IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Executive Board – Seventy-Fifth Session
Rome, 22-23 April 2002

PLANNED PROJECT ACTIVITIES
2002 – 2003

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

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

(a) Annex A

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

(b) Annex B

Annex B provides a comprehensive list of pipeline projects that have been reviewed by the Fund’s Technical Review Committee to ascertain their suitability for IFAD support. The annex includes projects that have been identified only, those that have reached an advanced stage of processing (and have consequently been included in Annex A of the document or of a previous document), and those that are being presented to the Board for approval at the same session. Annex B provides a ready-reference list of all projects in the pipeline, in addition to information on country strategic opportunities papers (COSOPs) so far reviewed by the Operational Strategy Committee (OSC) and on COSOPs planned for 2002. This information will allow Executive Board members to discuss issues related to the selection and review of COSOPs.
(c) Annex C

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

(d) Annex D

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

(e) Annex E

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

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

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

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1 Descriptions of any TA grants approved by the President since the Board’s last session will be tabled at the current session.
Project Objectives

The overall goal of the proposed project will be to increase rural production, employment and incomes so as to alleviate poverty and improve living conditions in rural areas, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups. The project will provide assistance to increase the productivity, product quality and output of rural non-agricultural micro- and small enterprises (MSEs), hence indirectly stimulating overall agricultural production and productivity. Its immediate objectives will be to promote the creation of self-employment and wage employment and the generation of additional incomes by providing relevant, good-quality, easily accessible and sustainable services to rural MSEs. The project will build on the experience and lessons learned during its nearly completed first phase (loan SRS 038-GH) and on the recommendations of the interim evaluation.

Project Beneficiaries

The project will be implemented in the 13 districts covered in its first phase (in the Ashanti and Brong Ahafo) and will progressively add 35-40 new districts from the Upper East, Northern and Upper West Regions. The target group will continue to be rural families living in poverty, especially the most vulnerable households, and will comprise: (i) unemployed rural poor interested in self-employment but lacking skills, technologies and initial capital; (ii) those with some basic skills, but who need skills upgrading, entrepreneurship-development training and initial capital to set up their businesses; and (iii) the existing self-employed and owners of MSEs interested in being assisted, through skills or technology upgrading, in improving and/or expanding their businesses. The project will focus in particular on socially disadvantaged women, unemployed/underemployed youths, and apprentices who lack the capital and/or acumen to start their own business. Business focal points (BizFoPs) will provide simple skills and management training to an estimated 50 000 rural poor, whereas rural technology facilities (RTFs) will provide technical skills upgrading to some 36 000 rural master craftsmen, and supplementary skills training to about 15 000 traditional apprentices. The generation of approximately 100 000 new jobs is expected to have a significant impact on rural poor women, unemployed youth and others with little or no income.

Project Components

(a) Business development services To promote business development, the project will support: (i) business orientation seminars; (ii) short community-based training covering basic skills for a broad range of trades; (iii) entrepreneurship and management training, followed up by business counselling visits; (iv) technology adaptation and dissemination; and (v) information and referral services. The district-level BizFoPs, functioning under the district assemblies, will identify MSE needs and opportunities, and deliver training and counselling services through outsourcing. The RTFs will support the traditional apprenticeship system, disseminate ‘intermediate’ technologies and provide technology support to the rural MSE sector.

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2 2000 data; gross national income (GNI) in United States dollars.
3 The external financier who, at the request of the Government, takes the lead in project design, pre-appraisal processing and the mobilization of external resources.
(b) **Rural financial services** To enhance the access of rural small-scale entrepreneurs to sustainable financial services, the project will provide a credit line to participating financial institutions (PFIs) to support: (i) small-scale savings and loans upon request from groups and facilitated by the respective PFI; and (ii) medium-scale products targeted at individual clients. Loans will be provided for an array of commercial activities, including operating and investment capital for rural production, services and trade. The project will work in partnership with rural banks, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and credit unions, and with local informal initiatives such as *susu* (informal collectors) groups linked to these institutions. The project will also strengthen PFIs to enable them to provide efficient and responsive services. It will provide technical assistance and training and establish an efficiency-monitoring unit in the Association of Rural Banks (ARB) Apex Bank to allow rural banks to monitor the efficiency of their various operations, including specific credit products.

(c) **Policy dialogue** The project will continue to support the Working Group on Microenterprise Development (WG-ME), a mechanism established under the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology to facilitate policy consultations among major stakeholders (including the main public agencies, NGOs and donors). WG-ME deliberations will focus on the policy framework required for the efficient and effective promotion of rural MSE development in Ghana. WG-ME will also function as a clearinghouse for studies and experiences in MSE promotion.

(d) **Project management** Some of the first-phase project management structures will continue operating during the second phase, namely: (i) the national steering committee to guide project activities; (ii) the Project Coordination and Management Unit (PCMU) to provide technical backstopping to the BizFopPs and RTFs, and to coordinate and guide monitoring of overall project activities; and (iii) the district implementation committees. A new zonal office in Tamale will oversee project activities in the northern districts.

Project Implementation

Overall implementation responsibility for this seven-year project will rest with the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology. The PCMU will be responsible for the project’s day-to-day implementation. The project coordinator will be assisted by the district implementation committees. The national steering committee will orient implementation strategy, oversee project planning and review progress and impact.

