



IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IFAD/NGO EXTENDED COOPERATION
PROGRAMME (ECP)**

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its Thirty-First Session, in September 1987, the Executive Board approved the establishment of the IFAD/NGO Extended Cooperation Programme (ECP). Conceived as a mechanism to provide direct grant financing to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the programme aims to enhance, through broader collaboration with such organizations, the participatory process in IFAD's projects and thus make them more responsive to the requirements of its target group – the rural poor. Within that overall goal, ECP-supported activities focus primarily on three major areas:

- testing new technologies for application to the agro-ecological and socio-economic conditions of poor rural producers;
- testing new institutional approaches/mechanisms in various sectors and subsectors of interest to IFAD to ascertain their relevance, acceptability and sustainability;
- training programmes for beneficiaries and extension personnel for improved resource management through the creation of more effective systems of organization based on viable grass-roots organizations, such as farmers' groups, water users' associations and other forms of grass-roots networks.

2. Moreover, in all the above areas, ECP projects are expected to provide prototypes and effective instruments of intervention either in connection with ongoing or forthcoming projects and to lay the ground for future IFAD investments.

3. The facility is also used to finance the periodic IFAD/NGO Consultations and the meetings of the IFAD/NGO Consultation Steering Committee, established in 1990, to facilitate the preparation of



the Consultations by contributing, *inter alia*, to the choice of themes and the preparation of case studies and background documentation.

4. To be eligible for a grant, an NGO must provide evidence of its genuineness and capacity, and the government of the country where proposed activities supported by the grant would be implemented should have no objection to the implementation of these activities by the NGO recipient of the ECP grant. The President has been authorized by the Executive Board to approve individual ECP grants to eligible NGOs up to a maximum of USD 75 000. The Executive Board also requested the President to present yearly reports on NGO projects approved under the facility.

5. Out of IFAD's total technical assistance grants programme over the period of 1988 – 2000, 4.0% was allocated to ECP. The size of the programme has been increasing over the years: from USD 330 000 in 1988 to USD 1 992 500 in 2000, with a peak reached in 1999 at USD 2 210 500.

6. The effectiveness of the programme has been subject to periodic internal reviews. In that context, the Internal Auditor and the Division of Evaluation and Studies, through an audit completed in 1999 and an evaluation completed in 2000 respectively, scrutinized and assessed the achievements and shortcomings of the ECP and its procedures and identified the policy, operational and procedural issues that should be addressed to enhance the ECP's role in the achievement of IFAD's evolving strategic objectives.

7. The major areas addressed by the above two ECP-related exercises were:

- (a) scope, objectives and strategic directions of the programme as a whole, particularly in relation to the directives of the Corporate Scorecard, the Action Plan and the recommendations of the Process Re-engineering Programme (PRP);
- (b) appropriateness of individual grant ceiling, originally set at USD 75 000;
- (c) NGO eligibility criteria;
- (d) operational procedures and guidelines for project preparation, approval, implementation and supervision;
- (e) remedies for NGO compliance with legal grant agreements;
- (f) mechanisms for ensuring adequate feedback and communication between IFAD and its NGO partners – recipients of ECP financing;
- (g) reporting requirements;
- (h) methodologies for systematic collection of lessons learned and their conversion into meaningful knowledge;
- (i) potential of ECP as an instrument for IFAD as a knowledge institution and supporter of replicable innovation; and
- (j) delineation of roles and responsibilities for the efficient management of the programme.

8. Pursuant to the above exercises, an interdepartmental working group reviewed the Operational Procedures and revised them in line with the findings and recommendations of the audit and evaluation reports and in broad consultation with all relevant IFAD staff. The revised Operational Procedures, produced by the group, were approved by the President in draft and are being submitted to the Executive Board, at its Seventy-Second Session, under item 13(a), for its consideration and approval, as appropriate.

9. While the relevance of ECP to IFAD's institutional and regional priorities, objectives and strategies is recognized, it is important to emphasize that the ECP is only one mechanism of collaboration with NGOs. Most of IFAD's NGO partners are involved in projects supported by IFAD loans to governments. Indeed, of the 559 NGOs that have collaborated with IFAD in the field, only 181 have received ECP grants.



10. Collaboration between IFAD and NGOs should be considered within the wider context of the Fund's partnerships with civil society, the boundaries and requirements of which have been expanded considerably during the recent years, especially in the context of the objectives of the Corporate Scorecard, the Action Plan and the PRP. Therefore, IFAD is presently considering the articulation of a comprehensive policy for its collaboration with NGOs and civil-society organizations. The need to do so was identified as a critical issue by the ECP audit and the evaluation. Moreover, the articulation of such a policy was one of the commitments made by IFAD to its NGO partners at the tenth IFAD/NGO Consultation in 2000.

II. NGO/ECP ACTIVITIES IN 2000

11. Apart from one grant that principally financed NGO participation in the meeting of the IFAD/NGO Consultation Steering Committee and one grant that financed the tenth IFAD/NGO Consultation, 26 ECP grants were approved for a total amount of USD 1 760 000. NGOs themselves contributed, in cash or kind, an additional amount of USD 1 450 221. The average size of ECP grants in 2000 was USD 66 200, and 72% of all ECP grants went to Southern NGOs.

12. Overall, ECP activities in 2000 focused on: (i) capacity-building and institutional development; (ii) diversification of the livelihoods of poor rural populations based on their natural resource base; (iii) piloting activities for rehabilitation and reconstruction in post-crisis situations; (iv) training of beneficiaries; and (v) development and/or dissemination of communications and information technologies – an emergent trend in ECP financing. Within the above broad areas, promotion of agricultural production, effective organization of financial services, development of rural enterprises and development of market linkages were common components of many ECP grants. Several ECP projects focused on providing appropriate responses to the specific requirements of indigenous people, women and youth. Most of the ECP projects were directly linked with IFAD's ongoing or forthcoming investments.

The Tenth IFAD/NGO Consultation

13. The tenth IFAD/NGO Consultation, held in Pune, India, from 29 May to 2 June 2000, provided a special opportunity for stocktaking and reflection regarding IFAD's partnerships with NGOs and other civil-society organizations. The full report on the Consultation is available at the documents desk of the Executive Board.

14. The theme of the Consultation was "IFAD/NGOs/Governments: Tripartite Partnerships for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security through Programmes and Projects". Representatives of 41 NGOs from developing and transition-economy countries, Europe and North America, and developing-country officials and IFAD staff took part in this event.

15. The choice of the theme derived from the recognition that, in order to increase the responsiveness and sustainability of development investments in poverty alleviation, there is a need for increasing support to decentralized planning and administration of public services, for community participation in public resource planning and for direct community action to service community needs. These are areas in which IFAD is increasingly providing support, many NGOs have acquired years of experience, and the support of government in providing a conducive policy and institutional environment is essential.

16. Five case studies of IFAD projects with substantive NGO involvement and an overview paper synthesizing the findings and issues raised by the case studies provided the basis of discussions.



17. The background documents identified several positive characteristics of NGO involvement in IFAD operations, with grass-roots institutional development and effective delivery of services being common features in all. This notwithstanding, the overriding conclusion was that the framework within which IFAD and NGOs work together does not permit full exploitation of the potential contributions of each partner.

18. There was unanimous recognition that IFAD/NGO collaboration had in the past focused too narrowly on enhancing IFAD's own strategies and operations, and this primarily through contractual arrangements for the involvement of NGOs. It was further recognized that this narrow focus and those arrangements had not permitted NGOs to bring their full potential contribution to the task of poverty alleviation – beyond the scope of individual projects. Neither had they fully engaged these organizations in developing together with IFAD a common understanding of poverty, in identifying solutions and in implementing these solutions. The Consultation unanimously called for greater emphasis on a conceptual appreciation of common development interests and the formation of partnerships on the basis of these interests with particular engagement in processes of grass-roots empowerment and enrichment, policy and institutional development, and knowledge generation and sharing. It is noteworthy that these broad areas of action coincide with those specified by the Action Plan, the Corporate Scorecard and the PRP as areas where IFAD has to increase its own engagement.

19. The Consultation also recommended that the recent trend towards increased NGO involvement in the development of country and regional strategies, in evaluations of IFAD's operations and in multi-stakeholder consultations on project conceptualization and design should be further enhanced. Innovative financial instruments should be considered in order to maximize the opportunities for NGO involvement and contributions.

20. As mentioned earlier, there is wide recognition that IFAD needs to articulate a well-thought-out policy for its collaboration with NGOs and civil-society organizations. In that context, many of the issues discussed and the recommendations made by the Consultation will need to be taken into consideration and reflected, as appropriate, in such a policy.

Institutional Support and Capacity-Building

21. Following the trend of recent years, a considerable number of ECP grants will finance NGO activities aimed at capacity-building of beneficiaries and of their organizations/institutions.

22. In Guinea, for example, the *Centre Africain de Formation pour le Développement* (CENAFOD) will test and assess three alternative methods for capacity-building and institutional development to ascertain the organizational structure that would best facilitate the participatory processes that need to be developed for the implementation of beneficiary-initiated activities in the forthcoming Programme for Participatory Rural Development in Haute-Guinée (PPDR-HG).

23. Another ECP grant, in The Gambia, will strengthen the capacity of the recently formed apex organization, the National Women Farmers Association (NAWFA), which brings together the country's 72 sesame growers associations (SGAs). NAWFA will be strengthened to develop organizational linkages between SGAs and the network of village savings and credit associations in order to facilitate women's groups' access to rural financial services. The work of this ECP project will contribute to the implementation of the Rural Finance and Community Initiatives Project, which aims at improving household food security and incomes by boosting on- and off-farm production through better provision of financial services and the efficient implementation of group activities by men's and women's groups.



24. In Ethiopia, the Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Institutions (AEMFI) will receive ECP support to build its own capacity for: (i) the creation of an inventory of microfinance activities in Ethiopia; (ii) the organization of training and exchange visits for rural communities; (iii) the promotion of policy dialogue among microfinance institutions (MFIs) and policy-makers, donors and the public sector; and (iv) the development of an overall strategy for knowledge and institutional capacity-building of Ethiopian MFIs necessary for long-term sustainability in delivering financial services to the rural poor.

25. The College of Rural Development/Centre for Integrated Agricultural Development (CORD/CIAD) in China will receive ECP financing to develop an effective participatory methodology for the implementation, evaluation and impact assessment of a select number of IFAD projects presently under execution in the country.

