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Investing in rural people

President's Report on a Proposed Grant under
the Global/Regional Grants Window to the
French Agricultural Research Centre for
International Development for Integrating
Multiple Water Sources and Local Institutions
for Enhanced Food Security in North Africa's
Hinterland by Reinforcing Agricultural and
Rural Innovation Systems

Note to Executive Board representatives

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For: Approval

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation for the proposed grant as contained in paragraph 19.

President's Report on a Proposed Grant under the Global/Regional Grants Window to the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) for Integrating Multiple Water Sources and Local Institutions for Enhanced Food Security in North Africa's Hinterland by Reinforcing Agricultural and Rural Innovation Systems

I. Background and compliance with IFAD's Policy for Grant Financing

1. Marginal areas in North Africa's hinterland include semi-arid mountain areas, steppes and oases in the arid South. Mountain areas are fragile ecosystems threatened by erosion and land degradation. Over the last 20 years, these areas have become increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. They are dominated by the integration of extensive livestock raising with cultivation of cereals, fruit including apple and almond, agroforestry (olives) in the foothills and highlands, market gardening and alfalfa farming in small community-managed irrigation schemes within valleys and basins. An increase in livestock numbers and agricultural intensification have resulted in the increased cultivation of rangelands, encroachment on forests and strong pressure on the groundwater table. In the semi-desert areas of North Africa, drought and the mechanization of agriculture have led to the increasing degradation of natural resources.
2. As a result, marginal areas in North Africa have faced various social, economic and environmental changes over the past 20 years, requiring creative action by local communities and better convergence between public policies and development programmes. This project focuses on the identification and testing of proven and potential local innovations that can enhance the resilience of marginal areas in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. It will promote capacity building and investments in young rural smallholders engaged in making positive change by connecting them with agricultural and rural innovation systems for inclusive territorial development. Innovations and knowledge generated in the target countries will be collected and widely disseminated to enhance the sustainability of recently adopted agricultural practices in selected marginal areas.
3. The French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) was selected as the recipient of the proposed grant. In accordance with the provisions in paragraph 15 of IFAD's Policy for Grant Financing (2015),¹ direct selection is fully justified since CIRAD was considered the sole organization capable of implementing the proposed approach and activities, with specialized tools to attain project objectives. Compared to other organizations operating in the region, CIRAD offers the most relevant expertise, methodology and tools available in the selected countries.

¹ See EB 2015/114/R.2/Rev.1.

4. The proposed project activities are in line with the goal and objectives of IFAD's Policy for Grant Financing through the promotion of innovations and approaches with the potential to be scaled up for greater impact, and the generation and sharing of knowledge. Furthermore, this grant's focus and goal of scaling up innovative approaches to sustainable water management is in line with IFAD's efforts to develop participatory community-based irrigation schemes while taking stock of local knowledge, including from past and ongoing IFAD-supported activities.² The proposed project embraces the mainstreaming of youth and gender, as elaborated in commitments for the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD11) by targeting young local men and women leaders engaged in water resource management.
5. The proposed project builds upon IFAD's goal of promoting agricultural research for development in line with thematic cluster IV of IFAD's Medium-Term Plan (2016-2018) and priority area 4(b) of the Strategic Guidance for IFAD Grants (2018). This grant has the potential to contribute to revamping IFAD strategies, particularly IFAD11 Commitment 3.3 (mainstream key cross-cutting themes on nutrition, gender, youth and climate) and Commitment 3.4 (strengthen synergies between lending and non-lending engagement).
6. The formulation of the proposal benefited from continuous dialogue between the recipient and IFAD country teams in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Opportunities for enhancing technical cooperation and knowledge sharing among target countries will enhance the proposed activities through South-South and Triangular Cooperation. It is expected that IFAD country teams will build upon the project approach and the early outputs of the project (especially those of component 1) to contribute towards monitorable actions 20, 21, 23, 24, 27 and 29 related to the IFAD11 commitments.

II. The proposed project

7. The overall goal of the project is to enhance the resilience of local irrigation practices in marginal areas of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia in the face of global environmental and societal changes by identifying and testing technical and institutional innovations related to water management, agricultural systems and rural development. The project aims to improve the: implementation of innovative practices; their contribution to the resilience of smallholder farmers; and livelihoods at the household and community levels. It will disseminate and compare successful innovations in order to develop the capacity of young smallholders and connect them with other stakeholders. This approach can sustain innovations by reinforcing the agricultural and rural innovation networks.
8. The direct target group will comprise 766 individuals, including:
 - (i) 360 young smallholder farmers engaged in local innovation and collective actions for water management and rural development;
 - (ii) 110 smallholders from selected local irrigation associations;
 - (iii) 85 women and men smallholder farmers from five or six selected cooperatives;
 - (iv) 30 members of local NGOs and other development associations;
 - (v) 30 representatives of local authorities, river basin agencies and agricultural administrations; and
 - (vi) 151 students and scientists working on water-related issues.

