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**PROGRESS REPORT AND FORECAST BY**  
**THE POPULAR COALITION TO ERADICATE HUNGER AND POVERTY:**  
**EMPOWERING THE RURAL POOR THROUGH IMPROVED ACCESS TO**  
**PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty (henceforth “the Popular Coalition”) is a global consortium for action comprising intergovernmental, civil-society and bilateral organizations committed to the empowerment of the rural poor by assisting them to increase their access to productive assets and by opening prospects for their participation in decision-making processes at local, national, regional and international levels. The primary goal of the Popular Coalition is to combine the knowledge, skills, concrete experiences and resources of its partners into a common strategy that builds upon the dynamism and potential of civil-society organizations to eradicate hunger and poverty.

2. The Popular Coalition is the outcome of the Conference on Hunger and Poverty convened by IFAD and held in Brussels, Belgium, in November 1995, where a broad spectrum of governments, development organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) committed themselves to form a popular coalition to merge the common missions of civil society, governments, intergovernmental and bilateral organizations into a common strategy to revive agrarian reform on national and international agendas.

3. This report provides a comprehensive review of the progress that has been achieved since the founding of the Popular Coalition. The Introduction summarizes the origin, mission, vision and development perspectives that drive the action programme of the Popular Coalition. The Background is a summary of the six specific areas of activity used to achieve the mission. The Executive Summary highlights the primary accomplishments and results. The section on Results and Outlook examines each area of activity based on the achievements during these first formative years, the current activities and the forecast for the year ahead. The section on Resource Mobilization outlines



the support that various donors have provided and the efforts to mobilize further resources. The closing section describes the Relationship to IFAD.

4. The Popular Coalition seeks to heighten the participation of civil society in setting the global development agenda and to ensure that its actions, knowledge and innovations are given more institutional space. Many civil-society institutions such as farmer organizations, development NGOs, rural trade unions and professional organizations have close contacts with small farmers and other groups of rural poor and are able to promote wider mobilization, coordination of actions, networking and dissemination of useful information on agrarian reform issues.

5. The Popular Coalition is based on the belief that increased access by the poor to productive assets, especially land, water and other natural resources, is an essential condition for improving rural livelihoods and living standards and for strengthening the socio-economic viability of rural areas. The Popular Coalition responds to this challenge from a new perspective and with a new methodology, building upon the experience, knowledge and potential of civil-society organizations. The lessons from the past reveal that many good ideas and successful initiatives at the grass-roots level remain localized and their features are never replicated, cross-fertilized or scaled up to yield benefits at the national and international levels. The Popular Coalition provides global exposure to these innovations, best practices and success stories.

## II. BACKGROUND

6. In endorsing the Programme of Action for a Popular Coalition, the Conference on Hunger and Poverty identified a series of specific initiatives and activities, including:

- establishing the Popular Coalition with an appropriate governance and operating framework;
- supporting the capacity-building of civil-society organizations, including the replication and scaling up of the successful experiences in people's empowerment and community-level training delivered through civil-society organizations;
- establishing an international loan guarantee fund to allow direct lending to civil-society and grass-roots organizations of the rural poor;
- establishing knowledge networks to enhance the knowledge of the Popular Coalition's partners and to provide a basis for policy dialogue grounded in the realities of field work;
- building public awareness and creating the necessary political will;
- initiating a global programme in emergency prevention; and
- supporting the implementation of the 1994 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

7. **The Popular Coalition** was established soon after the 1995 Conference. It is governed by a Steering Committee consisting of seven civil-society organizations and five intergovernmental organizations. The seven civil-society representatives are selected by their regional peers to achieve balance from South Asia; South-east Asia and Pacific; West and Central Africa; East and Southern Africa; North Africa and the Near East; Central and Latin America; the Caribbean and the industrialized nations. The five intergovernmental organizations are the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Bank and the European Commission. IFAD is the global focal point for the Popular Coalition and also houses its Secretariat. The structure is designed to encourage and foster the decentralized operationalization of the Popular Coalition's programme of work in order to ensure the maximum level of grass-roots and civil-society participation.



