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Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development  
Recherche et Développement des Cultures Vivrières dans les Zones Semi-Arides

**INITIATIVE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO ENHANCE  
OPPORTUNITIES OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL LED DEVELOPMENT  
IN RURAL AND PERI-URBAN WEST AFRICA**

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**Project Title:** Initiative of Technology Transfer to Enhance Opportunities of Women in Agricultural Led Development in Rural and Peri-urban West Africa.

**Beneficiaries :** Rural and Peri-urban Households in 16 countries of West Africa.

**Implementation and Coordinating Agency:** The Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development Agency of the Organization of African Unity's Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD).

## Executive Summary

This initiative proposes a number of interventions that provide technological options and alternatives that participating countries can consider (based on their needs, priorities and comparative advantages) to elaborate their specific projects or micro-enterprises that will enhance the contribution of women in economic development.

The goal of the initiative is to enhance capabilities and leadership of women for improving the living conditions of households. The purpose of the initiative in the medium term is to evolve a workable development model that maximizes involvement and innovation by women.

The operational framework of the initiative, being participatory, will ensure that project activities are based on needs of the community. Furthermore, partnerships will be established between the private and public sectors engaged in capacity building and development of enterprises to improve food security, nutrition, and household income. More importantly, income generating micro-enterprises will set the process and opportunities to undertake research studies on the socio-cultural and policy issues that hamper the active participation and leadership of women in development.

A number of specific objectives of the initiative will be attained through the implementation of 10 to 12 small projects at pilot sites in three to five respective countries. The initiative will optimize the innovations and resources of the households (men and women) in the implementation of pilot projects and enterprises.

The workshops, special seminars and conferences of the initiative bring together key actors from 16 countries of the sub-region to discuss policies and socio-cultural issues affecting women in development.

Several outputs are anticipated from the successful implementation of this initiative. The major ones include:

- Documentation of the experiences of the initiatives based on the implementation of pilot projects in selected countries, to aid in building development models that predict the adoption of innovations by women and their active participation and leadership.
- Increased income of households from on-farm and/or off-farm income generating activities.
- Facilitation of an informal networking involving women's groups and associations from 16 countries of West Africa to collectively articulate issues of policy and legal status with regard to accessing development support services to women.
- Increased awareness and understanding of gender perspectives by National Research and Extension Systems, policy makers etc., in accessing resources for development.

# INITIATIVE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL LED DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AND PERI-URBAN WEST AFRICA

## I. Background

The overwhelming majority of West Africa's 230 million population live on subsistence agriculture. Agriculture is the largest source of employment in all West African countries and accounts for a significant portion of the GDP.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, over the last three decades, agriculture has grown more slowly than population in many countries in West Africa, as is evidenced by decreasing per capita food production (see Annex 1).

During the World Food summit of 1996, governments pledged to reduce the number of undernourished people from the current level of 840 million to 400 million by the year 2015 (FAO, 1996). Sub-Saharan Africa possesses a significant portion of this vulnerable population, and may be the only region of the world where the situation is deteriorating. It is estimated that 3.2 million children in sub-Saharan Africa are malnourished (Yambi, 1997).<sup>2</sup>

Furthermore, the consultative meeting of key continental organizations (February, 1999)<sup>3</sup> has underscored the important role African women play in contributing to the economic and social growth. These institutions, therefore, concluded the need to mainstream gender perspectives in all policies and development programs.

Poverty and malnutrition are inter-related, and further contribute to low productivity. Child malnutrition is associated with the conditions of health and income levels of women. Pregnant and lactating women, and weaning and pre-school children are the most seriously impacted groups. The multiple roles of women in agriculture, in environmental

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<sup>1</sup>See Annex 1 and Annex 2 for background and agricultural statistics on West African countries.

<sup>2</sup>Olivia Yambi (1997). Linking Women, Household Food Security, and Nutrition: A Conceptual Approach. In Steven A. Breth (ed.), Women, agricultural intensification, and household food security. Mexico City: Sasakawa Africa Association.