26. A Swiss NGO, *Schweizerische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für die Berggebiete* (SAB) (Swiss Centre for Mountain Regions), will help establish a Caucasus Mountain Network to support: (i) the implementation of IFAD's recently approved Rural Development Programme for Mountainous and Highland Areas in Azerbaijan and Georgia; and (ii) the design of an eventual regional collaboration programme between the above two programmes, presently under consideration. SAB, with a long experience in development work with mountain rural populations, will finance 75% of this ECP programme.

27. In Yemen, the Worldview International Foundation (WIF) received an ECP grant to assist project management units of four ongoing IFAD-supported projects in the country and build their capacity to deliver extension and communication support to their target groups. In addition to contributing to the impact of the projects currently under way, the lessons from this ECP project will provide valuable information for future IFAD operations in the country.

Diversification and Improvement of Rural Livelihoods

28. Given the limited productivity and ecological fragility of the natural resource base of many poor rural people living in marginal areas, IFAD is investigating the possibilities of developing alternative, diversified production systems based on an integrated approach to natural resource management and commercialization.

29. An ECP grant to a Zimbabwean NGO, Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE), aimed precisely at investigating the prospects and opportunities for the development of a regional programme in countries of Southern Africa (Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe) for the production of natural resource-derived products and their commercialization, globally and within the region.

30. Diversification and commercialization of production is also the aim of an ECP grant to *Fundación San Cristobal* in Chile through the promotion of fruit and vegetable production and marketing in rural communities in Villarrica where there is a very high concentration of indigenous peoples (Mapuche).

31. Development of community-based ecotourism is another promising alternative to diversify and improve rural livelihoods, and testing and piloting of activities in this sector lend themselves to ECP financing. Two grants in 2000 were extended to this end. More specifically, a grant to the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) will finance the implementation of a multi-country programme promoting natural resource management and ecotourism in the islands of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.



32. Similarly, the development of tourism as a means to increase local employment opportunities in San Martin de Porras, in Peru, is the objective of an ECP grant to *Poqen Kanchay*, a local NGO specializing in the development of innovative income-generation projects for the indigenous populations of the country. Through the rehabilitation of a local archaeological site and potential tourist attraction, Guillarumiyoc, the project will also pave the way for the development of several rural microenterprises linked to tourism: from tourist accommodations to local craft production and sale, to the promotion of local ethnic foods and cuisine. The project is an innovative experiment that will provide knowledge on methods through which poor communities can valorize their environment and their cultural patrimony. The fact that *Poqen Kanchay* is providing 65% of the project costs and has mobilized an additional 5% from the community itself are indications of local ownership, commitment and interest.

Support to Indigenous and Ethnic Minorities

33. In addition to the two projects above promoting ecotourism to diversify the livelihoods of indigenous populations, two additional ECP projects will be testing innovative interventions in order to provide insights for the design and implementation of loan-funded projects promoting the development of indigenous and ethnic communities.

34. The *Federación de Tribus Indígenas Xicaques de Yoro* (FETRIXY) (Federation of Xicaque Tribes of Yoro), in Honduras, will support the productive activities of 500 indigenous families by establishing six rural credit and savings banks and by providing them with the necessary training to begin income-generating activities making better use of their ecosystem. By targeting the poorer and more isolated indigenous tribes of the Francisco Morazan department of Honduras, this ECP project is expected to test and assess a participatory rural finance methodology for the IFAD-funded National Fund for Sustainable Rural Development Project (FONADERS) whose second phase is presently under formulation.

35. In Chiapas, Mexico, the *Organización de Médicos Indígenas del Estado de Chiapas* (OMIECH) (Organization of Indigenous Doctors of the State of Chiapas) has been provided with a small ECP grant to establish a garden of Mayan medicinal herbs that can satisfy important health needs of the ethnic groups indigenous to Chiapas. Most importantly, the knowledge gained from this project will serve as an input into ongoing IFAD projects such as the Agricultural Development Programme for the Western Region (PLANDERO) in Honduras and the Development Project for Marginal Rural Communities in the Ixtlera Region (IXTLERA) in Mexico, both of which involve the growth of medicinal herbs to satisfy the health needs of the beneficiaries and as additional sources of income for them.

Post-Crisis Rehabilitation and Development

36. Three ECP grants focus on post-crisis rehabilitation and development. The first, extended to *Deutsche Welthungerhilfe* (DWWH) (German Agro-Action), will finance activities in the North Kivu region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo – formerly a major food-producing region in the country and now afflicted by great rural poverty and famine. DWWH, with its long specialization in emergency and rehabilitation projects, will implement a number of activities aimed at increasing the production of basic food crops, mainly cassava. In addition, through the introduction of adapted food-processing technologies, it will help diversify rural incomes and reduce women's workload. The grant will also support the rehabilitation of key rural roads.

37. A second grant, to World Vision International, will assist the reconstruction of the livelihood systems of 800 low-income rural households in the Bobanaro district of East Timor. With the development of micro-watersheds as its focus, the project will mobilize village groups and local



communities and establish women's self-help groups for community development and the marketing of local produce, which will assist in the diversification and better utilization of resources within the watershed.

38. The main objective of the third ECP grant aimed at post-crisis rehabilitation and development is to build the capacity of district NGOs in view of their major involvement in the implementation of the Post-Crisis Programme for Participatory Integrated Development in Rainfed Areas (PIDRA) in Indonesia, approved by IFAD's Executive Board in May 2000.

Training Activities

39. In Chad, *Secours Catholique du Développement* (SECADEV) (Catholic Relief Development Association) will provide functional literacy, management and technical training to village leaders and members of farmers' groups and organizations to strengthen their capacity for the implementation of the IFAD Food Security Project in the Northern Guéra Region – Phase II (PSANG II). Most of the groups and organizations involved in the ECP project, having reached a certified level of competence, will then assume, by the third project year (PY), the full responsibility of PSANG II management.

40. An ECP grant to the *Associazione per la Solidarietà Internazionale in Asia* (ASIA) (Association for International Solidarity in Asia), an Italian NGO, will contribute to the economic and social development of local Tibetan communities in the Hainan Prefecture through the organization of intensive training courses in English, computers and teaching methodologies for Tibetan teachers.

Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth

41. The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) will provide about 500 poor rural women in remote villages in Northern Lebanon with skills training in cottage industries and will establish a small-scale credit scheme on a revolving basis to serve their needs. Credit will be extended to trained women organized in groups as cooperatives. The activities of this ECP project will complement the ongoing IFAD-financed Irrigation Rehabilitation and Modernization Project in the country.

42. In Côte d'Ivoire, the *Association Française des Volontaires du Progrès* (AFVP) (French Association of Volunteers for Progress) will improve the living conditions of rural women and youth in the Department of Katolia using participatory planning methods to foster grass-roots initiatives in horticulture and micro-irrigation. Such methods will then be applied to the recently approved Small Horticulture Producer Support Project (PPMS).

43. Similarly, in Morocco, the economic empowerment of rural women and unemployed youths is the overall objective of another ECP grant extended to the *Fondation pour le Développement Local et le Partenariat* (FONDEP). FONDEP, contributing 40% of total project costs, will create a credit fund to provide financial services that will enable beneficiaries to undertake income-generating activities or develop rural microenterprises. This ECP project will be directly linked to the implementation of IFAD's Rural Development Project in the Mountain Zones of Al-Haouz Province.

44. The development of methodologies to mainstream gender issues in future food security projects in Kenya is the overall objective of an ECP grant to World Vision International (Kenya). This ECP project will be implemented in close collaboration with IFAD's Eastern Province Horticulture and Traditional Food Crops Project in the country.



Provision of Communications/Information Technology

45. The development and implementation of information and communication technology (ICT) and networks to adequately address the specific needs of poor rural communities, especially those living in marginal environments, represents one of the major challenges facing many developing countries.

46. Partners in Rural Development will receive ECP support to establish a regional information network, the Southern Africa Drought Technology Network (SAD-NET), which will link sources of small-scale food production, environment management, vulnerability reduction and rural marketing information with development practitioners and rural communities in drought-prone regions in Southern Africa. This regional activity will provide a better understanding of how ICT can be applied for the practical benefit of smallholder farmers and rural communities in the region.

47. In Nigeria, the Food Basket Foundation International (FBFI) will organize an information-gathering and dissemination system to provide regular and continuous documentation on the state of food security and nutrition in numerous targeted communities. Project managers and policy-makers will use the data for the early identification of rural populations at greatest risk of famine and malnutrition. It is hoped that the information will trigger timely and appropriate responses to nutrition crises when and if they arise. One of the project's key elements is the promotion of partnerships between NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) as well as government agencies in order to pool resources and maximize impact. This ECP project is expected to support and improve the effectiveness and long-term sustainability of selected IFAD activities in Nigeria.

Support to the Implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD)

48. Continuing the practice of past years to provide ECP financing to CCD-related endeavours, one ECP grant to EarthAction-US will finance a number of activities and the organization of diverse events in the United States in order to increase awareness on global food security, land degradation and water scarcity issues and to increase the political will in that country to support the implementation of the Convention.

III. HIGHLIGHTS FROM ECP PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION IN 2000

49. A number of ECP projects under implementation in 2000 have had encouraging results, in terms of attaining their objectives and/or providing lessons for other projects funded by IFAD loans.

50. For example, the Guinean NGO CENAFOD, which received an ECP grant in July 2000, commenced its work immediately in three communes of the region and has already tested three alternative methodologies using three different entry points (grass-roots organizations, the village and the commune) for the participatory and demand-driven design and implementation of beneficiary-initiated activities. An evaluation of results is currently taking place. Its findings will be discussed in a stakeholder workshop, the recommendations of which will be incorporated in the implementation manual of the PPDR-HG. Once this is done, the programme, financed under the Flexible Lending Mechanism, will begin its activities in the field. These include investments in social and productive infrastructure to enhance and diversify the income-earning potential of poor households, and support for the establishment of viable rural financial services associations.

51. As mentioned earlier, in the context of IFAD's search for supplementary sources of income for the poor in marginal areas of Southern Africa, an NGO ECP grant was provided in 2000 to the Zimbabwean NGO SAFIRE to work with a number of NGOs within the region and explore the scope



for a regional programme to promote the development and marketing of natural resource-derived products. Considerable progress has already been achieved.

52. Drawing on SAFIRE's preliminary analysis of the problems and prospects for community-based natural product development and trade, a mission was conducted by four consultants, in August 2000, to Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The purpose of the mission was to discuss with key activists in those countries (mainly NGOs) the current problems facing community-based natural product development and trade efforts, and possible remedies, at both the macro and micro level.