8. **Empowering communities.** With the initial financial support of IFAD and the World Bank, a community empowerment facility (CEF) has been created to:

- strengthen the negotiating ability of the poor, especially women and indigenous peoples, to achieve secure access to land including common property, water and associated support services;
- facilitate community participation in policy dialogue and representation in local governance;
- build on traditional organizations and practices;
- strengthen rural peoples' organizations in solidarity with others;
- address the required reforms in agrarian institutions;
- facilitate conflict resolution processes;
- replicate and scale up successful agrarian reform experiences; and
- disseminate best practices and lessons learned.

9. The CEF will provide a series of grants and support to community-based activities related to these goals and objectives. A period of consultation and discussion led to the drafting of a series of standardized operating rules and procedures for the future disbursement of CEF funds. The CEF was activated in 1999 with the approval of two projects, one in The Philippines and the other in Zimbabwe. The expansion of the CEF core fund and the subsequent development of a comprehensive CEF programme are primary objectives of the Popular Coalition's Year 2000 Plan of Work.

10. **Establishing knowledge networks.** The Popular Coalition has established a knowledge network on agrarian reform (ARnet). It involves civil-society organizations with national nodes in 23 countries that are supported by 8 regional nodes. ARnet is a mechanism for capturing lessons learned from the practical work of civil-society organizations in land reform and tenurial security. The knowledge being provided by the network on the experience of other civil-society organizations is already being used to strengthen the work of civil-society organizations, in particular their policy dialogue with ministries and governments.

11. The Popular Coalition has now reached the stage where it can begin to identify successful civil-society initiatives for replication and scaling up. Through these activities, the Popular Coalition is striving to demonstrate to policy-makers and other key decision-makers the value of incorporating civil-society experiences into public policies and programmes.

12. ARnet has contributed to the deepening of international knowledge on different forms of land transfer, including sales, leasing and sharecropping, and has heightened understanding of different land reform models. These include market-assisted and negotiated approaches and improved forms of conventional state-led distributive reforms.

13. The formative period of the ARnet programme has had two phases. Phase I involved the creation of national and regional networks, reviews of rural development and poverty, assessments of the need and nature of land reform, and the documentation of case studies arising from small-scale civil-society projects. Phase II concerns the implementation of these activities. By October 1999, agreements were established with all national and regional nodes for the implementation of their activities.

14. The Secretariat has developed an Internet website that provides comprehensive information on the ARnet programme and access to all relevant documentation and information. The *beta* test version of the on-line ARnet website has been made available to all contributing partners to ARnet, the ARnet advisory committee, all partners in the Popular Coalition and selected others with pertinent



expertise. Full global access will be launched before the end of 1999. The website's Internet address will be [www.ifad.org/arnet](http://www.ifad.org/arnet).

15. The Secretariat also produces and distributes hard-copy printed versions of its documents in order to communicate with those who do not have electronic capability. At present the materials can only be made available in the original language provided by the author. Many partners are striving to translate the most relevant documents. The Popular Coalition is seeking additional means to widen the range of language coverage.

16. **Loan guarantees as collateral substitutes.** Limited access to credit restricts the opportunities for the rural poor to purchase land and other vital factor inputs. The Popular Coalition's loan guarantee system is examining the constraints encountered by the rural poor in accessing financial services, with particular attention to the immediate post-land acquisition period when input credits are vital to meeting cropping seasons. The aim is to identify the strategic financial constraints at the various stages of land acquisition and subsequent production. It will support pilot projects to demonstrate the forms of transitional financial intervention needed by land reform beneficiaries in order to establish a sustainable credit mechanism to meet their ongoing requirements.

17. **Building public awareness and political will.** A critical prerequisite to agrarian reform is the creation of opportunities for collaboration between civil society and government. The Popular Coalition established an action group comprised of partner organizations with a mandate to design a cost-effective awareness-raising programme. The basic strategy and plan of activities was established at the Action Group's meeting in November 1999.

18. **Preventing emergencies.** Recent history has made evident the extent to which landlessness and a lack of secure landholdings can contribute directly and indirectly to wars, civil conflict and avoidable natural disasters. Many of these emergencies could be prevented if governments and civil society addressed the underlying agrarian reform issues. The Popular Coalition will strive to support organizations with technical expertise and knowledge about problems of this type and their linkage with land tenure issues. The Popular Coalition will also support organizations working in post-conflict situations where land redistribution is a prerequisite to achieving sustainable peace.

