



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

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its Thirty-First Session in September 1987, the Executive Board established the IFAD/NGO Extended Cooperation Programme (ECP) to provide direct grant financing to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for pilot and experimental activities. The overall goal was to build knowledge and expertise for the design and implementation of participatory projects, responsive to the needs of the rural poor. Operational Procedures for the Implementation of the IFAD/NGO Extended Cooperation Programme (ECP) were subsequently submitted to, and approved by, the Executive Board at its Thirty-Fifth Session in December 1988.
2. Following an audit and evaluation of the ECP during 1999-2000, the operational procedures were revised and approved by the Executive Board at its Seventy-Second Session, in April 2001 (EB 2001/72/R.30). Subsequently, the President issued President's Bulletin No. OP/01/05, dated 8 June 2001, establishing the revised operational procedures for the IFAD/NGO ECP.
3. The overall goal of the programme, as specified under the revised operational procedures, is to enhance IFAD's direct collaboration with NGOs¹ in the promotion of participatory and community-based rural development and poverty reduction, and to encourage recipient governments to build

¹ For IFAD, the term 'non-governmental organization' generally refers to a non-profit, voluntary organization, either international or national, that is independent of government and pursues activities to relieve poverty, hunger and human suffering; promotes the interests of the poor; protects the environment; provides basic social and economic services; or undertakes community development. An NGO operates under private rather than public law, and is duly organized and officially registered with the appropriate government authorities as an NGO or non-profit organization. The Fund tends to interact with two main categories of NGOs: (i) operational NGOs, whose primary purpose is the design and implementation of poverty reduction and development projects and programmes; and (ii) advocacy NGOs, whose purpose is to defend and promote the cause of rural poverty reduction and seek to influence the policies and practices of government and development institutions. In the context of the ECP, the majority of NGOs involved are operational NGOs, although a growing number of NGOs worldwide engage in both operational and advocacy activities.



upon the experience and know-how accumulated through NGO activities and engage in dialogue and collaboration with these organizations. The ceiling of any single grant to an NGO is USD 100 000.

4. The principal objectives of the ECP are to:

- extend direct grant financing in support of innovative pilot activities by NGOs, which can provide prototypes and instruments of intervention for ongoing or future IFAD loan operations;
- offer IFAD opportunities to tap valuable NGO experience and know-how in order to improve its own approaches in the identification, design, implementation and evaluation of its projects, and thus contribute to the increased responsiveness and sustainability of its development operations;
- contribute to the development of a repository of relevant experience and know-how in operational and strategic issues and thus enhance IFAD's role as a knowledge institution on rural poverty and its reduction; and
- build durable partnerships and maintain regular dialogue with a family of development NGOs that can assist in IFAD's strategy articulation and choice of project interventions.

5. ECP-supported activities by NGOs focus primarily on three areas:

- identifying, testing and disseminating innovative technologies appropriate to the agro-ecological and socioeconomic conditions of IFAD's beneficiaries;
- identifying and testing appropriate/innovative institutional approaches and mechanisms in various sectors and subsectors of interest to IFAD to ascertain their relevance, acceptability and sustainability; and
- carrying out knowledge gathering and dissemination activities and training programmes for improved resource management through, *inter alia*, the creation of more effective systems of organization based on viable grass-roots models (such as farmers' groups, water users' associations and other forms of grass-roots networks).

6. Work in these areas may also involve advocacy activities and processes of identification and capacity-building of potential NGO partners, including support for NGO networking activities.

7. In the furtherance of its objectives, the ECP also supports periodic and regular IFAD/NGO consultations on policy and operational issues pertaining to rural poverty reduction and development, and preparatory meetings of the IFAD/NGO Consultation Steering Committee.

8. While the relevance of the ECP to IFAD's corporate and regional priorities, objectives and strategies is recognized, it is important to emphasize that the ECP is only one mechanism of collaboration with NGOs. Most of the Fund's NGO partners are involved in projects supported by IFAD loans to governments. Indeed, of the 1 000 NGOs that have collaborated with IFAD in the field, only 134 have received ECP grants.

9. Collaboration between IFAD and NGOs should be considered within the wider framework of the Fund's partnerships with civil society, the boundaries and requirements of which have been expanded considerably over recent years. Furthermore, the scope of IFAD's collaboration with civil society is set to broaden even further, especially in the context of the objectives of IFAD's new strategic framework and the regional poverty strategies.



II. OVERVIEW OF ECP IN 2002

10. In 2002, 30 ECP grants were approved for a total amount of USD 2 469 000, a USD 900 000 increase over 2001. NGOs themselves contributed USD 852 500 in cash. The beneficiaries also made contributions in cash or kind to the amount of USD 65 000. Thus, the value of the total programme for 2002 reached USD 3 386 500. See the table on pages 12-13 and the Annex for details on each ECP grant.

11. Overall, ECP activities in 2002 focused on capacity-building of beneficiaries and their organizations, and on institutional development to enable the rural poor to improve their livelihoods, a focus consistent with IFAD's mission and the first strategic objective of IFAD's Strategic Framework 2002-2006. The specific activities supported by the ECP were also in line with the objectives of IFAD's regional strategies. In particular, capacity-building and institutional development addressed the need for access to assets, increased agricultural production and its diversification based on sustainable resource management, adoption of appropriate technology, effective organization of rural financial services, development of rural enterprises and development of market linkages.

12. Several ECP projects focused particularly on the economic and social empowerment of indigenous people and women. Two grants addressed post-crisis rehabilitation and reconstruction. Most ECP projects were directly or indirectly linked to IFAD's ongoing or planned investments.

Western and Central Africa Region (PA)

13. The overarching goal of ECP activities by the Western and Central Africa Region (PA) in 2002, was grass-roots capacity-building in the context of natural resource management, access to markets, self-development and, most importantly, the promotion of sustainable rural financial services. ECP financing in the region has supported a number of capacity-building activities in these areas, and has contributed to the successful implementation of IFAD loan-financed projects. Finally, two grants were extended to help reduce the vulnerability of the poor in post-conflict and civil strife situations.

14. In **Guinea**, the Centre africain de formation pour le développement (CENAFOD) will receive an ECP grant to provide technical, managerial and methodological support to the nascent financial service associations established by IFAD-financed operations in the country. A second grant was extended in **Guinea** to the Organisation vie développement (OVD-TEDHILT) to assist the implementation of the Smallholder Development Project in the Forest Region by building the capacity of village communities and their organizations so that they can engage in the self-development approach promoted by that project.

15. In **Togo**, capacity-building of the rural poor and their organizations is the objective of an ECP grant extended to Recherche, appui et formation aux initiatives d'auto-développement (RAFIA). RAFIA will develop and test forms of institutional structure for farmers' associations, which will eventually be replicated on a larger scale in future IFAD investments. RAFIA will also strengthen the farmers' organizations and users' associations set up for the management and maintenance of the garden perimeters developed by the IFAD-financed Support to Village Groups in the Eastern Savannah Region Project.



16. Capacity-building of rural producers and their organizations is also the objective of an ECP grant in **Mali**, extended to the Centre de promotion des associations villageoises/Réseau d'animation et de formation pour le développement (PROMAVI-RANFORD). Under this initiative, farmers' organizations will be strengthened to enable them to participate more effectively in the IFAD loan-financed Sahelian Areas Development Fund Programme.

17. In **Senegal**, the Union pour la solidarité et l'entraide (USE) will use ECP financing to consolidate the achievements of the first phase of the IFAD-initiated Agricultural Development Project in Matam, particularly with respect to the organizational and managerial capabilities of grass-roots organizations supported during the first phase of the project. These include women's groups and borehole management committees.

18. Again in **Senegal**, an ECP grant will support, on a pilot basis, the promotion of an innovative model of smallholder poultry development based on an integrated system of village groups, microcredit and simple technical interventions. This pilot project, linked to the IFAD-financed Village Organization and Management Project – Phase II, will be implemented through a partnership arrangement among: the Network of Smallholder Poultry Development at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen; the Danish NGO Bicycles for Senegal (BFS); and the Committee for the Fight to End Hunger, which is a village association in Casamance, Senegal.

19. In the **Congo**, an ECP grant will be provided to the Association des coopératives pour le développement du Congo (ACODECO) to strengthen the capacity of rural producers' organizations to market their agricultural products. More specifically, ACODECO will train village groups in the rehabilitation and maintenance of feeder roads, in agricultural product collection and in understanding the market (in terms of prices, determination of unit costs, estimation of urban demand and the identification of new markets). ACODECO is well placed to provide effective training, as it is one of the very few organizations that continued working in rural areas despite ongoing conflicts. It also collaborates with a number of emergency and relief NGOs to help people resume their livelihoods once the crisis situations are over.

20. In the **Central African Republic**, the IFAD-financed Savannah Food Crops Rural Development Project has repeatedly been suspended due to political instability and a series of domestic financial crises. To redress the negative repercussions of these, an ECP grant was extended to the Centre de documentation, d'information et de formation pour le développement (CEDIFOD) to help: (i) improve microfinance delivery (especially to women); (ii) disseminate appropriate farm management technologies; and (iii) develop better marketing systems.

Eastern and Southern Africa Region (PF)

21. All ECP grants were in line with IFAD's strategic areas of intervention in this region, namely: sustainable natural resource management, rural financial services and access to markets.