53. Subsequent to the mission, in November 2000, a business meeting was convened in Harare with 30 NGO stakeholder representatives. The meeting focused on practical ways to address the micro-level constraints facing community-based producers.

54. There was a remarkable degree of consensus that individual natural product-related development activities should continue at the community level, in particular by fostering appropriate forms of producer associations and concerted and systematic efforts, in natural product development and marketing, to link marginal producers with commercial trade. The participants concluded that an institutional gap existed between community-based natural product operators, on the one hand, and commercial natural product interests, national and international customers, public-sector agencies, development organizations and donors, on the other. Therefore, the group committed itself to fill this institutional gap by creating and supporting a trade association dedicated to natural products with a founding membership of NGOs from the five countries, which would move rapidly to form a fully independent entity open to all stakeholders.

55. The establishment of such an institution, the Southern Africa Regional Natural Products Trade Association (SANProTA), is currently under way, with a tentative launch date set for April 2001. An interim steering group has been established, articles have been drafted, and legal registration for the group is being sought.

56. Preliminary estimates forecast a total cost of about USD 3.5 million for the first four years of SANProTA's operation. IFAD is presently considering the provision of a technical assistance grant to support SANProTA to kick-start and influence positively external financing contributions. The Department for International Development (DFID), Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) have already expressed interest in the proposal and are considering cofinancing.

57. In Madagascar, IFAD awarded an NGO/ECP grant in December 1999 to a local NGO, *Association Hevitra Maro et Kiomba* (AHM), to carry out a study aimed at defining mechanisms for targeting poor households and integrating gender in all project activities under the IFAD-funded Upper Mandrare Basin Development Project (PHBM). Another key aim of the grant was to provide for the active participation of households and communities in the project design process for a then-proposed second phase of this project. The NGO/ECP grant to AHM followed the mid-term evaluation of PHBM, which recognized that a deeper understanding was needed of the sociocultural environment under which the project was being implemented in order to ascertain why optimum targeting of the poorest households and women had been difficult to achieve.

58. AHM undertook the study from the strong position of being a local NGO with indigenous knowledge and a good grasp of the social, cultural and business environment under which the project was being implemented. In addition, it had a good understanding of the project and its objectives, given its role as service provider within the project. From a different perspective, this role could put them in a potentially weak/compromising position as they had been contracted to undertake



community organization/group formation and capacity-building for the same project, and were still active in this. The NGO, however, was able to distance itself from its own interests and carry out a balanced study (in essence a self-evaluation), which identified the key constraints that had undermined focused targeting of poor households and women, and suggested ways to overcome them.

59. AHM received strong continuous support from the Government of Madagascar during both the grant preparation and activity implementation stages, and results emerging from the study were the combined efforts of a four-way partnership between the Government, IFAD, the NGO and beneficiaries. The process demonstrated the value of stakeholder partnerships and collaboration in developing projects aimed at addressing the needs of the ultimate stakeholders – the rural poor.

60. The resulting report by AHM has allowed for a deeper understanding of the sociocultural environment under which the project is being implemented. It has also further defined development priorities as identified by the various sectors of the community (local authorities, rural households and women). The report served as an important baseline document for the formulation of the second phase of the PHBM, which has since been approved by IFAD's Executive Board and for which implementation arrangements are currently under way.

Grant by Region and Country	USD	SDR	NGO Cofinancing	Beneficiary/ Country
AFRICA I				
Food Security Project in the Northern Guéra Region Project - Phase II (Chad)	75 000	57 898	11 097 (13%)	<i>Secours Catholique du Développement</i> (SECADEV) (Catholic Relief Development Association) – Chad
Gardening and Micro-Irrigation Development Support Project in the Department of Katiola (Côte d'Ivoire)	75 000	58 211	21 760 (22%)	<i>Association Française des Volontaires du Progrès</i> (AFVP) – Côte d'Ivoire
Rural Development Project in North Kivu (D.R. Congo)	75 000	58 215	55 000 (42%)	<i>Deutsche Welthungerhilfe</i> (DWWH) (German Agro-Action) – Germany
Rural Finance and Community Initiatives Project (The Gambia)	50 000	38 392	-	National Women Farmers Association (NAWFA) - The Gambia
Programme for Participatory Rural Development in Haute-Guinée (Guinea)	45 000	34 024	-	<i>Centre Africain de Formation pour le Développement</i> (CENAFOD) – Guinea
Civil-Society Partnerships in Support of Rural Households Community-Based Food and Nutrition Data Information System for Nutrition Improvements Among Vulnerable Groups (Nigeria)	72 500	55 996	7 500 (9%)	Food Basket Foundation International (FBFI) - Nigeria
AFRICA II				
Support and Delivery of Financial Services to the Rural Poor in Ethiopia (Ethiopia)	75 000	57 898	25 000 (25%)	Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Institutions (AEMFI) – Ethiopia
Makueni Gender and Food Security Pilot Project (Kenya)	75 000	58 083	15 000 (17%)	World Vision International (WVK) (Kenya) - Kenya
Southern Africa Drought Technology Network (SAD-NET) (Regional Project)	75 000	57 927	137 300 (65%)	Partners in Rural Development (PRD) – Canada
Formulation of Project to Develop and Market Natural Resource-Derived Products in Southern Africa (Zimbabwe)	75 000	56 953	7 850 (9%)	Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE) – Zimbabwe



Grant by Region and Country	USD	SDR	NGO Cofinancing	Beneficiary/ Country
ASIA				
Participatory Method in Planning, Implementation and Impact Assessment for Selected IFAD Projects (China)	75 000	57 658	-	The College of Rural Development/ Centre for Integrated Agricultural Development (CORD/CIAD) of the China Agricultural University - China
Training of Tibetan Trainers of the Hainan Prefecture in Quinghai Province in English and Computer Skills (China)	50 000	37 549	14 000 (22%)	<i>Associazione per la Solidarietà Internazionale in Asia</i> (ASIA) (Association for International Solidarity in Asia) - Italy
Bobonaro Watershed Project (East Timor)	74 500	57 549	55 500 (22%)	World Vision International (WVI) – Switzerland
Additional Grant for a Workshop on Best Practices in Participatory Processes in Project Design, Implementation and Evaluation (India)	10 000		-	Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) – The Philippines
Capacity-Building Activities to Support the Implementation of a Post-Crisis Programme for Participatory Integrated Development in Rainfed Areas (Indonesia)	75 000	57 935	7 494 (9%)	Lead NGOs: <i>Yayasan Bina Swadaya</i> (Foundation for Self-Reliance Guidance) <i>Pusat Pengembangan Sumberdaya Wanita</i> (PPSW) (Centre for Women's Resources Development), <i>Yayasan Swadaya Membangun</i> (YSM) - Indonesia
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN				
Fruit and Vegetable Production in Rural Communities with a High Concentration of Indigenous Populations (Mapuche) in Villarrica (Chile)	75 000	58 441	40 000 (35%)	<i>Fundación San Cristóbal</i> – Chile
Installation of a Garden for Mayan Medicinal Herbs in Chiapas (Mexico)	15 000	11 782	206 000 (92%)	<i>Organización de Médicos Indígenas del Estado de Chiapas</i> (OMIECH) (Organization of Indigenous Doctors in the State of Chiapas)– Mexico



Grant by Region and Country	USD	SDR	NGO Cofinancing	Beneficiary/ Country
New Income-Generating Activities Project: Agricultural Tourism in Quillarumiyoc (Peru)	60 000	46 071	54 000 (27%)	<i>Poqen Kanchay</i> - Peru
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (cont'd)				
Establishment of Alternative Financing Systems for the Tolupán Tribes (Honduras)	40 000	30 714	-	<i>Federación de Tribus Indígenas Xicaques de Yoro (FETRIXY)</i> (Federation of Xicaque Tribes of Yoro)– Honduras
Community-Based Tourism for Rural Development: Testing and Disseminating New Approaches in the Windward Islands (Windward Islands)	66 500	51 135	39 520 (37%)	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) - Saint Lucia
NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA				
Development of a Caucasus Mountain Network (Azerbaijan)	70 000	54 072	300 000 (75%)	<i>Schweizerische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für die Berggebiete (SAB)</i> (Swiss Centre for Mountain Regions)- Switzerland
Development of a Caucasus Mountain Network (Georgia)	70 000	54 072	300 000 (75%)	<i>Schweizerische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für die Berggebiete (SAB)</i> – Switzerland
Income-Generation and Food Security for Poor Rural Households in North Lebanon (Lebanon)	75 000	57 046	20 500 (19%)	Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) - Lebanon
Pilot Programme for the Promotion of Income-Generating Activities (Morocco)	75 000	58 489	55 200 (43%)	<i>Fondation pour le Développement Local et le Partenariat (FONDEP)</i> - Morocco
Communication Strengthening for Project Implementation Support (Yemen)	75 000	58 717	77 500 (51%)	Worldview International Foundation (WIF) - Sri Lanka
ECONOMIC POLICY AND RESOURCE STRATEGY DEPARTMENT				
Project for Awareness-Building Campaign About Food Security and Desertification on Behalf of the United States Coalition for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (United States)	75 000	57 779	-	EarthAction - US – United States
IFAD/ NGO Advisory Group Meeting	20 000	14 918	n/a	Meeting, 30-31 March 2000
Tenth IFAD/ NGO Consultation - Pune, India	220 000	107 072	4 549	Meeting, 29 May - 2 June 2000



Grant Title and No.: Tenth IFAD/NGO Consultation, Pune 2000
IFAD/NGOs/Governments: Tripartite Partnerships for
Poverty Alleviation and Food Security through Projects and
Programmes and Projects (No. 172)

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 220 000

Objectives and Activities:

The tenth IFAD/NGO Consultation was held in Pune, India, from 29 May to 2 June 2000, with the participation of 35 NGOs from developing and transition-economy countries, six NGOs from Europe and North America, eight developing-country government officials, 15 IFAD staff, and a number of special guests and speakers. (The full report on the Consultation is available from the NGO Unit and at the documents desk during the Seventy-Second Session of the Executive Board, April 2000).

The choice of the theme “IFAD/NGOs/Governments: Tripartite Partnerships for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security through Programmes and Projects” arose from the recognition that in order to increase the responsiveness and sustainability of development investments in poverty alleviation, there is a need for increasing support for decentralized planning and the administration of public services, community participation in public resource planning, and direct community action to service community needs. All are areas in which IFAD is providing increasing levels of support, many NGOs have acquired years of experience, and governmental support for a conducive policy and institutional environment is essential.