19. **Supporting the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification.** Tenure security and property rights are key incentives for sustainable land use and natural resource management. Both ARnet and the CEF will contribute to the planning and implementation of national action programmes to combat desertification by assisting civil society and governments to address the land tenure requirements. Several joint initiatives are being designed with the Global Mechanism.

### III. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

20. Every week the Popular Coalition is contacted by new organizations who regard it as a growing international movement whose focus on access to productive resources is an essential prerequisite to the eradication of hunger and rural poverty. The base of interest to participate and become a partner in the Popular Coalition is growing among governments, civil-society organizations, farmer and producer associations, intergovernmental institutions, United Nations agencies and the research community concerned with sustainable rural development.

21. The Popular Coalition has completed its inception phase and has become fully operational. The actions to date have resulted in the Popular Coalition:

- establishing a consolidated vision and logical framework for its programme of action;



- elaborating a representative governance structure and framework on the roles and responsibilities of partner organizations;
- successfully completing the first phase of ARnet;
- developing a detailed body of knowledge and case studies on the experience of civil-society organizations in supporting access by the rural poor to productive resources;
- developing a framework and operationalizing the second phase of ARnet by supporting the 23 country and 8 regional nodes in the formulation of their programmes of action; by mobilizing the co-funding needed for implementation; by establishing appropriate agreements; and by launching these activities at the field level;
- completing a preliminary study on land markets in four countries and launching a series of further field-based studies in innovative mechanisms for land acquisition and post-land reform management;
- developing an ARnet website for the dissemination of the knowledge being provided by the partners in the Popular Coalition, the members of ARnet and the various special studies being undertaken;
- conducting a series of regionally based workshops to build strong working relationships among the partners, to establish clear and collaborative workplans and to reach out to other organizations, especially farmer and peasant organizations, to widen the participation in each region;
- building national and international-level support through keynote addresses at global events;
- holding briefings and workshop sessions in various countries (initially with Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands and the United States, with others being considered for early 2000) to encourage bilateral, civil-society and international organizations to become partners and financial contributors;
- operationalizing the CEF by launching two projects in 1999 and a further eight in the first quarter of 2000;
- establishing a programme to build public awareness and create political will;
- mobilizing resources and establishing working-level discussions with potential donors for the ongoing programme and operational resources needed for the programme of action;
- mobilizing the resources to complete the staffing requirements of the Secretariat and developing the administrative and legal mechanisms for the prudent operation of the Popular Coalition.

## IV. RESULTS AND OUTLOOK

### A Logical Implementation Framework

22. The Steering Committee has unified the Popular Coalition's six activity areas into a coherent plan of work that reflects and reinforces the objectives of the 1995 Programme of Action agreed upon at the Conference on Hunger and Poverty.

23. The Plan of Work has focused on network-building, capacity-building, advocacy and overall programme development. Since its creation, the Popular Coalition has been driven by the need to develop a conceptually robust, institutionally appropriate and financially sustainable structure and programme.

24. The implementation of the Programme of Action is following a logical sequence whereby each activity provides a basis for the next activity. Three of the six activity areas have been the focus for implementation at this stage in the evolution of the Popular Coalition. First, emphasis and resources have been invested in establishing a civil-society, country-level basis for action and the interchange of knowledge. The result has been the establishment of ARnet. Second, ARnet has provided a practical



view of the range of potential projects to be considered under the CEF. The result is that the CEF is now being operationalized under conditions that benefit from the knowledge of ARnet but do not restrict eligibility to ARnet partners. Third, the experience and knowledge that is emerging from the ongoing activities of the Popular Coalition is providing a reality base upon which the Popular Coalition can establish its strategy and activities to build public awareness and create political will. The result is the formation of an Action Group of Popular Coalition Partners, which is presently in the process of elaborating an awareness strategy and the development of the appropriate resource materials.

25. The practical country-level actions and the knowledge being generated by ARnet will be an essential basis for the Popular Coalition to move into the other three activity areas. These areas of activity constitute important dimensions of the programme of action that the Popular Coalition will initiate once the current work is consolidated and the resource requirements are achieved.

