



**IFAD**  
**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT**

TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON A PROPOSED

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT**

FOR

**AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING**

BY A

**NON-CGIAR-SUPPORTED INTERNATIONAL CENTRE**





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

I submit the following Report and Recommendation on a proposed technical assistance grant (TAG) for agricultural research and training to a non-CGIAR-supported international centre in the amount of USD 1.0 million.

**PART I - INTRODUCTION**

1. This report recommends providing IFAD support to the research and training programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
2. The technical assistance grant document for approval by the Executive Board is contained in the annex to this report.
3. The content of the applied research programme is in line with IFAD's evolving strategic objectives and the policy of its TAG programme for agricultural research and training.
4. IFAD's support for technology development relates to:
  - (a) the household food-security strategies of IFAD's target groups in remote and marginalized agro-ecological areas;
  - (b) technologies to enhance resource-poor farming systems by improving productivity and addressing production bottlenecks; these technologies must be gender-sensitive and based on traditional knowledge systems;
  - (c) access to land and water, financial services, labour, technology (including indigenous technology) and sustainable management of such resources;
  - (d) a policy framework that motivates the rural poor to increase productivity and reduce dependence on transfers; and
  - (e) an institutional framework for services provided to the economically vulnerable by formal, informal, public, private, local and national institutions.

Within objective (e), IFAD intends to develop commodity-based approaches to rural poverty alleviation, targeting items produced and consumed by the rural poor. Establishment of a network for gathering and disseminating knowledge will enhance the Fund's capacity to establish strategic links with partners and increase the impact of its agricultural research and training programme.

5. The proposed TAG responds to the objectives given below.
  - (a) The programme is relevant to IFAD in that its regional policy is to empower a target group of 30 000 households in artisanal fishing communities and support their food-security strategy based on the fish products that constitute their main source of income.
  - (b) Poverty alleviation will be addressed through improved access to assets such as fish products. This is to be achieved by protecting artisanal fishing communities' share of



- marine resources where encroachment by other fishing concerns is increasing because there is no policy for management of a shared resource.
- (c) The programme is innovative in that it brings together for the first time countries sharing the marine resources of the Red Sea. The objective is to manage these resources jointly by contributing to a policy framework that gives the target group an incentive to improve productivity.
  - (d) The programme will establish a permanent regional forum for gathering and disseminating knowledge, in which formal, informal, private, public, national and regional institutions provide services to the target group.

## **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 Marine Resources Management Programme in the Red Sea, shall make a grant not exceeding one million United States dollars (USD 1 000 000) to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 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



## **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO):**

### **MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME IN THE RED SEA**

#### **I. BACKGROUND**

1. The Red Sea is a unique transboundary marine environment. It is located between two coastlines shared by seven countries: Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, The Sudan and Yemen. Of the total area, 41% is a shelf less than 100 m deep characterized by coral reefs and rocky outcrops. Trawling in this area is severely limited. The major trawling grounds are around the Dahlak islands of Eritrea and along the coast of Yemen. Various fishing systems are employed in the tropical reef ecosystem that characterizes much of the Red Sea. Less than 1% of the available energy in the Red Sea is converted into harvestable fish biomass. Much of the production is dissipated and recycled among complex food webs. The nutrient-rich water that flows from the Gulf of Aden, bringing with it migratory pelagic fish, is largely responsible for the higher productivity in the southern part of the Red Sea.

2. The Red Sea supports approximately 30 000 artisanal fishermen and women, who use a variety of fishing craft and gear. There is also fishing on an industrial scale, carried out by 7 500 people who use fishing vessels that can stay at sea for up to a month. Information about fisheries resources in the Red Sea is sketchy and incomplete. There is effectively no management of these resources in terms of conservation and economic sustainability policies. The need to strengthen the governance of Red Sea fisheries through regional coordination was identified as essential for the sustainability of global fisheries. During a validation workshop in Cairo in September 2000, officials from the seven countries confirmed their governments' commitment to establish a regional forum to address assessment and management of fisheries resources.

3. Assessment of capabilities among the seven countries revealed weaknesses in institutional structures. Technical and physical deficiencies exist that need to be addressed through a regional capacity-building programme rather than an immediate sea-going survey that may not be sustainable.

4. The proposed programme will therefore function as a regional fisheries forum along the lines of the Regional Authority for the Protection of the Environment in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA). This body will coordinate fisheries management in the area so that fisheries policies come to be harmonized throughout the region, based on accurate information and responsibility for compliance with fishing regulations. A fisheries authority will coordinate conservation and management policies in association with PERSGA.

#### **II. RATIONALE/RELEVANCE TO IFAD**

##### **Lessons Learned from Previous Experience of Marine-Resource Surveys**

5. Up-to-date information from regular marine-resource surveys and monitoring is indispensable for managing and sustaining fisheries. There are additional benefits, such as opportunities to undertake basic marine research and environmental monitoring programmes. Despite the cost, many countries with developed fisheries sectors undertake annual or biannual surveys as part of fisheries-management programmes. Such surveys are valuable because they give a continuous overview, not a snapshot. If problems are identified, the programme can be adapted in consultation with stakeholders



to include studies of a particular species or geographical area. The proposed programme will use this new approach.

