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**IFAD**  
**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**Executive Board – Eighty-First Session**  
Rome, 21-22 April 2004

**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 Eighty-First Session of the Executive Board:

### AFRICA I

**Congo: Rural Development Project in the Plateaux, Cuvette and Western Cuvette Departments  
EB 2004/81/R.16 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2004/81/R.16/Rev.1)**

2. The Executive Board unanimously approved a loan of SDR 8.05 million and expressed its full support for the project. Prior to Board discussions, the Executive Director from The Netherlands provided written comments in support of the project.

**D.R. Congo: Agricultural Revival Programme in Equateur Province  
EB 2004/81/R.17 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2004/81/R.17/Rev.1)**

3. The Executive Board unanimously approved a loan of SDR 10.0 million. The Executive Director from Belgium noted the intention of the Belgian Survival Fund (BSF) to cofinance the programme. Some issues related to the sustainability of the components to be financed under the BSF grant were raised. IFAD will approach BSF for further discussion.

**Gambia, The: Participatory Integrated Watershed-Management Project  
EB 2004/81/R.18 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2004/81/R.18/Rev.1)**

4. In approving a loan of SDR 4.85 million, the Executive Board expressed its support for the project.

### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**China: Rural Finance Sector Programme  
EB 2004/81/R.19 + Add.1 + Sup.1 (now EB 2004/81/R.19/Rev.1)**

5. In approving a loan of SDR 9.95 million, the Executive Board expressed its full support of the programme and noted that the signing of the loan will be subject to the final clearance of the State Council. The Board will be informed in the event that major changes in the negotiated loan agreement occur before loan signing. It was emphasized that the loan is a sector loan and would support the ongoing National Reform Process on Rural Finance. The Government of China has expressed its strong support to IFAD's further involvement in this reform process. The China Banking Regulatory Commission is the regulatory body responsible for the development of rural financial policies and, as such, it is involved in the programme as the supervisory institution, together with the Ministry of Finance. The programme will begin in a limited number of counties and further scaling up will be subject to the progress of policy reform and the initial experiences. It was emphasized that close linkages to ongoing IFAD-funded projects will be maintained in order to benefit from capacity-building services such as training, labour-saving technologies, marketing and promotion of agricultural productivity. The poverty focus will be further strengthened owing to the fact that the rural credit cooperative system maintains a comprehensive network reaching out to the grass-roots level. This allows individuals as well as beneficiary groups to access rural financial services even at the village level.

## II. GRANT PROPOSALS

6. The following grant proposals were approved by the Eighty-First Session of the Executive Board:

**Technical Assistance Grants for Agricultural Research and Training by CGIAR-Supported International Centres  
EB 2004/81/R.20**

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

**International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT): Project for Developing and Disseminating Stress-Tolerant Maize for Sustainable Food Security in East, West and Central Africa – Phase II**

8. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 1.3 million.

**International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI): Programme for Empowering Sahelian Farmers to Leverage their Crop-Diversity Assets for Enhanced Livelihood Strategies**

9. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 1.3 million.

**World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF): Diversification of Smallholder Farming Systems in West and Central Africa through Cultivation of Indigenous Trees – Phase II**

10. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 1.2 million.

**International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA): Programme for Developing Sustainable Livelihoods of Agropastoral Communities of West Asia and North Africa**

11. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 1.3 million.

12. In approving four CGIAR-led grants for a total of 5.1 million, a number of Executive Board Directors commented very positively on IFAD's engagement with CGIAR. In particular, the Executive Director from The Netherlands commended "IFAD for innovative proposals which respond well to IFAD's strategic framework. In doing so, IFAD sets examples on how the CGIAR's scientific achievements can be channelled towards poverty alleviation and sustainable use of natural resources. IFAD also sets good examples of partnerships between international agricultural research institutions and other stakeholders to efficiently and effectively achieve development goals".

13. These laudatory comments were reiterated by the Executive Directors from Germany, Japan and the United States. The latter sought clarification on IFAD's support for impact- and results-based management. It was clarified that IFAD engages with CGIAR in various ways – not only through support to pro-poor technology development through CGIAR-led research, but also through its policy advocacy role as co-sponsor. In particular, IFAD has led an initiative on impact assessment research with particular reference to impact on rural poverty and to related methodologies. It was also mentioned that IFAD continues to lead efforts to mobilize the research-and-development community in the creation of links between CGIAR and its strategic partners – such as non-governmental organizations, national agricultural research systems, civil-society organizations and community-based organizations in the pro-poor technology development and diffusion process.

14. The Executive Director for the United States sought clarification that The Sudan was not a direct beneficiary of the ICARDA regional grant. The Secretariat confirmed that, as for all countries, The Sudan would benefit from knowledge management.

**Technical Assistance Grants for Agricultural Research and Training by Non-CGIAR-Supported International Centres**

**EB 2004/81/R.21**

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

**International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA): Programme for Saving Freshwater Resources with Salt-Tolerant Forage Production in Marginal Areas of the West Asia and North Africa Region – An Opportunity to Raise the Incomes of the Rural Poor**

16. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 1.35 million

**Centre for the Study and Promotion of Development (DESCO): Programme for Strengthening the Regional Capacity for Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Poverty-Alleviation Projects in Latin America and the Caribbean (PREVAL) – Phase III**

17. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 850 000.

**Technical Assistance Grant through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for the Remittances and Rural Development Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean – Strengthening the Income-Generating Capacity of the Rural Poor in Remittance-Recipient Countries**

**EB 2004/81/R.22**

18. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 1.0 million to finance the programme's first phase, which will be cofinanced with the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank. The Executive Board commended IFAD for this very innovative initiative and for incorporating the migrants as new partners in development. The Board also expressed interest in following the implementation of this important initiative. The Executive Board requested the IFAD Secretariat to comment on the possibility of replicating this innovative approach in other regions. The Secretariat took note of these positive comments and will examine the possibility of launching this initiative in Africa and Asia and the Pacific, taking into consideration the experience gained in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

**Grant to the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa for Support to Resource Mobilization for and Implementation of Action Programmes and Related Initiatives**

**EB 2004/81/R.23**

19. The Executive Board approved the grant at a level of USD 1.25 million for the first phase of the project (2004).