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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

**President's report on a proposed grant
under the global/regional grants
window to a CGIAR-supported
international centre**

Executive Board — Ninety-fourth Session
Rome, 10-11 September 2008

For: **Approval**

Note to Executive Board Directors

This document is submitted for approval by the Executive Board.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AFTPs	agroforestry tree products
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
TDRC	tree-domestication resource centre

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation for a grant under the global/regional grants window to a CGIAR-supported international centre as contained in paragraph 7.

President's report on a proposed grant under the global/regional grants window to a CGIAR-supported international centre

I submit the following report and recommendation on a proposed grant for agricultural research and training to a Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)-supported international centre in the amount of US\$1.2 million.

Part I – Introduction

1. This report recommends the provision of IFAD support to a research and training programmes of the following 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 (ICRAF): Programme for Promoting Rural Innovation through Participatory Tree Domestication in West and Central Africa
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 IFAD's grant programme.
4. The overarching strategic objectives that drive the IFAD Policy for Grant Financing, which was 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/or
 - (b) Building pro-poor capacities of partner institutions, including community-based organizations and NGOs.
5. Deriving from these objectives and those of the IFAD Strategic Framework 2007-2010, the specific aims of IFAD's grant support relate to: (a) the Fund's target groups and their household food-security strategies, with particular reference to groups in remote and marginalized agroecological areas; (b) technologies that build on traditional local/indigenous knowledge systems, are gender-responsive, and enhance and diversify the productive potential of resource-poor farming systems by improving on- and off-farm productivity and by addressing production bottlenecks; (c) access to productive assets (land and water, a broad range of rural financial services, labour and technology); (d) the sustainable and productive management of natural resources, including sustainable utilization and conservation of such resources; (e) a policy framework at both the local and the national level that provides the rural poor with a conducive incentive structure to improve their productivity and reduce their dependence on transfers; (f) access to transparent and competitive input/product markets and making these work for the poor primary producers involved in remunerative small and medium-sized enterprises and value chains; and (g) an institutional framework within which institutions – formal and informal, public- and private-sector, local and national alike – can provide services to the economically vulnerable, according to their comparative advantage. Within this framework, IFAD's grant financing supports commodity-based approaches for self-targeting among the rural poor. Finally, IFAD's grant programme fosters the establishment and strengthening of networks for pro-poor knowledge generation and exchange, which in turn enhances the Fund's own capacity to establish long-term strategic linkages with its development partners and to multiply the effect of its grant-financed research and capacity-building programmes.

6. The Programme for Promoting Rural Innovation through Participatory Tree Domestication in West and Central Africa responds to the foregoing strategic objectives (a), (b), (c), (f) and (g), in as much as it improves access to and dissemination of tree domestication propagation techniques to benefit a larger number of smallholders. The programme will: (i) develop an effective communication strategy targeted at farmers and key stakeholders; (ii) facilitate linkages to markets and ensure higher incomes for rural poor people, especially women, through improved processes and products. The programme will also foster strategic partnerships and develop approaches for addressing scaling-up issues such as marketing, and information-sharing processes, especially within IFAD projects.

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 Promoting Rural Innovation through Participatory Tree Domestication in West and Central Africa, shall make a grant not exceeding one million two hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$1,200,000) to the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) for a three-year programme upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

Lennart Båge
President

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF): Programme for Promoting Rural Innovation through Participatory Tree Domestication in West and Central Africa