<sup>3</sup>Ninth Consultative Meeting of the Chief Executives of the organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa, and the African development Bank, 2-5 February, 1999, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

protection, and at all stages of the food chain contribute to the nutritional status of the household. Kennedy and Bouis (1993)<sup>4</sup> discuss the linkages between agriculture, health and nutritional status of individuals and the policy implications that determine nutritional status. It is important for development projects to recognize how the constraints on women's time impact the health and nutrition of the household, as many activities contributing to increasing women's agricultural production or income compete for the time used in other household activities.

Nearly 80 percent of economically active women in sub-Saharan Africa are responsible for over 70 percent of the region's food production. In addition to food production activities, women's multiple roles include fetching water, collecting firewood, cooking, caring for children, the sick, and elderly, and transforming farm products for consumption within the household and/or for generating income, resulting in a long work week averaging 67 hours.

The importance of women's work is still not fully recognized and is often underestimated. Policymakers as well as development projects need to consider the multiple roles of women, their tasks and responsibilities, and the expectations and constraints tied to their multiple roles, as they impact the time available for both productive and reproductive activities and the opportunities of women as well as their access to resources (Oppong, 1997).<sup>5</sup>

Furthermore, the migration of male household members within the particular country and between countries and regions induced by lack of resources has further increased responsibilities and the already heavy workload of women in Africa. Environmental degradation also contributes to increasing women's workload. Micro studies suggest that women and girls spend, on average, 5 to 17 hours per week collecting and carrying water

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<sup>4</sup>Eileen Kennedy and Howarth E. Bouis (1993). *Linkages between Agriculture and Nutrition: Implications for Policy and Research*. Occasional Paper. Washington, D.C.: International Food Policy Research Institute.

<sup>5</sup>Christine Oppong (1997). *The Multiple Roles of Rural African Women: Some Implications for Agricultural Production, Family Nutrition and Survival, and Women's Well-being*. In Steven A. Breth (ed.), *Women, Agricultural Intensification, and Household Food Security*. Mexico City: Sasakawa Africa Association.

and fuel wood, with adverse effects on family nutrition and health (Cecelski, 1987).<sup>6</sup>

Increases in agricultural productivity with concurrent rejuvenation of the environment in sub-Saharan Africa cannot ignore the role of women. In the West African Farming Systems, there is a prevalence of gender-specific roles. In many areas women have the major responsibility for food crop production (usually managing their own fields), raising of small ruminants, and growing vegetable and spice gardens. However, women often lack access to resources needed to increase productivity. They have less access to land, labor, technological inputs, extension services, and credit compared with their male counterparts.

## II. Goal and Objectives

The goal of the initiative is to enhance the capabilities and leadership of women for improving the living conditions of households in rural and peri-urban West Africa. The primary objective is to enable women's access to resources, technology, training etc... that could lead to the improvement of food security and nutrition, as well as income generation (Fig. 2). Furthermore, the purpose of the initiative is to evolve a workable agricultural led development model that maximizes the involvement and innovation of women.

The specific objectives of the initiative are to:

- Identify the community development priorities at project sites (based on a better understanding of the household structure, decision-making processes, and intra-household resource allocation) in general and women's needs in particular in order to establish income-generating projects that can be sustained.
- To alleviate some of the drudgery and time spent in women's tasks to

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<sup>6</sup>E. Cecelski (1987). Energy and Rural Women's Work: Crisis, Response and Policy Alternatives. International Labor Review, Volume 126, Number 1.

improve their livelihood and so they can participate in income generating activities.

- Address the policy issues for accessing technology and resources (such as credit, land, and water), so that agricultural production and income generating activities are profitable for the household, particularly for women.
- Identify, document, and diffuse information about successful enterprises and the environments that allowed for their successes.
- Review the impact on women of some on-going projects not directly targeted to benefit women.
- Build the capability of women by improving their technical and management skills for effective utilization of technologies and management of enterprises, cooperatives, and associations.
- Improve the nutritional levels of at-risk members of households.
- Foster linkages and partnerships between major stakeholders, such as the household and the community at large, public and private sectors, financial institutions and NGOs, engaged in the capacity building, accessing technology, resources, and development support services.