22. In **Comoros**, a national NGO, Association comorienne des techniciens et infirmiers vétérinaires (ACTIV), formed by Vétérinaires sans frontières, will test and promote the adoption of integrated agricultural and livestock techniques combined with conservation methods by small farmers.

23. In **Tanzania**, Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) will build the capacity of microfinance institutions and savings and credit cooperatives so that they can efficiently provide financial services to rural poor men and women – ensuring financial viability and sustainability. Capacity-building and monitoring assistance will take place in the context of the IFAD-financed Rural Financial Services Programme.



24. In **Zimbabwe**, the combined efforts of a national NGO, the Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE), and an international NGO, the Cooperative League of the United States of America (CLUSA), will assist smallholder farmers in enhancing their productivity and establishing viable and enduring relationships with markets for inputs, services and produce. These objectives will be pursued by: (i) assisting farmers in organizing themselves into self-managed units; (ii) extending selected improved production technologies; and (iii) helping the groups establish firm linkages with agribusiness input suppliers and output buyers.

25. Also in **Zimbabwe**, the African Reinsurance Corporation (AFRICARE) will continue with a second phase of an ECP project, the Promotion of Food Security Opportunities Opposing Drought. Under normal circumstances these activities would have been mainstreamed into IFAD's loan-financed projects in the country. This has been impossible however due to the continued suspension and generally deteriorating situation in the country, which threaten to wipe out any progress achieved.

Asia and the Pacific Region (PI)

26. Within the overall capacity-building focus of the ECP, activities in support of women's empowerment have a central place in Asia. This again is a key area of IFAD's regional strategy.

27. In **Nepal**, the Society for Partners in Development (SPD) will consolidate gains achieved in terms of women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming under the IFAD-financed Hills Leasehold Forestry and Forage Development Project. Support will be extended to women group promoters who will, in turn, strengthen local women's nascent organizations so that they become strong community-based development organizations.

28. In Maharashtra, **India**, women's empowerment will be pursued through strengthening the capacity of the recently established women's resource and training centre. Here, women's self-help groups will be able to cater for their own specific training and skill acquisition needs, which will leave them better placed to take advantage of perceived opportunities. With the support of the ECP grant, the women's resource and training centre, under the guidance of the NGO Chaitanya, will respond not only to the needs of new self-help groups, but also to those of older groups wishing to address issues beyond savings and credit and seeking more collective power by forming clusters and federations.

29. Capacity-building of the rural poor and their organizations is also the overall goal of a grant extended to the Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency (MYRADA), again in **India**. Here, the specific objective will be to enable the people and their organizations to establish better relations with institutions such as the Panchayat Raj institutions, government line departments, private-sector services and financial institutions that are involved in providing essential services to the rural poor and in poverty reduction programmes. Myrada will seek to accomplish this by establishing both rural training centres (Centres for Institutional Development and Organizational Reform) and resource centres in remote rural areas.

30. The fourth ECP grant in the Asia region was extended to the International Development Enterprise (IDE) in **Bangladesh**. This grant will foster the introduction, testing and dissemination of low-cost micro-irrigation schemes, which will ensure timely, adequate and reliable access to water, thereby facilitating intensification and diversification of production to include horticulture.



Latin America and the Caribbean Region (PL)

31. IFAD's regional strategic objectives of market access, women's empowerment and the empowerment of indigenous and other marginalized populations are the focus of the ECP in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

32. In **Chile**, the Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Rurales e Indígenas (ANAMURI) will facilitate the market access of rural indigenous women producers by improving their production strategies, commercialization skills and managerial capacities.

33. In the **Dominican Republic**, a grant was extended to Plataforma VIDA for the empowerment and capacity-building of one of the most marginalized groups in the country, the inhabitants of *bateys* (settlements). This vulnerable group is mostly of Haitian origin having settled, generations ago, in frontier zones as migrant labourers on the sugar plantations. Apart from commencing a process to obtain their legal registration, Plataforma VIDA will train local lawyers on the conditions of *batey* inhabitants. It will also mount media campaigns to promote a better understanding of this group among the general public and to defend their human rights.

34. In **El Salvador**, Asociación Movimiento Salvadoreño de Mujeres (MSM) will implement a project supporting poultry production, and medicinal plant production and commercialization. The project aims to improve the livelihoods of rural women living in extreme poverty whose conditions have deteriorated even further due to the recent earthquake and drought.

35. The empowerment of indigenous peoples and their organizations is the objective of another ECP grant, extended to the Asociación de Organizaciones de los Cuchumatanes (ASOCUCH), currently the most important Mayan organization in **Guatemala**. The grant will strengthen the organization's institutional, technical and managerial capacity to render it independent of any external aid. It will also provide a model for other countries in the region where the creation of sustainable and independent organizations of indigenous peoples is an expressed objective.

36. Rural microentrepreneurs and small rural producers are always eager for new ways to increase their income and improve their lives. IFAD has discovered (not least through the use of the ECP over the last two years) that ecotourism offers an interesting and innovative alternative for the economic and social development of rural areas. Therefore, in **Mexico**, Pronatura Noreste will work with the rural community of Antiguos Mineros de Norte to create the necessary infrastructures for ecotourism and will train local people in the provision of appropriate services to tourists visiting the area.

37. Finally, in **Colombia**, a grant extended to CONANTIOQUIA will promote food security among children through activities such as school feeding programmes. It will also foster the economic empowerment of rural women through the production and processing of a new food crop, soybean. This grant will consolidate the benefits of a previous programme working with women's associations in most municipalities of the Antioquia province.

Near East and North Africa Region (PN)

38. In Eastern Europe's transition economies, due to the retrenchment of the state's dominant role in production and marketing and drastic reduction in public services, the once state-provided market access, credit and agricultural inputs either no longer exist, or do not meet to the needs of newly privatized smallholder agriculture. In response, PN has focused its ECP activities on the creation of efficient grass-roots organizations to promote market-oriented rural development. Special attention is given to isolated and disadvantaged mountain areas.



39. A case in point is a grant in **Albania**, extended to the Albanian Institute for Fiscal Education (AIFE). AIFE will complement the rural financial services being implemented by the Mountain Areas Finance Fund (MAFF) in the framework of the IFAD-financed Mountain Areas Development Programme. AIFE will enhance MAFF performance through a series of field studies and activities focused on developing a better understanding of the needs of MAFF's clients in the target area, enhancing field staff capacity through training programmes and assisting in the development of new credit products based on the needs of potential clients. These findings and the enhanced MAFF *modus operandi* developed through this programme will then be replicated at the country level by MAFF staff, thereby multiplying the impact of the grant's activities. Implementation has recently begun, with targeted field studies to collect up-to-date information on credit, savings and investment activities of different groups living in the marginalized mountain areas of the districts of Tropoja, Has, Diber and Kukes.

40. In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) will cofinance with IFAD the development of a model intervention to support the revival of a market-oriented livestock sector. More specifically, the proceeds of the grant will finance the distribution of pregnant heifers and milking machines to a small number of direct beneficiaries selected in a participatory manner. In addition, IOCC will train individual farmers and farmers' associations in **Brod** municipality in milk collection, processing and marketing.

41. In **Romania**, an ECP grant was extended to the Economic Development Centre (CDE) to build the capacity of business development centres to provide non-financial services in the areas covered by IFAD's Apuseni Development Project, thereby contributing to the development of the private sector.

42. In the **Near East and North African countries**, the ECP concentrated on provision of social services, training and gender issues.

43. In **Somalia**, there are few opportunities for IFAD intervention. An ECP grant was extended to HORSOCDE, an NGO operating in the Puntland State, to develop a water supply system for humans and animals in the Burtinle district of Nugal region. The project will be implemented with the participation of the community, which includes a large number of internally displaced people and refugees.

44. In **Syria**, the Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS) received an ECP grant to establish, on a pilot basis, a village business incubator (VBI) in the coastal midlands of the country. The VBI will provide women with counselling, orientation and training so that they can embark upon viable and self-sustainable microenterprises. The project will be linked to the IFAD-financed Coastal/Midlands Agricultural Development Project and will be implemented by AIDOS in collaboration with its local partners, the Fund for Integrated Rural Development in Syria, Worldview International Foundation and Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

45. AIDOS is the recipient of an ECP grant for the implementation of a sustainable waste management system in Beit Al Faqih, in **Yemen**. The project also aims at creating awareness among the local population about the linkages between the environment and health, and in particular about appropriate practices in relation to solid waste management, water consumption, animal breeding and husbandry, composting, recycling and home gardening. Furthermore, it will enhance the profile of women's associations in the community and of the gender unit of the IFAD-financed Raymah Area Development Project.



External Affairs Department (EAD)

46. EAD extended two ECP grants in 2002. Both have multi-country coverage and focus on capacity-building of the rural poor and their organizations. The first deals with policy analysis and policy dialogue and the second, with enhanced access to specialized markets.

47. The Pan African Organization for Sustainable Development (POSDEV) working with its members in **Ghana, Mali and Niger** will train civil-society groups, including farmers' groups, to analyse policy issues relating to agriculture, infrastructure, marketing, decentralization, privatization, globalization and their implications for smallholder producers. Training will also seek to enhance the advocacy skills of these groups to enable them to put their concerns on the national agenda for policy dialogue and reform, also in the context of the poverty reduction strategy process. At the same time, the programme will lobby local authorities on the need to devolve decision-making to the grass-roots level and ensure effective grass-roots participation in decision-making on local development.

