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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON A PROPOSED
GRANT
UNDER THE GLOBAL/REGIONAL GRANTS WINDOW
FOR
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING
BY A
CGIAR-SUPPORTED INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ANAFE	African Network for Agroforestry Education
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
NARIs	National Agricultural Research Institutes

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD
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GLOBAL/REGIONAL GRANTS WINDOW FOR
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING BY A
CGIAR-SUPPORTED INTERNATIONAL CENTRE**

I submit the following report and recommendation on a proposed grant for agricultural research and training to an international centre supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), in the amount of USD 1 450 000.

PART I – INTRODUCTION

1. This report recommends the provision of IFAD support to the research and training programme of the CGIAR-supported international centre: the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF).

2. The document of the grant for approval by the Executive Board is contained in the annex to this report:

World Agroforestry Centre: Programme for Strengthening Livelihood Strategies in the West African Sahel through Improved Management and Utilization of Parkland Agroforests.

3. The objectives and content of this applied research programme are in line with the evolving strategic objectives of IFAD, and the policy and criteria of its grant programme for agricultural research and training.

4. The overarching strategic objectives that drive IFAD's Policy for Grant Financing approved by the Executive Board in December 2003 are:

- (a) promoting pro-poor research on innovative approaches and technological options to enhance field-level impact; and
- (b) building pro-poor capacities of partner institutions, including community-based organizations and NGOs.

5. Deriving from these core objectives, the specific aims of IFAD's grant support relate to: (a) IFAD's target groups and their household food-security strategies, specifically in remote and marginalized agroecological areas; (b) technologies that build on traditional knowledge systems, are gender-responsive, and enhance and diversify the productive potential of resource-poor farming systems by improving productivity and addressing production bottlenecks; (c) access to productive assets (land and water, financial services, labour and technology, including indigenous technology) and sustainable and productive management of such resources; (d) a policy framework that provides the rural poor with an incentive to reach higher levels of productivity, thereby reducing their dependence on transfers; and (e) an institutional framework within which formal and informal, public and private-sector, local and national institutions provide services to the economically vulnerable, according to their comparative advantage. Within this framework, IFAD also intends to develop commodity-based approaches to the rural poor. Finally, the establishment of a consolidated network for knowledge-gathering and dissemination will enhance the Fund's capacity to establish long-term

strategic linkages with its development partners and to multiply the effect of its agricultural research and training programme.

6. The grant proposed in this document responds to the strategic objectives (a), (b), (d) and (e) as follows. It will improve target group resilience to shocks such as crop failures by increasing the use of trees and shrubs in local diets and health practices, thereby diversifying sources of food and medicines. It will also improve the access of rural poor communities to more productive tree domestication technologies based on selected and adapted germplasm relying on local experimentation. In terms of objectives (d) and (e), it enhances the pro-poor orientation of policies and institutions by supporting local networks of farmers' associations and organizations and fostering their role in analysing, developing and implementing natural resource policies.

PART II – RECOMMENDATION

7. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed grant in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Programme for Strengthening Livelihood Strategies in the West African Sahel through Improved Management and Utilization of Parkland Agroforests, shall make a grant not exceeding one million four hundred and fifty thousand United States dollars (USD 1 450 000) to the World Agroforestry Centre for a four-year programme from 2006 to 2009 upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board in this Report and Recommendation of the President.

Lennart Båge
President

WORLD AGROFORESTRY CENTRE: PROGRAMME FOR STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES IN THE WEST AFRICAN SAHEL THROUGH IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION OF PARKLAND AGROFORESTS

I. BACKGROUND

1. Parkland agroforests combine a mixture of useful trees and shrubs cultivated alongside staple food crops, such as pearl millet and sorghum. These agroforests reflect generations of innovation and experimentation by farmers, and are the principal agricultural system used today by subsistence farmers in the West African Sahel. Parkland trees and shrubs have a variety of functions for the rural poor. They are the source of many foods that complement staple crops in the local diet, and are particularly important when grain stores are low on farms. They provide numerous traditional medicines essential for rural health care, and supply fuelwood for domestic use, materials for use in the household and on the farm, in addition to fodder and medicines for livestock. These trees and shrubs also play a key role in maintaining the productivity of staple food crops in the parkland, by moderating soil temperatures, reducing soil erosion and improving soil fertility. Moreover, since the parkland is a source of forage, fodder and medicines for livestock, safeguarding its productivity is essential for healthy herds.

