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IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Executive Board – Eightieth Session
Rome, 17-18 December 2003

SUMMARY OF PROJECT, PROGRAMME AND GRANT PROPOSALS
DISCUSSED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

I. PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSALS

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

AFRICA I

Guinea: Support to Rural Development in North Lower Guinea Project
EB 2003/80/R.24 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/80/R.24/Rev.1)

2. In approving a loan of SDR 9.95 million, the Executive Board expressed support for the project, which is in line with IFAD's Country Strategic Opportunities Paper (COSOP) for Guinea, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the strategic framework.

Mauritania: Oasis Sustainable Development Programme
EB 2003/80/R.25 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/80/R.25/Rev.1)

3. In approving a loan of SDR 7.90 million, the Executive Board expressed support for the programme, which is in line with IFAD's strategic framework, the PRSP and the COSOP for Mauritania. During the discussion, an Executive Board Member sought clarification regarding the mechanism of close monitoring, the inclusion of lessons learned from Phase I, the exit strategy and the contribution of the Government. The Board took note of the Secretariat's comments, which were also provided in writing.

Sierra Leone: Rehabilitation and Community-Based Poverty Reduction Project
EB 2003/80/R.26 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/80/R.26/Rev.1)

4. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 5.9 million and noted that the project was in line with the COSOP for Sierra Leone. The Board stressed the importance of donor coordination and of sharing information with other development initiatives in the country to ensure synergy and complementarities. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to take account of similar projects undertaken by French Cooperation in the two targeted districts in Kono and Kailahun.

AFRICA II

Kenya: Southern Nyanza Community Development Project
EB 2003/80/R.27 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/80/R.27/Rev.1)

5. In approving the loan of SDR 10.9 million, the Executive Board noted the difficult and complex issue of promoting social change to address deeply entrenched cultural attitudes, which was particularly needed to address the high transmission rates of HIV/AIDS. The Board also noted that beneficiary contributions will be achieved mainly through in-kind contributions by communities and through management committees that mobilize their own financial resources.

Madagascar: Rural Income Promotion Programme
EB 2003/80/R.28 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/80/R.28/Rev.1)

6. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 10.15 million for the above programme. Prior to the Board discussions, the Africa II Division had provided a written response to comments received from Executive Board Directors. The Board expressed full support for this intervention and emphasized the potential it offered for diversification of microfinance networks and the importance of private-sector involvement to facilitate implementation.

Mozambique: Rural Finance Support Programme
EB 2003/80/R.29 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/80/R.29/Rev.1)

7. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 6.65 million for the above programme. Written comments were received and replied to, and will be followed up on during implementation regarding gender, environment and human resource capacity. Targeting the poor is ensured and covered by on-lending criteria and specific support to savings and credit associations. The lead institute, the Economic Development Support Fund (FARE), has been designated by the Government; it was confirmed that the institute will be totally restructured and that no element of the current FARE

programme, ending next year, would influence the restructuring. The programme will not only finance agricultural activities but all viable activities in rural areas, specifically targeting the poor.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**Cambodia: Rural Poverty Reduction Project in Prey Veng and Svay Rieng
EB 2003/80/R.30 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/80/R.30/Rev.1)**

8. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 10.85 million on highly concessional terms for the above-mentioned project and, in so doing, encouraged IFAD to continue coordinating its rural poverty reduction initiatives with other development partners working in the agricultural sector in Cambodia. The Board also encouraged IFAD to continue to assist small farmers in Cambodia to diversify their agricultural production, based on market opportunities and export potential.

**India: Livelihoods Improvement Project in the Himalayas
EB 2003/80/R.32 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/80/R.32/Rev.1)**

9. While approving a loan of SDR 27.90 million for the above project, the Board commended IFAD on such a well thought-out and, in many ways, innovative approach and content. In response to the comment that the project was prescriptive, it was clarified that it was flexible and demand-driven and that the final mix of the activities was merely indicative. As the project is not to be processed under the flexible lending mechanism, the rate of return had to be calculated. On the empowerment issue, Board Members were informed that IFAD's approach in India is to use the services of non-governmental organizations to strengthen community institutions so that the communities themselves have the capacity to engage in empowerment issues.

**Pakistan: Community Development Programme
EB 2003/80/R.33**

10. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 15.25 million for the above programme.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

**Mexico: Strengthening Project for the National Micro-Watershed Programme
EB 2003/80/R.34 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/80/R.34/Rev.1)**

11. The Executive Board unanimously approved a loan of SDR 10.5 million for the above programme. Prior to Board discussions, the division had provided written comments in response to issues raised by the Executive Board Director for The Netherlands.

**Venezuela: Sustainable Rural Development Project for the Semi-Arid Zones of Falcon and Lara States – Phase II (PROSALAFI II)
EB 2003/80/R.35 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/80/R.35/Rev.1)**

12. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 10.4 million for the above project. The interim evaluation of the first phase had been discussed by the Evaluation Committee prior to submitting the second phase project for Board approval, thereby allowing the Committee to assess the extent to which the evaluation's insights and recommendations had been incorporated into the design of the second phase.

NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Algeria: Rural Development Project for the Mountain Zones in the North of the Wilaya of M'Sila

EB 2003/80/R.36 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/80/R.36/Rev.1)

13. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 12.15 million and expressed support for the project, which is in line with the COSOP for Algeria.

Lebanon: President's Memorandum: Cooperative Rural Finance Programme (Loan No. 569-LB) – Extension of Loan Effectiveness (EB 2003/80/R.51)

14. The Executive Board approved the extension of loan effectiveness for the aforementioned programme through 5 May 2004 to allow sufficient time for the conditions of loan effectiveness to be fulfilled.

Republic of Moldova: Agricultural Revitalization Project

EB 2003/80/R.31 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/80/R.31/Rev.1)

15. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 10.3 million. Prior to the Board discussions, written comments had been provided in response to issues raised by the Executive Director for The Netherlands.

Sudan: Gash Sustainable Livelihoods Regeneration Project

EB 2003/80/R.37 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2003/80/R.37/Rev.1)

16. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 17.45 million for the above project. The majority of Board Members expressed support for the project and more widely for the role of development work in reinforcing peace-building initiatives in The Sudan. Clarification was requested on The Sudan's progress in fulfilling conditions for loan effectiveness. The division explained that the Government's support of the land tenure reform was driving the process in a timely manner, and IFAD expects that all milestones to loan effectiveness will be achieved. The Executive Director for the United States expressed his Government's opposition to the project within the framework of existing national legislation.

II. GRANT PROPOSALS

Technical Assistance Grant for Agricultural Research and Training by a CGIAR-Supported International Centre

EB 2003/80/R.38

17. The following grant was approved under this category.

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA): Community-Based Optimization of the Management of Scarce Water Resources in Agriculture in West Asia and North Africa

18. 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
EB 2003/80/R.39**

19. Two grants were approved under this category.

Network of Farmers' Organizations and Agricultural Producers in West Africa (ROPPA): Support Programme to Strengthen ROPPA Capacity

20. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 400 000.

African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA): AFRACA Development Programme 2004-07

21. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 1 160 000.

**Technical Assistance Grant to the International Land Coalition in Support of its Programmes, Partnership Activities and Services
EB/2003/80/R.40**

22. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 500 000.