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**IFAD**

**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Executive Board – Seventy-Ninth Session**

Rome, 10-12 September 2003

**SUMMARY OF PROJECT AND GRANT PROPOSALS  
DISCUSSED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**I. PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSALS**

1. The following project/programme proposals were approved by the Seventy-Ninth Session of the Executive Board:

**AFRICA I**

**Burkina Faso: Community Investment Programme for Agricultural Fertility  
EB 2003/79/R.19 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/79/R.19/Rev.1)**

2. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 8.8 million and expressed its support for the project, which is in line with IFAD's Country Strategic Opportunities Paper for Burkina Faso. Furthermore, the Executive Board stressed the importance of close collaboration and information-sharing with ongoing projects and other development initiatives undertaken in the country, and in particular in Eastern Burkina Faso, to avoid duplication of efforts. Particular reference was made to the need to take into account similar activities undertaken by a Danish-funded project in the Komandjari Province of Eastern Burkina Faso. The Executive Board requested that Burkina Faso and IFAD comprehensively review the programme's logframe during start-up to make it more detailed, highlighting quantitative and qualitative indicators so as to facilitate implementation and impact on beneficiaries. The IFAD Secretariat thanked the Board for the very useful comments and insights regarding the involvement of all stakeholders in the implementation phase of the project and gave its assurance that they will be closely followed up.

## AFRICA II

**Ethiopia: Pastoral Community Development Project  
EB 2003/79/R.20 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/79/R.20/Rev.1)**

3. In approving the loan for SDR 14.4 million, the Executive Board expressed full support for this intervention, which aims to improve sustainable livelihoods, build capacity at community and local levels, and promote disaster management in order to reduce the vulnerability of pastoralists to drought and other natural disasters.

**Kenya: President's Memorandum - Mount Kenya East Pilot Project for Natural Resource Management (Loan No. 599-KE): Global Environment Facility (GEF) - Supplementary Funding from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Approval to Conclude GEF Block B Project Document/Financing Agreement with UNEP  
(EB 2003/79/R.35)**

4. The Executive Board unanimously approved the request to authorize the President to conclude the project document/financing agreement with UNEP for the release of Block B grant funds to IFAD for the Mount Kenya East Pilot Project for Natural Resource Management.

**Malawi: President's Memorandum - Revised Scope of the Rural Livelihoods Support Programme (Loan No. 565-MW)  
EB 2003/79/R.21**

5. The Executive Board unanimously approved the revised programme objectives, activities and cost tables (resulting from a change in the programme financing) and extension of the period for signature of the loan to 31 December 2003.

**Rwanda: Rural Small and Microenterprise Promotion Project – Phase II  
EB 2003/79/R.22**

6. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 10.65 million. Written comments were received and replied to and will be followed up during implementation. It was emphasized that adequate physical infrastructure is required to ensure the success of project activities, and it was confirmed that during implementation the project will ensure linkage with the various ongoing or planned initiatives in the project zones. During the first year of the project, and building on the existing system developed during Phase I, the monitoring and evaluation system will be expanded and strengthened using baseline data and will incorporate relevant, decentralized and gender-disaggregated indicators, allowing for regular feed-back and quantitative impact assessment as a basis for results-oriented management.

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**Bhutan: President's Memorandum - Report on the Conversion of the Second Eastern Zone Agricultural Programme from a Flexible Lending Mechanism (FLM) Operation to a Standard, Non-FLM Operation  
EB 2003/79/R.23**

7. The Executive Board took note of the conversion from the flexible lending mechanism to a standard, non-FLM programme.

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### **Guatemala: National Rural Development Programme – Phase I: The Western Region EB 2003/79/R.24 + Add. 1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/79/R.24/Rev.1)**

8. The Executive Board unanimously approved a loan of SDR 21.55 million. Prior to Board discussions, the division provided written comments in response to the issues raised by the Executive Directors from both The Netherlands and the United States.

## NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

### **Morocco: Livestock and Rangelands Development Project in the Eastern Region – Phase II EB 2003/79/R.25**

9. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 4.55 million and expressed its support for the project, which is in line with the Country Strategic Opportunities Paper for Morocco. Furthermore, upon the request of Japan's Executive Director, IFAD will contact the representative of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency in Morocco to explore possibilities of cooperation with IFAD's programme in the areas of agricultural development, non-formal education and vocational training for unemployed young graduates.

### **Turkey: Sivas-Erzincan Development Project EB 2003/79/R.26 + Corr. 1 (now EB 2003/79/R.26/Rev.1)**

10. In approving a loan of SDR 9.25 million, the Executive Board expressed in written and oral comments its full support to the project, which is in line with the Country Strategic and Opportunities Paper for Turkey. The Board commended the project for being bottom-up and targeted to local leadership/participation and capacity-building (for sustainability and consensus-building, e.g. for communal pastures); for recognizing the potential impediments of a bureaucratic, top-down tradition and weak commitment from villagers; and for being results-oriented. The Executive Board recognized that the intention to empower the rural poor in the project area is a challenge. The participatory rural development approach is innovative for Turkey, but merits an attempt, since the new Government's favourable disposition increases the feasibility of the project. In the more market-oriented policy framework in place in Turkey, even poor communities will have to cope with international competition, and the IFAD project approach could serve as a first step in assisting small farmers on the road to more effective primary production, including local processing. The Board felt that the success of the project would hinge on the ability of the Ministry of Agriculture to manage the project and to give local authorities enough control so that the bottom-up approach succeeds. It requested that IFAD follow this closely during implementation.

## II. GRANT PROPOSALS

11. As a general comment under this agenda item, the Executive Director for Belgium reiterated a point he had made in the previous Executive Board session regarding the need to align the grant programme with the lending programme. The chair indicated that this issue would be addressed at the informal seminar on the grants policy. The following grant proposals were approved by the Seventy-Ninth Session of the Executive Board:

**Technical Assistance Grants for Agricultural Research and Training by CGIAR-Supported International Centres****EB 2003/79/R.27**

12. The following two grants were approved under this category.

**International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA): Participatory Technology Development, Diffusion and Adoption of Cowpea for Poverty Reduction in West Africa – Phase II**

13. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 1 million.

**West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA): Participatory Adaptive Research and Dissemination of Rice Technologies in West Africa – Phase II**

14. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 1 million.

**Technical Assistance Grants for Agricultural Research and Training by Non-CGIAR-Supported International Centres and Organizations****EB 2003/79/R.28**

15. The following four grants were approved under this category.

**The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) – South Asia Regional Office: Mainstreaming Gender in Poverty Reduction in Asia: Programme Support for Policy Analysis, Advocacy and Networking to address Gender Inequalities and the Vulnerability of Women**

16. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 200 000.

**The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): Expansion of the Farmers Field Schools Programme in Eastern and Southern Africa**

17. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 1.09 million.

**The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP): Upscaling and Linking Organizations of the Poor: Learning from Experiences of Civil-Society Organizations and IFAD Projects in Asia**

18. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 450 000.

**The International Development Research Centre (IDRC): Programme to Develop a Knowledge Generation and Sharing Network in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) Region (Phase I)**

19. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 1 million.