The thematic content of the Consultation derived from five case studies of IFAD projects with extensive NGO involvement (one in each of IFAD’s geographic regions). The case studies, carried out by independent consultants, involved field visits and consultations with project personnel, beneficiaries, government representatives, NGOs and IFAD staff.

An overview paper was also prepared, synthesizing the findings and issues raised by the case studies. (The case studies and the overview paper are also available from the NGO Unit.)

The first part of the Consultation was dedicated to debating the issues that emerged from the case studies and the overview paper and to making recommendations for the future. In the first round of discussions, participants were requested to review and assess concrete attitudes, expectations, instruments, mechanisms, rules and regulations that apply to the design, execution and evaluation of projects and programmes. They were also charged with identifying any factors that might impinge upon the formation of fruitful partnerships, based on the strengths and comparative advantages that each partner can bring to the realization of operations that are responsive and accountable to the poor. The groups were also expected to make concrete recommendations for changes that would facilitate the formation of such partnerships.

A short second round of group discussions focused on identifying strictly regional/country-specific issues.

The final round of the Consultation went beyond projects and programmes to confront the broader poverty agenda and the international poverty reduction targets given to all partners. In this context, participants addressed the challenges facing all stakeholders attempting to engage in broader alliances



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and partnerships, in policy dialogue and institutional development, and in knowledge management and governance issues. A brainstorming session was held, based on a presentation delivered by IFAD entitled, “Challenges and Tasks Ahead”. Following the brainstorming session, the participants formed working groups to focus on three prominent themes that emerged in the presentation: (i) grass-roots empowerment and enrichment processes; (ii) policy and institutional development processes; and (iii) knowledge management and sharing processes.

The final session of the Consultation was dedicated to identifying and reaching a consensus as to these major domains of the broader agenda of rural poverty alleviation and at preparing a unified statement on how to move forward in strengthening and enriching collaboration and partnerships to intervene effectively within those domains.

To conclude the Consultation, there was an informal evening session on IFAD’s Rural Poverty Report.

The Consultation included a field visit by participants to the Maharashtra Rural Credit Project, the subject of one of the case studies. The visit gave the participants the opportunity to meet government officials, village communities and self-help groups.

The discussions and recommendations of the Consultation will provide valuable inputs regarding the articulation of an IFAD/NGO collaboration policy, presently under consideration.



Country, Grant Title and No.:	Zimbabwe: Formulation of Project to Develop and Market Natural Resource-Derived Products in Southern Africa (No. 173)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 7 850
Name of NGO:	Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE) - Zimbabwe

Objectives and Activities:

In the marginal lands of Southern Africa, increasing population densities, erratic rainfall patterns and, in many cases, unsustainable agricultural production practices have all contributed to impairing the ecological integrity of much of the cultivated land. Consequently, rural inhabitants of these areas often find themselves locked into a cycle of ever-increasing poverty and environmental degradation.

There is a strong belief that rural communities in marginal lands in Southern Africa can significantly improve their livelihood security through the development of an alternative, diversified production system, one based on an integrated approach to natural resource management and commercialization. Limited attempts have already been made to realize such a system, but none on a large enough scale to be effective. Overall, it would require a major investment in developing natural resource-derived products, the exploration of existing and potential market linkages and opportunities for the sale of these products, and the identification of potential synergies and economies of scale for their production.

This ECP project aims to initiate just such an undertaking by: (i) synthesizing existing knowledge, experiences and lessons learned related to marketing and product development for natural resource-derived products, both globally and within the region; (ii) assessing the extent of existing markets, supply sources, products and market development initiatives in, and relevant to, Southern Africa; and (iii) identifying the gaps and needs that might be filled through the establishment of a regional marketing and product development network.

SAFIRE, a Zimbabwean NGO, will develop a proposal for the development and marketing of natural resource-derived products (most likely non-timber forest and veld products) for financing under a technical assistance research grant. The proposal will cover five countries in Southern Africa: Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, all of which share common ecological resources, a number of well-established trade routes and are pursuing similar and complementary policies and approaches related to sustainable management and commercialization of natural resources. The overall exercise will build upon and advance IFAD's intervention strategy in the region; and the subsequent project will have close linkages to the project portfolio.

Established in 1994, SAFIRE has a mandate to develop and apply innovative approaches to diversify and improve rural livelihoods, based on the utilization, commercialization and sustainable management of natural resources. SAFIRE hosts the IFAD-funded Community-Based Resettlement Approaches and Technologies Project. Its sponsors include: the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), DANIDA, the European Union (EU), the Government of The Netherlands, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



Country, Grant Title and No.:	Windward Islands: Community-Based Tourism for Rural Development: Testing and Disseminating New Approaches in the Windward Islands (No. 174)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 66 500
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 39 520
Name of NGO:	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) – Saint Lucia

Objectives and Activities:

Tourism occupies an important place in the national economies of the Windward Islands. However, current strategies for the Windward Islands' rural development tend to give insufficient attention to the tourism sector. Indeed, the lessons learned thus far by IFAD indicate that community-based heritage tourism has great potential to contribute to poverty alleviation and rural transformation by generating employment opportunities and income linkages among sectors and incentives for the enhancement of social services and infrastructure.

Attempting to fill this void, this project is, in essence, a training programme in natural resources and ecotourism in the islands of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which is linked with and uses the experiences of IFAD-financed projects in the area. Its objectives are the following: (i) to identify specific forms and characteristics of community-based tourism development that contribute to rural development; (ii) to identify processes and methods that can be used to facilitate the meaningful participation of communities in the management and development of heritage tourism ventures in support of rural development; (iii) to strengthen the capacity of IFAD-supported projects and other institutions in order to facilitate participatory heritage tourism ventures in support of rural development; and (iv) to assess the feasibility of increased IFAD involvement and investment in the field of heritage tourism, particularly in the Windward Islands and in other small island developing states.

The project will include the following activities and outputs: (i) a comparative study based upon five of the ongoing rural and community-based IFAD-supported tourism initiatives; (ii) a five-day regional training workshop on community-based tourism for rural development; (iii) a regional seminar examining the policy requirements for, and implications of, the integration of community-based heritage tourism into rural development policies, strategies and programmes in the Windward Islands; (iv) the preparation, publishing and dissemination of a policy brief detailing the conclusions of the seminar; and (v) a two-day consultation involving IFAD personnel, supporters of IFAD-sponsored projects, CANARI personnel and selected resource people for the purpose of evaluating this project, examining its implications for IFAD, and formulating specific recommendations regarding the Fund's future investments in the sector.

CANARI has worked for two decades in the region fostering the development and adoption of policies and programmes that support natural resource management. Having been involved in a number of pilot and experimental projects, it has extensive experience in the field of community-based tourism and has published guidelines for rural development through heritage tourism. It collaborates with a wide range of partners including DFID, EU and the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as with local communities and community-based organizations. It currently collaborates with IFAD on the Saint Lucia Rural Enterprise Project and participated in the tenth IFAD/NGO Consultation (2000).



Country, Grant Title and No.:	China: Training of Tibetan Trainers of the Hainan Prefecture in Quinghai Province in English and Computer Skills (No. 175)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 50 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 14 000
Name of NGO:	<i>Associazione per la Solidarietà Internazionale in Asia (ASIA,)</i> (Association for International Solidarity in Asia) – Italy

Objectives and Activities:

Linked to IFAD's ongoing educational efforts in the Hainan Prefecture, a region widely dominated by farming and pastoralism (64% of the population is of Tibetan ethnic minority origin), the overarching goal of this project is to affect positively the economic and social development of the local communities through the sustained improvement of the Tibetan education system.

The particular means employed to achieve this goal will be intensive training courses provided to Tibetan teachers in the entire Hainan Prefecture in the areas of English language, computers and teaching methodologies. These training courses will enable the Tibetan teachers to then train additional teachers in each of the primary schools in the prefecture. In the medium to long term, the initial trainee group will have the capacity to train some additional 2 900 primary teachers (in 411 primary schools) whose newly acquired skills could then reach about 57 600 students including 37 800 minority students.

The Rome-based NGO ASIA has contributed to the development of the Tibetan education system in Hainan Prefecture since 1993. In 1998-99, it assisted in the IFAD project of prefecture-wide school renovation and construction, all executed in the traditional Tibetan style. Teachers recruited under this project received training in Tibetan language, Tibetan mathematics, English language and computers. These pilot activities showed that, above all else, English and computer training improve Tibetan students' prospects for higher education. In response to this correlation, the Hainan Prefecture government recently established foreign language and computer training as compulsory elements of the prefecture-wide primary school curriculum, which, in turn, has resulted in a shortage of qualified teachers for these subjects.



Country, Grant Title and No.:	Guinea: Programme for Participatory Rural Development in Haute Guinée (No. 176)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 45 000
Name of NGO:	<i>Centre Africain de Formation pour le Développement</i> (CENAFOD) – Guinea

Objectives and Activities:

This programme is in support of the new Programme for Participatory Rural Development in Haute-Guinée (PPDR-HG), which will begin implementation in early 2001. PPDR-HG is a ten-year programme financed under the Flexible Lending Mechanism in the poorest region of Guinea. As a temporary and external catalyst, the programme is expected to complement beneficiary-initiated activities, which will be demand-driven and planned in a participatory manner by local interest groups composed of both men and women. Programme activities will include investments in social and productive infrastructure to enhance and diversify the income-earning potential of poor households, and support for the establishment of viable rural financial services associations.

The main objective of the ECP-financed programme is to test, prior to the beginning of PPDR-HG implementation, the participatory processes as developed in the appraisal documents.

Three communes of the region have been targeted in order to test and compare three alternative “entry points” for the programme: grass-roots organizations, the village and the commune (*commune rurale de développement*). Based on programme results, which will be evaluated in early 2001 and discussed at a stakeholder workshop, recommendations will be put forth to refine the PPDR-HG implementation manual and begin programme activities in the field.

CENAFOD is a recognized local NGO with a strong comparative advantage in areas such as training in participatory approaches and diagnostic tools. They have significant experience collaborating with international organizations (EU, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and USAID) and have helped to implement the ongoing IFAD-financed Smallholder Development Project in North Lower Guinea.



Country, Grant Title and No.:	Lebanon: Income-Generation and Food Security for Poor Rural Households in North Lebanon (Grant No. 177)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 20 500
Name of NGO:	Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) – Lebanon

Objectives and Activities:

The Lebanese civil war increased tremendously the number of woman-headed households within the country. Considered among the most disadvantaged groups in terms of literacy rates, training and social and economic status, these families have become extremely marginalized. It is imperative to provide adequate economic opportunities for their empowerment by: (i) providing opportunities for sustainable income-generation; (ii) making use of the agricultural surplus and increasing its added-value through processing and marketing; and (iii) providing training on economic initiatives using local resources.

