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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

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

Executive Board — Ninety-sixth Session
Rome, 29-30 April 2009

For: **Approval**

Note to Executive Board Directors

This document is submitted for approval by the Executive Board.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

CURE	Consortium for Unfavorable Rice Environments
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
NARES	national agricultural research and extension systems
NARS	national agricultural research system

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendations for grants under the global/regional grants window to CGIAR-supported international centres as contained in page 2, paragraph 9.

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

I submit the following report and recommendation on two proposed grants for agricultural research and training to Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)-supported international centres in the amount of US\$3.0 million.

Part I – Introduction

1. This report recommends the provision of IFAD support to the research and training programmes of the following CGIAR-supported international centres: the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).
2. The documents of the grants for approval by the Executive Board are contained in the annexes to this report:
 - (i) International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA): Programme on Improving Livelihoods of Small Farmers and Rural Women through Value-added Processing and Export of Cashmere, Wool and Mohair
 - (ii) International Rice Research Institute (IRRI): Programme on Enabling Poor Rice Farmers to Improve Livelihoods and Overcome Poverty in South and South-East Asia through the Consortium for Unfavourable Rice Environments (CURE)
3. The objectives and content of these applied research programmes 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 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 poor rural people 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 poor rural people. 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 grants proposed in this document respond to the foregoing strategic objectives.
7. The Programme on Improving Livelihoods of Small Farmers and Rural Women through Value-added Processing and Export of Cashmere, Wool and Mohair responds to the strategic objectives (b), (d) and (e) and to both of IFAD's grant policy objectives inasmuch as it: promotes innovations in a participatory, community-based and demand-driven approach to strengthen the communities' capacity and their organizations; facilitates access to technologies and markets; increases poor rural people's income; and enhances the productivity of natural resources. The proposed programme responds, in particular, to the IFAD objective of helping poor rural people gain access to improved agricultural technologies and production services.
8. The Programme on Enabling Poor Rice Farmers to Improve Livelihoods and Overcome Poverty in South and South-East Asia through the Consortium for Unfavourable Rice Environments (CURE) responds to the IFAD Strategic Framework objective of enhancing poor rural people's access to improved agricultural technologies, and to the overarching objective of IFAD's grant policy of promoting pro-poor research on innovative approaches and technological options to enhance field-level impact. It also responds to the priority of IFAD's Asia and the Pacific Division grant programme to develop and disseminate agricultural technologies for poor farmers in less-favoured areas.

Part II – Recommendation

9. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed grants in terms of the following resolutions:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Programme on Improving Livelihoods of Small Farmers and Rural Women through Value-added Processing and Export of Cashmere, Wool and Mohair, shall make a grant not exceeding one million five hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$1,500,000) to the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) for a four-year programme upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Programme on Enabling Poor Rice Farmers to Improve Livelihoods and Overcome Poverty in South and South-East Asia through the Consortium for Unfavourable Rice Environments (CURE), shall make a grant not exceeding one million five hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$1,500,000) to the International Rice Research Institute for a four-year programme upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

Kanayo F. Nwanze
President

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA): Programme on Improving Livelihoods of Small Farmers and Rural Women through Value-added Processing and Export of Cashmere, Wool and Mohair

I. Background

1. Small-scale producers of sheep and cashmere and angora goats in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan share the problem of poor access to world fibre markets and, as a result, experience considerable losses of income. This also hurts local processors who add value to fibre – in most cases poor rural women. The women lack access to distant markets where handmade luxury clothing and handicrafts made of natural fibres are highly valued and thus lose considerable earning opportunities. In addition to poor linkages to markets, cashmere, mohair and wool producers lack scientific, organizational and technical support to improve breeding and fibre quality. In Central Asian countries such as Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, centralized, state-run breeding programmes that supported sheep and goat production collapsed after the breakdown of the Soviet Union and were never replaced by breeding programmes for small, private producers. Neither were the new private farmers trained in proper harvesting, grading and sorting of cashmere and mohair to satisfy market standards. These deficiencies not only affect fibre quality but threaten the long-term competitiveness and sustainability of these sectors and the livelihoods of tens of thousands of households that depend on incomes from fibre production and processing. Many of these families live in poor and often remote agroecological regions where the production of small ruminants such as angora and cashmere goats represents the only source of livelihood.
2. This programme will focus on the defined needs of these families in order to increase their livelihoods and income through improved production, processing and export of value-added fibre. It will place special emphasis on rural women.

