



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

TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON A PROPOSED

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT**

FOR

**AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING**

BY A

**NON-CGIAR-SUPPORTED INTERNATIONAL CENTRE**



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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AWP/B	Annual Work Programme and Budget
CCNH	<i>Cellule nationale de coordination horticole</i> (National Horticultural Coordination Unit)
CDH	<i>Centre pour le développement de l'horticulture</i> (Horticultural Development Network )
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RADHORT	<i>Réseau africain pour le développement de l'horticulture</i> (African Network for the Development of Horticulture)





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

I submit the following Report and Recommendation on a proposed technical assistance grant (TAG) for agricultural research and training to a non-CGIAR-supported international centre in the amount of USD 1 250 000.

**PART I - INTRODUCTION**

1. This report recommends the provision of IFAD support to the research and training programme of the African Network for the Development of Horticulture (RADHORT).
2. The document of the technical assistance grant for approval by the Executive Board is contained in the annex to this report:

African Network for the Development of Horticulture (RADHORT):  
Programme for Sustainable Vegetable Production and Marketing in West Africa
3. The objectives and content of this applied research programme are in line with the evolving strategic objectives of IFAD and the policy and criteria of its TAG programme for agricultural research and training.
4. The TAG proposed in this document responds to a number of the strategic objectives of IFAD's support for technology development. Specifically, the TAG relates to: (a) IFAD's target groups and their household food-security strategies, specifically in remote and marginalized agro-ecological areas; (b) technologies that build on traditional knowledge systems, are gender-responsive, and enhance and diversify the productive potential of resource-poor farming systems by improving productivity and addressing production bottlenecks; (c) access to productive assets (land and water, financial services, labour and technology, including indigenous technology) and sustainable and productive management of such resources; and (d) an institutional framework within which formal and informal, public- and private-sector, local and national institutions provide services to the economically vulnerable, according to their comparative advantage.
5. The TAG aims to raise the incomes of smallholders and small producers of vegetables, particularly women, and to improve overall food security of the rural poor. It will achieve this essentially by providing access to improved, selected planting material and by training farmers and extension workers in key technical areas (seed multiplication, production and post-harvest technologies), building on traditional knowledge and techniques and taking marketing issues into account. Qualitative and quantitative production and distribution of vegetables with high nutritional value will be increased; overall household food security will be improved; the incomes of women will be raised; and the overall well-being of rural families will be improved. In addition, the capacities of both farmers and public/private-sector providers will be strengthened.



## **PART II - RECOMMENDATION**

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

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Programme for Sustainable Vegetable Production and Marketing in West Africa, shall make a grant not exceeding one million two hundred fifty thousand United States dollars (USD 1 250 000) to the African Network for the Development of Horticulture (RADHORT) upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board in this Report and Recommendation of the President.

Lennart Båge  
President



## **AFRICAN NETWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE (RADHORT) : PROGRAMME FOR SUSTAINABLE VEGETABLE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING IN WEST AFRICA**

### **I. BACKGROUND**

1. During the past decade, the population growth rate in sub-Saharan Africa has reached a level of more than 3%, while the urban population, alone, has grown by an average of 6%. It is estimated that about 40% of the total population of the region is currently living in urban areas. This figure is expected to increase to 50% by the year 2020. In order for food production to keep pace with the overall population growth and rising demand from urban markets, major production and productivity increases in the agricultural sector are required.

2. Against this background, horticultural production in general, and vegetable production in particular, play an increasingly important role. Vegetables are rich in essential nutrients. They are often the only food available during the dry season and thus contribute greatly to enhancing family food security. However, vegetable production is less developed in Africa than elsewhere in the developing world, and is lower in West Africa than elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa. While vegetable production in Africa averages 48 kg per capita per year, only 18 kg per capita are produced each year in West Africa. Moreover, yields in West Africa are lower than anywhere else in Africa and the marketing constraints to overcome are different. Vegetable production is known in the region as an important income-generating activity, mainly carried out by smallholders, and particularly by women. Rural women are known to be the main producers of staple crops such as rice, wheat and maize. However, their contribution to secondary crops such as vegetables is even higher. It can be observed that a large number of women, often in regions with high poverty incidence, have developed a source of cash income and improved the livelihoods of their families as a result of engaging in vegetable growing.