² IFAD, *Agricultural Water Management. Scaling-up Note* (2015)
https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/40237450/Scaling+up+note+on+agricultural+water+management_e.pdf/3fee0d70-0c04-4744-9e22-1d7e65d8244f.

9. The indirect target group includes local communities and small-scale family farmers in marginal areas. Since each irrigation association or farming cooperative has between 20 and 50 members, the total indirect target group comprises 1,050 small-scale farmers.
10. The project will be implemented over four years and will have the following components:
 - (i) Benchmarking of relevant innovations;
 - (ii) Piloting innovations for water productivity and agricultural development; and
 - (iii) Reinforcing capacities of smallholders and innovation networks.

III. Expected outcomes and outputs

11. The project is expected to have the following outputs:
 - (i) A multidimensional comparative evidence base of established and potential innovations is developed.
 - (ii) Six selected innovations are successfully tested in marginal areas.
 - (iii) A sustainable North African network on research and development connecting all categories of young professionals is created.
12. The project is expected to have the following outcomes:
 - (i) The scope of possible innovations for local initiatives is enlarged through learning exchanges among the target countries.
 - (ii) Trained young professionals are able to support local innovations through agricultural and rural development innovation networks.
 - (iii) Existing and newly produced knowledge on water management and territorial development is capitalized on and made available to other projects.

IV. Implementation arrangements

13. CIRAD will oversee implementation of project activities with the participation of the following international and in-country public institutions and academic partners:
 - (i) Algeria: The Centre University of Tipaza will establish a formal collaboration with Ghardaia University and will liaise with regional and local governments, and research and training institutes.
 - (ii) Morocco: The National School of Agriculture Meknes and Hassan II Institute of Agronomic and Veterinary Medicine will liaise with other research and training institutions, and regional and local government institutions.
 - (iii) Tunisia: The National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia and the National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Waters and Forests (INRGREF) will liaise with other research and training institutions such as the Arid Regions Institute and local government institutions in project activities.
14. A consortium agreement will be signed by CIRAD, the National School of Agricultural Meknes, Hassan II Institute of Agronomic and Veterinary Medicine, INRGREF, the University Centre of Tipaza and France-based research centres the National Research Institute of Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture (Irstea) and the Lille Center for the Study and Research of Economics and Sociology (CLERSE). Agreements will also be signed between CIRAD and each local partner specifying operational arrangements as well as the financial flows and responsibilities.
15. CIRAD will be responsible for project coordination and technical and financial management. A senior coordinator and deputy coordinator, both with extensive experience in irrigation management and participatory approaches, will be

designated by CIRAD and based in a partner institution in Rabat or Tunis. The senior coordinator will monitor the project's technical and scientific progress, promote its results and represent the consortium. CIRAD will mobilize a lawyer and a financial manager to provide monitoring and other assistance while the deputy coordinator will support day-to-day grant management. Timely and effective implementation will be ensured by an International Steering Committee (ISC) representing all partners, with input from local coordination committees.

16. The project's monitoring and evaluation system will be the responsibility of the ISC. Selected qualitative indicators will be defined with local actors, enabling them to monitor project progress. IFAD will participate in meetings of the ISC as an observer. IFAD representatives and independent experts will be invited to the three annual project workshops and the mid-term review mission.
17. There are no deviations from IFAD's standard procedures for financial reporting and audits.

V. Indicative project costs and financing

18. The total cost of the project is estimated at US\$2,736,000. IFAD will contribute US\$2,084,000 (76 per cent) while cash and in-kind contributions from CIRAD and other cofinanciers will total US\$526,951 and US\$125,885 respectively.

Table 1
Costs by component and financier
(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Components</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>CIRAD (cash)</i>	<i>Other cofinanciers (cash)</i>	<i>Other cofinanciers (in-kind)</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Benchmarking of relevant innovations	366	118	12	30	526
2. Piloting innovations for water productivity and agricultural development	1 004	201	29	56	1 290
3. Reinforcing capacities of smallholders and innovation networks	714	140	27	40	920
Total	2 084	459	67	126	2 736

Table 2
Costs by expenditure category and financier
(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Expenditure category</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>CIRAD (cash)</i>	<i>Other cofinanciers (cash)</i>	<i>Other cofinanciers (in-kind)</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Salaries and allowances	634	286	29	67	1 016
2. Consultancies	240	34	-	-	274
3. Equipment and material	269	14	11	24	318
4. Goods and services	102	17	4	4	127
5. Operating costs	41	3	6	1	51
6. Training and workshops	147	31	-	-	178
7. Travel and allowances	498	74	17	30	619
8. Overheads	153	-	-	-	153
Total	2 084	459	67	126	2 736

VI. Recommendation

19. 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, Integrating Multiple Water Sources and Local Institutions for Enhanced Food Security in North Africa's Hinterland by Reinforcing Agricultural and Rural Innovation Systems, shall provide a grant of two million eighty four thousand United States dollars (US\$2,084,000) to CIRAD over a four-year period upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

