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LONG TERM ACTION PROGRAMME FOR WAFSRN (1993 - 1998)

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WEST AFRICAN FARMING SYSTEMS
RESEARCH NETWORK
RESEAU D'ETUDES DES SYSTEMES DE PRODUCTION
EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

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LONG TERM ACTION PROGRAMME  
FOR WAFSRN (1993-1998).

Ouagadougou, WAFSRN Steering Committee, December 1991.

LONG TERM ACTION PROGRAMME FOR WAFSRN  
(1993-1998)

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LONG TERM ACTION PROGRAMME FOR WAFSRN  
(1993-1998)

General Objectives

Existing activities

- Improve the sustainability of the network and its sub-network on animal traction.
- Consolidation and reinforcement of already started activities in the fields of exchange of information, publications, documentation training and collaborative research.
- Improvement of membership participation to the network's activities.

New orientations

- Better tuning of the contents of the above mentioned activities towards the needs of the members.
- Emphasize direct exchanges between members and national programmes through the collaborative research groups the sub-network, and newly to be created working groups.
- Opening up the network gradually to client groups of FSR as are development agencies, (including NGO's), farmers organizations, policy makers, etc.
- Give appropriate attention in all activities of WAFSRN to the position of women (starting with our own membership).
- Emphasize the need to include proper attention to environmental aspects in the national FSR programmes.
- Achieve cost reduction by pooling activities with other networks of SAFGRAD, and by integrating sub-networks (like already done with WAATN) and promoting new collaborative research and working groups.

## A. PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES OF WAFSRN: BULLETIN, JOURNAL, AND DIRECTORY

### Objectives

#### Bulletin

The main objective of the bulletin is to provide regular information to all members about all the activities of the network, its sub-network, and the collaborative research groups. The bulletin will continue to be the main channel for exchange of information between the members of the network, who are spread over 17 different countries in the subregion. The bulletin has been judged useful by 90% of those who have responded to the June-1991 questionnaire, 80% of them expressed satisfaction with its content and set up.

#### Journal

The main objective of the journal is to provide a forum to FSR practitioners and other researchers in related fields of interest, to publish the results of their activities in an internationally recognised scientific journal, published in the subregion, and having a not too difficult access.

The journal is meant to play a major role in the diffusion of FSR results to researchers, development agents, policy makers and other interested people in the subregion and elsewhere. It will facilitate exchange of different approaches and methodologies in FSR as they are practised in countries having different languages and research experiences.

During the coming period the aim is to open up the journal to other related networks belonging to SAFGRAD, for reasons of expediency, cost effectiveness and sustainability. This will enable to raise the frequency of the journal from the actual issues per year, to four as from 1994, and to reach a wider audience.

The June-1991 questionnaire has revealed that members attach much importance to the journal, express the willingness to contribute by submitting articles, and underline the necessity of publications for their careers as researchers.

Since many years national and international authorised persons have recognised the poor record of publications by West-african researchers, and the quasi absence of regularly published journals in agricultural sciences in the subregion. The WAFSRN initiative to fill the gap has already received international appreciation as e.g. by the CGIAR Secretariat.

## Directory

Its objective is to provide an annually revised registrar of members with their full addresses, and of all on-going programmes with their main characteristics. The aim is to enable members and institutions to get themselves easily identified and to facilitate direct communication between them.

The directory has already be proved useful for actualization of the pre-existing mailing list and has contributed to raise membership rate dramatically in 1991 (+ 50%).

## Strategy

### Bulletin

Responding to the wishes expressed by the members, the frequency of the bulletin will have to be scrupulously respected at a rythm of 4 issues per year, avoiding double numbers. The number of articles will be raised from one to at least two per issue, which will be obtained by appropriate planning and identification of potential authors by the editor, with help of the national coordinators. The articles in this rubrique will be of a more informative nature than those of the journal and could include some having been rejected for the latter.

The rubrique "Recent Publications" will be enlarged, seeing the interest expressed by the members, but this will depend on the acceptance by the donors of a fully competent documentation unit over time (presence of a senior documentalist).