### **II. RATIONALE AND RELEVANCE FOR IFAD**

3. Vegetable production, storage and marketing are part of most IFAD projects in West Africa. Several have horticultural components and many have activities that directly or indirectly relate to vegetable growing. In most projects, however, problems related to vegetable production and marketing are not systematically addressed. As a result, a strong potential to improve household food security and rural livelihoods by providing more systematic support remains underdeveloped.

4. Even though some form of applied research in this sector is carried out in the region, outreach to farmers is rather limited. All countries in the region have government-supported research work on vegetables, generally as a small sub-component of the national agricultural research programme. Capacities at the regional level are limited, however, particularly in terms of outreach. Senegal is the only country in the region that has a specialized institute, the Horticultural Development Network (CDH), which was created in 1972 and is widely appreciated for its achievements in the development and dissemination of enhanced horticultural production systems and practices for small farmers. The African Network for the Development of Horticulture (RADHORT) was created in 1988, with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Belgian Government, to make CDH achievements available within the subregion. The network covers ten countries: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. In April 2000 the network was recognized as an independent intergovernmental organization (see RADHORT constitution of 14 April 2000) and placed under the Conference of the Ministers of Agriculture of Western and Central Africa. RADHORT has an important track record in the subregion in the area of vegetable development. This unique organization is composed of 50 horticultural experts (five per country), national horticultural coordination units in all ten countries

and regional animators who provide technical support and coordinate the exchange of knowledge among the countries concerned.

5. The network's overall objective is to strengthen countries' technical and organizational capacities in terms of horticultural development and to enhance interregional exchange of knowledge and experience. During the past 12 years, participating countries have developed strong capacities in the areas of: (a) variety selection and production and multiplication of quality seeds; (b) development of production techniques, mainly based on traditional knowledge; (c) plant production and protection techniques (mainly integrated pest management); and (d) commodity subsector analysis. A broad-based dissemination of this knowledge has begun, mainly in collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Results so far have been impressive, but more could be done in partnership with organizations or projects working at the grass-roots level. Thus collaboration between IFAD projects and RADHORT, within the framework of a well-defined programme of activities, will facilitate wider dissemination of the achievements of the network and also put the network's knowledge and experience at the disposition of the IFAD target group.

### III. THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

6. The overall goal of this programme is to enhance household food security and raise the incomes of smallholders and small producers of vegetables, particularly women, by improving productivity and lengthening the production period for vegetables. Specific objectives are to: (a) give small farmers of vegetables and farmer's groups access to improved, selected planting material and seeds; (b) train farmers and extension workers in key technical areas, including production techniques, seed multiplication and harvesting/post-harvesting technologies; (c) increase the qualitative and quantitative production of vegetables, including off-season production; and (d) strengthen national capacities in terms of horticultural development.

7. Priority areas of intervention will consist of:

- (a) **Improving the vegetable production and marketing techniques disseminated by extension workers and used by small farmers.** This will essentially include: (i) sensitizing vegetable farmers to options for better management of these techniques; and (ii) training extension workers and farmers in advanced vegetable production techniques.
- (b) **Enhancing off-season vegetable production.** This will include: (i) sensitizing vegetable farmers to the possibility of introducing or improving off-season vegetable production and marketing; (ii) assisting farmers in the design and implementation of field trials using adapted planting material; (iii) organizing exchanges of experience through farmer-to-farmer visits; (iv) training extension workers and farmers' groups in off-season production and marketing techniques; and (v) assisting farmers' groups in the implementation of off-season vegetable production and marketing activities.
- (c) **Improving seed production and multiplication in farmer's fields.** This activity will be focused on priority vegetable varieties and will include: (i) promoting improved seed multiplication and dissemination by farmers; (ii) identifying varieties to be multiplied and disseminated, sites to be used and farmers or farmers' groups to carry out this task; (iii) training identified farmers in multiplication techniques; (iv) organizing exchanges of experience through farmer-to-farmer visits; and (v) multiplying certified seeds.