2. Unfortunately, parkland agroforests are being degraded and their biodiversity is not being wholly regenerated owing to several environmental, biological, socio-economic and political factors. Lower biodiversity leaves the rural poor with fewer options to improve their health, nutrition and income. Degradation of the parkland also leads to more intensive extraction pressure on the common land between villages and in the State's forest conservation areas (*forêts classées*); this provokes conflicts among villages, farmers and pastoralists, and also with the State forestry department.

II. RATIONALE/RELEVANCE TO IFAD

3. Diversifying and improving the management of indigenous trees and shrubs in parkland agroforests, and increasing the marketing of products from the various species could help reduce poverty by providing rural poor communities with the possibility of a more diversified and consistent livelihood, and improve the food security and health of family members.

4. The most novel features of this programme are: (a) participatory development of community-based strategies to diversify and conserve useful native tree and shrub species in the parkland, with a view to identifying the best marketing opportunities for high-value products from these species; and (b) participatory research on genetic variation in priority species, utilizing the experience of "farmer innovators" who possess a wealth of practical knowledge based on their own adaptive practices. These innovators are the catalysts in their communities, and are the key entry point for a partnership to regenerate parkland diversity.

5. The programme is consistent with IFAD's policy for the reduction of rural poverty, and supports the Strategy for Rural Poverty Reduction in Western and Central Africa by: (a) strengthening the capacity of the rural poor and their organizations to manage and conserve their natural resources, and market a broader range of high-value products from native trees and shrubs; (b) improving the pro-poor focus of the national partner institutions; (c) raising agricultural productivity of native trees and shrubs, and associated crops in the parkland agroforestry system; (d) improving access of rural poor communities to improved technologies based on selected and adapted germplasm of native trees and shrubs; (e) reducing vulnerability of rural livelihoods to major threats, such as crop failure, by diversifying native trees and shrubs and, as a consequence, sources of food, medicines and incomes;

and (f) focusing on the parkland, which although undergoing severe degradation, is the principal agroforestry system used by subsistence farmers in the region and has considerable prospects for future investment.

III. THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

6. The goal of the programme is to improve the livelihoods of rural poor communities in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal by enriching biodiversity and improving the management of useful native trees and shrubs in parkland agroforests, thereby diversifying options for essential products, environmental services and sources of income.

7. The programme has three objectives to: (a) build the capacity of rural poor communities, and local and national partners to jointly design, implement, monitor and evaluate plans for participatory domestication, management and conservation of native trees and shrubs that contribute significantly to rural livelihoods; (b) strengthen community-based organizations and networks for sustainable management, production and marketing of high-value products from native trees and shrubs; and (c) enhance the relevance of research and training programmes and of approaches to participatory, community-based action-research in agroforestry for rural communities. Programme activities will be grouped under the headings below.

8. **Participatory diagnosis/analysis within villages.** This area will cover: (a) examining farmers' practices, identifying innovations/innovators and experimentation related to the use, management, domestication and conservation of native trees and shrubs that can be tapped and improved; (b) analysing the impact of local natural resource policies and land/tree tenure on the use, management, domestication and conservation of native trees and shrubs; (c) identifying priority species and their role in village livelihood strategies; (d) assessing potential actors in community-based tree and forest enterprises; and (e) defining the necessary training, technical, research and extension support.