The announcements will be limited to those who are timely enough to reach the members before closing date.

The bulletin will be enlarged by offering special pages under its own logo to the ROATA sub-network, according to the agreement reached with them in April 1991, after a long period of negotiations, and if final approval will have been obtained.

As the activities of the Collaborative Research Groups are expected to increase, more space for their foreseeable contributions has to be prepared.

The presence of a permanent editor in charge of all publication activities of WAFSRN, will much facilitate the frequency timeliness and quality of the bulletin.

Important improvement in production efficiency, timeliness and cost reduction will be obtained by getting the bulletin printed in Ouagadougou, which is possible as from 1992, by maintaining the existing format.

It has to be studied to see whether further cost reduction could be obtained by printing in Nigeria or Ghana, without loosing too much time and/or money because of distances to be covered and loads to be carried.

Distribution will be largely improved by using quicker and cheaper ways for sending the bulletin to the members. The following channels will be used as from 1992, once printing is done in Ouagadougou:

- for Nigeria (1/3 of all members): regrouping by air freight to IITA-Cotonou/Benin road transport to IITA-Ibadan:

- . distribution of lot 1 (Southern Nigeria) by IITA
- . road transport of lot 2 (Northern Nigeria) to IAR/ABU, Zaria, which cares for distribution.

- for other countries:

- . either through invitees of SAFGRAD meetings travelling back home,
- . or by air freight, distribution in both cases by the national correspondents.

## Journal

The strategy to keep the journal interesting and of good standard will be realised by following an active policy for identification of subjects and authors with the assistance of the national correspondents. Special attention will be given to encourage junior members to produce articles, and to help them acquire better skills in scientific writing (see training section). WAFSRN will select among its senior members a considerable number of reviewers, covering a large variety of FSR domains, of which the list of names and adresses will be published. These will be a guarantee for WAFSRN and authors to maintain a good standard of publication and avoid blunders.

Efforts will be made to publish special issues on topics of specific interest among the members.

SUBJECT: Extending the Services of WAFSRN Journal (Agricultural Systems in Africa) to SAFGRAD Crop Commodity Networks.

(1) For reasons of expediency, cost effectiveness and sustainability the joint sponsorship of the above Journal by WAFSRN and SAFGRAD was discussed.

(2) SAFGRAD's plan to initiate Journal of Semi-Arid Agriculture was pointed out.

(3) The WAFSRN Steering Committee recommends the services of the

above Journal to be extended to other SAFGRAD Networks.

Areas of collaboration to co-sponsor the above mentioned Journal:

(1) While maintaining the name of journal, it may be necessary to modify logo to reflect co-sponsoring.

(2) Review committee could be comprised of qualified scientists from WAFSRN and SAFGRAD crop commodity networks.

(3) Sharing of costs and editorial services.

What Needs to be Clarified by the WAFSRN Steering Committee

To what extent the above mentioned journal could be integrated to serve other SAFGRAD networks?

a) could it publish applied research papers such as breeding for drought resistance?

b) would the coverage of journal be limited to adaptive research?

c): could special issues be published since several good papers could be made available following major SAFGRAD workshops where technical papers are presented?

Directory

The strategy to be followed for the annual revision of the directory will be to update as accurately as possible the data on membership and current programme identification and description, with the help of the national coordinators. Membership forms will have to be filled yearly, as well as programme description forms. It is envisaged that membership fee will be charged, after approval by the General Assembly. A proposal will be submitted to the members before the next meeting, planned in 1993. The amount of the fee will be moderate for members belonging to NARS; a different rate will be applied for persons and institutions from outside the sub-region. The fees will be collected in local currency by the national correspondents. The fees will cover the normal services rendered by WAFSRN to its members.

Though the total amount of fees will cover only a small percentage of the total WAFSRN expenditure, the leveling of fees will strengthen membership adherence, and be a check for appreciation.