I. Background

1. Since 1999, ICRAF and its partners have developed a participatory approach to domesticating high-value indigenous trees. Tree domestication is defined as taking trees from their natural habitat and adapting them, using simple propagation techniques, to farmers' needs. ICRAF's past activities have focused on formulating and testing strategies for the domestication and marketing of agroforestry trees. This has resulted in the development of capacity and knowledge for the sustainable development, dissemination and marketing of indigenous trees and their products in West and Central Africa.¹
2. Against this background, the IFAD grant-funded Diversification of Smallholder Farming Systems in West and Central Africa through Cultivation of Indigenous Trees – Phase II was implemented from 2004 to 2007. The programme focused on integrating and managing "domesticated" trees within farming systems. The programme had several outcomes, it (i) showed that tree domestication can really make a difference in the livelihoods of poor people;² (ii) created more options for the poorest people to multiply "plus trees" (elite selection) using simple techniques; and (iii) led to the development of marketing mechanisms to increase the benefits of agroforestry tree products (AFTPs) for smallholder farmers (e.g. through group sales combined with post-harvest technologies, market information systems and linking producers to the private sector).
3. Tree domestication techniques such as marcotting, rooting of cuttings and grafting have considerable advantages over seed-based propagation as they allow the exact reproduction of superior material that bears fruit earlier. Significantly, at the end of the last phase, a total of 166 farmers' groups, 25 NGOs and 8 national partners were directly involved in tree domestication in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Nigeria. A total of 395,448 trees (indigenous fruit trees and forest species) were produced in farmer nurseries over the period 2004-2006. About three-quarters of this production was planted in the fields of members of the farmers' groups and the rest was sold. The number of farmers' nurseries that obtained revenue from the sales of plants increased from 12 (in 2004) to 46 (in 2006). The average annual income per nursery also rose, from US\$275 (in 2004) to US\$770 (in 2006). In terms of capacity-building, during the period 2004-2007, 557 farmer trainers were trained in 16 tree domestication resource centres (TDRCs); two regional training courses gathered 52 participants from research, education and extension institutes; and 54 students were received on internships.
4. Substantial information on AFTP processing and exporting enterprises suggests that there is a growing demand for "new" products in urban centres of the region, as well as on the international market. In this context, improving the quality of tree products, combined with the use of appropriate post-harvest techniques has facilitated access to new markets and enhanced the generation of additional income. Farmers and other grass-roots actors have also benefited from strengthened institutional capacity in financial management, planning, and monitoring and evaluation. Considerable information has been generated and policy dialogue carried out, which has led to recognition of the value of tree domestication at several policy levels. This grant will build on the lessons drawn from successful

¹ The programme implementation results can be found in the ICRAF/IFAD Evaluation Report "Diversification of smallholder farming systems in West and Central Africa through Cultivation of Indigenous Trees", 1999-2002.

² More details can be found in the ICRAF/IFAD "Growing Out of Poverty: Tree Cultivation in West and Central Africa for Home Use and Markets". Programme Evaluation/Completion Report 2004-2007.

tree domestication interventions and the partnerships established under the interventions and will also strengthen the technical and organizational capacities of those partners.

II. Rationale and relevance to IFAD

5. Since 1999, IFAD has been providing funding for the development of participatory tree domestication techniques and the strengthening of farmers' groups and national research capacity in West and Central Africa. There is now strong evidence that tree domestication is a sound technical innovation that increases the income of farmers, diversifies their activities and leads to other gains in terms of nutrition, health, empowerment, etc. However, the high demand for many tree products in local, national and global markets is constrained by the absence of technologies, weak institutional mechanisms and uncondusive policies. Tree domestication processes need to be consolidated, especially at relatively new sites, in order to accelerate adoption. Further efforts are needed to promote awareness among decision-makers and donors of the role of tree domestication in reducing rural poverty.
6. The following lessons have emerged as crucial in achieving effective uptake of tree domestication and maximizing benefits for poor farmers: (i) ensure wider availability of tree planting material (in terms of quality, quantity, proximity and price); (ii) disseminate targeted information and knowledge on technologies, markets and services to guide decision-making; (iii) strengthen human capacity, focusing particularly on gender considerations; (iv) develop effective linkages, incentives and other mechanisms to empower individuals and local institutions; and (v) engage in policy dialogue for the scaling up of tree domestication.
7. To consolidate the achievements made to date and take advantage of the expertise that has been built up, scaling-up efforts will concentrate on existing sites and partners that have been trained under previous interventions. The concept of TDRCs has been tested in sixteen sites over the last four years: eight in Cameroon, six in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and two in Nigeria, and such centres will be used to facilitate the scaling-up process. The proposal to increase the number of TDRCs from 16 to 50 centres, which would be spread across Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria, is a particularly innovative approach to agricultural extension. The process will be driven by local stakeholders and will significantly increase: (i) interactive learning and networking; (ii) establishment of nurseries; (iii) dissemination of vegetative propagation techniques; (iv) tree management skills; and (v) AFTP commercialization opportunities, such as access to markets. The sustainability of the centres will be guaranteed by the identification of suitable sites, and the involvement of partners that have been trained under previous phases and under similar projects being implemented by ICRAF in the region. Grant activities will be integrated with selected IFAD loan operations to ensure greater replication of research and technology "products" related to tree domestication. The programme thus complements the two overarching strategic objectives that drive the IFAD Policy for Grant Financing. The programme is consistent with the IFAD Strategic Framework 2007-2010, which seeks to ensure that the rural poor have access to and have developed the skills to take advantage of improved agricultural technologies and competitive markets for agricultural inputs and produce.

