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IFAD

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Executive Board – Eighty-Fifth Session

Rome, 6-8 September 2005

**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 Eighty-Fifth Session of the Executive Board.

Western and Central Africa

**Ghana: Root and Tuber Improvement and Marketing Programme
(EB 2005/85/R.19 + EB 2005/85/R.19/Corr.1) (now EB 2005/85/R.19/Rev.1)**

2. The Board approved a loan to the Republic of Ghana of SDR 13.05 million on highly concessional terms for this programme and commended IFAD for the high quality of the programme design. It also complimented IFAD on the programme's production and food security focus and its comprehensive and private sector-driven approach. In response to a question by the Board relating to the demand for root and tuber commodities, it was explained that the root and tuber crops (i) provide various types of food for home-consumption and for local and regional markets, and, to a lesser extent, (ii) are used for feed and industrial purposes (for example to produce starch and glue). The Board was informed that baseline data will be collected in the first year of the programme, particularly with regard to measuring food security and nutritional status. The Board was also told that a regional initiative on cassava marketing had been launched in connection with the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Eastern and Southern Africa

Rwanda: Support Project for the Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture (PSTA) (EB 2005/85/R.20+ Sup.1) (now EB 2005/85/R.20/Rev.1)

3. The Executive Board unanimously approved a loan of SDR 5.65 million and a grant of SDR 140 000 for this project. In doing so, it expressed satisfaction that the project has the potential to contribute significantly to donor harmonization and alignment. The Board also noted that the project could serve as a basis for the development of a future intervention based on a sector-wide approach. The Executive Directors for the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland confirmed their countries' financial contributions in grants in addition to the IFAD loan. Clarification was provided on the concessionality of the loan and on the capacity strengthening of the Ministry of Agriculture's structures and their links to the local level. The Board commended the competent preparation of the project, which was carried out in close collaboration with other donors.

Tanzania, United Republic of: Agricultural Sector Development Programme – Livestock: Support for Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Development (EB 2005/85/R.21 + Add.1 + Sup.1) (now EB 2005/85/R.21/Rev.1)

4. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 14.25 million for this programme. The programme was supported by the majority of Executive Board Directors. In response to some questions raised, it was explained that the programme is part of the Government's Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP) and will fully contribute to and utilize its systems and structures, although initially the IFAD programme would not disburse through the basket fund. In addition, it was confirmed that the programme adopts a sustainable livelihood approach and that 25% of the programme's resources are committed to the empowerment and development of livestock organizations as the basis for further programme support for improving production. However, at the request of Executive Board Directors from Denmark, Ireland, Japan and the United Kingdom, the approval of this loan is subject to a written report from IFAD to the Executive Board in December 2005. This report should contain clear commitments in terms of actions and milestones, agreed jointly through the Food and Agricultural Sector Working Group structure at the country level to (a) contribute to and utilize the ASDP structures including the sector basket, and (b) more fully address pastoralism from a sustainable livelihood perspective.

Asia and the Pacific

China: South Gansu Poverty-Reduction Programme (EB 2005/85/R.22 + Add.1 + Sup.1) (now EB 2005/85/R.22/Rev.1)

5. The Board approved a loan of SDR 20.15 million to finance the programme. With regard to the question raised by the Executive Director for the United States of America regarding the indicators on child malnutrition, the Board was informed that a baseline survey will be conducted shortly before programme start-up. The survey will follow the Results and Impact Management System methodology and use the most recently developed tools. It was also clarified that procurement will follow the procurement guidelines for goods and services under IFAD-funded projects and programmes.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Mexico: Sustainable Development Project for Rural and Indigenous Communities of the Semi-Arid North-West (EB 2005/85/R.24 + Add.1 + Sup.1) (now EB 2005/85/R.24/Rev.1)

6. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 17.25 million to finance this project. The Board was informed that the environmental service payment schemes will be the responsibility of the National Forestry Commission, which is already a leading institution in the country.

Dominican Republic: President's Memorandum: Social and Economic Development Programme for Vulnerable Populations in the Border Provinces (Loan No. 595-DO) – Extension of Loan Effectiveness (EB 2005/85/R.23)

7. The Board approved the programme extension period for the fulfilment of effectiveness conditions until 12 December 2005. Clarification was requested on the need to reformulate the programme after two years. The Board was informed that the programme will essentially address the needs of the most vulnerable segment of the population, namely the Dominicans of Haitian origin living in the *bateys* (settlements for seasonal migrant workers). It was also noted that the programme is sufficiently flexible to accommodate any necessary adjustments. However, should major changes be required that modify the programme as approved by the Seventy-Seventh Session of the Executive Board, the programme would be resubmitted to the Board.

II. GRANT PROPOSALS

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

Grant under the Global/Regional Grants Window for Agricultural Research and Training by a CGIAR-Supported International Centre – World Agroforestry Centre: Programme for Strengthening Livelihood Strategies in the West African Sahel through Improved Management and Utilization of Parkland Agroforests (EB 2005/85/R.25)

9. A grant in the amount of USD 1 450 000 was approved. In response to queries by the Executive Directors for Germany and Switzerland on gender and targeting in the programme and the programme's time frame, clarification was provided and the Board's attention was drawn to paragraphs 19 and 20 of the report's annex. The grant will be directly linked to IFAD investment projects in the Sahel and will involve the national agricultural research and extension systems of all involved countries, ensuring the capacity-building of extension systems. The innovative proposal will position both men and women farmers as the main loan project partners in participatory technology development, building on the local knowledge of innovators in the rural community. It was also noted, in response to enquiries by the Executive Directors for Germany and the United States, that logical frameworks for all grants were available and would be provided to Board Directors on request. In future, it was requested that these be included in the report and recommendation of the President to the Board.

**Grants under the Global/Regional Grants Window for Agricultural Research and Training by Non-CGIAR-Supported International Centres
(EB 2005/85/R.26)**

10. The following grants were approved under this category:

Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA): Programme for Improved Management of Agricultural Water in Eastern and Southern Africa

11. A grant of USD 1.5 million was approved.

Capacity Building International (InWEnt): Programme for Capacity-Building in Managing for Results and Impact

12. A grant of USD 1.9 million was approved.

Kenya Gatsby Trust (KGT): Programme to Support Rural Finance Knowledge Management Partnership for Eastern and Southern Africa

13. A grant of USD 660 000 was approved.

Southern African Natural Products Trade Association (PhytoTrade Africa): Programme for Strengthening the Southern African Natural Products Trade Association

14. The Executive Board approved a grant of USD 1.5 million for this programme. In responding to queries by Executive Board members, it was explained that IFAD is covering some 35% of total programme costs; that efforts are already under way to enable the association to move towards achieving financial sustainability; and that the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation conducted for the first phase of the programme had been incorporated into the design of the proposed programme.

**Grant under the Global/Regional Grants Window to the Commission on Family Farming of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) for the Strengthening of the Participation of Small Farmers' Organizations in Policy Dialogue within the Commission on Family Farming of MERCOSUR
(EB 2005/85/R.27)**

15. The Board approved a grant of USD 1.09 million. In supporting the approach and contents of the proposal, clarification was requested on the portion of grant funding destined for smallholders' organizations. It was noted that about 75% of the funds will be channelled to these organizations. With regard to the scope of the structural funds, it was stated that these funds are earmarked by MERCOSUR member countries to support the economies of the subregion's smallholders. The Commission for Family Farming will distribute these funds. It was further explained that about 5% of IFAD funding will support monitoring and evaluation activities.