### III. Justification

Traditional customs, cultural practices, legal status, and conventional policies in some African countries have contributed to differential gender access to education (see Annex 3), natural resources, technology, credit and extension services. Difficulties associated with traditional land tenure systems in West Africa, have often dampened the enthusiasm and confidence of women to develop their own agribusiness's and related micro-enterprises. A study in Nigeria found that access to land was not a major limiting factor in production, but the control of land was a major problem since the land could not be used as collateral for a loan, or even used as the women wanted (Chikwendu and Arokoyo, 1998).<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>D.O. Chikwendu and J.O. Arokoyo (1998). Land Ownership and Access to Farm Inputs and Services by Rural Women in Nigeria. In Taye et al., (eds.), *Towards Sustainable Farming Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa*. OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Lack of resources, including credit, has made it difficult for some women's groups to repair and maintain equipment. As result, women often resort to labor intensive, methods of transforming the agricultural products that they market. Likewise in on-farm production activities, women lack the cash or credit to buy inputs such as fertilizer.

The implementation of this initiative will demonstrate and articulate of the need to access to women development support services to enhance economic growth in general and agricultural production in particular.

Gender is central to the organization of the household in Africa. Women and men's separate income streams and financial responsibilities, as well as asymmetric power are often ignored in development projects implemented at the household level, resulting in most benefits accruing to the male household head and little impact on improving the general livelihood or nutrition of women and children household members. Research and development projects need to go beyond just looking at farmers, for this generally refers to the male farmer, and need to keep gender in sight as women have different needs and face different constraints than do men. Often this means that it is appropriate to target development to benefit women.

A common example of the appropriateness to target aid or increases in income to women is based on the hypothesis that increasing income controlled by women is associated with improved nutritional status of the household, at least at low levels of income, meaning that women are more likely to spend on food and health care. Variations of this hypothesis have been supported in a large number of studies. In addressing nutritional status of children, the general situation of the mother must also be addressed.

Over the last two decades, sub-Saharan Africa has faced increased levels of poverty and food insecurity. Per capita food production has declined in the sub-region and 20 percent of the families in West Africa are facing food insecurity (Annex 4) .



Interventions targeting women in agriculture are necessary to improve food security, nutrition, processing and utilization. Pettigrew (1997)<sup>8</sup> pointed out targeting women offers an opportunity to use scarce resources, especially credit and extension services, more productively and investing in women goes beyond increasing their well being but also benefits family health, nutrition, and the vitality of villages.

Because of their already heavy workload, women must make trade-offs in order to perform income-generating activities. Hence, any technology that reduces women's daily drudgery is important to the improvement of their well-being as it allows women to spend more time in on-farm in activities that increase their output or in off-farm activities that generate income. Having access to a flour mill for example can ease the burden of grinding grains into flour so that women have more time to spend in agricultural production or in income generating activities.

Women possess the traditional knowledge regarding the transformation of agricultural products. In addition, their role in informal-sector trade, including cross-border trade in West Africa is highly visible. Unless opportunities are targeted to women, it will be very difficult to build up the technical capabilities and entrepreneurial skills to enhance their knowledge in the production, transformation, and trade of agricultural products. Women's capacity is very important and unleashing that energy will help to ensure food security at both macro and micro levels.

#### **IV. Strategy**

The implementation of this initiative will be participatory involving, communities to build a sense of ownership; public and private sector organizations to stimulate micro-enterprise development; and research and policy making institutions that have major roles in improving the economic welfare of women.

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<sup>8</sup>Pierre Pettigrew (1997). *Africa: The Proving Ground for Overcoming Global Poverty*. In Steven A. Breth (ed.), *Overcoming Rural Poverty in Africa*. Geneva: Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations.