II. Rationale and relevance to IFAD

3. The programme will contribute to improving the livelihoods of marginalized people who live in dry areas of Central and South Asia sharing common problems of vulnerability, poverty and rural migration. It reflects IFAD's objective of helping poor rural people gain access to improved agricultural technologies and production services. The programme is designed to create new opportunities for off-farm employment and enterprise development that benefit poor rural women and small fibre producers. In this regard, the programme is in line with the objectives of the IFAD Policy for Grant Financing in that it will promote innovations in a participatory, community-based and demand-driven approach to strengthen communities' capacities and organizations, facilitate access to technologies and markets, and improve household income and the productivity of natural resources.
4. The proposed programme will focus on well-identified fibre products with market prospects. It will develop a baseline with identification and understanding of constraints to production and marketing opportunities, and identification of impact assessment indicators, which will also serve recently approved IFAD-funded investment projects in the region. In addition, by promoting intensive South-South and South-North interaction, the programme will offer high-quality expertise and a wealth of information and skills with direct benefit to national agricultural research systems (NARSs), development projects and farmers of the region.
5. The programme will thus contribute to the achievement of IFAD's overarching goal of empowering rural women and men in developing countries to increase their incomes and improve food security at the household level.

III. The proposed programme

6. The programme's overall goal is to improve the livelihoods and income of small livestock producers and rural women through improved production, processing and export of value-added fibre in producing areas of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
7. The programme will be of four years' duration and will include five main components, whose aims are to:
 - **Component 1:** Characterize production systems and improve fibre production of small ruminants in all target sites;
 - **Component 2:** Work on formation and capacity-building of women's groups in all pilot sites to develop fibre processing and export of value-added fibre and fibre products; encourage the development of women-led small businesses;
 - **Component 3:** Develop sustainable market chains that link fibre producers and processors with buyers;
 - **Component 4:** Conduct research on changes of income of fibre producers and women processors, and the effects of these changes on livelihoods and gender roles; and
 - **Component 5:** Forge linkages (business, scientific and cultural) between the pilot communities and the global communities of producers, processors and consumers of fibre and fibre products.

IV. Expected outputs and benefits

8. Target groups are small producers of cashmere, mohair and wool, and women's processor groups. The programme will also be of direct relevance to IFAD-funded investment projects in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
9. Programme outputs will include:

Component 1

Output 1: Specific activities to improve fibre quality according to market needs and local constraints in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan and southern Tajikistan prioritized
10. The local system of sheep and goat production will focus on fibre production, processing and marketing. Opportunities and constraints in each programme area (except northern Tajikistan) will be analysed to prioritize technical interventions (animal breeding, animal husbandry, fibre harvesting, sorting and preparation, market access, value-added processing, development of sustainable market chains).

Output 2: Production of sheep and goats, focusing on improved fibre quality
11. Based on the system characterization, the programme will introduce low-cost husbandry and community-based breeding strategies in the new programme sites and continue adapting management interventions in northern Tajikistan. Farmers will be trained in: (a) effective production practices and breeding strategies to improve fibre quality and their overall incomes; (b) fibre harvesting, sorting, testing and grading; and (c) collaborative marketing strategies. Fibre samples will be tested and analysed.
12. Doctoral studies on potentials of community-based programmes in sheep and goat breeding to improve fibre quality (at each site) will be developed.
13. Implementing institutions and personnel will include livestock institutes in host countries, staff of ICARDA, local collaborators, the principal investigator, an experienced consultant, and doctoral- and master-level students.

Component 2

Output 3: Groups of women processors organized and empowered at pilot sites

14. The programme will organize groups of women processors and strengthen their decision-making role. Participatory strategies will be developed to provide more knowledge and information to women, thus enabling them to make appropriate decisions.
15. The programme will build women's capacity to produce value-added fibre products for export, based on lessons learned by another IFAD grant-financed ICARDA programme.¹ Formation of new women's groups in all pilot sites will be facilitated, and training in fibre harvesting, processing and high-value production for export organized. New production technologies and efficient processing methods will be introduced in accordance with market demand; new products for specific market niches will be developed; group leaders will be trained; and knowledge and skills will be shared during local workshops.
16. Implementing institutions and personnel include ICARDA staff, the principal investigator from the Terra Institute Ltd.,² local collaborators in all countries, the Central Asian Crafts Support Association,³ SERRV International,⁴ local and international trainers including knitters, and export countries' buyers of yarn and other products.