This ECP project is intended to complement the ongoing IFAD-financed Irrigation Rehabilitation and Modernization Project (IRPM) in Lebanon. IRPM provided training to rural women, but did not provide them with access to credit. Under this ECP project, rural women who were successfully trained in skills improvement by the women-in-development section of the IRPM will be provided with credit to initiate small income-generating activities at the village level.

More specifically, the project's primary activities will be skills training in cottage industries and the establishment of a small-scale microcredit scheme.

Skills training in cottage industries: Two one-month training sessions will be provided to groups of women trainees, each group with about 30-35 participants. The sessions will be divided into three primary components: (i) theory and rationale behind food-processing techniques; (ii) application and practice of the learned techniques; and (iii) accounting, marketing and pricing of products.

Microcredit scheme: This pilot activity aims at financially empowering rural women through the provision of credit on a revolving basis. Credit will be extended to groups of women once they have been trained and organized as cooperatives. The group lending through cooperatives should allow a greater and broader participation in decision-making and ensure better loan repayment rates.

Implementation of the project activities will directly benefit 70 poor rural women and their families in PY1, 120 in PY2 and 300 in PY3. In addition to NGO cofinancing, the local community will contribute approximately USD 12 000 (11% of the project's total cost).

The YMCA in Beirut has wide experience in this field. Specifically, it helped to implement the women-in-development component of the IFAD-financed Smallholder Livestock Rehabilitation Project. The NGO has successfully developed an approach to rural development with special emphasis on the inclusion of all members in the targeted community as well as on the development of human capacities.

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Country, Grant Title and No.:	Democratic Republic of The Congo: Rural Development Project in North Kivu (No. 178)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 55 000
Name of NGO:	<i>Deutsche Welthungerhilfe</i> (DWWH) (German Agro-Action) – Germany

Objectives and Activities:

The dramatic events beginning in 1994 in the former Zaire have had severe effects upon the country's environment and natural resource base. Specifically, North Kivu, once one of the Democratic Republic of The Congo's major food-producing regions, is now afflicted by great rural poverty and famine.

The main objectives of this ECP project are to improve food security and to promote sustainable rural development and infrastructure in the lowlands of North Kivu. Its activities will help bolster the production of basic food crops such as cassava, legumes, maize, sweet potatoes and, through the introduction of adapted food-processing technologies, will help to diversify rural incomes and reduce the workload of women. This project will complement the Support to Women Groups in North Kivu Project, funded by IFAD and the Belgian Survival Fund for the Third World, currently under implementation, and it is believed that the lessons learned from it could prove very valuable in helping IFAD make future decisions about investments in this war-torn area.

Recently, cassava production in the province has declined severely due to mosaic disease. As cassava is the staple food of North Kivu, one of the project's specific objectives is to increase cassava production through the production, multiplication and distribution (to 100 villages) of virus-resistant cassava cuttings. Other primary objectives are to: (i) promote improved palm oil processing through the introduction of three palm kernel oil presses; and (ii) ensure the rehabilitation and maintenance of key rural roads, presently in poor state.

The direct local beneficiaries of the project are: 25 000 poor smallholder families who rely on cassava as their main source of food; 5 000 households inhabiting the under-producing lowlands area; and 20 000 households in fairly isolated villages that will gain from the infrastructural improvements, mainly through improved communications and access to markets.

DWWH is an international NGO operating worldwide and specialized in emergency and rehabilitation projects designed to create the necessary conditions for sustainable development, especially for the disadvantaged and marginalized poor. The organization, which has a long record of successful collaboration with international organizations as well as with local NGOs and CBOs, has been very active in North Kivu since 1997. DWWH is a founding member of the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty and a member of its Steering Committee.



Country, Grant Title and No.: **United States:** Project for Awareness-Building Campaign about Food Security and Desertification on Behalf of the United States Coalition for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (No. 179)

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 75 000

Name of NGO: EarthAction – US – United States

Objectives and Activities:

The objective of this project is to organize a Capitol Hill conference on global food security, land degradation and water scarcity with the goal of raising broad awareness and promoting sustained, proactive US participation on these issues, including support for IFAD's related programmes and ratification of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD).

The conference will bring together policy-makers, NGOs, academics, legislators, the media, the corporate sector and activists engaged in fighting desertification at the community level around the world. It will follow up on the 1992 Earth Summit, link to IFAD's work with smallholder farmers in dryland areas, and use the recommendations of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, that focus on the land and agriculture aspects of Agenda 21. The Conference will also follow up on the 1995 IFAD Conference on Hunger and Poverty, the 1996 World Food Summit, and it will link to US initiatives such as the recent United States Action Plan on Food Security.

Activities carried out under this grant include: (i) the production of conference materials; (ii) the organization of press briefings and follow-up activities with individual media representatives; (iii) the production and distribution of information kits for Senate staff; (iv) the funding of travel and accommodation for international and key US participants; and (v) general conference planning and coordination.

Other small conferences and workshops will also be held. In addition, opportunities to raise desertification-related issues within other fora will be identified and pursued. In this respect, the grant funds will cover: (i) the production of educational materials and issue/action alerts targeted to individuals, NGOs, policy-makers, students and the media; (ii) the launching of a more intensive outreach to Washington- and New York-based media who cover environmental or agricultural issues; and (iii) work with editorial boards across the country for thoughtful pieces in order to increase the public's understanding of desertification. In all such materials, the role of IFAD will be highlighted.

It is expected that the Capitol Hill Conference and these events together with ongoing collaborative efforts between IFAD and the US Coalition will increase awareness of global food security, land degradation and water scarcity issues, and support for the CCD. The activities will allow for greater visibility of IFAD and greater support of its efforts in sustainable rural development and its role in the implementation of the CCD.

EarthAction is an international NGO launched in 1992 at the Earth Summit to help educate and mobilize citizens worldwide for a more just, peaceful and sustainable world. Today, it contains 1 800 citizen groups in 152 countries. In the United States, membership amounts to 300 organizations including such powerful advocacy groups as the African Reinsurance Corporation (AFRICARE), the Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), InterAction, the National Heritage Institute, the Sierra Club and the World Wildlife Fund. Together with the US Coalition, EarthAction has played a very active role in the negotiation and follow-up of the CCD.



Country, Grant Title and No.:	Chile: Fruit and Vegetable Production in Rural Communities with a High Concentration of Indigenous Populations (Mapuche) in Villarrica (No. 180)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 40 000
Name of NGO:	<i>Fundación San Cristóbal</i> – Chile

Objectives and Activities:

This project will assist poor farmers in Villarrica who are largely of indigenous Mapuche ethnic origin to improve the production and marketing of their fruit and vegetables. The project, which is expected to explore efficient ways of establishing a marketing structure in remote food-insecure areas of Chile, complements the ongoing IFAD-supported activities in Latin America focusing on product and market diversification as well as on support to farmers' associations.

The project components aim to: (i) provide technical assistance and training for a substantial increase in the production and product diversification of fruit and vegetables; (ii) create through participatory institutions, including a farmers' association, a systematic and sustainable market commercialization of the products; and (iii) provide technical assistance and training for administrative and organizational development. Besides improving income among the poorest, the project is also expected to promote food security and thereby have a substantial impact on the nutritional status of the target population. Among the initial activities there will be a demonstration line of food production to explore possible adoption of new appropriate technologies.

The direct beneficiaries of the project are the 300 families of 11 communities in the target area. The project will benefit some 2 500 people indirectly.

San Cristóbal has consolidated experience in working with the Mapuche people, specifically in agricultural extension and training and agro-processing. This project will enhance the organization's successful ongoing activities in the region. The organization is very experienced in working with international organizations through its collaboration with the European Community and Intermón Oxfam, the Spanish branch of Oxfam International.



Country, Grant Title and No.:	Côte d'Ivoire: Gardening and Micro-Irrigation Development Support Project in the Department of Katiola (No. 181)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 21 760
Name of NGO:	<i>Association Française des Volontaires du Progrès</i> (AFVP), (French Association of Volunteers for Progress) – Côte d'Ivoire

Objectives and Activities:

The overall objective of the project is to improve the living conditions of rural women and youth in the Department of Katiola through support to grass-roots initiatives in horticulture and micro-irrigation. It will be implemented in close collaboration with staff of the Small Horticulture Producer Support Project (PPMS), which was approved in May 2000.

Through this ECP project, a local partnership between IFAD and AFVP could commence prior to PPMS's project effectiveness so that the participatory planning methods pioneered for horticulture and small-irrigation support could be readily taken up by PPMS once implementation begins.

More specifically, the project's activities involve: (i) the identification, through a participatory process, of women's and youth groups interested in developing horticulture and micro-irrigation activities; (ii) financial and technical assistance to these groups in support of their initiatives; (iii) the organization of information exchange and consultation among these communities and with other horticulturists; (iv) support to targeted groups in vegetable production, management of micro-irrigation infrastructure and marketing; and (v) support to establish a confederation of village-level groups at the inter-village or sub-prefectural level.

Expected benefits of the project include: (i) the documentation of diagnostic methods, innovative techniques, group organization and marketing methods that can be adopted for use by PPMS and other projects; (ii) added support given to select project groups by other development organizations in the zone; and (iii) the formation of an inter-village farmers' association.

Since 1963, AFVP, a France-based international NGO, has been an active and innovative organization worldwide. In particular, it is known for its ability to mobilize strong partnerships between Northern and Southern organizations. AFVP has a long record of collaboration with international donors and has successfully implemented the IFAD Pilot Initiative for Productive Community Investments in Guinea. Moreover, the organization has participated in two IFAD/NGO Consultations. In addition to the NGO cofinancing, the local community will contribute approximately USD 6 000 (6% of the project's total cost).



Country, Grant Title and No.:	Mexico: Installation of a Garden for Mayan Medicinal Herbs in Chiapas (No. 182)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 15 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 206 000
Name of NGO:	<i>Organización de Médicos Indígenas del Estado de Chiapas (OMIECH)</i> (Organization of Indigenous Doctors of the State of Chiapas) – Mexico

Objectives and Activities:

In light of IFAD's recent approval of the Rural Development Project for Rubber-Producing Regions of Mexico, and in particular, the effort to obtain more knowledge about, and promote new income-generating activities for, rural poor indigenous populations, an ECP grant was extended to OMIECH for a project in Chiapas. Chiapas has a high concentration of indigenous people, and it is estimated that over 70% of the state's population are below the poverty line.