#### 4.1 Partnership

Deliberate effort will be made to establish partnerships with agro-industries involving, the private sector, for example, small to medium size processors and nutrition units, as well as with the public sector, the National Agricultural and Food Science Research Institutions, the International Agricultural Research Centers; and farmers' associations, particularly, women's groups, traders, etc. NGOs, FAO, UNICEF.

Projects that will emanate from this initiative will, therefore, complement and reinforce on-going research and development targeted to improve the living conditions of participating households in rural and peri-urban West Africa by increasing women's access to resources and opportunities.

The participatory approach of this initiative will ensure that project activities at pilot sites will be based on community needs (both women and men) to enhance food security, to improve income, and to mitigate the degradation of the environment. This process will also allow the identification of constraints and priorities, specifically for the enhancement of women's capabilities and opportunities in economic development in rural and peri-urban West Africa. Some of the partners of the initiative are listed in Annex 5.

#### 4.2 Consultant Study

At project sites, a consultant study will be undertaken, first, to identify problems and constraints that limit access to natural resources (e.g. on-going land tenure, water use practices); to technology and development services (e.g. inputs, credit); and to information including the orientation of extension services.

Second, the study will identify and document technical and socio-economic barriers including policies that discourage innovations and leadership of women in development.

Third, the study will identify constraints of technology for alleviating the drudgery of the work of women.

Fourth, the study will look into viable opportunities for micro-enterprise development by women.

#### 4.3 Pilot project sites

Although the initiative will benefit 16 countries in West Africa, 3 to 5 pilot country projects could be established to operationalize the concept and proposed programs of this initiative. The pilot projects will be elaborated by the communities themselves based on the identified priorities, available resources in agriculture, and feasible off-farm income generating opportunities for women and their associations.

#### 4.4 Networking

Since the pilot projects cannot be present in all countries, it is important to expand the knowledge and experiences gained in the sub-region. This can be achieved through workshops and seminars on a variety of subjects such as the problems of land tenure and women's access to land, success stories in micro-enterprise development, and leadership and training to enable women to better organize and manage their associations.

#### 4.5 Impact assessment

For improving the efficiency of technology development and transfer, the initiative will facilitate that impact assessment (based on identified indicators) is concurrently pursued with implementation of specific projects at pilot project sites.

## V. Program

The following programs of the initiative activities provide options for each country to elaborate specific projects, based on the needs of communities with an emphasis for improving women's access to resources, technology, training, etc. The thrust of the initiative is to maximize the energies and innovations of women to improve agricultural productivity, nutrition, and processing to minimize post-harvest losses.

### *5.1 Innovative interventions for generating income and employment*

Over the last five years, OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD has promoted the transfer and commercialization of agricultural technology involving, the private and public sectors by strengthening partnerships among stakeholders, such as farm-cooperatives, peri-urban and urban women's groups, etc. Through USAID and other donors' support, some of the on-going micro-enterprises put in place include: i) the drying and processing of mangoes by women's cooperatives for the export market, which has contributed to minimizing post-harvest losses of the mango fruit by up to 30 percent throughout the Sahel; ii) the commercialization of cowpea production (by men and women farmers) for local and regional markets, as cowpeas are an important source of protein in the basic diet of West Africa; iii) small scale industry, for canning pepper sauce, dried shrimp, and other vegetables, operated by urban associations of women; iv) the commercialization of millet production (by men and women's cooperatives), for both the attainment of food security and industrial use; and v) the commercialization of potato and onion seed production (by men and women's cooperatives).

The present initiative will also enable the consolidation of the experiences of above on-going activities, in both rural and peri-urban West Africa.

The development of micro-enterprises may be promoted in the following areas:

- Fruit processing and drying, for example mangoes, largely for export markets.

- Making drinks from cereals (non-alcoholic), largely for local and regional markets.
- Cosmetic products, for local and export markets.
- Milling and decorticating grains, for household use and local markets.
- Fish drying/smoking, for household use and local markets.
- Processing of sheanuts into sheanut butter (for food, soap and perfumery factories), for local and export markets.
- Transformation of millet, sorghum, maize or other grains into couscous.
- Oil crop extraction and processing.
- Transforming cassava into tapioca, starch, or chips.
- Small dairy and poultry enterprises in peri-urban areas.
- Raising of small ruminants for local markets and cross-border trade.
- Seed production and input distribution.

