rural Credit Project</td>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>Mr Wang</td>
<td>Sep 1996</td>
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<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>Second Small Farmers Rural Credit Project</td>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>Mr Roy/ Ms Lucchetta</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
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<td>Latin America and The Caribbean Chile</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4 740</td>
<td>Southern Region Agricultural Development Project</td>
<td>Agricultural development</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>Mr Murguia</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
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<td>Costa Rica</td>
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<td>2 740</td>
<td>Canton of Talamanca Sustainable Development Project</td>
<td>Agricultural development</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>Mr Bettink</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
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<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 740</td>
<td>Fostering of Rural Agro-Industry-Managed Small Farmers’ Project</td>
<td>Agro-industries</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>Mr Bettink</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
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</table>
Footnotes to Annex B:

X Projects so marked are selected from the pipeline of a cooperating institution (indicated in parentheses); the remainder are "IFAD-initiated projects", i.e. projects identified by the Fund’s identification missions or directly requested by Governments.

2/ Former National Fund for Sustainable Rural Development Project – Phase II.
3/ Provisional Agenda (EB 2001/72/R.1)
4/ Former National Agricultural Services Project.
5/ Former Programme for the Support of Productive Initiatives in Rural Areas.
6/ Former East Kalimantan Upland Development Project.
PART II - LIST OF COSOPS UNDERTAKEN SINCE 1995 AND REVIEWED BY OSC

Africa I
1. Benin (June 1997)
2. Burkina Faso (May 1998)
3. Cameroon (Feb 1998)
4. Cape Verde (Oct 1996)
5. Chad (May 1999)
7. Cote d’Ivoire (Dec 1997)
10. Guinea (May 1999)
11. Mali (Jul 1997)
12. Mauritania (May 2000)
15. Sao Tome and Principe (Oct 1999)
17. Sierra Leone (Mar 1997)

Africa II
18. Burundi (Jul 1996)
20. Ethiopia (Nov 1999)
21. Lesotho (June 1996)
22. Madagascar (Mar 2000)
23. Malawi (Nov 1999)
24. Mozambique (Apr 2000 revised)
25. Rwanda (June 1999)
26. Swaziland (Jul 1999)
27. Tanzania, United Republic of (Apr 1998)
28. Uganda (Dec 1998)
29. Zambia (Sep 1998)

LAC
45. Bolivia (Nov 1998)
46. Brazil (Jun 1997)
47. Caribbean Region (Mar 2000)
48. Haiti (Nov 1999)
49. Honduras (Oct 2000)
50. Mexico (May 1999)
51. Panama (Dec 2000)
52. Uruguay (Nov 1999)
53. Venezuela (Dec 1999)

NENA
54. Albania (Mar 1999)
55. Algeria (Oct 1999)
56. Armenia (Mar 2000)
57. Azerbaijan (Dec 1998)
58. Georgia (Dec 1998)
59. Bosnia and Herzegovina (Jun 1999)
60. Egypt (Nov 2000 revised)
61. Georgia (Dec 1998)
62. Azerbaijan (Dec 1998)
63. Jordan (Oct 2000)
64. Lebanon (May 2000 revised)
65. Macedonia (Nov 1999)
66. Moldova (Sep 1997)
67. Morocco (Nov 1999)
68. West Bank and Gaza (June 1997)
69. Tunisia (Apr 1998)
70. Turkey (June 2000)
71. Yemen (Mar 2000 revised)

Asia
31. Bangladesh (Dec 1999)
32. Bhutan (Jul 1996)
33. Cambodia (May 1998)
34. China (Feb 1999)
35. India (Nov 1998)
36. Indonesia (Nov 1998)
37. Korea, DPR (Apr 2000)
38. Kyrgyzstan (Dec 1996)
39. Laos (Sep 1996)
40. Mongolia (Nov 1998)
41. Nepal (Mar 2000)
42. Pakistan (Jul 2000)
43. Philippines (Oct 1999)
44. Viet Nam (Dec 1996)