III. The proposed programme

8. The goal of the programme is to increase rural household income and the measurable impact on farmers' livelihoods through the uptake of participatory tree domestication in West and Central Africa. Based on previous experience, the programme will assess and build on opportunities for scaling up successful innovations.

9. To ensure that the grant activities are well integrated with loan interventions, two pilot sites³ per country (six in total) will be selected in IFAD project areas and the respective staff will be actively involved in training and information sharing. Smallholder farmers and key stakeholders will be targeted based on the criteria applied by the project in question. Community-based facilitators will support this process. The target population – vulnerable groups and women – will have a range of tree domestication options (in terms of species, propagation techniques, farming systems, marketing channels, etc.). Farmers with the highest potential for kick-starting and supporting self-sustained growth and employment in rural areas will be given priority. The programme will directly benefit 6,000 farmers and indirectly 10,000 individuals (see the logical framework). This three-year programme comprises four mutually reinforcing components as follows:
10. **Increase uptake of tree domestication through mechanisms and policies for improved propagation, integration and marketing of AFTPs**
This component will increase the uptake of tree domestication and the replication of domestication activities by rural households through policy and institutional analysis, and the promotion of innovative information, market and distribution mechanisms. The five main activities are: (i) support effective production and distribution of improved tree planting material by small-scale farmers; (ii) develop and implement diagnostic and negotiation tools to assist in decision making about tree selection; (iii) support stakeholders in the AFTP value chain to collect, use and disseminate market information; (iv) facilitate linkages between AFTP producers and the private sector; and (v) analyse key factors influencing the uptake of tree domestication.
11. **Enable rural actors to adapt and disseminate tree domestication through targeted tools, methods and training**
The adoption of tree domestication relies on the sustainability of tree-planting material, knowledge and information, human capacity and institutions. This component focuses on the development of capabilities and knowledge-based networks to strengthen learning and organization through support to 50 TDRCs, spread across Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria. The three main activities are: (i) adapt and disseminate tree domestication to help farmers improve their livelihoods; (ii) support farmers in their adaptation and experimentation initiatives; and (iii) facilitate processes, reinforce social networks and strengthen institutional arrangements for information sharing.
12. **Communication and partnerships for dissemination of tree domestication technologies**
This component will develop effective and targeted communication mechanisms among bilateral and multilateral institutions, civil society and governmental structures at the local, national and international levels, with a specific focus on IFAD loan projects. The two main activities are: (i) develop appropriate and targeted communication packages; and (ii) build partnerships to disseminate tree domestication technology.
13. **Design and implementation of a systematic monitoring and evaluation strategy**
This component will measure programme progress, guide implementation and keep track of the changes in farmers' livelihoods at the community and landscape levels. The two main activities are: (i) develop a framework for monitoring changes at farmer, household, village and landscape levels; and (ii) implement a participatory change-sensitive monitoring and evaluation system.