- (d) **Providing support to the consolidation of selected national RADHORT coordination units.** Capacity-building will be needed in those countries in which RADHORT coordination capacity is still limited in order to ensure long-term sustainability of the structure. In those cases, a series of activities will be defined during the design phase to provide support to the organizational, managerial, financial and technical capacities of RADHORT network members and to define the role and responsibilities of national coordinators and animators.

8. Activities will be implemented in close collaboration with IFAD projects in the region. Five countries have been selected (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Senegal) based on (a) the relevance of vegetable production and marketing to ongoing IFAD projects; and (b) coverage of both Savannah and Sahel regions.

#### IV. EXPECTED OUTPUTS/EXPECTED BENEFITS

9. It is expected that the programme will contribute to improving the productivity of vegetable production in the countries concerned and lead to a better spread of vegetable production over the year through: (a) better-trained farmers and extension workers, (b) increased use of improved/certified seed material by farmers; (c) widespread use of advanced vegetable production techniques; (d) increased seed production and multiplication by farmers; (e) increased off-season production; (f) increased small-farmer marketing of vegetables; and (g) better-functioning RADHORT coordination units in selected countries. The programme will increase local vegetable consumption, give access to a greater variety and quantity of vegetables on local markets, improve household food security and enhance the living conditions of the families concerned, particularly of women. The main beneficiaries of the programme will be small farmers and farmers' groups, associations and cooperatives of vegetable farmers, NGOs and, finally, the agricultural services of the countries concerned. Altogether, it is assumed that operational linkages will be established with nine projects in the five countries: Burkina Faso – Special Programme for Soil and Water Conservation – Phase II; Côte d'Ivoire – Marketing and Local Initiatives Support Project; Rural Development Project in the Zanzan Region and Small Horticultural Producer Support Project; Mali – Income Diversification Programme in the Mali Sud Area; Zone Lacustre Development Project – Phase II and Sahelian Areas Development Fund Programme; Niger – Special Country Programme – Phase II; and Senegal – Village Organization and Management Project – Phase II. An estimated 20 000 households belonging to the IFAD target group will benefit directly.

#### V. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

10. **Structure and organization.** The structure of RADHORT consists of a Regional Coordination Unit and national bases. At the regional level, RADHORT has an executive secretary and four regional animators, who lead the activities of four regional technical groups, corresponding to the four main technical areas of RADHORT (as enumerated in paragraph 5 above). At the national level, RADHORT has a National Horticultural Coordination Unit (CCNH) composed of representatives of the entire vegetable subsector, including partners from the public and private sectors, NGOs, producers' groups and input suppliers; the national coordinator; and five national animators who are the national counterparts of the regional animators. (The regional animator of the group for vegetable and fruit variety selection has two national counterparts, one for vegetables and one for fruit, so there are five national animators as opposed to four regional ones.) The role of the CCNH is to bring the different partners in the vegetable subsector into contact with one another and to plan and coordinate interventions.

11. **Funding sources.** Since 1988, all regional and national staff of RADHORT have been detached from member governments, although their salaries continue to be paid from national budgets. The ten governments covered by RADHORT have agreed to create a fund to finance the



operating costs and current activities of the existing network structure and a limited number of technical activities. By 31 March 2002, the five countries selected to participate in the programme will have paid their contribution to the fund, which will correspond to 50% of the total amount. The remaining 50% will be deposited by the Belgian Government to ensure a smooth financial transition until the final five payments have been made. This arrangement was chosen to avoid the uncertainty of budget inscriptions and annual mobilization of counterpart funds. Finally, activities external to the network's actual work programme will be financed with external resources, for example donor contributions.