Important Features

The project will aim at establishing an enabling environment for rural MSE development and build up the delivery capacity of providers of MSE support services. It will also be a leverage in terms of policy dialogue. WG-ME has prepared a concept strategy paper and will evolve as a clearinghouse for studies and reports on MSE promotion in Ghana.

Main Issues

During appraisal, the following issues will be addressed: (i) the pace at which the project area should be expanded and the direction of expansion; (ii) the legal status and organization of RTFs; (iii) collaboration mechanisms and linkages with IFAD’s ongoing Rural Financial Services Project; (iv) the role and responsibilities of district assemblies; (v) implementation arrangements; and (v) the role of and the support it requires.
Previous Projects

To date, IFAD has financed 11 projects in Ghana (two initiated by the cooperating institution and nine IFAD-initiated) for a total of 93.60 million special drawing rights (SDR). Two projects were jointly financed with the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification (SPA), and two were exclusively financed through the SPA. Six projects are under implementation, and the Loan Agreement for the Northern Region Poverty Reduction Programme (approved in December 2001) is expected to be signed shortly.
**Programme Background and Objectives**

Despite their impressive increase during the past seven years, financial services have mainly benefited Uganda’s urban population. The rural financial subsector is largely underdeveloped, fragmented and poorly integrated with the formal financial sector. Only 10% of the rural population have access to financial services offered by formal or informal (registered) microfinance institutions (MFIs). To address this situation and taking into account ongoing and planned activities, the proposed programme will support and complement the efforts of the Government, the donor community and the rural finance apex bodies to create an extensive and strong rural finance system. Its goal is to provide poor rural households an opportunity for higher and more stable incomes, thus alleviating poverty. Specifically, the programme will seek to: (i) fill existing gaps in the country’s microfinance subsector; (ii) facilitate the expansion of sustainable financial services; and (iii) extend services to poorly served areas. It will achieve these objectives by strengthening the rural financial system, expanding its outreach and services, and building the capacity of rural MFIs and clients.

**Programme Beneficiaries**

Since institution-building is at the core of this nationwide programme, direct beneficiaries will include active MFIs, MFI apex organizations, money-transfer agencies, institutions for MFI capacity-building, training institutions, and commercial banks as providers of rural finance services. Targeted MFIs will benefit substantially from expanded operations, greater outreach, more efficient and economical activities, better-skilled personnel, improved and more extensive performance monitoring and statistics, new savings, and credit and other financial products, in addition to a stronger capital base. Smallholder farmers and entrepreneurs (men and women) and other clientele of benefiting MFIs will, in turn, indirectly benefit from vastly increased access to financial services. Among the clientele, programme funds will be specifically targeted at the rural poor, including women. The rural business culture sub-component will directly benefit the poorest sections of the rural population, economically active men and women who are largely illiterate and involved in subsistence farming. The programme will help them to adopt a new business culture and thus to advance from subsistence farming/enterprises and to begin operating within the market economy.

**Programme Components**

(a) **Expanding the outreach and services of the rural finance system.** The programme will: (i) provide support for rural money transfer services to increase MFI accessibility to rural areas; and (ii) link commercial banks and other credit institutions to MFIs and encourage them to expand their lending and networks into the rural areas. To this end, the programme will support a loan guarantee fund, which will provide a partial guarantee over such loans; (iii) promote the development of new financial products suitable to the needs of agriculture, non-farm and other rural enterprises through the creation of a products innovation fund; and (iv) support the operation of a rural outreach fund to intensify and expand microfinancial activities.
(b) **Building capacity of rural MFIs and clients.** The programme will: (i) promote institution-building through the establishment of a MFI capacity-building fund, which will provide matching grants for training and other capacity-building needs of the microfinance industry, particularly of small, fairly new, rurally based MFIs; (ii) strengthen the training and business development service market by making available high-quality trainers and enhancing the range of available courses meeting the specific needs of MFIs; the programme will finance the necessary technical assistance, training and certification/accreditation; and (iii) promote an improved rural business culture by supporting functional literacy and numeracy campaigns and classes (especially for women), information campaigns on business culture (including radio programmes and information pamphlets), farmer agricultural shows and exchange visits, publications, logistical support to community development assistants, and the conduct of a market study.

(c) **Strengthening and upgrading the rural financial system.** Through the promotion of key microfinance apex organizations, an appropriate system of measuring performance, and the strengthening of their capital base (through the establishment of an equity investment fund), the programme will support the development of mechanisms and operations favouring the expansion and soundness of the microfinance industry, while also facilitating the advancement of strongly performing MFIs to higher tiers.

(d) **Programme administration, monitoring and evaluation (M&E).** The programme will support the establishment of a small, effective programme administration unit (PAU) within the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development or the Development Finance Department of the Bank of Uganda. The PAU, headed by a coordinator, will be responsible for handling programme funds and processes and for M&E activities.

**Programme Implementation**

The Uganda Microfinance Forum will oversee the implementation of this seven-year programme. The Forum will designate its apex plan for the modernization of agriculture (PMA) subcommittee on rural finance to deal with programme issues between formal meetings. The programme’s technical sub-components will be implemented in part through the PAU (rural money transfer services and support to apex structures), but mostly through contracted agencies based in Kampala. Most programme sub-components will be implemented through a demand-driven approach.