48. The second EAD grant was extended to the Southern African Natural Products Trade Association (SANproTA) to enable rural communities in five countries in the region (**Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe**) to generate supplementary income through the sustainable exploitation of natural products. The specific objectives of this ECP project are to support regional professional exchanges in natural product trade development; research and develop existing and new natural products; and create and engage in markets for natural products from rural communities.

SANProTA was one of the Type II partnerships submitted by IFAD to the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD). These are multistakeholder partnerships, including private-sector actors, promoted in the context of the WSSD.

III. HIGHLIGHTS FROM ECP IMPLEMENTATION IN 2002

49. In 2002, the ECP of the **Western and Central Africa Region (PA)** focused primarily on building the capacity of the rural poor and their organizations. An illustrative example in this regard is the grant extended to the National Women Farmers' Association (NAWFA) in the Gambia. NAWFA was created in 1999 by a group of sesame growers' associations (SGAs), which had been in existence since 1989. At that time, the SGAs were principally *kafoos* (traditional women's village groups) that the international NGO Caritas was encouraging to grow sesame in order to improve family nutrition through increased oil availability and consumption. The groups were so successful that 72 of them decided to create an apex association to promote the economic empowerment of rural women in the country. NAWFA, with the support of the ECP grant, was charged with strengthening the capabilities of women farmers and their organizations by launching a broad range of activities. The target group comprised 48 000 women from a total of 1 070 village *kafoos* that belonged to the 72 founding SGAs of NAWFA. Six months after starting its work, NAWFA had carried out a detailed assessment of training needs and used the findings of this assessment to create a large file of training materials. Training activities had been launched on a broad front in group management, training of trainers in crop and livestock husbandry (sheep, goats, poultry, beef and dairy cattle), post-harvest handling and functional literacy. Facilitators for participatory monitoring and evaluation had also received training and the first lessons drawn from the experience had already been used to adjust selected training manuals. Networking among the SGAs had been initiated by holding a series of meetings and workshops. Subsequent to these activities, which were carried out most effectively, NAWFA will concentrate on expanding the delivery of training services and fine-tuning its mechanisms for collecting feedback and improving the effectiveness of its support.



50. In relation to PA's ECP portfolio, a very opportune initiative has been an overall review, carried out in 2002, to assess ECP practices and resource use and identify ways to streamline processes to maximize its contribution to the implementation of PA's regional strategy. The main findings of the review are provided below.

51. Prioritizing local capacity-building and training works very well with IFAD's strategic emphasis on a people-centred approach to sustainable development. This type of support helps local NGOs optimize their performance in the areas where they are most effective such as working with the poor and their organizations; developing, testing and adapting participatory methodologies; and applying new technologies. Using the grants to bridge gaps between programme phases prevents loss of ownership. Experiences with a few ECP grants in post-conflict situations, where IFAD was not otherwise present, were also very positive. The review clearly demonstrated that the ECP complements PA's lending programme, but that there is space for it to enhance the programme's potential even further. In relation to ECP activities, actual performance in terms of management, monitoring, learning and capitalizing on experience often falls short of expectations. This can be attributed to the inordinate demands made on the time and attention of country portfolio managers, in addition to the lending programme and their other responsibilities.

52. To improve the management of PA's ECP portfolio, the review recommends measures such as: (i) simple but systematic reporting and supervision/follow-up once a year in the field; (ii) systematic filing of ECP documentation; (iii) introducing ECP projects and programmes into the division's portfolio review process; (iv) mandatory completion reports from NGOs; and (v) workshops at the national and intra-country levels to capitalize on the experience and lessons learned from the interventions.

53. In the **Eastern and Southern Africa Region**, impressive progress has been reported by two ECP interventions, both in Zimbabwe. The first, the Promotion of Food Security Opportunities Opposing Drought (PRO-FOOD) Project executed by AFRICARE, is aimed at improving the household food security and income of smallholder farmers in five districts. It will achieve this through the promotion of cassava, pigeon pea and sweet potato production, and their processing and use for both human and livestock consumption. The PRO-FOOD Project has directly benefited close to 1 000 families by increasing household food security through the promotion of drought-tolerant crops. As a direct result, during the recent drought period, project participants were able to eat three meals a day, while neighbouring families were only eating one. Some 10 000 small farmers were trained in agronomy and the use of these crops. In July 2002, an external mid-term review funded by IFAD was conducted to assess performance and provide recommendations for the future. The principal findings are summarized below.

- All project objectives were achieved in terms of introducing and increasing production of improved varieties of cassava, pigeon pea and sweet potato. The areas under sweet potato and cassava cultivation exceeded 2002 targets by more than 4 and 1.2 times respectively, while the area under pigeon pea increased from 4 ha to 12 ha (no target had been set).
- There is increased awareness of the crops promoted by the project.
- Households that adopted the project crops are more food secure.
- There is evidence that incorporation of cassava, pigeon pea and sweet potato improved the stability of the cropping system of participating households.

54. The second intervention in the region reporting positive results is the Pilot Marketing Linkages Programme implemented by SAFIRE in collaboration with CLUSA. Despite initial delays during start-up, 80 farmers' groups have been established and are functioning. Together, the groups



comprise 1 165 members of which 731 (63%) are women. Four cash crops are covered in the programme: paprika, groundnuts, tomatoes and Michigan pea beans. The programme has linked the groups to agri-processors, of which one, CAIRNS (for tomatoes and beans), is extremely promising. With the support of SAFIRE and CLUSA, the groups entered into contract with CAIRNS and for the first time they have received commercial varieties and input packages that are normally provided only to large commercial farmers. As a result, yields have increased by three to four times, and in some groups as by as much as six times (from 10 to 60 mt/ha). Furthermore, because of negotiated contract prices that incorporated improved inputs, agronomic practices, training and quality control, the farm-gate price increased. For example, the price of tomatoes increased from ZWD 20/kg to ZWD 30/kg.

55. One of the more innovative ECP grants in **Asia** in 2002 was extended to the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) to improve women's house construction skills thus helping them both to correct the damage caused by the earthquake in Gujarat and obtain higher wages. Generally, women masons are used for lifting and positioning bricks or mixing materials, but are not involved in the construction work proper. To address this situation, SEWA organized some intensive training programmes on various aspects of construction work. As a result women reconstructed their destroyed houses. In addition, they now have new prospects for long-term skilled employment. The outcome of the grant therefore has so far been very positive. Longer term monitoring, however, may show that the increase in income may not be sustained. Experience in south Asia has shown that activities undertaken by women tend to be regarded in the long run as 'unskilled', even though such work might have been treated as 'skilled' and paid accordingly before women entered that particular segment of the labour market.

56. In **Latin America and the Caribbean Region**, indigenous peoples are the largest group (about one third) of rural poor in the region. A number of ECP interventions are experimenting with innovative approaches and activities aimed at promoting the economic and social empowerment of indigenous communities. In Chile for example, an ECP grant to the Fundación San Cristobal aimed to improve the living conditions of Mapuche producers by diversifying their production and increasing the commercialization of their products. It also placed strong emphasis on enhancing beneficiaries' organizations to ensure impact sustainability.

57. The results of this project have been satisfactory. Farmers' production has increased, improving their livelihood and providing additional income to cover them throughout the year. Furthermore, Mapuche farmers have found a good market for their products by establishing a commercial agreement with a five-star hotel in Villarica.

58. However, the most important results come from the strengthening of the Corporación Kom Kelluayin, an organization providing support to the rural producers of the area. To date, the Corporación is responsible for the fulfilment of the commercial agreement with the hotel in Villarica, and is looking for new markets for the farmers' products. In addition, it administers the revolving fund established by the project. The Corporación Kom Kelluayin has also developed partnerships with the governmental institutions Fondo de Solidaridad e Inversión Social and the Instituto de Desarrollo Agropecuario. These institutions provide support for improving the agricultural production systems of Mapuche farmers and the market conditions for their products.

59. In the **Near East and North Africa Region**, IFAD collaborated with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and AIDOS in Jordan, to replicate a successful 'business incubator' model that supported women's microenterprise development in Gaza. The business incubator provided training for the establishment of microenterprises, financial and marketing services, and extension support. The project was initiated in April 2002 with a survey in five villages in Bani Kenana region, within the Yarmouk river basin. The survey covered 2 300 households and generated information on the socioeconomic situation of women and their families. In addition, facilities for the incubator have



been put in place. Village development councils and loan committees have been informed of the project and coordination with the IFAD-financed Yarmouk Agricultural Resources Development Project has been established. Training materials responding to the questionnaires and the opportunities identified are now under preparation.

60. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, IOCC received an ECP grant to distribute pregnant heifers and milking machines to a small number of producers in the Brod municipality and provide them with training in milk processing and marketing. While only approved in 2002, the project has made substantial progress. Between September and December 2002, IOCC selected a farmers' association on the basis of a set of criteria (such as solid management structure, open membership, adequate human and technical resources). In close cooperation with the farmers' association and the municipality, IOCC identified target villages and organized village meetings to select eligible farmers for the project. In addition, a competitive bidding process was used to identify the supplier of heifers. A comprehensive milk collection scheme has also been developed and potential dairies identified. In 2003, heifers will be distributed, milk collection schemes will be set up and a partner dairy will be selected. Complementing these activities, a farmers' association fair will be organized and a reproduction centre established in Brod.