Specifically, the objective of this ECP project is to establish a garden of Mayan medicinal herbs, some of which are in danger of extinction, that can satisfy many of the most important health needs of the Tzotzil and Tzeltal populations, local ethnic groups indigenous to Chiapas. The knowledge gained from this project will serve as input into ongoing IFAD projects such as PLANDERO in Honduras and IXTLERA in Mexico, both of which involve the growth of medicinal herbs.

The direct beneficiaries of this project will be 820 Tzotzil and Tzeltal families. Indirectly, the project is expected to benefit 14 500 people.

OMIECH is widely recognized for its work in the past 15 years in promoting the production of indigenous traditional medicinal herbs. It has 820 members actively involved in operations in 29 communities and nine municipalities in Chiapas. OMIECH will finance over 90% of the project.



Country, Grant Title and No.:	Morocco: Pilot Programme for the Promotion of Income-Generating Activities (No. 183)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 55 200
Name of NGO:	<i>Fondation pour le Développement Local et le Partenariat (FONDEP) – Morocco</i>

Objectives and Activities:

This ECP programme is intended to support IFAD's Rural Development Project in the Mountain Zones of the Al-Haouz province. Its objective is to empower rural women and unemployed youths in order to help them improve their income and living conditions. This will be achieved through the provision of microcredit for the development of agricultural and non-agricultural income-generating activities.

The programme's main activity is to provide institutional support to FONDEP, a Moroccan NGO, to create a credit fund in order to provide poor rural households presently excluded from commercial banking with financial services at market rates, which will, in turn, enable them to undertake income-generating activities or develop rural microenterprises. The microcredit intervention will be reinforced by a training programme for the beneficiaries that includes basic literacy, entrepreneurial training and health/hygiene education. Priority in these programmes will be given to women and youth.

The programme, and, most saliently, its promotion of rural financial infrastructure through partnerships and cofinancing with civil society and the banking sector, is compatible with IFAD's country strategy for Morocco. It is innovative, as it would, for the first time, enable the rural poor of the targeted area, particularly women, to access financial and other services.

FONDEP has a demonstrated track record in this field in Morocco, especially through its previous work with the United Nations Capital Development Fund and UNDP, with NGOs such as Oxfam and Save the Children Fund, and with international donors such as the German and Japanese development cooperation. In total, 80% of FONDEP's portfolio is directed towards rural poverty alleviation. FONDEP is sponsoring over 40% of this ECP project.

Country, Grant Title and No.:	East Timor: Bobonaro Watershed Project (No. 184)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 74 500
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 55 500
Name of NGO:	World Vision International (WVI) – Switzerland

Objectives and Activities:

Following the announcement of the results of the referendum of 30 August 1999 in East Timor, in which voters heavily favoured independence from Indonesia, came an explosion of violence in the territory. In addition to the displacement of 75% of the population and vast destruction of the infrastructure, the ensuing chaos triggered the looting and decimation of rural farmlands, causing even further damage to an already-degraded environment. The immediate humanitarian relief work having now been completed, there still exists an acute need in East Timor to build the local population's confidence in their capacity to reconstruct their livelihood systems through natural resource management.

The objective of this project is to improve household food security through increased food production and incomes. In order to achieve this, the project will include four general areas of activity: (i) community awareness and mobilization; (ii) participatory land-resource management activities; (iii) income-generation/financial services (in order to promote the empowerment of women); and (iv) technology testing, dissemination and extension-service support.

The project's main focus will be the development of micro-watersheds in the Bobonaro district, which should create adequate and sustainable livelihood opportunities for the households living in the target area. Village groups and local communities will build a common understanding of related development constraints and opportunities, develop a common vision of the development path they wish to pursue, and prepare an action plan. Subsequently, they will form village watershed committees that will be responsible for implementing the community action plan. A microfinance facility will also be established for women's self-help groups in order to improve their household-income levels. This facility will play a vital role in the marketing of local produce and will assist in the diversification and better use of resources within the watershed.

The principal beneficiaries of this project are the 800 low-income rural households, or about 4 000 people, living in the Bobonaro district. These direct beneficiaries will gain from better soil and water management practices in a watershed area of 600 ha and from new economic opportunities. Indirect beneficiaries are those people outside the watershed communities who depend on the water and agricultural produce.

Due to the exceptional nature of this project, with its target area lying in a territory not part of a Member State of IFAD, Executive Board approval was sought in a Report and Recommendation of the President of IFAD (at the Board's Seventy-First Session) and was subsequently granted.

World Vision International is well known to IFAD. It is currently involved in the Northern Region Foodcrops Development Project in Angola and in the Smallholder Irrigation and Water Use Programme in Zambia as well as in the ECP-supported Quinoa Small-Scale Production Project in Arkhangai Aimag, Mongolia.

Country, Grant Title and No.:	Kenya: Makueni Gender and Food Security Pilot Project (No. 185)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 15 000
Name of NGO:	World Vision International (Kenya) (WVK) – Kenya

Objectives and Activities:

Over the past three years, significant rainfall reduction in Kenya has led to a drought stress, resulting in widespread poverty and famine, affecting an estimated two million people from 18 districts. Food distribution has assisted in alleviating immediate stress. However, due to the vulnerability of the affected communities, there is a need to implement a rehabilitation process to ensure that they are empowered to cope with similar food stresses in the future.

Makueni is one of the Kenyan districts with recurrent food shortages. Subsistence rainfed farming is the mainstay of its local economy. Due to the erratic nature of its rainfall patterns, limited sources of income, and low household purchasing power, the standard of living is very low within the majority of its communities. Other factors contributing to the district's poverty level include the lack of credit facilities, organized marketing systems for farm produce and farm-level processing technologies. It is important to note that in previous attempts to tackle these issues, there has been a general inability to address them within a gender framework.

Yet, in Kenya, it has been documented that women provide 75% of the labour force and manage 40% of the smallholder farms. These farms account for 75% of the country's agricultural output. In order to ensure that some of the area's most relevant development issues are addressed (e.g. labour, access to credit, marketing issues), there is a need to implement a pilot project that can identify best practices that incorporate gender concerns and provide learning experiences upon which future gender and food security programmes can be based.

This project's main goals are to improve household food security and to raise the income levels of the households of the resource poor. Acknowledging the background information given above, the project seeks to achieve these ends by filling critical gaps in addressing gender constraints in agricultural development. Its main thrust will be to develop local institutions that can be used as vehicles for development and to access production resources to vulnerable groups through the provision of village-level revolving credit. The specific project activities involve: (i) strengthening the capacity of community-based organizations, institutions and other stakeholders in order to address gender imbalances more effectively; (ii) providing the rural poor with access to credit through the establishment of sustainable community-based revolving funds; (iii) improving marketing systems in an effort to reduce transaction costs through the formation of marketing groups and the provision of market information; and (iv) promoting farm processing (for value-added purposes) as part of the effort to improve the income base of beneficiaries and in order to promote other income-generating activities within the community.

The ECP project will collaborate with the IFAD-funded Eastern Province Horticulture and Traditional Food Crops Project, whose major objectives are to improve household food security and to increase the income level of the rural poor. It will target a population of 60 000 resource-poor persons in three locations of Makueni's Kathonzweni Division, focusing, in particular, on small-scale



farmers, women and unemployed youth. To promote long-term sustainability, the strategy will be highly participatory, involving all of the stakeholders within the district.

Though this project represents the first collaboration between World Vision International's Kenyan branch (WVK) and IFAD, World Vision International itself is well known to IFAD as it is currently involved in projects in Angola and Zambia. Moreover, the organization is implementing another ECP grant in support of the Quinoa Small-Scale Production Project in Arkhangai Aimag, Mongolia. In the past, WVK has received funding from such development agencies as CIDA and USAID.

Country, Grant Title and No.:	Chad: Food Security Project in the Northern Guéra Region – Phase II (No. 186)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 11 097
Name of NGO:	Secours Catholique et Développement (SECADEV), (Catholic Relief Development Association) – Chad

Objectives and Activities:

This project is directly linked with the IFAD Food Security Project in Northern Guéra Region – Phase II (PSANG II) through the capacity-strengthening of members of its local village groups and associations. These activities will help to provide for the establishment, capacity-building and piloting of the innovative participatory project management unit that has been strongly recommended for PSANG II.

Functional literacy, management and technical training will be provided to village leaders and to members of farmers' groups or organizations. Most of these groups and organizations will then become members of a food security association, which, having reached a certified level of competence, will assume full responsibility of PSANG II management PY3.

Specific project activities involve: (i) the sensitization of the population in the project area on PSANG II objectives and approaches, in particular, on the responsibilities of farmers' groups, organizations and associations in project management; (ii) the strengthening of the capacity of peasant leaders and members of farmers' groups/associations through functional literacy, in particular, reading and calculation; (iii) the training of local credit committees in the analysis of credit request documents; (iv) the training of local leaders and representatives of local groups or associations in project preparation and management; and (v) visits to other IFAD projects in the sub-region to allow local leaders and representatives of farmers' groups or associations to gain experience, particularly in rural credit.

Expected outputs include: (i) an understanding of the objectives and approaches of PSANG II among the rural population of the project area; (ii) an understanding of the tools and the criteria for analysing credit request documents among farmers' associations and village groups; and (iii) competence among farmers' groups or associations to formulate and prepare project documents ready for financing.

SECADEV, an international NGO with headquarters in France, has a demonstrated track record and substantial experience in training and capacity-building. Its mandate, focused on promoting inter-ethnic and inter-religious social harmony in rural areas and on integrated rural development, makes it a valuable knowledge partner for IFAD on issues related to grass-roots institutional development in the region. With its 20 years of experience in the Sahel, the organization has become one of the leading NGOs in Chad, working with such partners as GTZ, UNDP, UNHR and the World Food Programme. SECADEV has been working with IFAD on PSANG since the early 1990s.

ANNEX

Country, Grant Title and No.:	Peru: New Income-Generating Activities Project: Agricultural Tourism in Quillarumiyoc (No. 187)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 60 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 54 000
Name of NGO:	<i>Poqen Kanchay</i> – Peru

Objectives and Activities:

Due to vast poverty and widespread unemployment in San Martin de Porras, the migration of its community members to nearby cities is a common occurrence. Once in urban areas, most migrants seek better opportunities than those available in their local villages, but they often find themselves resorting to begging, stealing or prostitution in order to support themselves and their families. This project seeks to empower these rural communities by increasing local employment opportunities and income levels as well as the value of their resources, while simultaneously protecting their environment and their cultural and agricultural patrimony.