### **Building a Multi-Stakeholder Mechanism**

26. The Steering Committee has designed a representative steering mechanism to ensure both good governance and a decentralized support structure for local, regional and national action programmes.

27. During these formative years, the actions of the Popular Coalition have resulted in a heightened level of understanding of the direct link between the rural poor's access to productive assets and the eradication of hunger and poverty. As a result, the Popular Coalition has experienced a growing level of interest by many other organizations who wish to become partner organizations.

28. The Popular Coalition has been proactive in its outreach to farmer and rural people's organizations with the encouragement and involvement of many of the current organizations that serve on the Steering Committee. This has resulted in an expansion in both the range and diversity of organizations that wish to affiliate themselves with the Popular Coalition and whose involvement will widen and deepen its networking capacity from the community to the international level.

29. The Secretariat has organized missions to a number of bilateral donors to elicit their financial support and to foster their participation as partners in the activities of the Popular Coalition. Many of these governments have expressed interest to participate actively.

### **Establishing a Global Network on Agrarian Reform and Land Tenure**

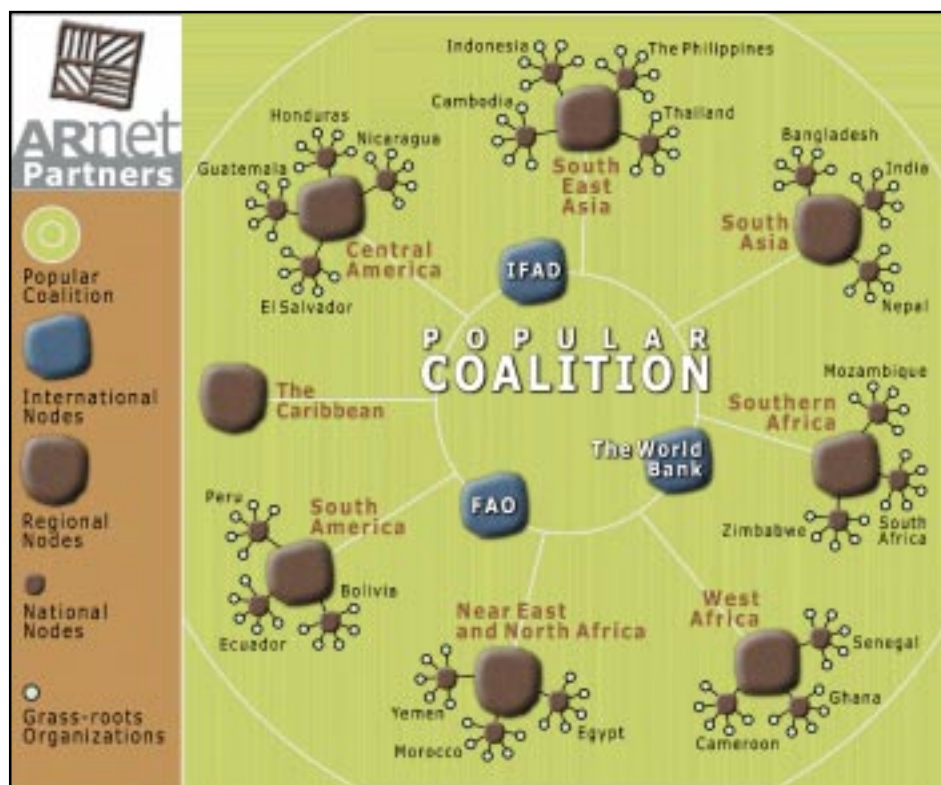
30. The Programme of Action of the Popular Coalition called for the creation of a major network on agrarian reform to strengthen the capacity of civil society, in particular the rural poor, to participate actively in the reform process by providing them with relevant knowledge and assistance. This initiative is predicated on the recognition that the information gap between communities, countries and regions is one of the principal constraints to improved access to land and other productive assets, poverty eradication and rural development. Marginalized rural communities frequently lack access to information and knowledge on the experience of other communities that have overcome similar or related problems. The ARnet programme helps bridge the divide that separates communities and civil society from the information they need.