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Grants approved in 2002 by Region, Country and Grant Number	USD	SDR*	NGO Cofinancing	Beneficiary/Country
AFRICA I: WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA				
Guinea – Capacity-Building in Microfinance in Support of IFAD Projects/Programmes (No. 219)	100 000	79 715	11000 (10%)	CENAFOD - Guinea
Togo – Consolidation of Village Groups in the Eastern Savannah Region (No. 222)	80 000	60 168	11 000 (12%)	RAFIA - Togo
Mali: Strengthening of Village and Inter-Village Institutions in Segou (No. 224)	75 000	56 662	15 000 (16%)	PROMAVI-RANFORD 2000 – Mali
Senegal: Institutional Consolidation in the Matam District (No. 227)	75000	56 703	-	USE – Senegal
Senegal: Pilot Project for Smallholder Poultry Development (No. 228)	100 000	75 785	8 000 (7%)	BFS – Denmark
Congo: Support to Farmers’ Organizations for the Marketing of their Agricultural Products in the Mbanza-Tibi (No. 235)	75 000	56 036	5 000 (6%)	ACODECO - Congo
Central African Republic: Rural Community Development in Mambere and Ombella Mpoko (No. 236)	75 000	56 234	-	CEDIFOD – Central African Republic
Guinea: Capacity-Building of Village Level Organizations (No. 238)	75 000	79 715	-	OVD-TEDHILT – Guinea
AFRICA II: EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA				
Comoros: Support to Community Structures for Livestock Production, Agricultural Intensification and Soil Conservation (No. 226)	100 000	75 942	13 000 (11%)	ACTIV - Comoros
Zimbabwe: Promotion of Food Security Opportunities Opposing Drought (PRO-FOOD) (No. 243)	100 000	75 038	50 000 (50%)	AFRICARE – Zimbabwe
Tanzania: Training and Capacity-Building for Grass-Roots Institutions and Beneficiary Groups (No. 244)	100 000	75 156	-	MEDA – Tanzania
Zimbabwe: Pilot Market Linkages Programme (No. 245)	100 000	75 723	-	SAFIRE - Zimbabwe
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC				
Nepal: Hills Leasehold Forestry and Forage Development Project (No. 230)	75 000	57 198	-	SPD – Nepal
Bangladesh: Testing and Dissemination of Affordable Innovative Technologies for Resource Poor Farm Households (No. 233)	100 000	74 624	-	IDE – Bangladesh
India: Building Poor People’s Institutions (No. 234)	100 000	75 422	-	MYRADA - India
India: Capacity-Building for the Women’s Resource and Training Centre (No. 242)	50 000	37 092	-	Chaitanya - India

* Special Drawing Rights



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Grants approved in 2002 by Region, Country and Grant Number	USD	SDR*	NGO Cofinancing	Beneficiary/Country
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN				
Guatemala: Institutional Support to the Asociación de Organizaciones de los Cuchumatanes (ASOCUCH) (No. 221)	95 000	74 938	87 000 (47%)	ASOCUCH – Guatemala
Colombia: Nutrition Plan: Soybean Production (No. 225)	75 000	56 831	25 000 (25%)	CONANTIOQUIA - Colombia
El Salvador: Establishment of Microentrepreneurial Activities in San Vicente (No. 231)	60 000	45 758	13 500 (18%)	MSM – El Salvador
Dominican Republic: Improving the Living Conditions of Haitian Workers in the <i>bateys</i> of Barahona (No. 232)	40 000	30 070	-	Plataforma VIDA – Dominican Republic
Chile: Linking <i>Anamuri</i> Producers to the Market (No. 246)	65 000	48 823	17 000 (20%)	ANAMURI – Chile
Mexico: Creation of an Ecotourism Spa in the Rural Community of Antiguos Mineros del Norte (No. 247)	75 000	56 179	15 000 (16%)	Pronatura Noreste – Mexico
NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA				
Albania: Savings, Credit and Investment in North-Eastern Mountain Areas Programme (No. 218)	79 000	62 975	8 000 (9%)	AIFE - Albania
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Sustained Revival of Livestock Sector in Brod Municipality (No. 220)	75 000	60 225	36 000 (32%)	IOCC – International
Syria: Establishment of Village Business Incubator for Women's Micro and Small Enterprises in the Coastal Midlands Area (No. 237)	95 000	71 197	99 000 (51%)	AIDOS – Italy
Somalia: Burtinle Water and Sanitation Systems Project (No. 239)	80 000	59 925	133 000 (62%)	HORSOCDE – Somalia
Romania: Business Development Services and Training Programme (No. 240)	75 000	56 179	15 000 (16%)	CDE – Romania
Yemen: Environment Protection Project in Beit Al Faqih (No. 241)	75 000	56 179	99 000 (56%)	AIDOS – Italy
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT				
Western Africa: Building Sustainable Civil Society Capacity in Policy Analysis and Advocacy for Local Development (No. 223)	100 000	75 137	43 000 (30%)	POSDEV – Western Africa
Eastern and Southern Africa: Expanded Partnership Opportunities for the Southern African Natural Products Trade Association (No. 229)	100 000	75 968	149 000 (59%)	SANProTA – Eastern and Southern Africa
TOTAL	2 469 000	1 897 597	852 500	

Grant Title and No: **Albania:** Savings, Credit and Investment in North-Eastern Mountain Areas Programme (No. 218)

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 79 000

NGO Cofinancing: USD 8 000

Name of NGO: Albanian Institute for Fiscal Education (AIFE)

Objectives and Activities:

The overall purpose of this grant is to complement the rural financial services being implemented by the Mountain Areas Finance Fund (MAFF) in the framework of the IFAD-financed Mountain Areas Development Programme. MAFF is expected to develop a range of credit products to meet the needs of the rural poor in mountainous areas, including social lending to existing and future group-based village credit funds, agricultural input loans through small traders' associations, and loans for specialist producer associations and small-scale agroprocessors.

With the present ECP grant, the Albanian Institute for Fiscal Education will assist MAFF to better understand the needs of its clients, enhance MAFF field staff capacity and assist in the development of new credit products for MAFF. Details of the activities under this proposal are outlined below.

- **Target Area Studies.** AIFE will, through a series of field studies, collect information regarding credit, savings and investment activities of different groups living in the marginalized mountain areas in the four north-eastern mountain districts.
- **Analysis and Policy Development.** With the data collected through the field studies and in close collaboration with senior MAFF staff, AIFE will help identify and develop policy and operational recommendations for future MAFF operations.
- **Training.** On the basis of a detailed assessment of the field situation, perceived institutional constraints and policy direction agreed with senior MAFF staff, AIFE will also design and implement a training programme targeted at both field credit officers and village credit fund representatives.

AIFE was established in 1999 as a non-governmental organization with the objective of providing professional expertise on issues related to the improvement of the fiscal system with particular emphasis on raising public awareness and knowledge of the system. In particular, AIFE will focus on two aspects: (i) the role of public finance in effectively providing public goods and services; and (ii) the role of institutions in managing and administering public finances. AIFE provides professional training in both areas. At present it is introducing a long-term strategy for provision of training to business and custom experts in every region in the country.

Country, Grant Title and No:	Guinea – Capacity-Building in Microfinance in Support of IFAD Operations (No. 219)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 100 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 11 000
Name of NGO:	Centre africain de formation pour le développement (CENAFOD)

Objectives and Activities:

The development of local capacity in rural microfinance is one of the main objectives of IFAD's strategy in Guinea, which aims at improving the access of smallholders to financial services. Currently, out of five IFAD ongoing operations, four have a rural microfinance component to promote the establishment of financial service associations (FSAs) throughout the rural areas of the country. Several evaluation, follow-up and supervision missions indicate that FSAs have to some extent improved smallholders' access to very short-term financial services. However, it also appears that in all four IFAD projects in the country, there has been insufficient technical, managerial and methodological support to the FSAs. This is mainly due to lack of qualified personnel and/or institutions with expertise in rural microfinance. The only existing financial institution in the rural areas of the country is limited in scope, although it provides some, mainly short-term, financial services. These services are only accessible to very few, as smallholders cannot meet the loan conditions and requirements.

The overall objective of the present ECP grant is to strengthen the capacity of local personnel and/or institutions in rural microfinance services. Specific programme activities include: (i) strengthening local capacity in microfinance in general, and rural microfinance, in particular; (ii) training in the management and supervision of FSAs; (iii) training in the analysis of credit requests; and (iv) visits to other IFAD interventions in the subregion to allow selected individuals and institutional representatives to gain experience in rural finance, particularly rural microfinance.

CENAFOD is a national NGO created in 1991 to support local communities in the process of self-development by strengthening them so they can make their voices heard; increasing their interaction with development partners; and improving their production, marketing and management. In 2000-2001, CENAFOD was involved in another ECP operation in Guinea to test participatory approaches in three rural communities.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Bosnia and Herzegovina: Sustained Revival of Livestock Sector in Brod Municipality (No. 220)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 36 000
Name of NGO:	International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

Objectives and Activities:

The overall goal of the grant is to develop a prototype to support the revival of a market-oriented livestock sector. The proceeds of the grant will be used to cofinance with IOCC the distribution of pregnant heifers and milking machines to a small number of direct beneficiaries selected in a participatory manner, the training of individual farmers and support to Brod farmers' associations with regard to milk collection, processing and marketing.