9. **Village and inter-village workshops to define participatory research/development plans.** Activities in this area include: (a) developing plans that build upon local practices to improve the utilization, management, domestication and conservation of native trees and shrubs in parkland agroforests; (b) reviving or improving the organization of self-sustainable associations and networks for the production and marketing of high-value products from a few priority species; and (c) identifying mechanisms to involve villages as partners in: (i) evaluating, developing and implementing local natural resource policies, and (ii) setting priorities for agroforestry research and extension in national institutes and universities.

10. **Strengthening capacity for participatory projects in domestication, management and conservation of shrubs and trees.** This will entail: (a) conducting capacity-building workshops about participatory methods, community-based natural resource management and conflict-resolution tools; (b) designing and implementing participatory research/training programmes in villages for genetic evaluation trials; domestication, management and conservation methods; and parkland diversification methods, all converging into concrete actions such as planting, re-planting, protecting and establishing nurseries; (c) developing plans, built on existing mechanisms, to organize self-sustainable community-based networks for domestication and conservation; (d) creating and using databases of traditional knowledge about native trees and shrubs; (e) working jointly with villagers to quantify and monitor the relationship between their livelihoods and the biodiversity of native trees and shrubs in their landscape; and (f) implementing strategic processes that bring together rural communities, civil societies and local decision-makers to jointly evaluate, develop and apply local natural-resource policies that facilitate the diversification, sustainable use and preservation of the parkland.

11. **Strengthening community-based networks for production, management and marketing.** Activities in this area include: (a) organizing capacity-building workshops about community-based tree and forest enterprises in order to support the emergence of appropriate business models that are based on the communities' interests, marketing opportunities, available labour, and equity considerations such as gender, ethnicity and livelihood status; (b) analysing demand-supply and commodity chains for products from species that villages identify as priority, and work with villages to identify their best marketing options and strategies; and (c) organizing "farmer field forums" to exchange ideas and experiences about the use, management, domestication and conservation of native trees and shrubs, and their products and markets.

12. **Strengthening the relevance of agroforestry research in universities.** This will involve: (a) supporting thesis research that directly responds to the needs of rural poor communities; (b) organizing stakeholder workshops to critically evaluate the academic, training and research programmes in the forestry and agroforestry departments of participating universities, and recommend ways to make them more relevant to rural poor communities; (c) organizing demand-driven workshops to train trainers in national partner institutions and IFAD development projects; and (d) developing training materials and curricula with field-based learning plans that utilize a learning environment such as the farmer field forums.

13. **Communications.** Information will be made available in various forms (print, audio, video and also electronic via the FIDAFRIQUE web site). Specific activities will include: (a) producing and disseminating training and extension materials, and technical reports; and (b) making audio/video programmes that document the programme's evolution as experienced by the villagers.

IV. EXPECTED OUTPUTS/EXPECTED BENEFITS

14. **Human capital.** The proposed programme will equip rural poor communities, and national teams of researchers, educators, and development and extension workers with the skills, knowledge and appropriate attitudes to develop and implement projects in participatory domestication, management and conservation of native trees and shrubs that are gender-sensitive and satisfy the development needs of the rural poor. It is expected that national partner universities will adopt active, contextual and experiential teaching and learning methods in their forestry and agroforestry departments. Training and extension materials, audio/video programmes, technical reports, databases and theses that respond to the development needs of rural communities will also be produced and disseminated with the support of the programme.

15. The programme will boost **social capital** so that rural poor communities: (a) work as partners and co-investigators with national research, extension, development and educational institutes; and (b) form associations and networks to better manage and conserve their natural resources, and to produce and market high-quality products from native trees and shrubs.

16. In terms of **natural capital**, rural poor communities will: (a) protect their natural resources; (b) produce, use and conserve high-quality germplasm from a broad range of native tree and shrub species; and (c) increase biodiversity of native trees and shrubs in the parkland agroforests.