### **Relevance to IFAD**

6. The relevance of this programme to IFAD is its regional policy to empower a target group of 30 000 households of artisanal fishing communities. The programme is based on a specific problem facing them: encroachment by industrial fishing, which is increasing in the absence of appropriate resource-management policies. Poverty among the target group can be alleviated by protecting their share of marine resources in zones where there is competition. The innovative feature of the programme will be that countries sharing the Red Sea will be brought together for the first time. The objective will be to develop a regional policy on such issues as zoning, types of fishing equipment and fishing seasons for sustainable management of resources and protection of the interests of artisanal fishing people. Joint marine-resource assessments will provide the information on which the policy is based.

## **III. THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME**

### **Objectives**

7. The programme seeks to improve the management of fisheries resources in the Red Sea. This will be achieved by assisting countries in the region to:

- (a) promote development of the fisheries subsector;
- (b) obtain reliable, up-to-date information on the state of fishery resources to support a common policy framework on fisheries management;
- (c) develop national institutional capacities to undertake activities related to marine resource surveys and analysis; and
- (d) develop and institutionalize the skills, capacities and procedures used in fisheries management.

As a long-term goal, the programme aims to achieve regional legislation for sustainable marine-resource management and assessment in the Red Sea area to ensure that resources are adequate to preserve the livelihoods of artisanal fishing people.

### **Outputs**

8. The programme will produce the following outputs:

- (a) a permanent regional forum of exchange and cooperation;
- (b) an annual regional report on fisheries oceanography;
- (c) national and regional data coordination in collaboration with organizations such as PERSGA;
- (d) focused surveys to respond to management issues;
- (e) national capacity-building in operational management;





- (f) training of staff and fishing people in skills specific to fisheries, and counselling and consulting over an extended period;
- (g) private-sector comanagement and involvement; and
- (h) development of national and regional fisheries management capacity.

### **Key Activities**

9. **Capacity-building.** Basic concepts and practices of fisheries-resources management will be introduced for national staff and fishing communities. Methods of collecting information on such aspects as resources, fishing vessels and fisheries environments will be established to ensure effective fisheries management. Basic training on such activities as catch sampling, biological sampling and stock assessment will be institutionalized through training and regional dialogue, complemented by the introduction of operational management on a stock/fishery basis and fisheries-management policy and planning.

10. A 'mentor' programme is envisaged whereby experts from centres of excellence will be available by agreement with their institutions to travel to the region to help set up the programme of work, monitor outputs and give assistance. Trainees will also be able to visit mentors. Such exchanges will help secure interaction among fishing communities, regional institutions and international centres of excellence beyond the project lifetime. The mentor programme will be skill-specific to activities such as catch-assessment surveys and data management, and fisheries/species-specific to such matters as management of shrimp stocks, large pelagic fisheries or mixed stocks.

11. **Training courses and regional working groups.** Regular regional working groups and training courses will be organized to help national staff establish institutional programmes of work and partnerships with fishing communities to respond to the requirements of fisheries management. Candidates for training will be selected from among national staff and artisanal fishing communities, and supported by project resources. Working groups will include national staff and representatives of artisanal fishing communities. Training will cover such topics as assessment of the socio-economic conditions of artisanal fishing households, catch sampling by species, artisanal and industrial fishing-capacity inventory, stock-assessment methods, biological sampling, environmental sampling, sampling of coral reef resources and impact assessment.

12. **Marine resources assessment.** When sufficient trained personnel are available, marine resources surveys will be initiated on a small scale. Standardized procedures will be used so that data can be easily consolidated at a later stage.

### **IV. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS, MONITORING AND SUPERVISION**

13. The programme will be implemented for five years by FAO's Fishery Resource Division in cooperation with research institutes, the private sector, artisanal fishing communities and the fisheries administration in each of the countries. The stakeholders will constitute a regional fisheries forum coordinated by a project implementation unit composed of a programme coordinator supported by six part-time mentor consultants.

14. Programme monitoring will be the responsibility of the programme leader of FAO's Marine Resources Service, assisted by national fisheries institutions and fishing communities. Quarterly progress reports will be submitted to IFAD.

**V. COST AND FINANCING**

15. The cost over five years is estimated at USD 4.8 million, to which IFAD will contribute USD 1.0 million (21%). The IFAD contribution will leverage about USD 2.0 million (42%) in cofinancing from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), who have expressed interest. Participating countries will finance the balance. Detailed cost estimates and financing arrangements are provided in the table below.

**TOTAL PROGRAMME COST AND FINANCING**

Category of Expenditure	IFAD		Cofinanciers and Participating Countries		Total
	USD	%	USD	%	USD
Personnel	500 000	22.3	1 740 000	77.7	2 240 000
Duty travel and mission costs	150 000	24.9	451 250	75.1	601 250
General operating expenses	-	-	79 800	100.0	79 800
Expendable equipment	-	-	101 100	100.0	101 100
Non-expendable equipment	-	-	86 800	100.0	86 800
Fellowships and training	200 000	24.5	616 000	75.5	816 000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>850 000</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>3 074 950</b>	<b>78.3</b>	<b>3 924 950</b>
Project servicing cost @ 13%	110 000	21.6	400 244	78.4	510 244
Price contingencies (4% linear)	35 000	10.1	310 034	89.9	345 034
<b>Total</b>	<b>995 000</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>3 785 228</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>4 780 228</b>