Component 3

Output 4: Market access for value-added fibre and fibre products improved through sustainable market chains linking fibre producers and processors with buyers.

17. The programme will (a) facilitate linkages between fibre producers and women's groups in all programme countries and European and United States buyers of value-added fibre and fair-trade yarns and products; and (b) collaborate with groups to meet buyers' standards, set up marketing infrastructure and deliver products to consumers in order to increase producers' incomes and improve the livelihoods of women and their households. A doctoral-level study on fibres and value-added products in domestic and international markets and conditions of market access will support the programme.
18. A market information system to promote producers' access to new markets will be developed. This will include the (a) production of information booklets for farmers and women on prices, quality standards and new market outlets; (b) creation of an information booth at the main market site to allow producers and processors to obtain information and learn how to evaluate and price products; and (c) dissemination of information to communities to reach all programme participants.
19. Samples of products made in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will be shown at special side events organized within the International Year of Natural Fibres.⁵

¹ Community Action in Integrated and Market-Oriented Feed-Livestock Production in Central and South Asia, currently working with 16 woman-led producer groups in Tajikistan.

² Terra Institute is a non-profit organization established in 1974 and based in Wisconsin, United States, with core activities focused on issues of land tenure, land policy reform, land administration and management, environmental protection and natural resources management.

³ The Central Asian Crafts Support Association (CACSA) is an NGO based in Kyrgyzstan. Created in 2000 as a result of a project implemented during 1994-1998 in Central Asia with the support of Aid to Artisans (a crafts support organization based in the United States), CACSA currently unites more than 60 member organizations, reaching over 7,000 artisans from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

⁴ SERRV International is a United States-based fair trade NGO that works with women's groups worldwide on handicraft production and marketing, including training in product development.

⁵ Such as the International Mohair Summit in South Africa, organized by Mohair South Africa and to be held from 3 to 8 November 2009.

20. Implementing institutions and personnel include ICARDA staff, the principal investigator, local collaborators in all countries, the Central Asian Crafts Support Association, SERRV International, an experienced consultant and the private sector.

Component 4

Output 5: Study developed at the pilot site on income changes and their effects on livelihoods and gender dynamics

21. The study will examine how and to what extent changes in women's earnings affect women's roles, decision-making and status within the household and community.
22. The implementing institutions and personnel include ICARDA staff and the principal investigator.

Component 5

Output 6: Information materials developed on the programme to support business, scientific and cultural exchanges between the pilot communities and the global communities of producers, processors and consumers of natural fibre and fibre products

23. Websites, documentaries and videos will be developed to promote public and market awareness of the pilot communities and their production. Exhibits will be organized and exchanges will be promoted between women fibre processors and knitters in Central Asia and the Islamic Republic of Iran and consumers/importers in Europe and the United States. All communication material will be linked to ENRAP, an Internet-based regional network of IFAD operations.
24. The programme will produce training material and user-friendly documentation to share lessons with other organizations willing to scale up the programme concept. Training manuals will be translated into local languages. At the end of the programme, specific technical advisory notes will be developed to share knowledge with the international community.
25. The implementing institutions and personnel include ICARDA staff, the principal investigator, the Central Asian Crafts Support Association, SERRV International and buyers.

V. Implementation arrangements

26. The programme will be managed by ICARDA and implemented in partnership with NARS, NGOs and universities, with the support of qualified consultants who will promote linkages between producers/women processors and fibre markets in the pilot regions. ICARDA's regional office in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and country office in the Islamic Republic of Iran will support the programme in administrative issues.
27. The pilot sites in the three countries have been selected to represent typical fibre-producing and -processing areas in the target countries. In each country, teams will be created to provide the expertise needed. Key partner institutes (NARS) and organizations have already been selected based on successful collaboration between ICARDA and both IFAD and Terra Institute's projects in the countries. The programme will use the existing offices of participating agencies. In collaboration with NARS, coordinators will be selected at each programme site. They will report to the coordinating institutes.