³ A pilot site typically has a number of farmers' groups, which are attached to a single TDRC and practise tree domestication (i.e. propagating trees in small-scale nurseries, collective marketing of AFTPs, etc). TDRCs provide training on tree propagation, integration and marketing; and facilitate farmers' acquisition of knowledge on tree domestication. The centres are strategically located so that they can serve farmers in a larger area, or "pilot site".

IV. Expected outputs and benefits

14. The following outputs are foreseen:
- (a) Increased uptake of participatory tree domestication through: (i) improved access to high-quality germplasm at affordable prices; (ii) an efficient AFTP market information system managed by stakeholders; and (iii) formal agreements between producers and the private sector for the sales and processing of AFTPs;
 - (b) Adaptable tools, methods and training material to strengthen the capacities of rural actors in tree domestication;
 - (c) Effective communication channels to support tree integration decision-making; and
 - (d) A monitoring and evaluation strategy that tracks progress and provides feedback to enhance results and impact for farms, households, villages and the landscape.
15. Expected impacts include:
- Increased income-generating opportunities for small-scale producers through improved cultivation techniques and greater market participation and commercialization of AFTPs;
 - Improved food security and nutritional status;
 - NGOs and farmers organizations have members who are skilled or specialized in tree domestication;
 - More pro-poor investment in tree-domestication by national and international organizations; and
 - Greater opportunities for replication and scaling up of participatory tree domestication in IFAD loan programmes⁴ and other development initiatives in West and Central Africa.

V. Implementation arrangements

16. ICRAF will be responsible for the programme's coordination and management, technical backstopping, and delivery of financial and technical reports. Activities in the field will be implemented by the key organizations involved, with responsibilities allocated according to the geographical location, experience and comparative advantage of each organization. Funds will be allocated and disbursed according to an agreed workplan and budget every six months on the basis of a letter of agreement or memorandum of understanding between ICRAF and the implementing partner/service provider. Subsequent disbursement will be conditional on proper technical and financial reporting. IFAD will supervise this programme on an annual basis under the Programme Development Financing Facility, in close consultation with the Western and Central Africa Division.

⁴ Nine IFAD projects will principally benefit: (i) Cameroon – Community Development Support Project; (ii) Cameroon – Roots and Tubers Market-Driven Development Programme; (iii) Democratic Republic of the Congo – Lulua Agricultural Development Project; (iv) Democratic Republic of the Congo – Agricultural Revival Programme in Equateur Province; (v) Democratic Republic of the Congo – Integrated Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme for Maniema Province (in the pipeline); (vi) Nigeria – Community-Based Agricultural and Rural Development Programme; (vii) Nigeria – Roots and Tubers Expansion Programme; (viii) Nigeria – Rural Finance Institution-building Programme; and (ix) Nigeria – Rural Microenterprise Development Programme.

VI. Indicative programme costs and financing

17. The total cost for the programme is estimated at US\$1.6 million. IFAD will provide a grant of US\$1.2 million. Cofinancing⁵ of US\$420,000 will come from ICRAF's core funding and other programmes in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria. Partners will supply in-kind resources in the form of office and field experimentation space; staff time for research and extension, transport facilities, land, labour, and locally available material for nursery construction and establishment of experimental and demonstration plots. Details of the budget and financing plan are provided in the table below.

Summary of budget and financing plan

(in thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Type of expenditure</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>Cofinancing</i>
Personnel (including subcontractors)	300	180
Professional services	100	-
Travel costs	115	35
Equipment	50	20
Operational costs, reporting and publications	210	25
Backstopping	55	-
Training/capacity-building	230	85
Overheads	140	75
Total	1 200	420

⁵ Cofinancing will be provided by the United States Agency for International Development through the Central African Regional Program for the Environment; the European Union; and ICRAF.