**Important Features**

The programme is consistent with the goal shared by the Government and IFAD of supporting and promoting the development of the microfinance industry, especially in rural areas. An important feature of the programme is its focus on institution-building to create a healthy and extensive rural finance system. The programme’s design is consistent with the country’s emerging positive institutional and legal environment. Moreover, the programme was formulated through a highly consultive and participatory process and therefore is in harmony with IFAD’s corporate strategy of collaborating and working with other stakeholders.

**Main Issues**

During appraisal, the following issues will be addressed: (i) the experiences of and lessons from other donor-supported programmes (e.g. the European Union’s Support to Feasible Financial Institutions and Capacity-Building Efforts (SUFFICE) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Support for Private Enterprise Expansion and Development (SPEED) programme); (ii) criteria for selecting participating MFIs to benefit from capacity-building; (iii) availability of additional cofinancing opportunities; (iv) further elaboration of the promotion of
rural business culture sub-component; (v) gender considerations, including monitoring/impact indicators by gender; (vi) finalization of key indicators for an effective assessment of programme impact on Uganda’s microfinance industry and beneficiaries; and (vii) assessment of the potential impact of HIV/AIDS, and mitigation measures.

Previous IFAD Operations

A total of nine projects (two initiated by the cooperating institution and seven by IFAD) have so far been approved for a total of SDR 99.39 million. Of these, one was financed through the SPA. Three projects are currently under implementation, and the Area-Based Agricultural Modernization Programme is expected to become effective by mid-June 2002. In addition, five grants have been provided to Uganda through the Belgian Survival Fund regular programme for a total of 769,600,000 Belgian francs (BEF), and another grant of BEF 123,000,000 was also provided to the Uganda Women’s Effort to Save Orphans (UWESO).
Region: Asia and the Pacific
Programme Name: Environmentally Sensitive Poverty Alleviation Programme (Ningxia and Shanxi)
Programme Cost (USD million): 86.0
IFAD Loan (USD million): To be determined
Proposed Terms: Highly concessional
Present Status: Formulation completed
Country: China
Per Capita GNI\(^2\): 840
Population (million)\(^2\): 1 261
Leading External Financier\(^3\): IFAD
Cofinanciers: World Food Programme (WFP)
Appraising Institution and Loan Administrator: IFAD and UNOPS

Programme Objectives

The proposed programme’s long-term goal will be to achieve sustainable and equitable poverty alleviation for vulnerable rural households living in a seriously degraded natural environment. Its overall objective will be to achieve a sustainable increase in productive capacity, both on- and off-farm, and to offer increased access to economic and social resources, including education, health and social networks, while improving the environment. This will be achieved by: (i) providing more farmer-, gender- and poverty-responsive extension services, with poor farmers as demonstrators; (ii) strengthening input supply systems; (iii) improving land and land use through increased investment in irrigation and various ameliorations of dryland agriculture and rangeland livestock production; (iv) strengthening environmental management and desertification control; (v) making the financial services of rural credit cooperatives (RCCs) more sensitive to poverty and gender and more target-group-driven; (vi) upgrading social service facilities (health and education) and providing a large adult literacy training programme; (vii) implementing women’s support programmes, in particular skills training; (viii) supporting rural infrastructure construction, rehabilitation and maintenance; and (ix) establishing and making operational participatory and gender-sensitive village development plans (VDPs).

Programme Beneficiaries

The programme area will be located in 12 counties that are among the poorest and most vulnerable areas in the country: five in the southern part of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and seven in the northern part of Shanxi province. Approximately 1.3 million rural inhabitants in 310 000 households live in the programme area. Of these, 85-95% will be eligible to participate in the programme. Households in more remote villages will receive priority. The programme will provide support to the poorest households (usually with sick or handicapped family members unable to participate in productive activities) especially through its health and education programmes. By programme end, more than 76 000 farms will have additional irrigation facilities and almost 54 000 households better dryland for annual cropping. The impact on women, who constitute a significant part of the target group, is expected to be particularly strong. Women will also benefit from improved domestic water supplies, reducing the burden of a household chore that falls predominantly on them.

Programme Components

(a) **Land-based activities.** The programme will provide support to: (i) increase productivity of agricultural land (mainly dryland on slopes) through irrigation and dryland improvements such as soil levelling and terracing; (ii) enhance soil fertility through increased use of organic manure resulting from higher production of crop residues and expanded livestock production, organized on improved and/or protected rangelands; (iii) increase beneficiaries’ cash-earning potential through the planting of economic trees while improving environmental conditions; (iv) promote economic-environmental forestry; and (v) strengthen crop and extension services, while making them more gender- and poverty-oriented.
(b) **Financial services.** The aim of this component is to: (i) facilitate access to financial services as a major instrument in helping the target group build assets for sustainable development; and (ii) develop RCCs into an efficient and viable rural cooperative banking system. Support will be provided for: (i) a savings and credit awareness campaign; (ii) the provision of incremental equipment for township RCCs; (iii) training for staff, village leaders and agents; and (iv) the provision, at township level, of motorcycles and desktop computers. Credit provision will be preceded by functional literacy and skills training.

(c) **Social development.** This component will include: (i) functional literacy training, particularly for women, and health and nutritional awareness-building, including assistance to reduce the drop-out among girls of primary school age; (ii) rehabilitation of village primary school facilities; (iii) support to village health workers; (iv) technical and managerial skills training for income-generation activities, targeted especially at women; (v) a programme of rural domestic water supplies to complement efforts to improve household livelihoods; and (vi) technical training. The Women’s Federation will be strengthened to implement this component.