VI. Indicative programme costs and financing

28. The total cost of the four-year programme is estimated at approximately US\$1.8 million. IFAD's proposed contribution is estimated at US\$1.5 million. The contribution of the participating NARS will cover the salaries of scientists, provision of research facilities, vehicles, already-established institutional arrangements with collaborating farmers, etc., and is estimated at US\$0.3 million. Details are included in the full design document.

Summary of budget and financing plan
(in thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Type of expenditure</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>Cofinancing</i>
Personnel/consultants ^a	490	84
Travel ^b	362	44
Equipment and supplies ^c	190	156
Training/workshop/publications ^d	237	-
Administrative support	-	48
Total direct costs	1 279	
Indirect costs	221	
Total	1 500	332

^a Personnel/consultants includes the programme manager and other ICARDA staff input; the principal investigator (9 person/months per year) and a full-time administrator in Tashkent (12 months per year); short-term consultants to cover 21 days of consultancy of specialists for specific tasks per year; and local staff, including national coordinators.

^b Travel includes travel costs, per diem and accommodation with regard to supervision, consultancy and regional travel.

^c Equipment and supplies include material supplies to run proposed activities and office supplies in the different locations.

^d Training includes training of producers and women processors and capacity-building of doctoral- and master-level students. Workshops and meetings include costs for regional workshops and coordination meetings (one per year) and national planning meetings. Publications include cost of publishing reports and dissemination of materials.

Results-based logical framework

	Objectives-hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Goal	Improve livelihoods and income of small livestock producers and rural women in Central Asia and Iran through processing and exporting of value-added fibre	% increase in stakeholders' income from fibre sales, disaggregated by gender	Programme report summarizing impact of programme on increased income/capacity building Technical advisory notes (TANs)	Government commitment to the goal
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empower women's groups and strengthen their decision-making capacity • Increase income from fibre for sheep and goat producers by improving fibre quality and market access • Increase income of fibre processors by enhancing their processing and organizational skills and developing fair trade export markets for locally produced yarn, clothing and fibre handicrafts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of women's groups created/operational • % of decisions taken by women's groups • Increased income from raw and processed fibres before and after pilot activities • Improved fibre standard quality before and after pilot activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomes from sales of fibre and fibre products reported by farmers and women processors in the course of the programme • Volume and value of exports of fibre and products from pilot sites in the course of the programme • Information on purchases of fibre and products provided by buyers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluctuations of global demand and prices for specific fibres • Effects of the global economic crisis on commodities (cashmere/mohair)
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fibre quality of sheep and goats improved in response to market needs • Overall productivity of sheep and goats improved through improved husbandry practices • Groups of women processors organized and empowered at pilot sites through capacity building and access to market information • Appropriate market information system developed • Market access for value-added fibre and fibre products improved through sustainable market chains linking fibre producers and processors with buyers • Income changes and their effects on livelihoods and gender dynamics assessed • Information materials on the programme developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of breeding nucleus established at pilot sites • Measure fibre quality changes in breeding herds-control herds • No. of women's groups organized and trained in fibre processing • Volume of market information and value of products for local market and exports • No. of new market outlets developed • No. of women with increased income • Assessment of change in women's income and status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews and surveys at pilot sites • Analysis of fibre samples • Data on fibre sales and prices • Data on women's groups and their activities • Samples of women's products, data on volume and value of sales • Interviews with foreign buyers; quality assessment of products purchased • Interviews with women on incomes/effects of income changes on their status • Websites, videos, training manuals, TANs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers/women agree to actively participate in programme activities • Farmers invest in improving breeding and fibre quality • Government promotes favourable institutional climate to support exports • Willingness of women and other household members to discuss gender roles, income distribution, decision-making, etc. • Buyers find acceptable business environment in pilot countries
Key Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characterize livelihood strategies, livestock production systems and husbandry practices • Develop improved breeding strategies/husbandry practices at community level • Build capacity of producers and women through training on improved husbandry/processing/group formation • Assist producers/processors to develop competitive and quality products • Facilitate linkages between producers and buyers • Develop market chains at pilot sites • Assess changes in fibre quality • Assess income changes/impact on producers' livelihoods • Assess impact on women's earnings and decision-making role and status • Produce information and training material • Organize/participate in exhibits of products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of increase n. of goats/sheep and fibre production • Breeding programmes for farmers and introduction of quality local and imported genetics • increased volume of products developed and sold • % of women's groups with equipment to process fibre (spinning wheels, carding machines, felting machines, dyes) • Local/international experts develop fair trade market linkages and organise product exhibits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual progress reports; technical reports • Study on changes in women's income • Progress report on the establishment of market linkages and on the volume and value of products exported through the new market channels • Final programme report and TANs 	As above