12. **Implementation arrangements.** The programme will be placed under the overall supervision and coordination of the Regional Coordination Unit. The executive secretary of RADHORT will be responsible for the financial administration of the IFAD grant. The regional animator of the group for vegetable and fruit variety selection will be responsible for the technical planning, coordination and implementation of the programme. At the national level, programme implementation will be monitored by the national technical animator. Supervision and technical guidance will be provided by the national coordinator together with the CCNH. The CCNH will define activities to be carried out at the national level and will select partners. IFAD projects in the five countries concerned, in particular the nine projects pre-identified, will play a major role in the implementation of the proposed programme. On a case-by-case basis, and depending on the nature of the IFAD projects, formal or informal cooperation agreements will be established between RADHORT and the IFAD project for the implementation of the proposed activities, the objective being to use the structure of IFAD projects to test and disseminate RADHORT's knowledge and experience at the grass-roots level. Particular attention will be given to the involvement of women and youth.

13. **Programming and budgeting.** The annual work programme and budget (AWP/B) will be discussed during the Annual Regional Coordination Meeting. These annual meetings are attended by the Regional Coordination Unit (executive secretary and regional animators), all ten national coordinators, and FAO and concerned donor representatives as observers (currently Belgium, Japan and The Netherlands). An IFAD representative will also take part in these meetings as an observer.

14. **Financing mechanism.** The mobilization of funds will be done on the basis of an agreed AWP/B. For the purpose of financing certain activities of the programme, the executive secretary will open and maintain a special account. The modalities and conditions for use of this account will be determined in the grant agreement. The grant agreement will also determine the details of the financing mechanism through which funds will be transferred to, or mobilized at, the national level.

15. **Monitoring, evaluation and backstopping.** IFAD technical backstopping missions will take place each year, based on a mutual agreement between RADHORT and IFAD. These missions will be financed under the grant. A mid-term review is foreseen in the third year. The grant will also cover the costs of regular RADHORT technical support missions, which will be undertaken by the regional animator to follow up on programme implementation at the national level. Finally, in addition to the annual meetings, which will be financed by RADHORT, the grant will cover the costs of three workshops to take place at programme start-up, at mid-term and at programme completion. The grant will also cover annual training seminars to allow the results of the programme to be shared with other RADHORT member countries.

16. RADHORT will subcontract many activities to local counterparts, such as NGOs, and to the public sector, for example the national extension services.

**VI. PRELIMINARY COST TABLE (IFAD FINANCING OVER FIVE YEARS)**

17. **Programme costs.** While the proposed IFAD contribution amounts to USD 1.25 million, total programme costs, including the RADHORT contribution and cofinancing from other donors, are estimated at about USD 3 million. Staff salaries at regional and national levels and basic operating costs will be financed by the governments involved and the RADHORT fund. Cofinancing arrangements with other donors will be discussed and possibly finalized at the next annual meeting.

<b>Cost Category</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Total</b>
I. Sensitization and training (extension workers, farmers)	45 000	45 000	45 000	45 000	45 000	225 000
I. Material (for field trials)	25 000	125 000	125 000	125 000	125 000	525 000
III. Capacity-building (national RADHORT coordination)	20 000	20 000	20 000	20 000	20 000	100 000
IV. RADHORT technical support missions	10 000	20 000	30 000	30 000	10 000	100 000
V. IFAD backstopping (international consultants) (6%)	15 000	15 000	15 000	15 000	15 000	75 000
VI. Workshops and training seminars	35 000	15 000	25 000	15 000	35 000	125 000
VII. Overhead costs (8%)						100 000
<b>Total</b>						<b>1 250 000</b>