(d) **Programme management.** Programme management will use methodology proven in previous IFAD/WFP programmes such as programme-leading groups (PLGs) and programme management offices (PMOs). Support will consist in start-up and management workshops, training on M&E (including impact assessment and participatory rural appraisal methodologies) computer and credit management training, transport facilities, office equipment and associated running costs. The programme will organize study tours to other IFAD/WFP projects to further experience-sharing.

**Programme Implementation**

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the Ministry of Finance will have overall responsibility for this six-year project at the national level. At the regional/provincial levels, the Department of Agriculture will assume primary responsibility for project implementation and will guide and coordinate the work of all the other agencies involved, through regional/provincial, county and township PMOs and village implementation groups (VIGs). Each technical bureau will be responsible for the implementation of the relevant activities and/or components under the general guidance of the PLG. The VIG established in each village will play a key role in disseminating information on the programme and mobilizing community participation in programme planning and implementation.

**Important Features**

The proposed programme is in line with IFAD’s strategy and will be the sixth IFAD loan in collaboration with WFP since MOA endorsed the cofinancing arrangements in 1994. The programme has benefited from the findings of the vulnerability analysis and mapping system developed by WFP. The main targeting instrument will be the VDP drawn up through a participatory process involving the whole village. The VDP will relate to infrastructure development and the targeting of productive activities, including training and the provision of credit. To ensure full understanding of the participatory nature of programme implementation, it is proposed that pilot activities be undertaken after loan negotiation but prior to loan effectiveness. A beneficiary-initiated self-monitoring programme will be launched. There will also be a large-scale introduction of participatory management of rangeland improvement activities, including fencing and closure under village responsibility but with programme assistance. The programme will promote the organization of large-scale demonstrations of various techniques for on-farm and common tree and shrub planting, vigorously promoting village or community forestry activities, which may be replicated elsewhere. The programme is expected to have a positive impact on the environment, valorizing local natural resources and waste and contributing to the reduced use of costly chemical inputs. Finally,
strengthened and refocused crop extension and animal health services will serve the poor and women more effectively.

Main Issues

IFAD loan resources to be used for investment purposes need to be allocated to the county implementing agencies on a grant basis. Further consultations with the People’s Bank of China and the Ministry of Finance should establish the operational arrangements for using RCCs as the microfinance institutions. Operational guidelines should be developed for the preparation of participatory village-development planning and implementation.

Previous IFAD Operations

IFAD has approved 16 projects in China for a total of SDR 305.39 million. All projects were initiated by the Fund. Four projects are currently under implementation, and the West Guangxi Poverty-Alleviation Project is expected to become effective by March 2002.
Region: Latin America and the Caribbean  
Project Name: Rural Microenterprise Development  
Project in the Xingó Region/San Francisco River Basin  
Project Cost (USD million): 40.0  
IFAD Loan (USD million): To be determined  
Proposed Terms: Ordinary  
Present Status: Formulation completed  
Country: Brazil  
Per Capita GNI\(^2\): 3 570  
Population (million)\(^2\): 170.1  
Leading External Financier\(^1\): IFAD  
Cofinanciers: none  
Appraising Institution and Loan Administrator: IFAD and UNOPS

Project Objectives

Like many other areas of the semi-arid north-east, the Xingó region is characterized by extreme poverty. The structural transformation and modernization of the country’s agricultural economy has caused unemployment to rise. Climatic and environmental conditions of the sertão\(^4\) limit the development of agricultural production, particularly that of peasant farmers. Because of the historical land distribution and tenure constraints characteristic of the north-east, much of the rural population is landless subsisting on what seasonal labour they find. Against this background, the principal objectives of the proposed project will be to increase the income and improve the living conditions of the rural poor, and to make microenterprises more sustainable while protecting the environment and reducing gender inequalities. More specifically, the project will seek to: (i) facilitate the access of microenterprises, small producers and the rural poor to technical, marketing and financial services support; (ii) strengthen the local organizations of rural poor microentrepreneurs and other rural poor, and develop mechanisms to identify business opportunities and provide productive investments and services for them; (iii) establish an efficient system of financial services, including credit and microcredit; (iv) establish mechanisms for gender equality that guarantee equal access to all project services and activities; and (v) help to accelerate, through an M&E system, learning and innovation processes relating to rural development.

Project Beneficiaries

Of the estimated 300 000 rural inhabitants of the Xingó region, 70% subsist on incomes that are below the poverty line (approximately USD 350 per year). Of these, 40% live in conditions of extreme poverty. The project will cover 30 municipalities of the Xingó region whose ecosystem and socio-economic environment have been modified by the construction of a dam. It will also cover five external municipalities that constitute socio-economic development poles for the four states involved (Alagoas, Bahia, Pernambuco and Sergipe). The target group will consist of poor small agricultural producers, landless farmers, seasonal workers, artisans and existing and potential microentrepreneurs. Project activities will include 6 000 microenterprises or 14 000 families (some 50 000 persons). Of these, 7 100 families are part of existing microenterprises and 6 900 are new individual or grouped microentrepreneurs. An estimated 40% of the total will be rural women. Some of the non-poor beneficiaries will act as business partners within the rural economy, facilitating the dissemination of small joint ventures.