31. Phase I of the ARnet programme generated a range of results and outputs, which included:

- an Advisory Committee of seven independent experts to assist in the continued strengthening of the network's conceptual base and the ongoing operationalization of its plan of work;



- the design and distribution of a questionnaire examining knowledge and experience of relevant land tenure issues to over 1 500 NGOs and grass-roots organizations contained in the Popular Coalition's resource inventory;
- analysis of questionnaire findings as an input in the conceptualization and design of ARnet;
- identification and consolidation of regional and national nodes;
- organization of regional meetings to operationalize the network and to form working relationships among the national nodes and to formulate country-level plans of action;
- production of 8 regional and 23 national profiles on land reform issues and related civil-society initiatives as a baseline reference source for the subsequent planning and implementation of country and regional-level activities;
- development of an ARnet website;
- collection and dissemination of related information on agrarian reform and civil society, including bibliographic information, working papers and case study information, with full access available on the ARnet website at [www.ifad.org/arnet](http://www.ifad.org/arnet); and
- coordination of seven regional follow-up meetings during the third quarter of 1998 to review programme plans, establish a common vision and programme of work and share experiences.





32. Phase II activities include a range of activities directed at the collection, analysis and dissemination of relevant information, experience and knowledge from civil-society organizations and to civil society in order to strengthen their organizational capacities and lead to a stronger basis on which to participate in the policy-making process. These include:

- highlighting lessons learned from specific civil-society experiences in gaining and sustaining access to land, water and other natural resources, and access to vital factor input and output markets;
- undertaking regional and national legislative reviews to identify pertinent laws and legal issues;
- formulating best practices in terms of civil-society involvement in agrarian reform and related policy-making processes;
- supporting the collection of disaggregated data on women, indigenous peoples, landless workers, agricultural workers and other vulnerable groups;
- assisting in the design and implementation of public awareness campaigns at regional, national and local levels to widen the base of public and political support for agrarian reform where appropriate; and
- building cost-effective and efficient information and communications systems, including newsletters, electronic bulletins, electronic conferences, websites and printed/audio/video communiqués in local languages to ensure that wide-ranging access is not restricted by the so-called technology gap.

33. The Secretariat has provided important support to the regional and national nodes throughout the process, which most recently involved the design of Phase II, including:

- a consultative process with partners, leading to the articulation of a refined design and detailed document describing the conceptual base, the Phase I accomplishments and the Phase II plan of action for ARnet;
- assisting each of the 31 nodes (23 countries and 8 regions) in the formulation of their programmes of work and Phase II activities;
- assessing the proposals from each node in consultation with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), which had served in a lead role in the original establishment of the network in Phase I;
- mobilizing the first tranche of USD 400 000 to operationalize Phase II while continuing to solicit the further funding requirement for USD 350 000;
- negotiating and finalizing co-funding agreements with each node so that partners could begin implementation.

34. In 1997, the Popular Coalition established a Forum on Emerging Land Tenure Markets. This initiative was built on the recognition that an increasing number of governments are looking to market-based mechanisms to increase the rural poor's access to land and to foster the sustainable use of land and other natural resources. The Forum is conducting comparative analyses of different approaches and experiences in the deployment of market-driven mechanisms for expanding and targeting land distribution. The overall goal of the initiative is to gain a better understanding of the consequences for poor producers of land privatization and the shift towards land policies grounded in the market.

35. A Forum fact-finding team, comprised of technical officers from IFAD, FAO, the World Bank and two regional NGO networks – the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) and the Latin American Association of Promotion Organizations (ALOP) – undertook a joint mission to Brazil, Colombia, The Philippines and South Africa. Strong interest was





expressed in each of the countries in improving institutional capacities to support different land tenure arrangements, including market-assisted land reforms, and in providing ongoing support to beneficiary communities and households, with an emphasis on improving production techniques and extending market access in the post-reform period. In each case, ministries underscored the crucial importance of the direct involvement of civil-society organizations, producers and other key stakeholders in the decision-making and policy-making processes. Likewise, there was widespread recognition of the value of the Popular Coalition and its constituent networks in supporting and assisting these processes.