IOCC is a leading international NGO that has provided over USD 100 million of relief and development aid worldwide to the most vulnerable segments of society. Since the winter of 1992, IOCC has been providing humanitarian assistance to displaced persons, refugees and other civilian victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The IOCC programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina was valued at over USD 17 million for 2001 and 2002. IOCC's funding comes from the European Community Humanitarian Office, European Commission, World Council of Churches and its affiliate organizations, United States Agency for International Development, United States Department of Agriculture, United States Department of State and private donors.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Guatemala: Institutional Support to the Asociación de Organizaciones de los Cuchumatanes (ASOCUCH) (No. 221)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 95 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 87 000
Name of NGO:	Asociación de Organizaciones de los Cuchumatanes (ASOCUCH)

Objectives and Activities:

ASOCUCH is an indigenous producers' organization, supported from the very beginning by the now closed IFAD Cuchumatanes Highlands Rural Development Project. The experience of this NGO is recognized as one of the most important examples of successful local capacity-building that IFAD has achieved in Central America. Today, ASOCUCH is the foremost indigenous (Mayan) organization in Guatemala and functions in an efficient and responsible way. Currently, it provides production, commercialization and management services through its 16 grass-roots member organizations. In all its activities, ASOCUCH tries to achieve entrepreneurial and socially sustainable solutions.

This ECP grant will significantly increase the organization's institutional, technical and managerial capacity, thus rendering it sustainable and independent of external aid. It will also provide a model to be replicated in other countries of the region, where the creation of sustainable and independent organizations is an expressed objective.

The project is very much in line with IFAD's regional strategic priorities of empowerment of the rural poor and ethnic communities.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Togo: Consolidation of Village Groups in the Eastern Savannah Region (No. 222)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 80 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 11 000
Name of NGO:	Recherche, appui et formation aux initiatives d'auto-développement (RAFIA)

Objectives and Activities:

In compliance with ECP criteria and objectives, the proposed project will entail the development and testing of institutional models for farmers' associations. If successful, this approach could then be replicated on a larger scale in the framework of a future IFAD operation or by other partners in the region.

The project aims at consolidating some of the activities initiated under the Support to Village Groups in the Eastern Savannah Region Project (SOGVERS), which closed in 2001. The project, a joint endeavour cofinanced with the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Capital Development Fund, had invested in small dams for vegetable gardening. However, in large part because of repeated suspension of disbursements and unavailability of counterpart funds, the necessary capacity-building of end-users could not be carried out before project completion. The objective of the proposed Consolidation of Village Groups in the Eastern Savannah Region Project is to develop and strengthen, in three garden perimeters developed under SOGVERS, farmers' organizations and users' associations to ensure the optimal use, management and maintenance of the dams in a sustainable manner.

The project will be carried out over a 30-month period. The NGO team will first carry out an in-depth diagnostic on the three sites, using participatory techniques with the local community and the relevant stakeholders. As a second step, they will together elaborate a plan for the required upgrading/finalization of the civil works and carry it out. Finally, they will begin the organization process around the establishment of viable institutional arrangements for land tenure and water management.

RAFIA is a well established and recognized national NGO created in 1992. It is renowned for its expertise and experience in capacity-building of local institutions, particularly in the Savannah region.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Western Africa: Building Sustainable Civil-Society Capacity in Policy Analysis and Advocacy for Local Development (No. 223)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 100 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 43 000
Name of NGO:	Pan African Organization for Sustainable Development (POSDEV)

Objectives and Activities:

This ECP programme will seek to train civil society groups (including farmers' groups) to critically analyse policy issues relating to agriculture, infrastructure, marketing, decentralization, fiscal decentralization, privatization and globalization, and their implications for smallholder producers. It will also equip them with the advocacy skills to put their concerns on the national agenda for dialogue and policy reform, also in the context of the poverty reduction strategy process. At the same time, the programme will seek to lobby local authorities on the need to devolve decision-making to the grass-roots and ensure effective grass-roots participation in decision-making on local development.

Another objective is for POSDEV to offer IFAD a new perspective on its own strategies, operations and approaches in those countries where activities will be implemented through consultations with civil-society organizations. This will provide feedback that may not be necessarily forthcoming from IFAD's traditional partners.

The programme is designed as three pilot projects in three countries, Ghana, Mali and Niger. POSDEV member organizations are already involved in strengthening rural producer groups and in fostering support for increased democracy and local governance in these countries.

The programme is consistent with the strategic framework's emphasis on building the capacity of the rural poor and their organizations to influence policy, and of civil-society organizations to promote the concerns of the poor.

POSDEV is a network of 13 African NGOs in Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa and Zimbabwe, a number of which have already been involved in IFAD projects. The creation of POSDEV has been facilitated by CLUSA, and national organizations of POSDEV have been involved in CLUSA programmes in their countries. To date, POSDEV's programme resources have been generated from membership fees, service fees to clients and a grant from CLUSA.

Country, Grant Title and No:	Mali: Strengthening of Village and Inter-Village Institutions in Segou (No. 224)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 15 000
Name of NGO:	Centre de promotion des associations villageoises/Réseau d'animation et de formation pour le développement (PROMAVI – RANFORD 2000)

Objectives and Activities:

The grant is provided to the Malian NGO PROMAVI – RANFORD 2000. It will support the Strengthening of Village and Inter-Village Institutions Capacity Project in the Segou Area, which was initiated by IFAD in the context of its loan-financed Sahelian Areas Development Fund Programme (SADeF) in Mali.

The main objectives of the programme are to promote the creation of farmers' organizations and strengthen the capacity of those already in place, so that they can provide support to farmers for agricultural production, infrastructure and credit. The programme will enable farmers' organizations to be further consolidated into SAdEF programme activities through sensitization and training.

More specifically, the programme will: (i) enable farmers to organize themselves according to specific production, infrastructure management and credit activities; (ii) assist communities in obtaining additional resources and services, and strengthening their organization and implementation capacities through participation in the SAdEF programme activities; (iii) assist communities in disseminating improved agricultural technologies to increase production; and (iv) promote farmers' involvement in the local development processes.

Created in 1992, PROMAVI – RANFOD 2000 is a *bona fide* NGO and good partner to IFAD. It has established a solid track record in carrying out tasks similar to those proposed under this grant, as it was previously involved in strengthening the village development fund in the Segou area and the capacity of the farmer's development commission in Mali under the NGO/ECP grant the Farmers' Development Commission (FAYIDA TON/144).



Country, Grant Title and No:	Colombia: Nutrition Plan: Soybean Production (No. 225)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 25 000
Name of NGO:	CONANTIOQUIA

Objectives and Activities:

This ECP grant will strengthen a running programme by focusing on the production and commercialization of soybean-based products through school feeding programmes and by strengthening the technical and managerial capacities of 48 women's associations to produce them. The previous programme started seven years ago with 77 of the 125 municipalities in the province of Antioquia. CONANTIOQUIA will broaden the scope to work with the remaining 48 municipalities.

The programme components include: (i) organizational support to 48 associations and acquisition of the necessary equipment for the production of soybean-based products; (ii) commercialization, at a competitive cost, of soybean-based products; and (iii) promoting awareness and training activities on nutritional aspects of soybean-based products.

The main objectives of the programme are to generate employment for women (by reaching 1 200 women) and to improve the nutritional status of children (reaching 20 000 children). The benefits of the programme will be: (i) the promotion of women's microenterprises based on the cultivation, production and commercialization of locally produced soybeans; (ii) improved technical capacities and managerial skills of the women's associations; (iii) strengthening of soybean cultivation among the small farmers in the programme areas; and (iv) improved nutritional levels for primary school children and consequent diversification and enrichment of their diets, as soybeans provide the cheapest high quality vegetable protein. The results of this programme could be useful for IFAD's ongoing or future loan operations in the region and in the country.

CONANTIOQUIA is a local NGO with more than ten years' experience in rural development and rural poverty reduction. In the context of the present ECP programme, it will work with local and regional government employees, the office for school feeding programmes and with the University of Antioquia.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Comoros: Support to Community Structures for Livestock Production, Agricultural Intensification and Soil Conservation (No. 226)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 100 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 13 000
Name of NGO:	Association comorienne des techniciens et infirmiers vétérinaires (ACTIV)

Objectives and Activities:

The overall objective of this grant is to support the approach developed under the IFAD-funded Nioumakélé Small Producers Support Project. Thanks to the integration of adapted agricultural and livestock techniques aimed at increasing soil fertility, combined with conservation measures, this approach has had a positive impact on the environment and on household nutrition and income. The experience gained under this grant will also be used in developing livestock activities under the new IFAD-financed National Programme for Sustainable Human Development in the Comoros.

Activities will include: (i) genetic improvement of cattle through a pilot artificial insemination programme; (ii) animal health improvement through a vaccination campaign for cattle and poultry; (iii) development of producer's groups, mainly composed of women, for poultry and vegetable production; (iv) land protection through forage hedge planting; (v) intensification of agricultural production through the introduction of elements such as appropriate technologies, organic fertilization and improved seeds; and (vi) conducting of surveys for improved information and statistics.