## *5.2 Capacity building for empowering women*

The empowerment of women in various sectors of social and economic development could be realized through special training and filling gaps of information on policy issues, improvement of technical skills, leadership in development, etc.

The type of training and capacity building activities will depend on the needs of each country. At both regional and national levels, in cooperation with other institutions, the following activities will be undertaken to improve technical capabilities of women:

- Training of women trainers in agricultural extension and technology transfer.
- Seminars on land tenure and ownership involving policymakers.
- Training in the management of cooperatives, including in book keeping (accounting).
- Orientation on agribusiness and micro-enterprise development.
- Technical training on food processing and nutrition.
- A special seminar for accessing inputs, such as fertilizer.
- Orientation seminars for facilitating credit to individuals and women's groups involved

in the transformation and /or marketing of agricultural products.

### *5.3 Closing the gender gap in the access of information, technology, and resources*

Women are the main producers of food in sub-Saharan Africa. Despite their predominant role in agricultural activities, women receive only 10 percent of men's annual income (Dembele *et. al.*, 1998).<sup>9</sup> The rights of African farmers regarding land vary considerably. Rights to land in rural areas are often defined for groups, rather than for the individual, in order to minimize social friction and ensure family continuity. Thus, women may have transitory entitlement to land, which they may lose due to local customs. This land use tenure pattern has serious implications for in agricultural production and environmental conservation.

To document community level practices vis à vis existing government policy with regard to accessing resources and technology to women, the following activities will be undertaken:

- Research will be conducted to document socio-economic characteristics, such as gender specificity of land tenure and use, access to resources, inputs, and related technologies at project sites.
- Conferences or seminars on land tenure and use.
- Conferences or seminars on access to resources, inputs, and related technologies.

These conferences and seminars will involve beneficiaries, policymakers, financing institutions, extension, researchers, NGOs and development agencies. Seminars of this type are important to sensitize all actors and stakeholders.

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<sup>9</sup> Dembele, Issiaka, Hugo Degroote, Hamady Djouara, and Thea Hilhoist (1998). *Rôle de la femme dans la filière coton en Mali-Sud*. In Taye et al., (eds.), *Towards Sustainable Farming Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa*. OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

#### *5.4 Activities contributing to improve packaging or marketing of transformed agricultural products*

These activities will improve technical skills of small- to medium-size entrepreneurs to efficiently market their products. Some of the activities the initiative will promote include:

- Organizing women groups to collectively access package materials.
- Sponsoring training and the exchange of experiences to enhance product distribution and marketing, especially for cross-border trade in West Africa.
- Facilitating the availability of market information related to the export of various products.

#### *5.5 Intervention for improving the nutritional level of households*

Some of the nutrition interventions may include:

- Promotion of the development, distribution, and marketing of low-cost weaning foods based on local staple food crops.
- Nutrition education targeting women's associations.
- Promotion of the adoption of improved varieties of staple crops that are high in micronutrients.
- Vegetable growing for home use and for market gardening (home economists will be involved in the sensitization of households about the use of vegetables to improve nutrition).

#### *5.6 Interventions for easing the work loads of women*

A number of available technologies can be employed to reduce the drudgery and routine of the multi-faceted workloads of women. Some of the many time-consuming tasks of rural and peri-urban women include collecting water, gathering wood for fuel (exacerbating the desertification of the resource base), decorticating and grinding grains, weeding farm

lands, and transporting farm goods to the household and to markets.

To alleviate some of the drudgery and time spent in many of these tasks, the initiative will promote the following activities:

#### 5.6.1 Improving sources and quality of water

Information on sources of water does exist. The evident sources are ground aquifers (wells), provided the ground water level is favorable, and harvesting of water from surface run-off. Both of these approaches require the mobilization of community resources and leadership. Depending on the quantity of water that will be collected, its use could be extended to livestock and irrigation. In cooperation with public institutions, NGOs, FAO, UNICEF, etc., the quality of water can also be improved.