It is believed that through the rehabilitation of a local archaeological site, Quillarumiyoc, tourism will be drawn to the area. This project calls not only for the site's rehabilitation, but also for the implementation of several microenterprises linked to tourism: tourist accommodation, local craft production and sale, horse rental, and the preparation and sale of local ethnic food. The project is innovative in the sense that it will provide knowledge of methods through which poor communities can improve their standard of living by establishing different tourism-related microenterprises.

Quillarumiyoc's local significance is twofold. It is a sacred archaeological site, but it is also a well-designed ancient farming system, one with the potential, once rehabilitated, of meeting many of the population's local agricultural needs. Five years ago, a law prohibiting the cultivation of land enclosed in archaeological sites was repealed, permitting the kind of restorative work for which this project is undertaken. However, the local population has, up to now, had neither the resources nor the expertise to capitalize on Quillarumiyoc's potential for agriculture and tourism.

The project will have three main components: (i) training in archaeological restoration; (ii) the process of restoration itself; and (iii) the development of a tourist office managed and organized by the community. This last component will involve the training of community members, including as guides, to meet the many diverse needs of tourists, and the implementation of the microenterprises mentioned earlier. The project's participatory methodology centres on "learning by doing" and is based on various experiences in rural development, including the lessons learned from the IFAD-supported projects.

The direct beneficiaries of this project are over 300 poor indigenous families (approximately 1 200 people) who reside in the zone immediately surrounding the archaeological site. They will receive training and instruction, which will eventually lead to the community's self-sufficiency as a tourist centre.

Poqen Kanchay, a relatively new NGO, specializes in the development of innovative income-generation projects for the indigenous populations of Peru. In addition to the NGO cofinancing, the local community will contribute approximately USD 10 000 (5% of the project's total cost), a positive sign of the community's commitment to invest time and money in the project.

ANNEX

Country, Grant Title and No.:	The Gambia: Rural Finance and Community Initiatives Project (No. 188)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 50 000
Name of NGO:	National Women Farmers Association (NAWFA) – The Gambia

Objectives and Activities:

Farming is the most important occupation in The Gambia, especially for women who provide 60-80% of all of the country's agricultural work. Yet, women farmers face many serious obstacles such as poor access to credit and to quality farmland, and a lack of adequate markets, farm instruments, and value-enhancing processing skills and technology. Consequently, agricultural production is generally characterized by low production and productivity.

In December 1998, the Executive Board approved, on a pilot basis, the Rural Finance and Community Initiatives Project (RFCIP), to be directly supervised by IFAD. RFCIP's development goal is to help improve household food security and incomes by: (i) boosting both on- and off-farm production and incomes by strengthening and expanding the village savings and credit associations (VISACA) network; and (ii) promoting household food security actions identified and implemented by the village-wide men and women's groups.

This ECP project has two main objectives, both related to RFCIP. The first is to assist in the strengthening of the capacity of the National Women Farmers Association (NAWFA). NAWFA is the recently founded apex organization of the country's existing 72 sesame growers associations (SGAs), groups with which RFCIP should work closely. They are dynamic rural women's associations whose collective aim is to improve household nutrition (primarily through increased oil availability) and whose grass-roots membership is based on traditional village groups (*kafoos*). The second objective of this project is to help develop links between SGAs and VISACAs in order to facilitate women groups' access to rural financial services.

Although a young organization, NAWFA is a very promising partner for IFAD in The Gambia. The support for the establishment and capacity-building of a young apex organization is perfectly in line with IFAD's view that viable apex organizations are crucial for the effectiveness and sustainability of community-based women's organizations. Furthermore, the project is expected to contribute significantly to IFAD's knowledge by providing relevant inputs for the thematic study planned by IFAD's Office of Evaluation and Studies on women's grass-roots organizations, which will emphasize the scaling up of women's organizational capacity through cluster-level and apex organizations.



Country, Grant Title and No.:	Nigeria: Civil-Society Partnerships in Support of Rural Households Community-Based Food and Nutrition Data Information System for Nutrition Improvements Among Vulnerable Groups (No. 189)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 7 500
Name of NGO:	Food Basket Foundation International (FBFI - Nigeria)

Objectives and Activities:

Nigeria has been plagued by enormous nutritional problems for decades. About 50-60 million Nigerians suffer from malnutrition, the majority of whom are women and children. Previous attempts to tackle the country's malnutrition problem have tended to focus on the macro level. Yet, it has become increasingly clear that an equal emphasis must be given to addressing the problem locally. In addition, evidence strongly suggests that people-centred and people-implemented measures are the most likely to succeed. Thus, in tracking malnutrition at the grass roots – as seen in integrated participatory community-based approaches to nutrition problems adopted elsewhere in the world – the focal point should be the people themselves.

This ECP project, whose primary aim is to support and improve the effectiveness and long-term sustainability of select IFAD interventions in Nigeria, employs just such a grass-roots approach. Its main thrust will be the implementation of an information system that will provide regular, ongoing documentation of the current and changing state of food security and nutrition in numerous targeted communities. To this effect, the focus will be on cassava producers, agro-processors, artisanal fishermen and other rural community members. Special attention will be paid to nutritional losses that occur during processing, the nutritional value of items produced, the value-added to the nutritional content of foods through processing, hygienic and sanitation standards, malnutrition risks, and training for capacity-building and data analysis.

The data will be used to forewarn project managers and policy-makers of those beneficiaries who are most at risk of famine, poverty and malnutrition. It is hoped that the information gathered will be able to trigger timely, appropriate responses to the nutrition crises that may arise. One of the project's key elements is the promotion of partnerships between NGOs and CBOs as well as with government agencies in order to pool resources and maximize impact.

Its three primary activities are: (i) institutional strengthening and capacity-building of CBOs, local NGOs, community members, community workers, and relevant staff in IFAD projects, for the purposes of data collection, analysis and reporting; (ii) operationalization of sentinel sites and initiation of data collection by those trained in this activity; and (iii) operationalization of a data-collecting, analysing and reporting unit for the timely use of data in decision-making.

FBFI is an NGO whose principal mission is to assist low-income families in achieving sustainable food and nutrition security. FBFI's partnership with IFAD-assisted projects began in 1993 and currently involves the implementation of the Sokoto State Agricultural and Community Development Project and the Roots and Tubers Expansion Programme in Nigeria. The organization also has substantial experience working with other international organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNDP.

Country, Grant Title and No.:	Azerbaijan and Georgia: Development of a Caucasus Mountain Network (Nos. 190 and 191)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 70 000 and USD 70 000
NGP Cofinancing:	USD 600 000
Name of NGO:	<i>Schweizerische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für die Berggebiete</i> (SAB), (Swiss Centre for Mountain Regions) – Switzerland

Objectives and Activities:

The Republics of Azerbaijan and Georgia are among the poorest countries in the former Soviet Union, with many of their poorest communities found in their respective mountain and highland areas. By virtue of a similar physical environment due to their proximity to one another in the Caucasus Mountains and their shared legacy as republics of the former Soviet Union, Azerbaijan and Georgia face many common constraints and problems in the development of their mountain communities.

In its Seventieth Session, IFAD's Executive Board approved a Rural Development Programme for Mountainous and Highland Areas (RDPMHA) in each country as well as, in recognition of their similarities, the concept of a regional collaboration programme (RCP) between them. RCP's goals are to: (i) build on the synergies between the IFAD-supported RDPMHAs in Azerbaijan and Georgia; (ii) accelerate and enrich the learning process related to these two programmes; and (iii) foster relationships between the two countries.

This particular ECP project was designed with both the RCP and RDPMHA in mind. Its primary goal is to promote participatory development through the creation of a Caucasus mountain network (CMN) whose functions are to: (i) establish a lobby of inhabitants of mountainous areas, local organizations and local governments on a national and an international level; (ii) inform national authorities, parliaments, organizations and the public about the conditions in mountain areas; (iii) propose measures to improve economic, social and environmental conditions in the mountain regions; (iv) elaborate strategies for medium- and long-term sustainable development; and (v) support the foundation of local NGOs dealing with mountain development and assist them in all questions of management and in strategy discussions.

Within this framework, the CMN will specifically address: (i) sustainable livelihoods of mountain communities (including appropriate technologies, methodologies and investment strategies); (ii) sustainable management of the mountain environment and natural resources (including bio-resources and the appropriate management approaches for environmental risks, natural disasters and water management); and (iii) institutional capacity-building through workshops, fellowships, and the gathering and dissemination of information.

SAB, a Swiss NGO founded in 1946, is widely recognized for its role as advocate and bridge-builder for the rural mountain populations in Switzerland and has succeeded in expanding its operations internationally. For example, SAB plays an active role in Euromontana, is an observer in the permanent committee and in the conference of ministers in the Alpine Convention and, since 1990, has had project experiences in mountain areas in Albania, Japan, Romania and Spain. The NGO will fund 75% of the project's total cost.



Country, Grant Title and No.:	Honduras: Establishment of Alternative Financing Systems for the Tolupán Tribes (No. 192)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 40 000
Name of NGO:	<i>Federación de Tribus Indígenas Xicaques de Yoro</i> (FETRIXY) (Federation of Xicaque Tribes of Yoro)-Honduras

Objectives and Activities:

The living conditions of the ethnic groups in Honduras are characterized by low levels of education, a lack of health care facilities and poor housing conditions. Inadequate food security, soil and water degradation, and geographical and social isolation contribute to malnutrition, and recently to starvation, in these communities. Because they lack access to financial resources, community members can neither solve their nutrition problems nor make use of the opportunities their local ecosystem provides, most notably natural resources, to undertake income-generating activities.

The primary objectives of this project are to support the social and productive rehabilitation of the Tolupáns and to improve their food security by generating employment opportunities and increased incomes. More specifically, the project will: (i) establish six rural credit and savings banks for 500 families; (ii) provide training on participatory methodologies; (iii) establish exchange meetings among the tribes for self-help purposes; (iv) provide basic equipment for rural finance training development; and (v) establish a monitoring system to compare knowledge and lessons learned.

By targeting the poorer and more isolated indigenous tribes of the Francisco Morazán department of Honduras, the project is expected to demonstrate a participatory rural finance methodology for the IFAD-funded National Fund for Sustainable Rural Development Project, whose second phase is under formulation. The empowerment of these marginalized indigenous communities should provide knowledge that can be useful for cooperation with other indigenous organizations in Honduras and elsewhere. The project will also strategically strengthen the implementing organization, itself an indigenous NGO. If this pilot experience is successful, its methodology will be replicated with the other Tolupán tribes to enable each community to establish its own savings and credit institution.



