



IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Executive Board – Seventy-Sixth Session
Rome, 4-5 September 2002

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT

TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON A PROPOSED

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

TO THE

POPULAR COALITION TO ERADICATE HUNGER AND POVERTY

IN SUPPORT OF

ITS GLOBAL PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES



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I submit the following Report and Recommendation on a proposed technical assistance (TA) grant to the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty (the Coalition) in support of its global programmes, activities and services, in the amount of USD 600 000 for a one-year period.

I. BACKGROUND

1. With the creation of the Coalition, access to productive assets and security of tenure was put back on the national and global agendas. Improved access to land, water and other productive assets is increasingly recognized as fundamental in any efforts aimed at combating rural poverty.
2. In convening the 1995 Conference on Hunger and Poverty, IFAD gave recognition to the need to merge the strengths of civil-society, intergovernmental, governmental and international financial organizations into a common commitment and alliance to ensure that the rural poor gain more secure access to productive resources.
3. Despite its close links to IFAD, the Coalition has a strong identity of its own and the autonomy needed for the various partners to shape and implement planned activities. The growing membership of the Coalition confirms the success of this model of multi-stakeholder work. In addition to an expanding membership from civil society, the level of government participation is growing rapidly. The same applies to international financial institutions: the Inter-American Development Bank is the newest member, and other regional institutions have expressed interest in joining.
4. The Coalition is now recognized as a convening mechanism for working towards a common cause. Among others, civil-society organizations see the Coalition as a means of strengthening their networks and opening up new opportunities for collaboration on governmental and intergovernmental land policy issues, in the planning and implementation of land reforms and in related capacity-building.
5. The Coalition's international work through the Commission on Sustainable Development, the World Food Summit +5, and the World Bank's Land Policy Review Process, among others, ensures civil-society participation and confirms the Coalition as a stakeholder mechanism that is building global consensus by leading the process to establish a Common Platform on Access to Land.



II. RATIONALE

6. To a large extent, the Coalition's programmes are focused on practical, country-level activities in more than 35 countries. These activities fall into one or more of the following types:

- A knowledge network for sharing practical lessons learned from the actions of civil society in ensuring that the rural poor gain more secure access to land and other productive resources.
- Strengthening of civil-society networks at the country level so as to build up their collective capacity to negotiate access to land and related assets or to achieve greater security in terms of current user rights.
- Community capacity-building by supporting innovative projects that directly benefit the communities involved and build up knowledge on ways and means for them to improve their access to resources; enter into partnerships with government; and scale up and replicate successful experiences for national application.

7. The Coalition's activities are directly supportive of, and complementary to, the work of IFAD. Examples here are the Fund's Hills Leasehold Forestry and Forage Development Project in Nepal; the Southern Africa Natural Products Trade Association (SANproTA) in five countries; and the Community-Based Resettlement Approaches and Technologies (CREATE) Project in Zimbabwe. Two country programme initiatives are planned, one in Africa and the other in Asia, with funding from the Belgian Survival Fund. At the recent meeting, held in Brazil, of the Coalition's civil-society organization partners in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, IFAD offered to engage such partners in all future programme planning for the region. The Coalition has helped to raise land issues in various countries, thereby contributing to the momentum for addressing this question at the country level. Civil-society partners in the Coalition can serve as a resource to IFAD for reaching the grass roots, for providing advice on country strategy planning, for the sharing of knowledge and for analyses of land and rural poverty issues.

8. The Coalition contributes indirectly to the achievement of the Fund's mandate. The projects, activities and networks fostered and maintained by the Coalition have resulted in practical, country-level/community benefits that boost IFAD's overall achievements in individual countries. The Coalition's partnerships within the international and bilateral donor community ensure that the question of access to assets is promoted and that the policies and practises of the organizations concerned are influenced by their involvement in the Coalition. Other examples include the World Bank's offer to provide funding to the Coalition for the purpose of scaling up community approaches to land reform; the Coalition's role in developing the Bank's new land policy; the invitation for the Coalition to be an external advisor on the Bank's committee charged with establishing a new lending policy for land purchases; and the Bank's support of the Coalition's Common Platform on Access to Land. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Asian Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank also appreciate that the Coalition is in a position to shape the policies and practises of other United Nations and Bretton Woods institutions regarding access to assets, land policy and land reform.

9. The Coalition is an important mechanism that enables IFAD to pursue both its mandate and the aims of the *Rural Poverty Report 2001* in meeting its strategic objective of increasing the productive assets of poor rural households.

10. The objective underlying the creation of the Coalition is now being achieved as stakeholders increasingly indicate access to assets as a cross-cutting prerequisite to alleviating rural poverty. The Coalition's value added is reflected in the growing request for membership from many types of stakeholders.