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI): Programme on Enabling Poor Rice Farmers to Improve Livelihoods and Overcome Poverty in South and South-East Asia through the Consortium for Unfavourable Rice Environments (CURE)

I. Background

1. Extensive poverty and food insecurity prevail among the 100 million farm households in Asia dependent on rice grown in unfavourable rice ecosystems, which include both uplands and rainfed lowlands. The incidence and severity of poverty in these areas are very high as farmers suffer from various economic, social and political disadvantages. Many poor rural people belong to minority ethnic groups, are women or are from scheduled castes and tribes that are economically and socially marginalized – they are truly the poorest of the poor.
2. Rice is a staple in the unfavourable environments but yields are low (1–1.5 tons per hectare) due to drought, submergence, adverse soils and associated stresses. In addition, these areas are often remote and poorly linked with markets. Agriculture is mainly subsistence-oriented. Farm households in these environments commonly lack the capacity to acquire food, even at low prices, because of the low productivity of rice and the limited employment opportunities. With these constraints, and despite the expected progress in reducing poverty in line with the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, it is anticipated that a high proportion of poverty is likely to remain in the unfavourable rice environments. Well-planned action is crucial to overcome the constraints in these environments in order to reduce this persistent poverty.
3. The diverse nature and complexity of the challenges posed by unfavourable rice environments make it essential that technology development and validation are carried out in close liaison with national agricultural research and extension systems (NARES) to draw on local scientific expertise and farmers' knowledge to tackle the key problems of the diverse ecosystems. The principal mechanism for achieving this aim across Asia is the Consortium for Unfavourable Rice Environments (CURE). Created in 2002, the Consortium is a major regional platform of 26 national and international organizations in 10 countries across South and South-East Asia.
4. CURE is a "network of national networks" that facilitates sharing of scientific knowledge, technology products and information among its members. It is playing a key role in developing priorities for technology development in unfavourable rice environments, validating technologies across unfavourable environments, and promoting exchange of information/technologies among member countries. CURE thus provides an important platform for research managers, scientists and community organizations to develop and validate suitable technologies for unfavourable environments in a coordinated and targeted fashion.

II. Rationale and relevance to IFAD

5. The programme's primary focus will be on poor rural people in unfavourable rice environments of Asia. Many of the people targeted belong to minority ethnic groups and are women, and their inclusion in programme activities and evaluations will be monitored. NARES, local authorities and IFAD-supported investment projects in the unfavourable rice environments will also be direct beneficiaries, as the programme will build local capacity to effectively implement development options for poor rural people.
6. In line with the IFAD Strategic Framework 2007-2010, the programme aims to raise productivity and improve the livelihoods of millions of farmers through participatory

development, validation and the delivery of suitable improved technologies for rice-based production systems in the unfavourable rice environments of South and South-East Asia. The programme will link with other IFAD-supported investment projects in South and South-East Asia on a demand-led basis.

III. The proposed programme

7. The programme's goal is to enable poor farmers in unfavourable rice environments of South and South-East Asia to improve household food security and reduce poverty through the adoption of improved technologies validated and disseminated by CURE.
8. The programme's objectives will be to (i) identify, adapt and validate improved rice technologies for the unfavourable environments in Asia, particularly upland systems; (ii) enable farmers in unfavourable rice environments, including in IFAD-supported investment projects, to access rice technologies that sustainably improve productivity; (iii) develop information and training materials relevant to a range of clients from NARES to rural communities; and (iv) enhance capacity of NARES, local communities and IFAD-supported investment projects to effectively plan and use development initiatives, access information, and adapt and deliver products through partnerships.
9. The programme will be of four years' duration and will comprise four main components:
 - Support to CURE, to enable the development and validation of options for farmers in the unfavourable rice environments, particularly in upland areas;
 - Provision of technical innovation services, to provide strategic support to NARES and IFAD-supported investment projects;
 - Scaling out and up of innovations, and knowledge management, to improve rural livelihoods in the unfavourable rice environments, and to enable information to be made widely available to the CURE network and beyond; and
 - Capacity-building, to develop expertise within NARES to enable development in the unfavourable environments.
10. **Support to CURE.** The activities of this component will enable good communication and coordination within the network, and will comprise the exchange of information, meetings, the development of joint activities, and reporting. CURE activities will be based on four multidisciplinary working groups at sites that represent relatively homogenous subecosystems, and will be aligned to four environments: upland systems, and drought-prone, submergence-prone and salt-affected environments. The programme's focus will be on the upland systems, with technology development for the remaining unfavourable environments addressed primarily by projects funded by other donors under CURE (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, German Federal Ministry for Economic Development Cooperation, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan). Technology options to address key constraints to greater and more stable rice productivity will be identified, adapted and validated through participatory approaches.
11. **Provision of technical innovation services.** The services will primarily derive from social sciences (participatory and impact pathway studies) and biological sciences (varietal selection, pest management and agronomy) and will have NARES and IFAD-supported investment projects as their main beneficiaries. These services will feed into NARES activities in the region at the strategic level for: priority setting and planning; establishing pilot activities; and identifying and developing technical options for implementing agricultural development programmes.