Project Components

(a) Business promotion and rural microenterprises. Support will be provided for: (i) project promotion through presentations and participatory workshops; (ii) the identification of beneficiaries through territorial or local targeting; (iii) the identification and training of business and rural microenterprise promoters or advisors; (iv) the identification of the demand for businesses and microenterprises, and their promotion through workshops and the integrated and

\(^4\) Dryland area.
sustainable local development (DLIS) approach and through local business promoters and advisers; and (v) promotion of business opportunities and diversification of production.

(b) **Technical services and production support.** The project will provide access to technical assistance and training to support demands generated during the identification, formulation, approval and consolidation of business plans. It will: (i) finance productive and management technical assistance; (ii) support producer organizations in the direct contracting of private technical services, under cost-sharing arrangements (decreasing subsidies over time); and (iii) cofinance the necessary specialized technical assistance to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of existing enterprises.

(c) **Rural financial services.** The project will promote: (i) access to existing financial sources (offered either by the federal government or existing financial institutions) and the establishment of agencies and branches in the project area; (ii) the creation of local intermediary financial institutions, such as Cooperativas de Crédito Rural, Servicios de Crédito al Microempreendedor, Organizações da Sociedade Civil de Interesse Público; and (iii) strengthening of non-banking credit institutions already operating in the project area. A reserve fund for credit will also be established.

(d) **Socio-productive investments and capitalization.** The project will provide (non-reimbursable) resources for investment/capitalization to finance: (i) initiatives of community interest; (ii) initiatives geared to create microenterprises or businesses; and (iii) productive initiatives for producers and rural poor who lack access to the formal financial system. Proposals will be presented through the respective municipal forum or directly to the project coordination unit (PCU). The project will also promote the development of mechanisms for the recovery of funds in order to establish revolving funds for organized groups.

**Project Implementation**

This six-year project will be implemented under the overall responsibility of the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MDA); and within MDA, under the direct responsibility of the Secretariat of Family Agriculture (SAF)/National Support Programme for Family Agriculture. The PCU, consisting of a project director and four area managers, will be attached to MDA/SAF and will be responsible for project coordination and execution. It will also have an advisory unit on gender, an M&E unit and a steering committee to approve projects.

**Important Features**

This project proposes a strategic innovation: rural development and poverty alleviation through the development of microenterprises and productive chains, rather than through agriculture, the traditional emphasis. As part of institutional innovation, the project proposes a strategic alliance between MDA/SAF, the Support Service to Small and Microenterprises and the public banking system. Participation and local institution-strengthening will be promoted through the consistent use of key participatory methodologies and approaches, such as DLIS, municipal forums and sustainable rural development councils, and by consolidating and expanding local systems of financial intermediaries.

**Main Issues**

During appraisal, the following issues will be addressed: (i) targeting mechanisms (including geographic targeting and targeting of women) and ways to monitor improvements in beneficiary livelihoods in order to assess project impact; (ii) synergy and partnership with other ongoing development interventions in the project area; (iii) validation of the proposed financial services
strategy (including in terms of sustainability and further clarification of institutional responsibilities); and (iv) finalization of project components and institutional arrangements. Particular attention will be placed on demonstrating the project’s catalytic effects and impact, including its potential impact on pro-poor policies and institutions.

**Previous IFAD Operations**

IFAD has approved five projects in Brazil (one cofinanced and four IFAD-initiated) for a total of SDR 56.64 million. Three projects are currently under implementation.
Programme Objectives

While Tunisia’s achievements since the 1960s have been impressive in terms of overall poverty reduction, there are marked differences between rural and urban areas and between the naturally well-endowed northern regions and the ecologically fragile southern part of the country. The south-east is particularly poor, and outmigration has contributed to the social and economic marginalization of rural women and young people. In addition, climatic uncertainties, coupled with natural resource management problems, have had an adverse impact on its livestock-based economy. Livestock is, in fact, the most dynamic and productive sector of this fragile milieu. The aim of the proposed programme is to initiate a process of sustainable development in which the involvement and commitment of all actors will be crucial. The programme will specifically seek to: (i) promote the participatory and sustainable management of pastures and water resources; (ii) integrate livestock and agriculture activities more effectively; and (iii) diversify income sources and enhance the region’s products and assets, with particular attention to women and youth.

Programme Beneficiaries

The programme will be located in the Tataouine governorate and in part of the Douz district in the Kébili governorate. It will cover 27 socio-territorial units and target approximately 66 000 persons (or 10 000 rural households). More specifically, it will support the individual initiatives of the poorest population groups (small and medium-sized agropastoral farmers, young people and women). Livestock and agricultural production activities make up the bulk of the proposed development programme. They will involve approximately 5 500 agricultural and livestock farmers who constitute the focal target group. Through its income-generating and income-diversification activities, the programme will address the needs of about 17 000 young rural people, both men and women, who have little access to land and other productive assets.

Programme Components

(a) Integrated development of socio-territorial units. The component will support a set of development activities related to the terroir (territory), conceived and implemented within the framework of a long-term and participatory integrated community development plan. This will include the promotion of terroir management organizations; the restoration of arboriculture production potential; the use of underexploited pasture; pasture rotation; fodder shrub plantations (on collective or private pastures); reseeding of pastures; shade areas; pastoral hydraulic works; and soils and land management works for improving hydraulic potential.

