

WEST AFRICA SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM NIGERIA

JANUARY – MARCH 2003 QUARTERLY REPORT

Introduction

Implementation of the USAID/AU-STRC/SAFGRAD/FMA&RD Projects under the West African Small Program went on according to plan with most of the projects.

The PCU monitoring exercise towards the end of the fourth quarter of 2002 positively affected implementation of most of the projects as prior notice of the PCU monitoring visits and actual visits to each project made all the implementing partners put more time and energy in project activities before and after the visits. Since the last quarter's report after the PCU monitoring the IAR&T Focal Unit Coordinator visited 12 project sites on short notice and received 13 reports during March 2003. Fuel scarcity, NLC strike, lack of fund and national elections disrupted plans to visit remaining two projects located in Benue State. However reports were received from these two projects.

Highlights of the project achievements during the quarter are given below.

A. POST-HARVEST & FARM PRODUCE PROCESSING

- 1. Dissemination of improved soybean technologies and commercialisation of soybean-based products in Nigeria. NCRI/FCT-ADP and Tunga Maje Women Cooperative Society.**

Achievements during the Quarter

- Community- based seed production yielded for one of the farmers for soybean seed which the farmer the “ Sakin Noma” sold during the glut period for forty thousand Naira(N40,000) to pay school fees of his children rather than store

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and sell it at higher value as planting material or higher-priced grains later in the year.

- 995kg of foundation seed from two improved soybean varieties was harvested from the community demonstration plot and stored for next planting season.
- Soybean products production by the Women Cooperative Association was low during the quarter.
- Project Team Leader visited Badeggi from 14-15 April, 2003.

2. Cottage Cassava Processing industry for Leventis Agric School. Ex-Trainees at Weppa-Agenebode

Achievements

- The Cooperative produced 8.5 tones of gari (fried cassava meal) from 50 tones of cassava tubers out of a target of 90 tones for the period. The low achievement was due to drop in price of gari during the period to N200-N300/18.5kg as against N1000/18.5kg during 2002.
- N157,000 was realised from sales of gari.
- Small quantity of starch was sold to policemen.
- N50,000 was saved in NACRDB from project take off to date.
- 17 members of WLFPCS operate in 3 syndicate groups
- 8 other non-members from the community are employed 4 days in a week for cassava peeling and gari frying at the rate of N150/day plus lunch.
- 2 meetings of the cooperative were held during the reporting period.
- Record of performance kept up to date.
- Project visited by FUC from 5-6 April 2003.

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3. Fish Cracker production by Ebute Afuye women fish folk Cooperative – NIOMR and Women Cooperative at Epe, Lagos State.

* Although the written report from the project facilitator has not been received FUC'S visit to the project without notice and without the Team Leader met two groups, Group A with 10 members and Group E with 9 members producing fish crackers for sale when FUC visited project in Epe on 6 March 2003. This is evidence of successful adoption of the technology by the women Cooperative

3. Sugar/Brown sugar project NCRI and Bida Surgarcane farmers

Cooperative, Gbajigi, Bida.

Achievements

- Weekly meetings of farmers group continued during the quarter
 - An NCRI technical staff has been fully deployed to guide the farmers on various aspects of the project.
 - 2 Hectares of industrial sugar cane varieties have been established on farmers' field.
 - Fabrication of Processing machines. All the required equipment have been fabricated remaining Earthwork of the Open Pain System (OPS) and the centrifuge to be done when fund is released.
 - Construction of the factory building has reach lintel level with roofing expected as soon as the money expected from the community is received.
 - Project site and Team Leader visited from 14-16 April, 2003.
5. Enhancing productivity of sesame cultivation and efficiency of processing into commercial projects in Nigeria.
- Undetermined quantity of seed produced by farmers was realized from 2002 planting during the quarter and has been preserved for sale or processing.

- Prototype of the pressing machine has been tested and found to extract oil efficiently from sesame but fund is being awaited for fabrication of the expeller and gear that will be installed for the woman cooperative.
- Project Team Leader visited in Badeggi by FUC from 14 - 15 April, 2003.

6 Ikorodu Cassava processing and marketing project- Divine Daughters Multipurpose Cooperative.

Achievements

- The flash dryer costing N1,300,000.00 (N1.3million) has been delivered, installed and test run to produce dry fufu.
- The Cooperative has paid the manufacturer sum of N8000,000.00 remaining a balance of N500,000.00 to be paid
- A hammer mill has been fabricated awaiting installation when fund becomes available
- The Cooperative hosted WINROCK International Farmer- to- farmer program volunteers from the United States from 8-21 March 2003.
- Project visited by FUC on 6 March 2003.

7. Transfer and Adoption of Yam Processing Technology to rural women farmers in Benue State Partners For Development (PFD)

Achivements

- Fabrication, installation and fabrication of yam processing equipment completed.
- Signed formal agreement with beneficiary CBO (Utabar Women Development Association)
- Conducted trainings on joint Enterprise Management for 2 members of the beneficial CBO who understand English.

- Trained 7 members of the beneficiary CBO on operation and maintenance of equipment in Tiv local language.
- Launched and handed over Yam processing equipment on 13 February 2003.
- Commenced production of yam flour.