12. **Scaling out and up of innovations, and knowledge management.** Innovation dissemination will be promoted within CURE by identifying more effective information and communication pathways to strengthen the capacity of national extension systems, NGOs and other local pro-poor partnerships. CURE will draw on a range of partnerships and will use the diverse expertise available to create awareness, stimulate demand, and deliver technology and information to local institutions and farmers. Knowledge management will be critical to building partnerships and achieving longer-term impacts. Information will be made widely available in local languages, using a range of media and in farmer-friendly forms, and distributed widely through IRRI's Rice Knowledge Bank and in-country knowledge banks. Information will be available within the IFAD network through links to the Internet-based Asia regional network of IFAD operations, ENRAP, and to country programme review meetings so that it is used in the preparation of technical advisory notes.
13. **Capacity-building.** Building capacity within CURE, fostering collaboration and encouraging the scientific community to focus on common goals will create a critical mass of scientists with the common objective of improving the livelihoods of rice farmers in unfavourable environments. In turn, this will create a reservoir of scientific resources that will provide expertise that can help national partners to design and supervise projects, and effectively implement development initiatives.

IV. Expected outputs and benefits

14. The outputs deriving from the above four components will include:
- Validated improved technologies for rice-based systems in unfavourable environments of South and South-East Asia;
 - Technical innovation services to strengthen the abilities of NARES and local communities – within and outside IFAD-supported investment projects – to effectively plan and implement development initiatives;
 - Effective strategies for scaling innovations out and up, both within and outside IFAD-funded investment projects, and relevant information accessible to NARES and rural communities; and
 - Enhanced NARES capacity and the establishment of a critical mass of scientists for generating future innovations.

V. Implementation arrangements

15. IRRI will be the executing agency responsible for reporting progress to IFAD. CURE is governed by a steering committee comprising senior NARES staff members, who rotate as the chairperson, and one IRRI representative. The steering committee will provide the oversight function, appraise research progress, approve workplans and make strategic decisions regarding the operation of CURE.
16. A decentralized participatory approach will form the basis for technology development and validation. Such an approach is essential because of the diversity of environmental conditions and farmers' livelihood strategies. Farmers will evaluate the new technologies through participatory trials implemented in their fields. Research scientists will obtain feedback on farmer experimentation and on how farmers adapt technologies to their own circumstances, and on why farmers do or do not adopt given technologies.
17. The strong sense of national ownership and the in-kind contributions from NARES augur well for the sustainability of CURE. This is further supported by the positive approaches members take to sharing expertise and cross-country learning, and also the diverse sources of funding for associated projects. The emphasis placed by the programme on knowledge management and capacity-building will contribute substantially to the sustainability of the gains it makes. NARES are expected to

have a cadre of well-trained staff with the skills to use the information resources made available through the programme. The mutual benefits accruing from these partnerships are expected to serve as incentives to keep the partnership going beyond the programme period. The lessons learned from this programme will be synthesized and will form guidelines to be used in developing future initiatives. These efforts are likely to ensure the continuity of the partnerships.