## B. COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GROUPS

### JUSTIFICATION

Since the WAFSRN symposium in 1989, when participants demanded WAFSRN to stimulate collaborative research activities, three groups have been formed with the help of IITA and ICRISAT. The research groups, i.e. one group around maize-based systems (COMBS), one around cassava based systems and one group of the Soudano-sahelian zone (GREFMASS) are roughly based on major agro-ecological zones. The survey on WAFSRN members has clearly indicated that the groups are an excellent and practical way to learn from the members' experiences and to exchange ideas about how to find solutions for common important problems. These experiences may be used in future training visits for other interested WAFSRN members. This was reason for the steering committee to enhance the priority for this kind of activities.

### OBJECTIVES

- Learning from sharing each others experiences, by which more experienced groups are actively helping the groups which have lesser experience.
- Accelerating the development of solutions for common important problems.
- Exploiting contacts with International Research Centers to (i) generate more effectively technologies and knowledge and (ii) to better focus the institutes research on important ground problems.
- As the experience grows, member team become important sites for training of other WAFSRN members.

### STRATEGIES

The network will assist:

- To stimulate members in associating around common ecologies or common target groups
- To help to obtain funds from potential donors for group meetings, collaborative research of common important problems, use of generated experiences in additional training visits and, if necessary, support of the coordination activities within each group.

- to make available these experiences through publication in the bulletin and the journal.

#### SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

- Helping to consolidate the initiatives of the three initiated groups (COMBS, GREFMASS and the Cassava group), through assistance and support for funding requests, publication and diffusion.
- During the following years the experiences obtained will be used for support for training visits of interested members outside these groups. Also the Network will be open for advise and support of initiatives by new groups.

#### BUDGET

- Visit of the coordinator to activities of existing groups
- Training visits for other WAFSRN members to collaborative group teams.
- Starter assistance for the creation of new collaborative research groups.

#### THE SUB-NETWORK FOR ANIMAL TRACTION (ROATA)

Since 1991, the former network for animal traction accepted to continue as a sub network of WAFSRN, in order to benefit from its facilities (bulletin, funding contacts etc.). A part-time coordinator to assist the WAFSRN coordinator has been proposed. For the rest, most of the justification, objectives strategies and activities, as been planned for the collaborative groups, are also valid for the ROATA network.

#### BUDGET:

- Salary and operational costs of assistant coordinator.
- Visit of the sub-coordinator to activities of the sub-network
- Training visits for ROATA members to specific research activities of colleagues teams.

## C. WASFRN DOCUMENTATION SERVICES.

### LONG TERM PLAN (1993-1998).

A. Objective. The long term objective is to satisfy the information needs of farming systems scientists, extension officers, farmers, policy makers and other interested persons in West and Central Africa by directly providing them with information and by promoting information exchange amongst them.

B. Justification : During the first phase of the documentation and information project funded by IDRC (Project 3-P-87-0107), three data bases were developed, and a medium-size stock of FSR publications was established. Information dissemination and exchange were embarked upon through the abstracts of "recent FSR publications" that appeared regularly in the WAFSRN Bulletin (starting from no 6, 1990), database searches and document supply on request. Other thrusts of information exchange undertaken were membership directories and selective bibliographies which were distributed to all members and programmes. While it is thus certain that information exchange commenced and advanced during the phase 1, a lot of effort was indeed spent on document acquisition and the development of databases. However information that has been produced, acquired, processed and stored cannot yield maximum benefit to the network members, farmers and other users unless it is intensively and extensively disseminated and exchanged. Therefore the long-term strategy will lay emphasis on dissemination without neglecting continued development and quality enhancement of the information base.

## C. ACTIVITIES

### 1. Abstracts of Recent Publications.

The insertion of a dozen abstracts with bibliographic data of recent publications in the WAFSRN Bulletin will be intensified by increasing the number to twenty per issue. Request cards will be inserted in each copy of the bulletin so as to enable readers request photocopies of the publications which they seriously consider useful for their work. Effort will be continued to select recent publications representing all the agro-ecological zones, crops, livestock, countries and official language groups in West Africa so as to stimulate information exchange the more by that means.