ACTIV is a national NGO, established in 1992 to provide self-help assistance to rural communities in the area of livestock production and animal health. Its activities cover the three islands of Comoros. It has been receiving technical and financial support from the NGO Vétérinaires sans frontières, and has been selected as the implementing organization for a number of small activities by donors. It is currently implementing livestock activities on the island of Grand Comore under the Pilot Agricultural Services Project, cofinanced by the World Bank and IFAD.

Country, Grant Title and No: **Senegal:** Institutional Consolidation in the Matam District (No. 227)

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 75 000

NGO Cofinancing:

Name of NGO: Union pour la solidarité et l'entraide (USE)

Objectives and Activities:

The main objectives of the grant are to consolidate the achievements of the first phase of the IFAD-initiated Agricultural Development Project in Matam, Senegal (PRODAM), particularly with respect to the organizational and managerial capabilities of beneficiaries' organizations.

Specific activities under the one-year programme will focus on the provision of: (i) organizational, technical and managerial support to grass-roots organizations supported during the first phase of PRODAM, particularly the Federation of the Walo, women's groups and borehole management committees in the Ferlo areas; (ii) training in functional literacy and bookkeeping to male and female rural producers; (iii) financial management support, supervision, and verification of accounts for the four decentralized finance institutions (CAPECs); and (iv) training and managerial support to a local radio station to serve the needs of rural communities.

The expected outputs include:

- the Federation of the Walo will implement and manage quality literacy programmes for its members;
- the management and accounting procedures, and loan repayment ratios of the four CAPECs will be improved; and
- the local rural community radio, TIMTIMOL FM, will be enhanced so it can run information programmes responsive to the needs of the beneficiaries.

Founded in 1955, USE is a non-governmental organization operating in Senegal (Dakar, Saint-Louis, Kaolack). Its overall goal is to promote development, solidarity and mutual aid in Senegal and in Africa. Specific objectives include (i) food security; (ii) sustainable development through capacity-building; and (iii) improved access to basic social services.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Senegal: Pilot Project for Smallholder Poultry Development (No. 228)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 100 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 8 000
Name of NGO:	Bicycles for Senegal (BFS)

Objectives and Activities:

The proposed ECP grant will support, on a pilot basis, an innovative model of smallholder poultry development based on an integrated system of village groups, microcredit and simple technical interventions. This model has gained much attention worldwide as an impact on family health and socioeconomic status is achieved within only a few years of assistance. The project will benefit from management and logistical support from the IFAD-financed Village Organization and Management Project – Phase II. It will be implemented through a partnership arrangement among: the Network of Smallholder Poultry Development at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen; the Danish NGO, Bicycles for Senegal; and the Committee for the Fight to End Hunger, a village association in the Casamance, Senegal.

Project activities include: (i) initial baseline and subsequent impact study; (ii) village group formation; (iii) credit and savings training and support; (iv) technical training of trainers such as village poultry production animators and village vaccinators, and vaccination campaigns; (v) household training and support; and (vi) project management and reporting.

BFS's advantage in the context of this ECP project is its close collaboration with the Committee for the Fight to End Hunger.

Country, Grant Title and No:	Eastern and Southern Africa: Expanded Partnership Opportunities for the Southern African Natural Products Trade Association (No. 229)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 100 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 149 000
Name of NGO:	Southern African Natural Products Trade Association (SANProTA)

Objectives and Activities:

This ECP project has been designed to intervene in the dryland areas of southern Africa, especially in areas where IFAD is already operational, i.e. Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition to its overall objective of empowering rural poor communities in the region to generate supplementary incomes through the sustainable exploitation of natural products, SANProTA specifically aims to:

- provide a platform for regional professional exchanges in natural product trade development by sharing information among members, sectoral stakeholders and other interested parties, and fostering active contacts with governments and concerned international organizations;
- research and develop existing and new natural products, achieved when the results of additional research and full-scale trials into natural products and related processes are made available to members; and
- create and engage in markets for natural products from rural communities to stimulate a sustained increase in community-based natural product trade for the domestic market and for export.

The present ECP grant will enable SANProTA to strengthen and diversify its existing range of partnerships through the creation of new complementary relationships with governmental and intergovernmental agencies, the private sector and NGOs.

The proposed project is in line with the strategic framework's emphasis on the capacity-building of the rural poor and their organizations to increase their negotiating power to influence policy institutions and other key actors, and to establish equitable linkages within the market.

SANProTA is a regional NGO with an extensive membership of NGOs from eastern and southern African countries.



Country, Grant Title and No: Nepal: Hills Leasehold Forestry and Forage Development Project (No. 230)

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 75 000

Name of NGO: Society for Partners in Development (SPD)

Objectives and Activities:

The main objective of this ECP project is to ensure the sustainability of gender mainstreaming gains associated with IFAD's Hills Leasehold Forestry and Forage Development Project, which is coming to an end in 2003. In this context, women group promoters and field level technical staff have been instrumental in promoting women's participation in natural resource management and gaining respect for their role in the community through access to information, organizational development and confidence-building. Women's active participation has furthermore substantially increased overall project effectiveness.

The present ECP grant will be instrumental in averting the loss of these gains and sustaining the momentum generated by the project. Continued support is also required to enable nascent local women's organizations to turn into strong community-based development organizations. The grant will enhance the capacity and influence of women group promoters by linking them to broader networks, thus enabling them to gain exposure and win support from other sources, such as government agencies.

Key activities to be financed by this ECP grant include training for women group promoters in: (i) participatory poverty assessments and gender analysis in leasehold forestry; (ii) cooperative development and management; (iii) organizational development and management; and (iv) participatory monitoring and evaluation. Workshops will be also organized to promote networking among group promoters. Finally a local initiative support fund for gender promotion will provide seed money to finance small local initiatives by group promoters.

SPD is a national NGO with long experience in gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment. It has been directly associated with IFAD's Hills Leasehold Forestry and Forage Development Project, where it implemented some of the gender mainstreaming activities.



ANNEX

Country, Grant Title and No:	El Salvador: Establishment of Microentrepreneurial Activities in San Vicente (No. 231)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 60 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 13 500
Name of NGO:	Asociación Movimiento Salvadoreño de Mujeres (MSM)

Objectives and Activities:

The overall aim of this ECP project is to improve the livelihoods of rural poor women living in extreme poverty whose conditions have deteriorated even further due to the recent earthquake and drought, by providing support to poultry production and medicinal plant cultivation and commercialization.

Project components include: (i) support to poultry meat production units (with at least 1 000 chickens twice a year); (ii) support to planting of medicinal plants; and (iii) organization and management of workshops in administration, commercialization and technical aspects of poultry and medicinal plant activities.

Asociación Movimiento Salvadoreño de Mujeres is a local NGO working with rural poor indigenous women.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Dominican Republic: Improving the Living Conditions of Haitian Workers in the <i>bateys</i> of Barahona (No. 232)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 40 000
Name of NGO:	Plataforma VIDA

Objectives and Activities:

In the Dominican Republic, the most severe poverty is found in the frontier areas near Haiti, particularly in the *bateys* (settlements of migrant labourers around the sugar cane plantations) where most of the inhabitants are of Haitian origin. In addition to poverty, these people face social exclusion, discrimination and marginalization. Although they have been in the country for generations, most of them do not have Dominican nationality. Obtaining legal status is a critical step for these people in overcoming poverty, as it will facilitate their access to education and health services and to permanent and better-paid jobs.

Project components include: (i) legal activities to commence a registration process for inhabitants of the *bateys*; (ii) training activities to sensitize local lawyers on the situation of *batey* inhabitants; (iii) media campaigns for the promotion of a multicultural environment; and (iv) capacity-building for Plataforma VIDA, especially in terms of technical and managerial skills.

The project will be implemented in the area of IFAD's ongoing South Western Region Small Farmers Project and will prepare the ground for the latest operation in the country, the Social and Economic Development Programme for Vulnerable Populations in the Border Provinces.

Plataforma VIDA is an NGO federating a number of grass-roots organizations representing the people of the *bateys*. The organization is well known for its work on advocacy and communication campaigns in defence of the human rights of Haitian migrants and their efforts to obtain Dominican citizenship.

Country, Grant Title and No: **Bangladesh:** Testing and Dissemination of Affordable Innovative Technologies for Resource Poor Farm Households (No. 233)

IFAD Grant Amount: USD 100 000

Name of NGO: International Development Enterprises – Bangladesh (IDE-B)

Objectives and Activities:

The aim of this grant is to improve the livelihoods of poor households through the introduction of water-efficient, environmentally sound, low-cost innovative micro-irrigation schemes (such as drip irrigation, pressure treadle pumps, micro-sprinkler systems and treadle pumps). This equipment will ensure timely, sufficient and reliable access to water and facilitate the intensification and diversification of agricultural production to include horticulture. Specific activities include:

- field-testing and demonstration of irrigation technologies;
- training of local collaborating partners in micro-irrigation;
- development of a private-sector supply chain of manufacturers, dealers and installers to provide farmers with access to affordable and appropriate irrigation technology;
- promotional activities to raise awareness and create demand for the proposed technologies;
- establishment of linkages between farmers' groups and credit-providing NGOs and microcredit institutions; and
- development of linkages between farmers' groups and output markets.

The project will be implemented in Mymensingh and Tangail districts, within areas covered by IFAD-financed projects (Agricultural Diversification and Intensification Project and Smallholder Agricultural Improvement Project).