11. The Coalition constitutes an important advocacy, public relations and project partner for IFAD. All Coalition activities bring the work of IFAD to the attention of decision-makers – in some cases, this involves donor governments; in others, countries benefiting from IFAD loans.

12. When IFAD declared its intention to house the Coalition Secretariat and serve as the lead organization, it also stated that it would not be fully responsible for its financing. While IFAD support for the Coalition's operating, administrative and programme costs reached almost 100% in the period immediately following the 1995 Conference on Hunger and Poverty, its annual contributions have since declined. IFAD has contributed USD 750 000 for the years 2001 and 2002, made up of USD 250 000 for operations and USD 500 000 to the Community Empowerment Facility (CEF). The request for 2003 of USD 600 000 compares favourably with those levels, especially considering that the professional position financed by the Italian Government's Associated Professional Officer Programme and another largely supported by supplementary funds from the Japanese Government will not be available for the year 2003.

13. The Coalition does not have secure funding arrangements, but relies on donor (including IFAD) and grant funds for its administration, operations and programmes. Therefore, in 2003, IFAD and the Coalition intend to recommend to the Executive Board that a medium-term plan of action and budget be approved for a three-to-five year operational period. This will enable the Coalition to operate in a more appropriate framework. The commitment to move to a medium-term approach is rooted in IFAD's expressed intention to contribute towards the Coalition's funding requirements.

14. The Coalition's operations and administrative budget cover more than just managerial activities, but include a number of programme components, namely:

- Building up the Coalition on a global scale and operating its governing structure. While governance may be seen as an operational requirement, the building up of the Coalition is an objective in itself.
- Facilitating and supporting partners in the knowledge network. This involves providing direct support to the 25 network partners (including field missions) and the dissemination of knowledge (website management, packaging/editing/translating/lessons learned, newsletters, publications). These activities are covered by the operations budget, since donor funds received for the network serve to fund the country-level work of partners and for strengthening in-country networks.
- Operating the CEF, which involves promoting the Facility, assessing submissions, managing the approval process and contracts with recipients, reporting, and recording the lessons learned and disseminating them. As with the knowledge network, CEF funds are provided for the financing of projects approved by the CEF Project Approval Committee.
- Advocacy and policy development is covered under the operations budget. This work involves staff time, consultancies, duty travel and the production of documents.

III. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

15. The goal of the proposed TA grant is to contribute to the Coalition's operating, administrative and programme requirements for 2003.

16. The specific objectives of the TA grant are to:

- contribute towards the costs involved in operating the Coalition Secretariat and its related functions, from governance to programme support;



- support programme functions involved in operating the knowledge network and the CEF, as described in paragraph 14; and
- support the advocacy and policy development programme of work, as outlined in paragraph 14 and in the introductory section.

IV. OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

17. The TA grant funding is expected to result in a range of outcomes and activities, including:
- formal implementation of the Coalition Executive Council and governance structure, as set forth in the governing framework;
 - activation and management of the next phase of the knowledge network (funding for country activities has been mobilized), which will result in not less than 15 new knowledge outputs and the strengthening of civil-society networks in 10-15 countries;
 - ensuring that the Secretariat has the operational and administrative capacity for processing and managing the relationships involved in launching up to 15 additional CEF projects as well as for monitoring and evaluating the portfolio, which is expected to include 23 projects by end-2002 (13 are ongoing and 10 more are expected to be approved in October 2002);
 - implementation of the Common Platform on Access to Land and development costs involved in establishing related partnerships in three-to-five countries; and
 - refining and operating a communications programme to regularly disseminate knowledge, lessons learned and network news to Coalition partners, using web-based, e-mail/e-conferencing and printed publications.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

18. The implementation plan is contained in the Annual Programme of Work and Budget for 2003, which is subject to a two-part approval system: the Coalition Executive Council and the President of IFAD. The TA grant will therefore be used in the above-mentioned areas of work and presented in the budget for approval according to the two-step procedure.

19. Any cofinancing mobilized by the Coalition will form an essential part of its programme of work. Among other things, every effort will be made to absorb the positions previously funded from other sources (see paragraph 12) into the operations budget.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

20. The Coalition will undergo a third-party evaluation during the course of 2003 in order to examine its overall effectiveness in achieving its mission. Moreover, monitoring reports on country-level activities will be posted on the Coalition website and form part of a consolidated report to IFAD's Executive Board.



VII. RECOMMENDATION

21. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed TA grant in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund shall make a TA grant to the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty in support of its global programmes, activities and services not exceeding six-hundred thousand United States dollars (USD 600 000), commencing by 1 January 2003 and continuing through 31 December 2003, 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