## 2. Selective Bibliography Series

Maize-based systems, FSR methodology and the sudano-sahelian cropping systems would have been covered in the phase I. The longterm activities will include other topics like cassava-based systems, mixed farming, and animal traction. Copies will be systematically distributed to members, programmes and their documentation centres. More collaborating libraries will be involved in the supply of documents cited to interested users as a means of intensifying information exchange and dissemination.

## 3. Enhancing the Quality of the Bibliographic Database.

Firstly, extensive corrections will be effected on the bibliographic database so as to adapt it to the needs of the members of the network.

Secondly, summaries will be provided for all records in the database so as to better help the reader make precise decision about the relevance of a document to his work.

Thirdly, in order to reduce the language barrier between anglophone and francophone members of the network, and enhance information exchange amongst members of the two groups the summaries of publications that appeared in all the selective bibliographies will be translated from the original language to the other.

## 4. Combined Directories of Members & Programmes.

The publication of the membership directory annually will continue in view of the many new subscriptions, and changes in the profiles of old members. The directory of programmes will be inserted in it as yellow pages so as to save the cost of printing and distribution of a separate directory of programmes. Copies will be distributed widely to members, programmes and their libraries.

## 5. Selective Dissemination of FSR Information (SDI).

By means of the CD-ROM facilities installed in the Documentation Unit, current, relevant bibliographic information will be provided for specific programmes for circulation to members of its teams.

#### 6. Involvement of Documentalists of NARS in Information Exchange.

A diagnostic survey of the agricultural documentation centres and libraries of selected countries with FSR programmes will be undertaken (eg. Mali, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Cameroon, Benin, Ghana). Their constraints that are not related to poor or inadequate infrastructural set-up will be addressed. Awareness of the scope and nature of FSR literature will be created for the librarians and documentalists concerned. These measures will intensify the dissemination and exchange of FSR information to the majority of members, literate farmers, extensionists, policy-makers and other users irrespective of obstacles to communication among the countries in the sub-region.

#### 7. Bibliographic Database on Diskette.

WAFSRN bibliographic database will be copied for any agricultural library in West Africa that has the technical means to use it. Training whenever required will be offered to the documentalists concerned in the use of CDS/ISIS software.

## D. TRAINING

### JUSTIFICATION

In every West African country there is an increasing number of new entrants into the FSR methodology. This observation is supported by the recent survey administered by WAFSRN in which about 57% of the respondents are about one year old in membership. This necessitates the training or orientation of new members into the FSR methodology. It is also noticed that some members may not be following the FRS approach correctly. This justifies the need for re-training of some older members.

Apart from upgrading basic FSR skills a fast growing pool of tools and techniques for FSR has been noted and documented in WAFSRN Documentation Unit. Some FSR teams have been availing themselves of these tools and techniques. However, it is becoming increasingly important to give training to a wider spectrum of WAFSRN members in the rich variety of multidisciplinary, participatory on-farm and client - based research. In addition some members across the region need training in basic scientific writing to enable them express their ideas and FSR results in clear, understandable and scientific manner.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectifs of WAFSRN training programme are:

1. To familiarize young researchers with the concepts and principles of FSR approach.
2. To offer training to researchers in the technical aspects and methodology of FSR
3. To familiarize young and senior FSR researchers with the new and emerging techniques in FSR
4. To train and assist FSR researchers to train others in the concepts, principles, techniques and methodology of FSR
5. To improve the skill of FSR practitioners in the art of modern technical, scientific writing.

## STRATEGIES

Various categories of participants are identifiable in each client country. There are the new entrants who need introductory courses and there are those that need re-training in the more recent FSR techniques. There are those who will be trained to train others. Some will be trained in the art of scientific writing. There is no single country both Francophone and Anglophone, that does not possess each category of participants though the needs vary. In a country like Nigeria, for example, while there are some senior members who could benefit from the more advanced training modules, there are numerous young researchers who need the basic FSR training. It is therefore necessary to carefully pick participants from each country for the various types of courses in either the small or big Francophone or Anglophone country.