At present, no local NGO in Bangladesh has the technical capacity to carry out the testing and private sector dissemination of these specific small-scale irrigation technologies. IDE-B is a non-profit, non-governmental development organization based in Dhaka with activities in 44 out of the 64 districts of the country. From the beginning of its operations in 1984, IDE-B has taken a market-based approach to rural development by facilitating pro-poor market environments and enabling large numbers of smallholders to move from subsistence agriculture to small commercial farming. IDE-B has achieved its success primarily by developing low-cost, income-generating technologies and disseminating them through market channels, which it develops in collaboration with local partners.



Country, Grant Title and No:	India: Building Poor People's Institutions (No. 234)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 100 000
Name of NGO:	Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency (MYRADA)

Objectives and Activities:

This ECP project will seek to promote institutions of the rural poor and provide them with capacity-building support. It will also strengthen their networks to enable experience sharing and foster effective advocacy skills to promote and protect their interests. The project will create a supportive environment to encourage the growth of the institutions by seeking to influence the practices, systems and policies of supporting institutions. These will include, chiefly, the Panchayat Raj institutions, government line departments, and private sector and financial institutions, all of which are involved in providing essential services to the rural poor and in poverty reduction programmes.

The project will work through the establishment of rural training centres (Centres for Institutional Development and Organizational Reform) and resource centres in remote rural areas. Each resource centre will support approximately 100 community-based organizations such as self-help affinity groups, watershed development associations, *gram sabhas*, village water and sanitation committees, and village forest committees.

MYRADA is a well-organized national NGO with 20 years' experience in promoting people's organizations and participatory methodologies and approaches. It is also successfully involved in several IFAD projects not only in India, but also Indonesia.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Congo: Support to Farmers' Organizations for the Marketing of their Agricultural Products in the Mbanza-Tibi (No. 235)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 5 000
Name of NGO:	Association des coopératives pour le développement du Congo (ACODECO)

Objectives and Activities:

Marketing inefficiency and high transaction costs are the main constraints faced by smallholder producers and rural traders in The Congo. Due to these constraints, even at low productivity levels and with existing technologies and know how, producers are operating well below their productive potential.

The overall objective of this ECP project is to build the capacity of rural producers' organizations to market their agricultural products. Specific objectives include: (i) increases in marketed output; (ii) reduction of transport costs; (iii) training of village groups in the rehabilitation and maintenance of feeder roads and in the collection of agricultural products; and (iv) training in understanding the market, including aspects such as prices, determination of unit costs, estimation of urban demand and identification of new markets.

ACODECO is a national NGO, which has continued working in rural areas despite ongoing conflicts. It collaborates with a number of emergency and relief NGOs to help people resume their livelihoods after crisis situations.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Central African Republic: Rural Community Development in Mambere and Ombella Mpoko (No. 236)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
Name of NGO:	Centre de documentation et d'information et de formation pour le développement (CEDIFOD)

Objectives and Activities:

The overall purpose of the project is to improve marketing systems, microfinance delivery (especially to women) and farm management.

Expected outputs include: (i) improvement in farmers' access to credit, particularly that of women farmers; (ii) improvement in marketing systems for food crops and in farmers' income; and (iii) better understanding of the conditions necessary for the adoption of appropriate farm management technology and its dissemination.

The IFAD loan-financed Savannah Food Crops Rural Development Project has continually been suspended due to political instability and a series of domestic financial crises. CEDIFOD's role will be to redress the negative repercussions of these events by adopting a multi-pronged and participatory approach to the strengthening of local institutions. CEDIFOD has already fostered three savings and loan unions in the project area; this grant will allow it to initiate another eight, thus creating the 'critical mass' needed to assist communities effectively.

CEDIFOD is one of the most professional NGOs in the Central African Republic and one of the few national NGOs that continued their operations notwithstanding the crises that afflicted the country.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Syria: Establishment of Village Business Incubator for Women's Micro and Small Enterprises in the Coastal Midlands Area (No. 237)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 95 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 99 000
Name of NGO:	Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS)

Objectives and Activities:

This ECP project will establish a village business incubator (VBI) in the coastal midlands area of Syria. More specifically, the project will:

- develop appropriate institutional arrangements for the establishment of a pilot VBI, which will act as a centre for counseling, orientation, training and business to support the creation of viable micro and small enterprises for women;
- start up sustainable small enterprises managed by women, women's groups and cooperatives; and
- support and promote the establishment of the VBI as a permanent self-sustainable centre, and also as a model for development interventions in the micro and small enterprise sector in Syria and other countries in the region.

The project will be linked with the IFAD-financed Coastal/Midlands Agricultural Development Project and will be implemented by AIDOS in collaboration with its local partners, the Fund for Integrated Rural Development in Syria (FIRDOS), the Worldview International Foundation (WIF), and Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

AIDOS is an Italian NGO with special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Throughout its 20 years of activities, the organization has often collaborated with United Nations agencies* in the implementation of pilot projects. Its main sources of funding are private donations; membership fees; and project funds from the Italian Development Cooperation Department, the European Commission and United Nations agencies. Since its creation in 1981, AIDOS has concentrated its project work in four areas of intervention: (i) women's reproductive health and rights; (ii) creation of micro and small enterprises run by women and support to existing enterprises through the establishment of business service centres that provide technical and organizational support; (iii) capacity-building of women's institutions and organizations, mainly through the creation of resource centres; and (iv) the education of girls.

FIRDOS is a Syrian non-profit humanitarian organization, established in 2001 to promote socioeconomic development in Syria's rural communities. Since its creation, FIRDOS has initiated programmes covering microfinance, education and basic development.

WIF is an independent, international non-governmental non-profit organization. Since 1986, WIF has cooperated in a number of IFAD-financed projects in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

* for example the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and IFAD.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Guinea: Capacity-Building of Village Level Organizations (No. 238)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
Name of NGO:	Organisation vie développement (OVD-TEDHILT)

Objectives and Activities:

The objective of this ECP grant is to support the IFAD-financed Smallholder Development Project in the Forest Region by building the capacity of village communities and their organizations so that they can engage in self-development following the self-development approach. This approach has been applied on an experimental basis for two years. Although the majority of the population and the local and traditional authorities have accepted this approach, they have not fully mastered all its instruments and mechanisms. The present ECP grant will help them to do precisely that.

OVD-TEDHILT is a national NGO, founded by the Groupement d'interet economique (GIE-PROMEL), a Niger-based NGO that has collaborated successfully with IFAD in two projects in the Niger.

ANNEX

Country, Grant Title and No:	Somalia: Burtinle Water and Sanitation Systems Project (No. 239)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 80 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 133 000
Name of NGO:	HORSOCDE

Objectives and Activities:

The opportunities for IFAD to reduce poverty in Somalia are limited due to the absence of counterpart government support, security problems and the need for grant funding. At present, IFAD is supporting rural communities in Somaliland through the North Western Integrated Community Development Project financed by the Belgian Survival Fund for the Third World.

The Burtinle district of Nugal region in the Puntland State of Somalia has an estimated population of 37 000, most of them internally displaced people from war torn regions of Benadir, Kisimayo, Baidoa and Hiran in Somalia and/or from the refugee camps of Kenya, Ethiopia and Yemen. Among the many problems faced by this poor and underdeveloped district is the absence of a permanent water supply system. The existing water supply is provided by concrete reservoirs, which harvest questionable run-off water that transports pollutants. The consumption of polluted water leads to the spread of diseases including cholera, typhus, TBC and gastro-enteritis.

The proposed ECP project will improve the access of the rural communities of Burtinle to water resources. It will be cofinanced with a Swedish NGO – Diakonia – and community contributions.

The project will implement a water security component whereby: (i) livestock will be provided with run-off water; and (ii) a roof rainwater harvesting system will be developed to provide safe water to the people. The project will be implemented with the participation of the community who will contribute land and labour for the construction of the physical works and for their maintenance.

HORSOCDE is a non-governmental organization operating in all regions of the Puntland State of Somalia. It has worked with the former administration of the north-eastern regions of Bari, Nugal and Mudug. Currently, it cooperates with the Puntland State in the fields of infrastructure and governance. HORSOCDE's policy is to work with local communities and authorities, and international organizations in order to provide communities with vital social services. In the past, HORSOCDE has collaborated with a number of international NGOs, United Nations agencies and bilateral organizations, including Diakonia-Sweden, United Nations Children's Fund and the United States Agency for International Development.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Romania: Business Development Services and Training Programme (No. 240)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 15 000
Name of NGO:	Economic Development Centre (CDE)

Objectives and Activities:

The proceeds of this ECP grant will finance the costs associated with the implementation of a programme to enhance non-financial services provided by business development centres in the area of coverage of the IFAD-financed Apuseni Development Project (ADP).

The ECP programme will carry out the following activities:

- identification of potential business development service providers that could contribute to the development of the private sector in the ADP. CDE will undertake a survey of available professional business services;
- training and technical support to select BDS providers identified through the survey.

CDE is a Romanian NGO affiliated with the Soros Foundation. It is dedicated to assisting the development of small and medium enterprises. Its main areas of expertise include microfinance, project management, strategic planning, training and consultancies.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Yemen: Environment Protection Project in Beit Al Faqih (No. 241)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 99 000
Name of NGO:	Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS)

Objectives and Activities:

This ECP grant will finance part of the costs associated with the development of appropriate institutional arrangements for the set-up of a sustainable waste management system in Beit Al Faqih in Yemen. It will also create awareness among the local population of the linkages between environment and health, and in particular of the importance of appropriate practices in relation to solid waste management, water consumption, animal breeding and husbandry, composting, recycling and home gardening. Furthermore, it will reinforce women's associations in the community and the gender unit of the IFAD-financed Raymah Area Development Project.

