

FINAL REPORT OF AGRO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES  
WITHIN THE SAFGRAD/FSR PROGRAM IN BURKINA FASO  
FROM SEPTEMBER 1985 TO JUNE 1988

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The main activities carried out by the agro-economic section within the SAFGRAD/FSR program in Burkina Faso may be summarised chronologically as follows:

Sept 1985 to Nov 1985: Practical Implementation Modalities of the  
BURKINA FASO/OAU-STRC-SAFGRAD Protocole of Agreement.

The first task accomplished has been to propose a set of modalities for the implementation of the FSR program within Burkina Faso. The proposals were related to the FSR teams structure and organisation, the definition and the schedule of research activities to be carried out, definition of technical and administrative responsibilities of scientists and technicians, allocation of administrative scientific and financial responsibilities between SAFGRAD and INERA along with related procedures and program monitoring committees. The proposals were presented in a document entitled "Propositions de Modalités Pratiques d'Application du Programme National de Recherche sur les Systèmes de Production".

The proposals were discussed with the rest of the FSR team (including the Nationalhead of the Program and the National Scientists), and amended as necessary.

The document has been submitted to the Burkina Faso National Agricultural Research Institute (INERA) for comments with copies sent to SAFGRAD Coordination Office. None of the two parties involved (INERA and SAFGRAD) reacted to the proposals.

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Dec 1985 - January 1986: Basis for collaboration between the FSR program and National Agricultural Research and Development Organisation in Burkina Faso.

The agro-economic section along with the other team members initiated in late November 1985 a set of meetings with each one of the major national agricultural research and rural development organisations within Burkina Faso to discuss bases of collaboration between their organisation and the FSR Program. Such meetings continued until late January 1986. The results of the meetings have been summarized in a document.

Feb 1986 - March 1986: Reconnaissance Survey of Farming Systems within the Mossi Plateau.

Reconnaissance survey to select FSR villages within the Mossi Plateau actively took place in February 1986 under the leadership of the agro-economic section. The data analysis was completed early in March 1986 with the production of the first report in french. The first report which cover was bearing only the name of INERA, on INERA's request, raised a controversy between SAFGRAD and INERA. Other versions of the same report in french and english were later produced.

April 1986 - May 1986: Household Sampling and Questionnaire Design for the Baseline Studies and the On-farm Test of Technologies.

By April 1986 the FSR program began to move out of former FSU villages, where it had started its activities, into the new FSR villages. A sample of thirty five households was drawn in each village. The installation of former FSU enumerators in the new villages started. The questionnaires for the socio-economic baseline survey were designed by the agro-economic section and explained to the enumerators.

June 1986 - May 1987: Primary Data Collection for Baseline Studies and Analysis of Secondary Data on Soil Fertility Management in Burkina Faso.

Two activities were carried out simultaneously during the June 86-May 87 period. The first was the collection of a set of primary data (through cost route and one shot surveys) in the new FSR villages to acquire basic knowledge of the structure and parameters of (a) the demand and supply of agricultural inputs (b) crop and animal production, (c) prices and marketing of crops and livestock. Much time was spent in training the enumerators, conducting farmer interviews trouble shooting and monitoring of the data collection. This has recently resulted in eight reports (reports N° 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 15 of attached reference list) one of which is not yet completed (n° 15).

The second activity was the analysis of secondary data on soil fertility management that I collected with ICRISAT during the 1981-82 crop season. This activity which was separately funded with a grant from USAID-Burkina Faso began in September 1986 following the acquisition of a micro computer bought from the grant. The data analysis ended in March 1987 with the production of the preliminary edition of a book in french and english (N° 4 on Reference list).

May 1987 - December 1987: Design, Installation and Monitoring of Farmer Managed Trials, and Low Intensity Data Collection.

In May 1987 the agro-economic section designed a set of farmer managed trials, discussed the design with the other technical sections of the FSR program, then implemented and monitored the trials throughout the season. The trials involved test and economic evaluation of new crop varieties, new agricultural implements. The trials were carried out in all three FSR villages with active participation of farmers. The results are presented in the agro-economic study n° 3 (n° 11 on the Reference list).

Additional data were also collected during the same period to complete the baseline studies.

December 1987 - June 1988: Impact Study, Data Analysis and Production of Reports.

A study to assess the impact of new agricultural technologies in former FSR villages of both FSU and ICRISAT was launched by the agro-economic section in December 1987. The Data from FSU villages have been analysed, the data analysis for one ICRISAT village is still to be completed before a comprehensive report is produced (n° 14 of Reference list).

The rest of the period was used in processing and analysing data to produce reports N° 10, 11, 12 and 14 on the attached Reference list.

Seminars:

During my short career with OAU/STRC/SAFGRAD I also participated in three seminars and contributed a paper in each one of the them:

- The first seminar was an FAO seminar on wood production held in Ouagadougou from Feb 3 to Feb 16, 1986. Paper contributed is paper n° 2 on Reference list.
- The second was SAFGRAD Drought Symposium held at Nairobi in Kenya from (9 to 23 May 1986). Paper contributed is N° 3 on Reference list.
- The third seminar was the International Association for African Rural Economy (IAFARE/AIPERA) conference on problems of new technology adoption, held at the African Development Bank in Abidjan from January 27 to January 28, 1988. Paper contributed is paper N° 9 on Reference list.

Findings : The last section of each one of the papers in the reference list summarises the related findings and their implications for agricultural research and development.

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