As a strategy for meeting the identified training needs, two national training centres have been identified. The Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in Nigeria has agreed to host the courses for the Anglophone countries while Republic of Benin has been earmarked for the Francophone participants. The Faculty of Agriculture Université du Bénin, Cotonou has been contacted and arrangement will be finalized in 1992.

The Network shall continue to mount the FSR training course every alternate year in English and French. Resource persons shall be drawn within the host country using the nationale and IITA staff. When mounting the English course at least one resource person shall be drawn from the Francophone side to maintain a balanced view. A reciprocal arrangement will also be adopted when mounting the Francophone courses. It is only when necessary that resource persons shall be brought from outside the country and the West African Sub-region.

In addition to the courses to be mounted by WAFSRN, FSR practitioners would be encouraged to seek sponsorship through the projects they engage in addition to seeking external sources of funding to make the best use of available courses in FSR in many parts of the world. Examples of such courses include those mounted by IARC, ICRA in Montpellier and Wageningen, Philippine and Costa Rica. The various research collaborative groups would be encouraged to make use of training facilities obtainable in the international research centres they are affiliated with. For example, members of COMBS and the Cassava Based Systems Group should avail themselves of IITA facilities while GREFMAS should use those of ICRISAT.

The Collaborative Groups would be encouraged to concentrate their workshop themes on the emerging new techniques. An example is the recent COMBS workshop held in Lokossa, Republic of Benin 3 - 8 November, 1991. The central theme for COMBS collaborative research is "Soil Fertility Maintenance and Weed Supression by use of Legumes". The theme of 1991 workshop was therefore "Farmer Involvement in On-Farm Research with Specific Reference to Soil Fertility Maintenance and Weed Suppression by Use of Legumes". A resource person was also invited to lead discussions on "The Use of Indigenous Knowledge Systems for Addressing Soil Fertility Maintenance by Use be of Legumes".

This type of strategy would be encouraged in the collaborative research groups as it gives pratical demonstration of the methodology right on the farmer's fields and as it specifically applies to the chosen themes of the groups.

### ACTIVITES

The two major courses to be mounted by WAFSRN at Zaria and Cotonou are as follows :

- I. Basic Course on FSR Methodology
- II. Advanced Course on FSR Methodology

The details of each course is as follwos:

#### I Basic Course on FSR Methodology

The main aim of this course is to introduce participants to the FSR methodology through a series of lectures and practicals on the following areas:

- A. The Need for Training Farmer-Oriented Research
- B. Understanding the Farmers' Circumstances
- C. Multidisciplinary and Steps in Implementing FSR
- D. Surveys / Diagnosis
- E. Linkage with On-Station Research
- F. On-Farm Research
- G. Technology Transfer



H. Research Extension Linkages

I. Statistical Analysis.

II. Advanced Course on FSR Methodology

This course is aimed at upgrading the skills of participants in the emerging techniques of FSR. The areas of coverage are:

A. Farmer Participation in FSR

B. Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA)

C. Use of Indigenous Knowledge Systems in FSR

D. Gender Issues in FSR

E. Influencing Agricultural Policies Through FSR

F. Research - Extension Linkages

G. Market Integration.

#### Collection of Training Materials

The collection of FSR training materials from within and outside the region will continue.

#### BUDGET ITEMS

Each training centre should be equipped with the following:

Over-head projector, Slide projector, Screen, PS 2/IBM Computer, Softwares, Cameras.

Other items of cost would include:

Publicity

Transport for field visits (hire service)

Stationery

OFAR farms and visual aids

Transport fare for participants

Accommodation and per diem for participants

Honorarium for Resource Persons

Maximum of 30 participants per course (about 4 per country).

## THE SYMPOSIUM

The symposium, as the highest organ of the Network, is a general assembly of its members which evaluates the activities, defines the orientation and elects the members of the Steering Committee.

The statutes of the Network provide for a symposium to be held every two years with the participation of all members. The last assembly was held in Accra, Ghana from 28 August to 2 September 1989. It cost about one hundred and fifteen thousand (115,000) dollars financed by 5 donors.