(b) Development of intensified irrigation areas. Support will be provided for the construction of new public irrigation schemes, the intensified development of existing irrigated schemes and the strengthening of water users’ associations (through both organization and training).
(c) **Livestock development.** Financing will be provided for: (i) improvement of animal health care (and veterinarian coverage); (ii) livestock performance and selection improvement; (iii) supplementary feeding; (iv) increase of livestock output added value (e.g. development of fattening activities); (v) promotion of camel breeding; (vi) promotion of shepherding as an occupation; and (vii) provision of assistance to agricultural extension.

(d) **Support and reorientation of agricultural services.** This component will include: the strengthening of the Regional Commission for Agricultural Development (CRDA); the creation of a pastoral seeds production centre; institutional strengthening; the creation of a biosphere reserve park; and the provision of service centres.

(e) **Rural feeder roads.** Funds will be provided for the construction and/or rehabilitation of rural feeder roads (approximately 110 km) to be financed by the OPEC Fund.

(f) **Support and diversification of income-generating activities.** This component will promote: (i) the development and protection of the architectural heritage and ecotourism; (ii) assistance to enable young farmers to establish themselves in the region; (iii) income-generating activities for young people and women; and (iv) the setting up of an ‘innovation support unit’.

(g) **Programme management and research/development.** Funds will be provided for the establishment of a programme management unit; research/development and a technical and economic studies programme; and a geographical information system.

**Programme Implementation**

This seven-year programme will be implemented through existing organizations and mechanisms. It will include five role and responsibility levels: (i) at national and regional levels, coordination will be ensured by a central coordination committee and a the regional coordination committee; (ii) the programme directorate will be responsible for the programme’s management and monitoring, and will be created within the CRDA at Tataouine, with a branch for supervising the activities at Douz; (iii) at community level, the socio-territorial units (and their agricultural development associations) will be responsible for implementing integrated community development plans and managing agropastoral lands; (iv) the Office for Livestock and Pastures and CRDA units will implement activities; the programme directorate will recruit operators/partners on a contractual basis or they will be subcontracted by CRDA, and the project will support base communities and associations of producers/users; and (v) individual/professional organizations will undertake other actions. CRDA will be responsible for implementing administrative initiatives.

**Important Features**

The programme is conceived to manage a process of structural change at both grass-roots and regional administration levels. The introduction of community-driven development approaches to test ways to foster effective beneficiary participation will be a major innovation for IFAD-supported projects in Tunisia.

**Main Issues**

During appraisal, the following issues will be addressed: (i) review of requirements in terms of community mobilization and organizational set-up, with particular emphasis on training needs; (ii) government policy in the grazing range areas; (iii) institutional arrangements; (iv) potential for dialogue with other strategic partners; (v) better definition of the target group and their constraints, and of targeting approaches; (vi) environmental issues; and (vii) lessons learned from past credit/rural finance experiences.
Previous IFAD Operations

IFAD has initiated and financed eight projects in Tunisia for a total of SDR 72.13 million. Three projects are currently under implementation.
BRIEF OVERVIEW

PART I - PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION (2002–2003), CLASSIFIED BY STAGE OF PROCESSING

PART II - COSOPS UNDERTAKEN SINCE 1995 AND REVIEWED BY THE OSC

PART III - COSOPS CURRENTLY PLANNED FOR 2002
BRIEF OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Opportunities Papers

1. COSOPs were introduced in 1995 as part of the re-engineered project development cycle (President’s Bulletin No. 95/04 of September 1995 refers), for the purpose of delineating a medium-term strategic framework for country operations from which specific project interventions might flow. COSOPs were conceived as ‘living’ documents for internal use, written to provide management a basis for a monitorable country-level plan of action and to condition the entry of new projects into the pipeline. COSOP drafts have been reviewed by the Operational Strategy Committee (OSC), chaired by the President, revised as appropriate and cleared by the Assistant President, Programme Management Department.

2. So far, approximately 77 COSOPs have been prepared and reviewed by the OSC (including revisions of previous COSOPs) (see Part II of this annex). In 2002, regional divisions plan to undertake and/or revise 25 COSOPs (see Part III of this annex).

3. Following the discussion on COSOPs at the informal seminar of 5 December 2000 (in which the COSOP for Yemen was presented), the Executive Board adopted an interim procedure for the review of COSOPs and projects at the Seventy-Second Session of the Executive Board (April 2001). It was decided to use the three sessions in 2001 as a trial period with a view to establishing a definitive procedure in 2002. Since the Board only reviewed three COSOPs in 2001 – Nigeria (April 2001), India and Mozambique (December 2001) – as the COSOPs planned for review in September 2001 were postponed, the Executive Board agreed to extend the trial period to April 2002. The COSOPs for Egypt and Peru are expected to be reviewed at the Seventy-Fifth Session of the Board (April 2002). Therefore, it will be after this Session that IFAD, in consultation with the Board, will take stock of the experience gained during this trial period and prepare a paper setting out the future approach to reviewing COSOPs and project proposals.

Highlights on Regional Pipeline and Pipeline Projects

4. The regional poverty assessments and IFAD’s Strategic Framework 2002-2006 will provide a framework for the identification of new opportunities in the five IFAD regional divisions.