36. The Forum is also engaged in a series of additional activities, which include:

- carrying out studies on emerging trends relating to implications of land market development for the rural poor;
- facilitating interactions between governments and civil society;
- strengthening national land reform policies, strategies and programmes;
- monitoring and evaluating ongoing experiences of various types of land reform;
- providing a comparative overview of results, current practices and programmes;
- providing country profiles on the agrarian sector in the countries of initial inquiry of Brazil, Colombia, The Philippines and South Africa; and
- identifying common constraints being encountered in the implementation of land tenure markets.

37. More recently, the Forum, under the technical leadership of FAO and ANGOC is undertaking a 15-month comparative study (1999-2000) to examine the lessons to be learned from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme (CARP) in The Philippines in relation to three different land tenure and land management arrangements; namely:

- land transfer under lease-back agreement;
- land transfer under collective farm management; and
- land transfer under collective acquisition, but farmed individually or in small farmer groups.

38. The study will also provide a comprehensive analysis of the context and status of agrarian reform in the country.

39. A series of further comparative studies are planned for the year 2000. These will focus on a wide range of issues, including the development, in collaboration with appropriate ministries, of a follow-up programme to the original missions undertaken to Brazil, Colombia, The Philippines and South Africa.

40. The principal results and recommendations of the Forum have been made available in both printed form and electronically, via electronic mail and the ARnet website.

41. The ARnet programme has delivered a range of additional outputs and benefits:

- case studies and country review documents are providing useful support and practical assistance to member organizations of the Popular Coalition in terms of ongoing activities relating to agrarian reform in their specific national contexts;
- there are clear indications of a growing sense of “ownership” and “membership” among the participants in the ARnet initiative. Several members, for example, have reported that the contact with other members of the network and the knowledge that they are part of a larger



global movement has been a motivating factor in general and has led to clear improvements in programme execution and impact;

- the regional meetings organized and financed by the Popular Coalition have been important building blocks in establishing a clear and common focus for the Popular Coalition and strengthening working relationships for the effective interchange of information, experience and support among the members; and
- two regional workshops in 1999 — the first involving Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Belize in July, and the second involving South and South-east Asia, held in The Philippines in October — were convened jointly with partners in the Popular Coalition. The Belize workshop was linked to a regional workshop of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) and the World Bank. This workshop provided a venue for a wide base of farmer and peasant organizations from the region to become familiar and associate with the Popular Coalition. At the same time, the national and regional nodes were able to address the programme initiatives particular to the programme of action of the Popular Coalition. The Philippine workshop, jointly organized with ANGOC, brought together a wide base of agrarian reform proponents from Asia along with partners from the World Bank and FAO. This programme centred on identifying the lessons learned on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) since many Asian organizations had their origin in this 1979 Conference. The venue also provided the opportunity for the partners in ARnet to share plans and identify further initiatives for joint action through the Popular Coalition. A similar meeting for the Africa Region, involving the three regional and nine national nodes, is being planned for early 2000.

### **Empowering Communities**

42. The lessons from the past reveal that the success of agrarian reform programmes requires the establishment and strengthening of community organizations to ensure:

- participatory decision-making involving the intended beneficiaries; and
- access to factor inputs, services, training and markets appropriate to the intended land management system of beneficiaries.

43. The Popular Coalition established the CEF to support innovations in capacity-building and other interventions to ensure that the rural poor can sustain their access to productive assets. The Popular Coalition, through an action group drawn from its partners, has established a framework for the CEF, which elaborates in further detail the component elements described in paragraph 8 of this document.

44. The CEF has been launched with contributed capital of USD 3.1 million (World Bank USD 1.5 million and IFAD USD 1.6 million). The Secretariat is actively mobilizing the balance needed to capitalize the fund at USD 10 million. The CEF projects will be financed from the annual investment income, which at present is producing a 7% rate of return.

45. Now that Phase II of the ARnet has been launched, the Secretariat is able to direct its attention to activating the CEF. The first two projects to be financed by the CEF were approved in 1999, one in Zimbabwe and the other in The Philippines. The goal of launching an initial round of ten CEF projects will be achieved in the first quarter of 2000.