During its meeting in November 1990, the Network's Steering Committee decided to postpone the next symposium to 1992 instead of 1991. That decision is due to the fact that organizing and holding the symposium requires the mobilization of funds from several donors. Moreover, it is too time-consuming for the secretariat which is run for the moment by an interim coordinator based in Nigeria.

Although the Network has not been able to keep to the frequency of the symposium, it must nevertheless gather its members or the beneficiaries of its services so as to adjust its activities to their needs as should be expressed at the assembly, and decide on the choice of new members of the Steering Committee. The proposed new strategy will therefore consist in organizing a general assembly which will be attended only by the national correspondents, the coordinators of farming systems research programs, the representatives of development agencies including the NGOs, and the donors. Other Research/Development projects capable of bearing the cost of participation of their officials could also send them.

This new and cheaper form of assembly, the first of which is to be held during the first quarter of 1992 will have the task of:

1. revising the strategic plan (6 years), and the action plan (3 years) of the network ;
2. electing new members of the Steering Committee ;
3. making decisions on the new modalities for holding the general assembly.

BUDGET

- Cost of hall with facilities for the assembly.
- Cost of tickets and per-diem of about forty invited participants.
- Office supply for the assembly.
- Unforeseen expenditures.

Topic for discussion at the next general assembly.

Influence of farming system research on the orientation of agricultural policy in West Africa:

- forest zone,
- sudanian zone,
- sahelian zone.

WEST AFRICAN FARMING SYSTEMS RESEARCH NETWORK

CRAFTING WAFSRN LONG TERM PLAN

Country.....

On the basis of the responses to the questionnaires sent to the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), the Steering Committee at its 18-21 November, 1991 meeting decided to have a re-appraisal of WAFSRN's activities prioritized by the NARS themselves. In addition, the research priorities of the NARS as perceived and prioritized by them will help in shaping WAFSRN's activities for an envisaged long term plan. The Steering Committee hereby implores your FSR team to meet and discuss issues pertaining to your prioritized FSR research needs and the part WAFSRN can play to meet these needs. The activities indicated here are summarized from survey responses as being useful to the NARS. The list is by no means exhaustive. We therefore welcome your reactions to these activities and welcome further suggestions on how WAFSRN can best meet your needs now and in the future.

I. New Orientations.

The following new orientations are proposed for emphasis:

- better tuning of contents of existing activities towards the needs of the members;
- emphasis on direct exchanges between members and national programmes through collaborative research groups, the sub-network (WAATN) and working groups yet to be created;
- opening up the network gradually to client groups of FSR such as development agencies, (including NGO's), farmers' organizations, policy makers, etc;
- giving appropriate attention in all activities of WAFSRN to the position of women (starting with our own membership);
- emphasis on the need to include proper attention to farmer involvement and environmental aspects in the national FSR programmes;
- achieving cost reduction by pooling activities with other networks particularly SAFGRAD Networks, and by integrating Sub-networks (as already done with WAATN) and promoting new collaborative research and working groups.

QUESTIONS (Delete one option in choice questions).

1. Do you agree on these new orientations ? Yes            No
- 2.a. If yes, do you have other orientations to include ? Yes  
No

2.b. If yes, please list them below

3.a. If no (to 1 above), which ones do you disagree with and why?

b. What are other orientations you propose ?

## II. Organization of the Network

1. At present, we have one National Correspondent (NC) in each country through whom information is circulated to members. We propose to increase the number of NCs in some countries with many FSR teams to facilitate information dissemination.

a. Do you think this is necessary for your country ?

Yes                      No

b. If yes, how many do you suggest for your country ?

c. At what locations or stations ?

d. What other form(s) or points of contact do you suggest apart from using NCs and direct postal system from Ouagadougou ?

2. We propose to rotate the venue of Steering Committee (SC) meetings among member countries to give opportunity to SC members to visit national programmes and meet with researchers.

a. Do you agree with this idea ? Yes                      No

b. If no, why ?

2.c. What other suggestions do you have to make SC members gain first hand knowledge about your national programmes and meet your researchers ?