B. LIVESTOCK & FISHERY-RELATED PROJECTS

1. Upgrading and fattening of local sheep and goats in Ogun State- Ogun ADP and farmers in Ogun State.

Achievements

- 33 breeding rams and 7 breeding bucks have been distributed for use in mating farmers' local stock of ewes (sheep) and does (goats) and most of female animals are already pregnant and expected to be delivering kids around May/June 2003.
- In the fattening program animals costing about N3000-N3500 before fattening were sold for N6000-N7500 at end of 3 1/2 months of fattening which coincided with Id El Kabir.

* Project visited by FUC on 18th March 2003.

2. Establishment of small-scale Entrepreneur in Grass-cutter production- IAR&T and farmers.

- 2 Pilot Grass-cutter farmers supplied each with grass-cutters colony comprising: 2 male with 5 female animals and 2 male with 6 female animals respectively continued with management of the animals satisfactorily.
- The Pilot Farmer located 1km from I.A.R&T who received 8 grass-cutters has 7 remaining (2males – 5 females)
- The pilot farmers located about 55km from IAR&T with 8 grass-cutters had 4 – 6 females already pregnant as a result of excellent management.

- 5 prospective grass-cutters have booked to buy weaners to start their own grass-cutter rearing from this successful grass-cutter farmer.
- First draft of “Farmers Guidelines for Grass-cutter production” is ready.
- Materials purchase for back- up studies at IAR&T in progress while animals and more fund for its take- off are awaited.
- Project visited by FUC on 13th March

3. Fish Seed and Feed Production ventures

Achievements

- 30 fish farmers directly involved in the operation of fish feed equipment that were earlier supplied.

4. Utilization of cassava plant-based rations for poultry and small ruminants among Aba Ara Oyo and Jamade Cooperative Farmers Group- TECHNOVISOR and two farmers groups.

Achievements

- Satisfactory rearing of chicken pullets from day old chicks (DOC) to layer birds on cassava plant based poultry feed by JAMADE Farmers Cooperative group.
- No mortality among the 500 birds at Jamade with the birds laying 10 crates of eggs as of FUC visit on 18th April, 2003
- Jamade Cooperative employs a member as poultry attendant on a monthly salary of N3,500 and getting good return.
- Fairly satisfactory management of the birds by Aba Ara Oyo group where farmers rotate to work in the poultry management hence 8% mortality in the population of 500 birds at Aba Ara Oyo attaining 5 crates of eggs/day at the FUC visit on 18th April 2003.

- TECHNOVISOR has identified 2 large scale poultry farms namely: Hope Farms and Mirth Agric Farms wanting to buy excess cassava chips that the two farmers cooperatives may produce with machines given to them.
- Rams have been supplied to Jamade Cooperative.
- Low cyanide cassava variety TMS 4(2) established on TECHNOVISOR demonstration farm is ready for cutting for farmers planting on their farms.

C. SEED INCREASE & DISTRIBUTION

1. Certified Seed Multiplication and Dissemination among Farmers of Oyo State- Oyo State ADP and private seed out-growers.

Achievements

- 20.5Ha of maize planted and harvested processed to 24.6 tones of yet to be distributed to farmers for 2003 maize crop through grass-root seed agents.
- 61/2 Ha of Soybean from 2002 crop to give 4.5 tones certified seed.
- 12Ha Cowpea with a certified seed yield of 9.0 tones.
- 19 seed out-growers benefited.
- Monthly meetings of seed Growers Association.
- Seed distribution to seed Agents for sale to Farmers

2. Transfer of Technology of producing improved seedlings of horticultural-NIHORT and Horticultural fruit trees farmers.

Achievements

- Establishment and Management of Pre-nursery/Nursery continued during the period with the following outputs.
 - NIHORT Site – 3000 citrus rootstock
 - Ogotun-Ekiti Site – 5000 Seedlings

-	Akufo-	5000
-	Iyan Oje –	6000
-	Osegere/Egbeda -	<u>4000</u>
	Total	<u>23,000</u>

- Site selection and preparation for citrus progeny and pineapple pre-nursery completed.
- Nursery materials distributed to farmers at 3 locations (Akufo, Osegere and Iyaoje)
- 29 farmers were trained during the period at Osegere (10) , Akufo(6) Ogotun(3) and Iyaoje(10)
- Visit of Focal Unit Coordinator on 20th March 2003 (Iya Oje) and NIHORT site on 31st March, 2003.

Focal Unit Coordination

Despite the exhaustion of Focal Unit budget, the Focal Unit Coordinator continued to perform critical coordination activities some with personal funds and some on credit as I.O.U to IAR&T Accounts Unit- Courtesy Deputy Bursar, his Accountants and Cashier.

Focal Unit Coordinator received SOS calls for release of funds from project collaborators and beneficiaries, delay of which was due to FUC's lack of funds to send the bulky rendition to International Coordination Office early on time for auditing which is required before remaining funds can be released.

Five projects A1, A4, A5, A6 and A7 have made additional requests above their remaining balance for successful completion should additional funds be available.

FUC strongly recommends making additional fund available to A4 and A6 which I

feel will make good impact if they are assisted with more funds to complete their installation. FUC needs to assess A7 need before making a positive recommendation. The grass-cutter project with its very small grant for the project which was almost screened out can be extended to more of the interested beneficiaries if some additional fund can be made available to the project. I have made these recommendations with all sense of responsibility and my conviction of the impact the projects can make. Lastly the current IAR&T-FUC will retire statutorily by 30th September, 2003 and there will be a need to fill the vacuum. I may still be available for development agricultural services in IAR&T during my retirement under special arrangement that can be worked out between the International Coordination Office and Director of IAR&T.

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