18. In each of the participating countries, close linkage with IFAD-supported investment projects will be established following a model currently being used by the IFAD-funded Programme for Managing Rice Landscapes in the Marginal Uplands for Household Food Security and Environmental Sustainability. This approach will be suitably modified to the current context. Participatory assessment of demand will be the basis for the choice of specific investment projects for developing stronger linkages with CURE. Technology products and information relevant to these investment projects will be made available to the project managers. Representatives of investment projects will be invited to participate in the programme's annual planning meetings and also to directly observe field activities. CURE activities in the salt-affected and submergence-prone areas in Bangladesh will be complementary to those of the IFAD country grant in Bangladesh.
19. Evaluation of programme achievements will be carried out through IRRI's internal annual review process and annual reports. Progress reports will be sent to IFAD regularly. In addition to this formal monitoring, stakeholders will also directly monitor programme achievements through a participatory monitoring and evaluation process. The required indicators for monitoring and evaluation will be developed through a participatory process, and farmers and other stakeholders will assess programme performance against these indicators. IFAD's Asia and the Pacific Division will carry out supervision missions from its own budget.

VI. Indicative programme costs and financing

20. The total cost of this four-year programme is US\$2.75 million, of which IFAD will provide US\$1.50 million. IRRI will provide an in-kind contribution of US\$1.15 million, and NARES will provide an in-kind contribution of US\$0.1 million. IRRI's contribution also includes cofinancing from sources of funds such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Summary of budget and financing plan (in thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Type of expenditure</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>Cofinancing^a</i>
Staff costs	360	365
Supplies and services	289	325
Travel	80	55
Research and pilot activities by NARES	495	270
Training and information resources	60	160
Meetings and workshops	80	75
Subtotal	1 364	1 250
Overhead (10 per cent)	136	
Total	1 500	1 250

^a Where applicable.

Results-based logical framework

	Objectives-hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Goal	<p>Poor farmers in unfavourable rice environments of South and South-East Asia have improved household food security and reduced poverty through adoption of technologies validated and disseminated by CURE.</p> <p>Options will be applicable to 50 million ha of unfavourable rice environments, and, within the life of the programme, 100,000 farm households are expected to directly benefit.</p>	<p>% of men and women farmers in target areas with improved food security.</p> <p>% of households in target areas below poverty line is reduced.</p>	Field and household survey; project and media reports.	<p>Support of NARES collaborators</p> <p>Conducive national policies</p>
• Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, adapt and validate improved rice technologies for the unfavourable rice environments in Asia Enable farmers in unfavourable rice environments to access rice technologies that sustain improved productivity Develop information/training materials relevant to clients ranging from NARES to rural communities Enhance capacity of NARES and local communities to effectively plan and use development initiatives, access information, and adapt and deliver products through partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of validated technologies available in NARES for dissemination to men and women farmers in target areas % of farmers using improved technology options in target areas Extent to which information and CURE training materials are being used within NARES Increased numbers of people using information, technical options and development opportunities within NARES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NARES reports and websites Farm surveys, project reports Information resources in hard and digital formats Project completion reports, surveys, impact studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support of NARES collaborators Conducive national policies and programme funding
• Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validated improved technologies for rice-based systems in unfavourable environments; at least two improved varieties and management options available at each location. NARES abilities to effectively plan and implement development initiatives strengthened with support of technical innovation services Effective strategies for scaling out and up of innovations, and relevant information accessible to NARES and rural communities Enhanced NARES capacity in rice production technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of validated options available in the form of dissemination material, including technical advisory notes No of successful initiatives in the rice sector being developed and undertaken Descriptions of the approaches developed to make options available to farmers, and use of information and training resources within NARES and local partnerships Extent to which rice technologies are being evaluated and promoted by NARES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working group and NARES reports and websites Surveys, project reports Reports and use survey of training and information resources Project completion reports, impact studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support of NARES collaborators Policy of provision and use of information. Counterpart funding
• Key Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to CURE, coordination unit, and working group activities within NARES Provision of technical innovation services to IFAD-supported investment projects Scaling out and up of options through CURE partnerships, and knowledge management with training of scientists/extension workers in development of farmer-friendly materials Capacity-building – training extension agents to effectively use rice knowledge bank knowledge with farmers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed workplans and operational and institutional agreements established with NARES partners; field staff adequately trained; field supplies and services in place Information on validated technologies available; training materials prepared and validated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project reports, scientific papers Reports and surveys Promotion materials in hard and digital form; websites Press releases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support of NARES collaborators Counterpart funding