17. **Political capital.** Community-based organizations and networks will be institutionalized and recognized as key stakeholders in natural resource management. It is expected that rural poor communities will initiate a dialogue with local authorities about their role in analysing, developing and implementing local natural resource policies.

18. The programme will enhance **economic capital** by diversifying the sources of income of the rural poor so that they produce and market a broader range of products from native trees and shrubs.

V. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

19. It was decided during grant design that this four-year programme would operate in collaboration with five of IFAD's ongoing projects as follows: the Village Organization and Management Project – Phase II (Groundnut Basin, Senegal); the Sahelian Areas Development Fund Programme (Ségou region, Mali); Community Investment Programme for Agricultural Fertility (south-east Burkina Faso); the Sustainable Rural Development Programme (Burkina Faso, central plateau); and the Project for the Promotion of Local Initiative for Development in Aguié (Maradi region, Niger). Programme activities will be carried out with a view to developing strong synergies with the loans. In each region, three sets of villages will be selected, each set including three neighbouring villages.

20. Key institutional partners include the five IFAD projects/programmes above; two IFAD grant programmes (one with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute [IPGRI] and a new grant proposal currently under review for the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics [ICRISAT]). Four national agricultural research institutes (NARIs) will also be involved: the Rural Development Institute of Mali; the National Institute for Agricultural Research of Niger; the Institute for the Environment and Agricultural Research of Burkina Faso; and the Senegalese Agriculture Research Institute. Other institutional partners are: four national extension institutes, four national universities, (University of Niamey, Niger; University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; Institut Polytechnique Rural de Katibougou, Mali; and University of Dakar, Senegal), four European universities (the Graduate Institute for Development Studies, Switzerland; Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium; and the University of Pisa and the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (also in Pisa) Italy. Four international institutions (the African Network for Agroforestry Education [ANAFE], the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO], ICRISAT and IPGRI) will also be involved. Additional partners (NGOs, projects, farmers' associations) will be identified based on their activities, interest and effectiveness.

21. One regional team and four national teams will support the programme. The regional team includes three ICRAF scientists and one from ANAFE, who will have expertise in the area of: participatory domestication and community-based conservation; forest genetics and silviculture; socio-economics, market research and community-based enterprise development; and training. Each national team includes a national programme facilitator and two other scientists with combined expertise in forest genetics, silviculture, ecology and socio-economics (seconded from NARIs); a facilitator for participatory methods and training (ANAFE members); forestry technicians (two per IFAD project) and nursery specialists (one per IFAD project) recruited and paid by the IFAD projects. Committees will be organized at different levels to coordinate and institutionalize the programme. These include village committees, inter-village committees, five IFAD project-level committees, country-level consortia, and a regional steering committee.

VI. INDICATIVE PROGRAMME COSTS AND FINANCING

22. ICRAF will be responsible for programme management and coordination, and for financial and technical reporting, and shall operate from Samanko Research Station in Mali. The regional Steering Committee will determine the allocation of funds according to agreed annual workplans and budgets. The estimated cost of the four-year programme is approximately USD 3.2 million of which, USD 1.45 million, or 46% of the total would be as a grant from IFAD. Cofinancing of up to 54% will be provided by ICRAF (34%), four NARIs (7%), five IFAD-funded projects (11.5%) and FAO (1.5%).

ANNEX

PROGRAMME COSTS AND FINANCING
(USD)

Cost Category	IFAD	ICRAF	NARIs	FAO	IFAD Projects	Total
Staff	498 000	388 500	230 400		288 000	1 404 900
Travel	124 400	66 000				190 400
Meetings and workshops	117 000	95 500		50 000	75 000	337 500
Research and training	325 200	146 000				471 200
Equipment	56 250	33 000				89 250
Office supplies and general expenses	44 200					44 200
Supplies and services for field work	100 800	161 000				261 800
Overheads	184 150	184 219				368 369
Total	1 450 000	1 074 219	230 400	50 000	363 000	3 167 619