46. The first CEF project for 1999 involves three sugar estates in The Philippines that have been distributed to the former agricultural workers. The project will support the training and organization of three cooperatives made up of the new owners, so that they will acquire the knowledge and skills to self-manage their overall farm enterprises. Frequently land reform beneficiaries lease their land back



to the former landowners because they lack the skills and knowledge of farming operations and the ability to access factor markets. In other cases, they become indebted because they can not accomplish these many requirements and therefore miss their first cropping season. This can set in motion a vicious cycle, often leading to lease-back and less favourable arrangements with former landowners, traders or moneylenders.

47. The second CEF project for 1999 will support ten pilot schemes in Zimbabwe that have been designed to test effective community-based approaches to resettlement. These pilots will provide important lessons to be used in the design of the large-scale settlement programme that is planned to follow. The CEF will support community awareness, organization-building, skills training and legal advice to facilitate the informed and active participation of communities in the resettlement process. This will entail not only the resettlement communities but also the process of beneficiary selection from within the communal areas and the resulting effects on the current communities after the beneficiaries have left. The CEF project will be undertaken by civil-society organizations in coordination with the current work of IFAD, FAO, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Zimbabwe. The CEF will be used to demonstrate methods for effective beneficiary involvement in the design, implementation and sustainable management of resettlement lands under the countrywide programme that will follow this pilot period.

### **Loan Guarantees as Collateral Substitutes**

48. During the post-Conference period, the Popular Coalition formed an Action Group to examine the role of loan guarantees in leveraging credit for the rural poor. The Group undertook a comprehensive review of the wide range of experiences, successes and difficulties associated with loan guarantees. It elaborated a prototype loan guarantee scheme in an effort to enable the Popular Coalition to test ways to overcome some of the obstacles that such schemes have typically encountered.

49. With the appointment of the coordinator in July 1998, the Secretariat undertook a preliminary review of the Popular Coalition's initiatives and indicated to the Steering Committee that the concept of an international loan guarantee needed to be refined in order to strengthen its link to the specific mission of the Popular Coalition. In February 1999, the Popular Coalition Steering Committee agreed on the need for such a review. The Committee also directed that this activity should follow the consolidation of the work on the first three activity areas.

### **Reviving Agrarian Reform on National and International Agendas**

50. The history of agrarian reform and land tenure programmes has repeatedly demonstrated that civil-society movements lacking institutional and public support and government-led reforms without the support of civil society have both failed. The Popular Coalition aims to unite diverse partners into a common strategy whereby the combination of their human and financial resources plus their different but complementary spheres of social, political and economic influence can be harnessed in the interests of improving the access by the rural poor to productive assets.

51. The Popular Coalition has been involved in a number of initiatives to raise awareness and educate decision-makers on the importance of and the new opportunities for improving land tenure security and access to other productive resources. To this end, the Secretariat has:

- delivered a keynote address to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Congress of the International Organisation for Soil Conservation at Purdue University, United States. This venue provided an opportunity to highlight with over 1 000 senior officials and advisors to



governments the direct relationship of agrarian reform to soil conservation and food production;