A description of the activities of the Italian NGO AIDOS can be found on page 34.



Country, Grant Title and No:	India: Capacity-Building for the Women's Resource and Training Centre (No. 242)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 50 000
Name of NGO:	Chaitanya

Objectives and Activities:

The overall aim of this ECP project is to strengthen the self-help group movement in the Maharashtra State through support to the recently created women's resource and training centre (WRTC). This centre's role is to act as a hub of resources, with particular focus on women's social and economic empowerment, and to provide the necessary training to enable SHGs to engage in effective and profitable operations.

The WRTC was established by Chaitanya under the IFAD-financed Maharashtra Rural Credit Project – a project that gave a tremendous impetus to the self-help group movement in that state. With the completion of that project, many IFAD partners decided to maintain their support of self-help groups. Among them, the most important are the Women's Development Corporation, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the Rural Development Department and many cooperatives.

With the support of the present ECP grant, the WTRC will respond not only to the needs of new self-help groups, but also to those of older groups wishing to address issues beyond savings and credit and acquire more collective power by forming clusters and federations.

Immediate activities to be undertaken by the centre include: capacity-building of resource persons and facilitators to work with rural women; fellowship programmes; information exchange with banks, government agencies and development NGOs; preparation of training materials; and documentation of grass-roots experience to be shared with other agencies, also in the public sector.

Established in 1993, Chaitanya has been a pioneer in the self-help group movement and instrumental in its growth in and around Maharashtra. Chaitanya has extensive experience in promoting women's community-based institutions and in consolidating self-help groups into clusters and federations.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Zimbabwe: Promotion of Food Security Opportunities Opposing Drought (PRO-FOOD) Project (No. 243)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 100 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 50 000
Name of NGO:	AFRICARE – Zimbabwe

Objectives and Activities:

This ECP grant will finance the continuation of activities under the PRO-FOOD Project, which has been active since January 2000 in five districts and has a completion date of 31 December 2002. The overall goal of PRO-FOOD was to improve the household food security and income of smallholder farmers through the promotion of cassava, pigeon pea and sweet potato production and processing for both human and livestock consumption.

Under ordinary circumstances, activities piloted by the PRO-FOOD Project would have been mainstreamed by two ongoing IFAD projects in Zimbabwe, i.e. the Smallholder Dry Areas Resource Management Project and the South Eastern Dry Areas Project, with which AFRICARE has been closely interacting.

Although the immediate results of PRO-FOOD Project are impressive, due to continued project suspension and the generally deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe, there is a serious danger that this progress will disappear if project activities are not sustained. In particular, support to the recently formed Root and Tuber Crop Farmer Association and focus on the establishment of a nursery and multiplication sites are needed to ensure the endurance of this still vulnerable initiative.

AFRICARE is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in rural Africa. For nearly thirty years, AFRICARE has provided assistance in the five principal areas of agriculture, water resource development, environmental management, health and emergency humanitarian aid. In the United States, AFRICARE focuses on building understanding of African development through public education. AFRICARE was the first private voluntary organization to register in independent Zimbabwe in 1981. It has since been involved in a number of development and relief activities in the country, mainly in the fields of health and agriculture. In Zimbabwe, AFRICARE has extensive experience in the participatory identification of problems, programme planning and implementation of community-based grass-roots projects that improve the economic, social and nutritional status of disadvantaged communities.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Tanzania: Training and Capacity-Building for Grass-Roots Institutions and Beneficiary Groups (No. 244)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 100 000
Name of NGO:	Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA)

Objectives and Activities:

The overall objective of this grant is to provide capacity-building and monitoring assistance to microfinance institutions and savings and credit cooperative organizations (SACCOs) in the context of IFAD's Rural Financial Services Programme (RFSP) in Tanzania. The grant aims to enable these institutions to efficiently provide financial services to rural poor women and men, thereby ensuring financial viability and sustainability. To facilitate this, MEDA-Tanzania will complement ongoing activities within the RFSP by monitoring how groups are using microfinance best practice techniques received under RFSP, and by facilitating the internalization and application of these tools. The focus will be on training in organizational development and capacity-building for the governing bodies of microfinance institutions and SACCOs, including technical assistance in the development and implementation of quality standards and best practices.

Registered under the Societies Ordinance Act governing NGOs in Tanzania, MEDA-Tanzania has an agreement with the Government to implement activities related to economic development, particularly in the field of microfinance. The NGO operates through the creation of cooperatives, microfinance programmes, institutions and micro-banks, and provides technical assistance for developing rural and urban microenterprise credit and training facilities. Currently in Tanzania, MEDA operates two microfinance institutions, which provide financial services and training to support the growth of micro and small enterprises in both Dar-es-Salaam and Mbeya. MEDA has gained invaluable insights into the microfinance environment specifically in Tanzania by having direct responsibility for lending operations over the eight-year span of these activities.

Country, Grant Title and No:	Zimbabwe: Pilot Market Linkages Programme (No. 245)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 100 000
Name of NGO:	Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE)

Objectives and Activities:

The objective of the programme is to improve rural livelihoods through: (i) enhancement of the agricultural productivity of smallholder farmers; and (ii) establishment of viable and enduring relationships between smallholder farmers and markets for inputs, services and produce. These objectives will be pursued by: (i) assisting farmers in organizing themselves into self-managed units; (ii) extending selected improved production technologies; and (iii) helping groups establish firm linkages with agribusiness input suppliers and output buyers.

The programme will comprise the following components:

Identification of market opportunities, which will lead to the selection of specific crops around which supply contracts may be developed. Existing contacts will be consolidated. Where necessary, potential credit sources will also be identified and access to transport, both for inputs and produce, will be facilitated.

Organizational and business training for groups

Following the CLUSA model and new technologies, **farmer-to-farmer extension** that emphasizes food security and conservation farming will be introduced using the farmer field school-based extension approach.

Consolidating linkages with agri-processors, contract facilitation and supervision will assist farmers' groups in signing contracts with agri-processors and produce buyers.

During the programme period, a formal linkage through signed cooperation agreements will be established with the Smallholder Irrigation Support Programme and, where relevant, the South Eastern Dry Areas Project, to facilitate mainstreaming of the pilot activities under these loan-funded projects once suspension is lifted.

The total cost of programme activities amounts to USD 240 000. The balance of USD 140 000 is covered by the USAID-funded Linkages for the Economic Advancement of the Disadvantaged Programme.

SAFIRE is a Zimbabwean national NGO specializing in the promotion of diversified livelihood alternatives for rural producers. The present ECP programme will be implemented with support from CLUSA's Lusaka office, and a CLUSA field facilitator will be seconded to SAFIRE. The skill mix provided by the combination of SAFIRE (marketing and group formation) and CLUSA (agronomic practices and farmer field school approach) has proven to be highly successful and is an example of both NGO cooperation and institution-building of a national NGO.



ANNEX

Country, Grant Title and No:	Chile: Linking <i>Anamuri</i> Producers to the Market (No. 246)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 65 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 17 000
Name of NGO:	Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Rurales e Indigenas (ANAMURI)

Objectives and Activities:

This ECP grant aims at facilitating the market access of rural indigenous women producers associated with the Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Rurales e Indigenas (ANAMURI) in a competitive way, by improving their production strategies, commercialization skills and managerial capacities. The ECP project combines the issues of market access and the empowerment of women and indigenous groups, both of particular interest to IFAD in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

Project activities include:

- analysis of the capacities and activities of producers associated with ANAMURI;
- economic analysis of national market conditions;
- identification of the opportunities and needs of the producers;
- identification and analysis of rural financial service supply; and
- design and management of an operational plan for improving the production and commercialization of semi-processed products.

ANAMURI is a national NGO working with rural poor and indigenous women in Chile.



Country, Grant Title and No:	Mexico: Creation of an Ecotourism Spa in the Rural Community of Antiguos Mineros del Norte (No. 247)
IFAD Grant Amount:	USD 75 000
NGO Cofinancing:	USD 15 000
Name of NGO:	Pronatura Noreste

Objectives and Activities:

The overall objective of this ECP project is to create infrastructure for ecotourism and train local people as service providers to tourists in the rural community of Antiguos Mineros del Norte.

Activities to be supported include: (i) training of community members to provide various services for tourists and to improve their capacities in administration and project management; (ii) construction of a nursery for local plants; (iii) construction of basic infrastructure for an ecotourism spa in the community; and (iv) improving housing conditions in the community.

Rural microentrepreneurs and small rural producers are constantly looking for new ways of increasing their income and improving their living conditions. IFAD considers that ecotourism offers an interesting and innovative alternative for the economic and social development of rural areas.

This project will provide a model for similar interventions among other rural communities in the region. IFAD could learn from this NGO experience about the challenges, possibilities and benefits of ecotourism in drylands. There are possible links with follow-up developments from the recently completed IFAD loan-financed Development Project for Marginal Rural Communities in the Ixtlera Region and with a possible new rural development project in the same region. It could also benefit the Rural Microenterprise Support Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean, which provides training in rural tourism.

Pronatura Norteste is a well-known NGO with experience in ecotourism.