5. In Western and Central Africa (Africa I), pipeline planning for 2002 has encountered some difficulties in Nigeria. A multi-donor-assisted national rural finance programme, initially foreseen for Executive Board presentation in April 2002, has been shifted to 2003 due to concerns that restructuring of the most important rural development banks is not yet sufficiently advanced to allow for prudent launching of an investment operation. This programme will be delayed until 2003. In its place, IFAD plans to submit a natural resource management programme for the Delta states in Nigeria (to be cofinanced with the World Bank) later this year. No other 2002 pipeline development constraints are foreseen at this time. Most of the remaining 2002 projects are second phases, and this makes planning easier than for entirely new activities.

6. In Eastern and Southern Africa (Africa II), parallel moves towards improvement in the policy and institutional environment for small-scale agricultural development – and a growing recognition of the contribution of rural development to poverty reduction – is increasing demand for IFAD support, particularly in the context of low levels of support to agricultural development from many other development institutions and the broad support that the IFAD regional strategy has received from regional and national stakeholders. Declining traditional opportunities for cofinancing projects designed by other institutions have led to a situation in which pipeline development is heavily dependent upon IFAD’s own efforts, while the process of pipeline development has become more complex as a result of the desire to integrate activities within broad national poverty reduction
strategies – and as a result of the decision to operate on a more strategic and programmatic basis. While there have been promising experiences in increasing government input into the production of detailed project design documents, the institutional difficulties experienced throughout the region (partly as a result of very low public expenditure on key rural development institutions) constrain a more decisive shift towards national design processes, although national consultation and participation processes have been strengthened across the portfolio.

7. Among the rural poor in Asia and the Pacific, upland dwellers, indigenous populations, and particularly women in both these categories, are bypassed by economic growth and development. Their progressive marginalization, resulting from social exclusion, geographic isolation and rapid environmental degradation, contributes to political instability and gives rise to violence. In response to these alarming trends, IFAD has reoriented its strategy, as reflected in the design of its new projects, by focusing on upland and marginal areas so as to bring them into the mainstream of economic and social development. In line with this strategy, the new projects in India, Indonesia and Laos, to be submitted for approval to the Executive Board in 2002, will have a strong emphasis on the development of upland areas with tribal and indigenous communities as the main target group. The focus of the projects in China and Iran will be on the expansion of microfinance services in rural areas. The use of the loan to China to strengthen national rural microfinance policy is an important confirmation of the relevance of IFAD’s approach in this sector. In the Iran project, since part of the target area will be close to the border with Afghanistan, rehabilitation assistance to Afghan refugees is also envisaged. While the security and political situation in Afghanistan does not favour the development of a project pipeline in the immediate future, efforts are underway to provide rural development assistance through the grant programme.

8. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the participative approach embodied in the COSOP exercise has provided a better basis to build up a pipeline effectively reflecting not only IFAD and government priorities, but also those of the target population. This positive approach prevents, however, the identification of a large number of project proposals as the COSOP identifies mainly strategic areas of interest. Furthermore, IFAD’s limited resources do not allow frequent lending coverage to countries, excluding the few priority ones. These factors, together with democratic government elections (which in some cases take place every four years), make the building up of a large project pipeline unrealistic as government interest and priorities could change, necessitating a new process of validation of project proposals.

9. In the Near East and North Africa (NENA), pipeline build-up has been constrained by the relatively low share of IFAD’s lending allocated to the region. NENA division is planning to process five projects in 2002, six in 2003 and five in 2004, subject to the availability of resources. Should the lending share be increased, particularly in view of the increased number of active countries from Eastern Europe, NENA could build up a larger pipeline. In terms of partnerships, several donors, such as the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Islamic Development Bank, the OPEC Fund and the World Bank are ready to join IFAD in the cofinancing of projects in the region.

Project Pipeline

10. In 2001, the OSC reviewed eight COSOPs. The official pipeline comprises 38 projects, covering the five IFAD regions (see Chart 1). This level remains below that of previous years, but efforts are currently underway to finalize some COSOPs and projects at inception stage with a view to identifying other suitable opportunities for future IFAD interventions.
11. From the point of view of regional distribution, the 38 official pipeline projects (36 initiated by IFAD and two by cooperating institutions) are broken down as follows: eight (21%) in Africa I; seven (18%) in Africa II; nine (24%) in Asia and the Pacific; six (16%) in Latin America and the Caribbean; and eight (21%) in Near East and North Africa (Chart 2). Two of the projects included in the pipeline were initiated by the World Bank (Nigeria and Egypt).

Chart 2: Percentage Distribution of Projects by Region, April 2002

12. In terms of country coverage, pipeline projects included in Annex B cover 35 countries (Chart 3): eight (23%) in Africa I; seven (20%) in Africa II; seven (20%) in Asia and the Pacific; six (17%) in Latin America and the Caribbean; and seven (20%) in Near East and North Africa.
13. IFAD’s pipeline includes 16 projects (or 46%) in sub-Saharan Africa. Several projects for this region are currently at the inception stage and are expected to enter the pipeline shortly. As in the past, projects geared to the needs of countries with food-security problems remain on the Fund’s highest priorities. A total of 80% of the pipeline projects are for low-income, food-deficit countries as defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and 49% of the pipeline projects are for least-developed countries, as classified by the United Nations.\(^1\)