Results-based logical framework

	Objectives-hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Goal	Increased income of rural households (women and men) and measurable positive changes in farmers' livelihoods in West and Central Africa through uptake of participatory tree domestication	Increased incomes for smallholder farmers. Increased enterprise development of small producers and better market information systems.	Household surveys, studies in rural markets and enterprises. Case studies of changes in farmers' livelihoods	That the overall socio-economic environment remains stable or improves.
Objectives	Rural actors have accessed and adapted tree domestication knowledge, technology and information to their circumstances; and this has resulted in bringing about positive changes in farmers' livelihoods	At least 10% of smallholder farmers in targeted areas adopt aspects of tree domestication in three years. Examples of positive changes in farmers' livelihoods are reported in at least 30% of the targeted communities	Programme evaluation and completion reports; Adoption and impact studies; Strategic documents of development programmes	Sustained policy support to sustainable tree-based farming; Continued collaboration from extension services, NGOs and CBOs
Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased uptake of tree domestication as a result of techniques, mechanisms and policies for improved propagation, integration and marketing of AFTPs 2. Adaptable tools, methods and training material to build rural actors' capacities to disseminate tree domestication 3. Development initiatives engage in supporting tree domestication technology dissemination 4. A change-sensitive monitoring and evaluation strategy is implemented. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 500 farmer groups involved in improved propagation, integration and/or marketing in three years by increasing the number of TDRCs from 16 to 50 2. At least 100 stakeholders strengthened to diffuse the broadened vision of tree domestication 3. At least one concrete link with IFAD loan programmes established and example of their engagement documented in each of the countries (at least two joint pilot sites per country) 4. M&E database, integrating data on livelihood changes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Programme progress reports; M&E database; Farmer surveys 2. progress reports; Training material/reports; Stakeholders' reports 3. Policy briefs, thematic information slips; Strategic documents/reports from IFAD programme 4. M&E database; progress reports 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Farmers willing to invest in tree production; Growing demand 2. Rural actors willing to integrate this broadened vision in extension 3. Development programmes continue to be interested in sustainable income generating activities 4. Actors willing to provide info
Key Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Support effective production and distribution of improved germplasm by small-scale rural nurseries by increasing the number of TDRC from 16 to 50 1.2 Develop & implement tools to assist tree integration decision making 1.3 Provide support to collect, disseminate and use market information 1.4 Facilitate linkages between AFTP producers and private sector and explore opportunities for value adding by farmers 1.5 Analyse conditions for uptake of tree domestication 2.1 Help rural actors to adapt and disseminate tree domestication 2.2 Support farmer adaptation and experimentation initiatives 2.3 Facilitate processes and reinforce social networks, relationships and institutional arrangements for information sharing 3.1 Develop appropriate communication packages using relevant communication channels for different stakeholders 3.2 Build partnerships with IFAD loan programmes so that they engage in supporting tree domestication technology dissemination 4.1 Develop a framework for monitoring changes at farmer, household, village or landscape level 4.2 Implement the change-sensitive M&E system 	<p>Means:</p> <p><i>Personnel</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o ICRAF: scaling-up expert, market & FED expert; tree domestication expert, research assistants; driver o Relay organisations: extension agents o Temporary fieldworkers <p><i>Professional services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Consultants for ad-hoc market and SE studies; M&E expert <p><i>Travel</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Coordination visits o Technical backstopping and follow-up of relay organisations and farmer groups <p><i>Equipment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Pick-up and 3 motorbikes for field activities <p><i>Backstopping</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Steering committee meeting and yearly financial audit <p><i>Training & Capacity Building</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Support to relay organisations (transport + technician allowances) o Network meetings and training workshops 	<p>Nursery and AFTP sales records. Programme progress reports; M&E database; stakeholders' reports; training material and reports; activity reports of rural actors; workshop reports</p> <p>Copies of all communication material</p> <p>Development organizations' strategies and reports; number of media events</p> <p>Data collection forms; M&E database; progress reports</p>	<p>Farmers and traders willing to provide accurate information;</p> <p>Partners provide agreed inputs to activities</p> <p>Rural actors willing to use more participatory approaches to technology dissemination; rural institutions ready to share info</p> <p>Tree domestication is relevant to development organisations' agenda</p> <p>All stakeholders willing to provide accurate information</p>