- participated in a workshop organized in Bonn by the Popular Coalition's partner in Germany, *Deutsche Welthungerhilfe*, that engaged both the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation (BMZ) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in order to encourage their expanded and ongoing emphasis on land tenure and to explore the potential for these institutions to become both contributors and participants in the Popular Coalition;
- delivered a paper on the Popular Coalition as an innovative mechanism for collaboration between civil-society, intergovernmental and United Nations organizations and governments to the Seoul International NGO Conference in the Republic of Korea, October 1999 and to the World Civil-Society Conference in Montreal, Canada, in December 1999. Both conferences are in preparation for the Millennium NGO Forum at the United Nations in May 2000;
- collaborated as a partner in the preparatory workshop in South Africa leading to the FAO/Netherlands Conference on the Multifunctional Character of Agriculture and Land (MFCAL) in Maastricht, The Netherlands, in September 1999. A Popular Coalition position paper was distributed to the conference. The Chairperson's report of the conference highlighted the need for governments to increase their attention to access to land and tenurial security. The Popular Coalition undertook this involvement in order to situate itself for the Eighth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which will focus on access to land and land management. The Popular Coalition assisted FAO in the preparation of their official report to the CSD in their role as task manager for the chapters being considered at CSD8. Furthermore, at the request of the NGO Caucus to CSD, it prepared a paper on land tenure issues for the NGO Dialogue Sessions with member governments. Also, in response to the invitation by the CSD secretariat, the Popular Coalition is submitting a background document for the Ministerial Sessions in which it will participate actively;
- held briefings in 1999 with officials from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in Ottawa, Canada, to encourage the participation of the Government of Canada and Canadian NGOs in the Popular Coalition. The Government of Canada signed an agreement in December to provide funding to the programme of work;
- held briefings in Washington, D.C., in 1999, coordinated by the IFAD Representative, with potential government and non-governmental partners including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID);
- held briefings in Japan in 1999 with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as well as with NGO leaders who had expressed strong interest in participating in the activities of the Popular Coalition;
- participated as an invited panellist at the International Conference on Land Tenure Models for Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century hosted by the African Studies Centre in The Hague, The Netherlands, in October 1999. The conference was attended by a wide geographical cross-section of Africa-based civil-society and research organizations working to improve land tenure and access to resources. These organizations expressed strong interest in joining the Popular Coalition and seeking the ways and means for it to serve as a unifying mechanism for their continuing work in Africa;
- held preparatory meetings with FAO to identify four to five countries where the Popular Coalition could collaborate with the national thematic groups under the auspices of the United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Network on Food Security and Rural Development. This ACC Committee has been given a mandate under the United Nations system to support the follow-up to the World Food Summit and the implementation of the programme of action of the Popular Coalition.



## V. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

52. The activities of the Popular Coalition have been made possible by the financial and in-kind and technical services provided by its many partner organizations. The members have committed themselves to pooling their resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action. Since the Conference on Hunger and Poverty, the Popular Coalition has mobilized:

- three technical assistance grants from IFAD towards operations and programme activities of USD 50 000 in March 1996; USD 900 000 in April 1997 and USD 100 000 in 1999;
- supplementary funds from the Governments of Denmark, Italy, Japan and Switzerland totalling USD 590 000 during the period 1996-1998;
- additional grants in 1999 from the Government of Italy of USD 300 000 and from the Government of Japan of USD 197 500;
- a contribution of USD 100 000 from WFP;
- technical services at a value of USD 225 000 from FAO;
- initial NGO support of USD 1 371, with other NGOs indicating the intention to contribute;
- initial contributions of USD 1.5 million from the World Bank and USD 1.6 million from IFAD for the CEF.

53. The Secretariat has undertaken an active programme of resource mobilization. This work is currently focused on follow-up discussions with additional potential national and multilateral donors. The outcomes to date have been:

- the Government of Canada has signed an agreement to provide a contribution of CAD 100 000;
- the European Commission has indicated an interest in participating in the programme of work and providing funding of up to USD 5 million;
- Belgium has reaffirmed its interest and indicated it would welcome a proposal; and,
- USAID has indicated the possibility of funding in 2000 using the Popular Coalition's relationship with the Land Tenure Centre in Wisconsin as an avenue for contributing.

## VI. RELATIONSHIP TO IFAD

54. The objectives of the Popular Coalition are consistent with and complementary to the programmes and corporate strategy of IFAD. The Popular Coalition will widen IFAD's information and knowledge base for programme preparation and assist in identifying new partners that will strengthen IFAD's programme implementation. The activities of the Popular Coalition will contribute to IFAD's corporate strategy in the following areas: (a) developing new approaches and alliances for a changing global environment; (b) establishing and using knowledge networks on rural poverty in order to strengthen IFAD as a recognized knowledge organization; and (c) ensuring an effective IFAD presence at the field level by expanding IFAD's outreach. The Popular Coalition provides IFAD with a unique opportunity for strategic collaboration with the international institutions and civil-society organizations that regard this consortium as an opportunity to develop new ways of working towards the common goal of improving the productivity and incomes of the rural poor.

55. The work of the Popular Coalition has received wide exposure to a diverse audience of decision-makers in many of the member countries of IFAD. As the focal institution and also as the host of the Secretariat, IFAD is distinguished among the many partners in the Popular Coalition. IFAD has received extensive recognition in the Popular Coalition's communications, presentations, documentation, workshops, international speeches and public events, including the activities of the national and regional nodes of Arnet, and through its position as the global focal point for the Popular Coalition.