\(^1\) Some countries belong to more than one group; and thus there are overlaps in the group numbers.
**PART I - PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION (2002-2003)**
**CLASSIFIED BY STAGE OF PROCESSING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population (million)</th>
<th>GNI Per Capita Income (2000) (USD)</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Nature of Project</th>
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<th>Included in Annex A</th>
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**SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, APRIL 2002**

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Footnotes to Annex B:

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

2/ Former Community Development Project.
3/ Former Second Orissa Tribal Development.
4/ Former Community Initiatives Support Project.
5/ Former San Francisco/Xingo River Basin Rural Microenterprise Development
6/ Former Smallholder Development Project in the Forest Region – Phase II.
7/ Under preparation
8/ Former Agropastoral Development Project in the Governorate of Tataouine.
PART II - COSOPS UNDERTAKEN SINCE 1995 AND REVIEWED BY OSC

Africa I
1) Benin (Jun 1997)
2) Burkina Faso (May 1998)
3) Cameroon (Feb 1998)
4) Cape Verde (Oct 1996)
5) Chad (May 1999)
6) Congo (Jun 2001 revised)
7) Côte d’Ivoire (Dec 1997)
8) Gambia, The (Nov 1997)
9) Ghana (Jul 1998)
10) Guinea (May 1999)
11) Mali (Jul 1997)
12) Mauritania (May 2000)
13) Niger (Mar 1999)
14) Nigeria (Oct 2000)
15) Sao Tome and Principe (Oct 1999)
16) Senegal (Apr 1998)
17) Sierra Leone (Mar 1997)

Africa II
18) Burundi (Jul 1996)
19) Comoros (Jan 2002)
20) Eritrea (Apr 1998)
21) Ethiopia (Nov 1999)
22) Kenya (Nov 2001)
23) Lesotho (Jun 1999)
24) Madagascar (Mar 2000)
25) Malawi (Nov 1999)
26) Mozambique (Apr 2000 revised)
27) Rwanda (Jul 2001 revised)
28) Swaziland (Jul 1999)
29) Tanzania, United Republic of (Apr 1998)
30) Uganda (Dec 1998)
31) Zambia (Sep 1998)
32) Zimbabwe (Nov 1998)

Asia and the Pacific
33) Bangladesh (Dec 1999)
34) Bhutan (Jul 1996)
35) Cambodia (May 1998)
36) China (Feb 1999)
37) D.P.R Korea, (Apr 2000)
38) India (Jul 2001 revised)
39) Indonesa (Nov 1998)
40) Kyrgyzstan (Dec 1996)
41) Laos (Sep 1996)
42) Mongolia (Nov 1998)
43) Nepal (Mar 2000)
44) Pakistan (Jul 2000)
45) Philippines (Oct 1999)
46) Viet Nam (Dec 1996)

LAC
47) Bolivia (Nov 1998)
48) Brazil (Jun 1997)
49) Caribbean Region (Mar 2000)
50) Dominican Republic (Jan 2002)
51) El Salvador (Mar 2001)
52) Haiti (Nov 1999)
53) Honduras (Oct 2000)
54) Mexico (May 1999)
55) Panama (Dec 2000)
56) Peru (Nov 2001)
57) Uruguay (Nov 1999)
58) Venezuela (Dec 1999)

NENA
59) Albania (Mar 1999)
60) Algeria (Oct 1999)
61) Armenia (Mar 2000)
63) Djibouti (Nov 2001)
64) Georgia (Dec 1998)
65) Bosnia and Herzegovina (Jun 1999)
66) Egypt (Nov 2000 revised)
67) Gaza and the West Bank (Jun 1997)
68) Georgia (Dec 1998)
69) Jordan (Oct 2000)
70) Lebanon (May 2000 revised)
71) Morocco (Nov 1999)
72) Republic of Moldova (Feb 2002 revised)
73) Syria (Nov 2001)
74) The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Nov 1999)
75) Tunisia (Apr 1998)
76) Turkey (Jun 2000)
77) Yemen (Mar 2000 revised)
PART III - COSOPS CURRENTLY PLANNED FOR 2002

In 2002, regional divisions plan to finalize and undertake the following COSOPs:

Africa I:  
- Central African Republic\(^1\)
- D.R. Congo
- Côte d’Ivoire (revision)
- Gambia, The (revision)
- Guinea-Bissau (continuation of 2001 work)
- Senegal (revision) (continuation of 2001 work)
- Sierra Leone (revision)
- Togo \(^2\)

Africa II:  
- Angola
- Burundi (revision)

Asia and the Pacific:  
- Central Asia (to be reviewed by OSC in 2002)
- India (revision)
- Iran (continuation of 2001 work)
- Pakistan (continuation of 2001 work)
- Sri Lanka (continuation of 2001 work)
- Viet Nam (revision)

Latin America and the Caribbean \(^3\):  
- Chile (continuation of 2001 work)
- Colombia
- Guatemala
- Nicaragua (to be completed in 2002)

Near East and North Africa:  
- Azerbaijan (revision)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (revision)
- Georgia (revision)
- Romania (continuation from 2001)
- Sudan (to be reviewed by OSC in March 2002)

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\(^1\) For the Central African Republic, a COSOP will be undertaken only if the situation in the country permits and subject to lifting of suspension.

\(^2\) Subject to lifting of suspension.

\(^3\) Ecuador in 2003. Paraguay postponed.