Country, Grant Title and No.:	Indonesia: Capacity-Building Activities to Support the Implementation of a Post-Crisis Programme for Participatory Integrated Development in Rainfed Areas (PIDRA) (No. 193)
IFAD Grant Amount	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 7 494
Lead NGOs:	<i>Yayasan Bina Swadaya (Bina Swadaya), (Foundation for Self-Reliance Guidance) Pusat Pengembangan Sumberdaya Wanita (PPSW), (Centre for Women's Resources Development) Yayasan Swadaya Membangun (YSM) Indonesia</i>

Objectives and Activities:

The activities carried out under this ECP programme are linked with the Post-Crisis Programme for Participatory Integrated Development in Rainfed Areas (PIDRA), which IFAD's Executive Board approved in May 2000. PIDRA's objective is to increase income, food production and food security in a sustainable manner. To meet these objectives, IFAD would like to identify and further develop the capacity of three NGOs so that they can assume lead roles in the implementation of PIDRA.

However, as this would be the first time that NGOs are the main implementers of an IFAD programme in Indonesia, a preparatory capacity-building phase is required in order to ensure equal and valuable contributions from each of the partners. The three NGOs, each one located in, and responsible for, one of the three provinces covered by IFAD (East Java, East Nusa Tenggara and West Nusa Tenggara), will coordinate the activities of the 14 participating district-level NGOs.

The ECP programme's main goals are to conduct preparatory and capacity-building activities related to PIDRA at the village and provincial levels and to help determine its programme area and target groups. To these ends, it seeks to: (i) identify and determine PIDRA's participating district-level NGOs; (ii) identify and prepare staff and programme offices; (iii) improve the awareness, knowledge and skills of village facilitators in community self-reliance development methodology; and (iv) improve the knowledge and skills of district NGO staff in the training of instructors.

Appropriate methods will be employed to ensure the participation of women and the poorer segments of the population. Therefore, gender sensitivity will be one of the criteria for the selection of the district NGOs.

The NGOs *Bina Swadaya* and PPSW were both involved in the East Java Rainfed Agriculture Project, of which PIDRA is a replication.

Region, Grant Title and No.:	Africa II: Southern Africa Drought Technology Network (SAD-NET) (No. 194)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 137 300
Name of NGO:	Partners in Rural Development (PRD) – Canada

Objectives and Activities:

Much is being done to accelerate the development of the communications sector across Africa and to provide a means through which information on a broad range of subjects can be disseminated and shared. Even so, the development and implementation of information and communication technology (ICT) and networks that adequately address the specific needs of rural communities, especially those in drought-prone areas, represents one of the biggest challenges facing Southern Africa today. Given that the vast majority of people in sub-Saharan Africa live and work in rural areas, such communication technology and information sharing merits priority attention and treatment.

The overall objective of this pilot project is to establish an information network that links sources of small-scale food production, environment management, vulnerability reduction and rural marketing information with development practitioners and rural communities in drought-prone regions of southern Africa. The regional activity will lead to an increased understanding of how ICT can be applied for the practical benefit of smallholder farmers and rural communities in southern Africa. Specifically, the project has three purposes: (i) to support the means through which sources of information can be readily identified and accessed (in order to strengthen agricultural production and the skills of rural communities to cope with drought); (ii) to increase the capacity of NGOs to gather and interpret agricultural information for dissemination to, and use by, rural communities; and (iii) to determine how more advanced forms of ICT can be adapted and applied practically in rural southern Africa.

The project will initially focus on two countries: Zambia and Zimbabwe. In the longer term, opportunities will be sought to expand into other countries with which obvious synergies will likely arise including Mozambique, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania. Several IFAD-supported projects already exist in the region, which this project should complement quite well in that their smallholder target groups will need access to information and communication technology in order to benefit from improved technologies and market opportunities. They include: the Nyeri Dry Areas Project (Kenya), the Farmers' Groups and Community Support Project (Kenya), the Hoima Kibale Project (Uganda), the Forest Resource Management Project (Zambia), the Smallholder Dry Areas Resource Management Project (Zimbabwe), and the South Eastern Dry Areas Project (Zimbabwe).

PRD has 30 years of experience in providing self-help assistance to rural communities in the developing world. Having managed over 800 projects worldwide, they have been a very important player in CIDA's implementation strategy, as well as in those of other major development agencies and donors. PRD will fund approximately two thirds of the project's total cost.

Country, Grant Title and No.: **China:** Participatory Method in Planning, Implementation and Impact Assessment for Selected IFAD Projects (No. 195)

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 75 000

Name of NGO: The College of Rural Development/Centre for Integrated Agricultural Development (CORD/CIAD) of the China Agricultural University – China

Objectives and Activities:

The participatory rural appraisal (PRA) methodology was first introduced in China in the Wulin Mountains Minority-Areas Development Project in 1998. The findings of the PRA exercise have been very useful for the formulation of projects. However, the practice of PRA has been difficult to maintain during project implementation.

This ECP project will address this difficulty by further developing such a participatory methodology for select ongoing IFAD projects in China. In particular, the methodology will be adapted to project planning, implementation and impact assessment, and designed to ensure that project beneficiaries gradually become agents of change through active involvement in project activities.

The project will train project management officials (PMOs) and the staff of implementing agencies and guide them in the fieldwork for village development planning (VDP), impact assessment, and institutional development for participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E), microcredit and users' groups.

Depending upon project preparedness to implement the participatory methodology, in part based on the extent of beneficiaries' exposure to the PRA methodology, activities will follow one of three different prescribed courses of action, each of which entails coursework, training and a national-level workshop that will focus on the topic of participatory methodology awareness.

In projects that have not yet fully applied PRA in their feasibility studies and project designs and have not developed VDPs, the ECP project will introduce participatory methodology.

In projects that have applied the PRA during feasibility studies and project designs and have developed VDPs, but whose PMOs have only limited training on PRA, the project will provide participatory methodology training on participatory impact assessment and institutional development for participatory M&E.

In projects where PRA training was provided to PMOs, but whose VDP was developed without the full participation of the beneficiary population, efforts will be focused on the establishment of VDP through refresher courses in participatory VDP and community institutional development for participatory M&E.

The NGO CORD/CIAD is an autonomous institute attached to the China Agricultural University and has long-standing experience in the use of participatory approaches for planning, implementation and monitoring of rural development projects. CIAD, originally funded by GTZ, has worked previously with IFAD-assisted projects in China, largely in piloting PRA techniques and in training project staff.

Country and Grant Title:	Yemen: Communication Strengthening for Project Implementation Support (No. 196)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 77 500
Name of NGO:	Worldview International Foundations (WIF) – Sri Lanka

Objectives and Activities:

Due to shortages of technical packages and extension messages specific to their areas, the extension divisions of the project management units in Yemen face difficulties providing efficient and effective services. The objective of this project is to assist project management units of four ongoing IFAD-supported projects in Yemen to improve the delivery of extension and communication support to their target groups. In addition to being in need of institution-building, all four projects share some common characteristics concerning extension and communication activities. Priority is being given to providing strategic support to the execution of those components and targeting instruments that favour the poorest of the poor and, in particular, women.

The objective is well in line with IFAD's present strategy in Yemen, which recognizes that, despite the rapid development attained in the last decade, the country still faces considerable challenges in developing its agricultural and rural institutions, particularly in regard to extension and communication services.

The project is based on the production of extension/communication materials for applied research and transfer of technology with a particular focus on participatory training for crop and livestock production, water-harvesting techniques and rangeland improvement. The project's activities include: (i) the formulation of appropriate messages and communication means as well as the adoption of an efficient delivery-dissemination system; (ii) the production and distribution of messages in video, television, compact disc and printed format; and (iii) the training of IFAD-supported project extension and communication officers.

In addition to bolstering the projects currently under way in Yemen, the materials produced will also form a rich source of information for future IFAD operations.

WIF is an international NGO that specializes in participatory communication for democracy and sustainable development with a specific focus on the disadvantaged. It has a long history of collaboration with donors and with external development agencies worldwide and has implemented a project very similar to this one in Syria. It will fund just over half of the project's total cost.



Country and Grant Title:	Ethiopia: Support and Delivery of Financial Services to the Rural Poor in Ethiopia (No. 197)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 25 000
Name of NGO:	Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Institutions (AEMFI) – Ethiopia

Objectives and Activities:

In a short period of time, the microfinance institutions (MFIs) in Ethiopia have successfully introduced the concept of banking for a sizeable portion of the rural poor. Since 1996, 15 new MFIs have been legally registered in Ethiopia and have begun delivering microfinance services. This phenomenon, together with the overall recognition that development of MFIs is a primary component to alleviate poverty in rural Ethiopia, necessitates the development of an overall strategy for knowledge and institutional capacity-building to ensure the long-term sustainability of this trend.

This project is an attempt to do so by improving the efficiency and the services of an apex organization, namely the Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Institutions, the only sizeable network of its kind in the country. Through this project, AEMFI will receive the necessary technical and financial support to build its capacity for: (i) the creation of an inventory of microfinance activities in Ethiopia; (ii) the organization of training and exchange visits for the rural communities; (iii) the promotion of policy dialogue among MFIs, policy-makers, donors and the public sector; and (iv) the development of a long-term sustainable structure of MFIs in Ethiopia.

There are three main project activities: feasibility studies, stakeholder workshops and training:

Feasibility studies: The feasibility studies will be conducted in each of the four targeted areas (Afar, Benishangul, Gambella and Somalia) in order to assess the potential, nature and scope of rural microfinancial services that are responsive to the needs and priorities of poor rural households. Each study will include a baseline survey of the socio-economic status of beneficiary households, gender relationships, social organizations, the distribution of wealth, ownership and control of the means of production, and coping mechanisms. The studies will also include a critical examination of the constraints that inhibit the effective delivery of rural financial services, the potential for savings mobilization, and the type of products that best respond to the needs of poor rural households in marginal areas.

Stakeholder workshops: Five stakeholder workshops (one in each project region and one at the federal level) will be conducted to review and reach consensus on the findings and recommendations of the feasibility studies.

Training: Training on the preparation and monitoring of business plans, benchmarks and performance indicators will be provided to MFI staff.

AEMFI has received funding and technical assistance from the African Development Bank, Irish Aid, and UNDP.