3. We propose to include donors in the Steering Committee meetings.

Do you agree ? Yes                      No

4. We propose to include one representative from each collaborative research group on the Steering Committee.

Do you agree ? Yes                      No

5. Until now, we have had one full-time coordinator based in WAFSRN Secretariat in Ouagadougou. To sustain the network and better meet the needs of members it is being suggested that we have 2 or 3 coordinators to meet the Anglophone and Francophone country needs. They could be stationed in Ouagadougou, any National Research System (NARS) or International Research Centre (IRC) like IITA, ICRISAT, WARDA.

A. Which of the options below will meet your needs best ?

First read the 3 options and make sure you understand the implications.

Tick either option 1, 2 or 3 then a, b or c as appropriate under the option of your choice.

**Option 1**                      One full time coordinator based in  
                                    a. Ouagadougou  
                                    b. NARS  
                                    c. IRC

**Option 2.**                      Two part-time coordinators (1 each for the Anglophone and Francophone countries) based in the NARS  
  
                                    a. With Secretariat Services in Ouagadougou and skeletal offices in NARS  
                                    b. With Secretariats in NARS only

**Option 3.**                      Three coordinators: 1 full time based in Ouagadougou, the other 2 part-time coordinators housed in NARS with skeletal offices in NARS as in option 2 (a).

B. What other suggestion(s) do you have ?

### III. Information System.

The WAFSRN information services include the Bulletin, Journal, Directory of members and research programmes, Selective Bibliographies, Data Base Searches (on demand), Supply of Photocopies of Documents (on demand), Supply of WAFSRN Bibliographic Data Base on diskets to NARS (on demand).

We propose to reinforce these activities.

1. Kindly suggest ways of directing these activities to better meet your needs.

2. Suggest other activities for inclusion.

### IV. Training.

We propose to have two training centres as follows:

For Anglophone countries: Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.

For Francophone countries: Université du Bénin, Cotonou.

The types of training to be offered include:

1. Basic FSR Methodology;
2. Advanced FSR Methodology (including areas of Farmer Involvement, Rapid Rural Appraisal, Use of Indigenous Knowledge Systems in FSR, Gender Issues in FSR, Influencing Agricultural Policies through FSR, Research-Extension Linkages, Market Integration etc).
3. Scientific Writing
4. Specific Training organized by the Collaborative Research Groups.

Kindly list below other training suggestions that will help WAFSRN meet your needs better.

#### V. Collaborative Research Groups.

Presently the following collaborative research groups have been formed:

1. COMBS : Maize-based group
2. CORTIS : Cassava-based group
3. GREFMASS : Sudano-Sahelian group
4. WAATN : Animal Traction Sub-Network

We are looking forward in 1992 to the formation of a group on Gender/Women issues in FSR.

1. What other groups would you suggest ?
  
- b. What kind of activities do you think the collaborative research groups should pursue ?
  
- c. What alternatives to the collaborative research groups do you suggest for meeting members' research needs ?

#### VI. Symposium.

We have been used to holding a symposium once every two years at the end of which we hold a General Assembly meeting and elect new members for the Steering Committee.

Due to the heavy cost of the symposium we cannot afford to hold it every two years.

1. What other alternatives would you suggest ?
  
2. How do you think we can elect Steering Committee members in the absence of a General Assembly ?



3. Do you agree that representatives of the collaborative research groups meet every three years to present results of their work and at the same time elect Steering Committee members ?      Yes      No
4. Give other suggestions on the symposium that would help WAFSRN to meet your needs better.

VII. Other Activities for the Long Term Plan.

Apart from activities in sections I-VI above. List other activities you would like to be included in the Long Term Plan that will enable WAFSRN meet your needs better.

VIII. Prioritize the activities I to VI.

Then list them below here in order of priority to your needs.

IX. What research topics in order of priority do you need to address in your FSR programme ?

Thank you for your interest in the network.

The Steering Committee.

Ouagadougou, 22 November, 1991.

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Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA)

African Union Specialized Technical Office on Research and Development

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1991-12

# LONG TERM ACTION PROGRAMME FOR WAFSRN (1993-1998)

WAFSRN

AU-SAFGRAD

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