Gilbert F. Hougbo
President

Results-based logical framework

	Objectives-hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Goal	Strengthen the resilience of oasis communities	Resilience indicators of IFAD	Annual reports	
Objectives	<p>Overall objective: To enhance the resilience of oases communities in the face of global environmental and societal</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To make a detailed and comparative inventory of ongoing and potential innovations that have the capacity to strengthen the resilience of oases communities; 2. To analyze, test and discuss selected innovations in the target zones through a participative, territorial, multiple-actors approach from participatory diagnosis to participatory forecasting and scenario-building; 3. To train young professionals on water-related development programs in marginal areas 	<p>Number of comparative analyzes produced Target: 20 innovations</p> <p>Number of beneficiaries applying selected innovations Target: 10 groups of smallholders in the process of adoption of the innovations referenced by the project</p> <p>An operational network is in place</p>	<p>Survey of resilience of selected oases (Waw/FAO), start and end</p> <p>Research reports</p> <p>Workshop proceedings</p> <p>Scientific articles</p> <p>Minutes of workshops</p> <p>MSc and PhD theses</p> <p>Manuals</p> <p>Videos</p> <p>Adoption survey in two countries</p> <p>Training certificates</p>	<p>Political stability</p> <p>No prolonged droughts</p> <p>Market failure</p> <p>Climate variability, out-migration, competition over resources with modern extensions</p>
Outcomes/ Outputs				
Outcome 1	Enlarged scope of possible innovations for local initiatives	<p>Number of innovations</p> <p><i>Baseline:</i> 0</p> <p><i>Target:</i> 10</p>	Completion survey	Clear political support for inclusive rural development and innovations in marginal areas
Outcome 2	Trained young professionals able to support local innovations through agricultural and rural innovation networks	<p>Competency proficiency levels of trained young professionals</p> <p><i>Baseline:</i> to be qualified by the baseline survey</p> <p><i>Target:</i> full proficiency for all categories of young professionals</p>	<p>Baseline survey</p> <p>Exhaustive “competency proficiency levels” survey</p>	Importance of training in national agricultural and water strategies
Outcome 3	Knowledge and methodology for knowledge production capitalized and available for other R&D projects	<p>Quantified appreciation of capitalized knowledge</p> <p><i>Baseline:</i> n/a</p> <p><i>Target:</i> knowledge and know-how is formalized and available</p>	<p>Manuals</p> <p>Videos</p>	Clear understanding of the needs of R&D projects (degree and form of knowledge/know-how to be made available)
Output 1	A multidimensional comparative evidence base of established and	Number of innovations in the evidence base	Baseline and completion	Beneficiaries are motivated by the proposed

	Objectives-hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
	potential innovations	described, analyzed and made available <i>Baseline:</i> n/a (tbc in baseline survey) <i>Target:</i> at least 20 pertinent innovations	surveys Surveys (network sociometry) Annual reports	innovations.
Output 2	Selected tested innovations in marginal areas	Number of referenced innovations adopted Baseline: 0 Target: 6 innovations adopted (2 in each target country) by irrigation communities	Workshop proceedings Scientific articles Minutes of workshops	Beneficiaries accept Pre-selected innovations Alternative innovations available Political stability
Output 3	A sustainable North African R & D network connecting all categories of young professionals	Density and diversity of network <i>Baseline:</i> expected to be poorly connected (to be confirmed by baseline survey) <i>Target:</i> - high density and high diversity (a smallholder is connected to at least 3 types of actors)		The linkage with IFAD investments and other development projects is as strong as to stimulate continued interest in innovations in marginal areas.
Key Activities by component				
Component 3. Training of young professionals	3.1 Training of young smallholders 3.2 Reinforcing capacities on innovation in marginal areas 3.3 Knowledge production and dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Density and diversity of network 3 start-ups created on R&D 1 MOOC implemented Communication & training tools available 	Sociometric analysis of network Activities and turnover of start-ups Annual reports Manuals, Videos, exhibitions Consultations of project web site MSc/PhD reports	Leaders, researchers and professionals are mobilized National schools and training centres provide training and accept young professionals
Component 2. Piloting innovations	2.1 Multi-actor planning workshops; 2.2 Testing of innovations and accompanying leaders in implementation 2.3 Knowledge production and dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27 studies successfully conducted 152 engineers and young researchers (at least 40% women) trained 	Research reports Workshop proceedings Minutes of workshops 3 Manuals related to the implementation of existing innovations (French, Arabic).	Identification of communities that are willing to experiment socio-technical innovations
Component 1. Benchmarking	1.1 Identify and characterize innovative technologies-in-use, institutions and practices 1.2 12 in-depth studies on promising innovations 1.3 Knowledge production and dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovations evaluated and referenced Validated grid of universal/ lay indicators 555 smallholders (at least 30% women) reached 60 young leaders (at least 40% women) trained in P2P training sessions 6 study trips successfully conducted (120 participants) 	Videos Trip reports Data-base	Consortium agreement signed with all research partners Budgets made available to the different research teams in the three countries