#### 5.6.2 Agro-forestry practices to meet fuel wood demand and to improve soil conservation practices

Wood is the major source of energy in sub-Saharan Africa. This initiative will promote fast growing valuable species of trees (along with food crops) to be planted as live fences near households or in communal forests. Furthermore, the trees not only can provide wood for fuel but also can serve to reduce the incidence of soil erosion and recycle nutrients that would otherwise be lost through percolating water. Thus, the use of renewable forms of energy will be encouraged to help decrease the time spent by women and girls fetching firewood from distant places. These activities will enable women to play a key role in rebuilding the resource base for sustainable agriculture and for the improvement of the environment. Energy saving stoves will also be introduced.

#### 5.6.3 Animal traction

The use of animal traction (donkey, mule, oxen or cow, horses, etc.) to alleviate the work drudgery that women encounter is not fully explored, since the promotion of this



technology has been biased toward men. This initiative will undertake studies to identify suitable animal traction technologies that can be useful to lessen the drudgery and decrease the time spent by women in both on-farm and off-farm activities. These uses include the transport of farm produce to households and markets, threshing of crops, and the transport of water and fuel wood. Animal traction technologies will be systematically studied at selected pilot project sites.

#### 5.6.4 Improving the decortivating and grinding of food grains

Depending on the needs of women's cooperatives at the community level, appropriate technologies for efficient decortivating of grains will be identified. Mobilization of resources of the women's cooperatives in particular and the community at large can lead to quality decorticated grain and flour.

### 5.7 *Research*

At pilot countries projects sites, the interventions discussed above will have field level research activities with a major emphasis on enhancing women participation and leadership in agricultural led economic development. Based on the research capabilities and comparative advantages of participating countries, research will be undertaken to generate relevant data and information to articulate issues on, for example, land tenure and use, access to technology, credit, training, the households, and on related development support services. The research activities will also look into the technological and management needs to ensure the success of specific projects in participating countries.

### 5.8 *Enhancing an informal network of women's cooperatives in West Africa*

An informal network involving women's groups will be promoted in the 16 countries of West Africa through occasional workshops. These workshops will facilitate women's access to resources (such as land, technology, credit, inputs) by articulating issues related

to policy and legal status.

## VI. Expected Output

Successful implementation of the initiative accrues the following outputs.

- Increased awareness and understanding by extension agents, policymakers, and NGOs, of gender perspectives in the access of development support services, resulting from seminars and other activities of the initiative.
- Improvement of the technical skills of women in the utilization of technologies in on-farm and in off-farm income generating activities
- Increased income of households from on-farm and/or off-farm income generating activities that contributes to well-being of their households in particular and the community in general.
- Contributions in creating an enabling policy environment for women to have better access to resources.
- Facilitation of an informal networking involving women's groups in the 16 countries of West Africa, to collectively articulate issues of policy and legal status with regard to land tenure and ownership, credit, inputs, and technical services.
- Documentation of the experiences of the initiative based on the implementation of pilot projects in some countries, to aid in building development models based on active participation, leadership and the adoption of innovations by women.
- Increased technical capabilities and synergies of women for enhancing economic growth and cooperation in rural and peri-urban West Africa.
- Improvement in awareness and leadership capabilities of women in the application of science and technology to attain food security.
- Establishment of women's joint ventures in agricultural transformation and processing of value-added products.

## VII. Coordination, management for implementing the initiative

### *7.1 Preparation of projects at the country level*

The projects that will emanate from this initiative will be elaborated by the beneficiaries themselves starting from the grass roots level. Program development may involve households and their cooperatives at the community level. OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD, extension agents, NGOs, etc. will provide technical support. Program activities discussed in these initiatives provide options that could be considered at country or institutional levels. Formats to facilitate project proposals will be provided by OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD.

Furthermore, initial socio-economic studies to be undertaken will identify the types, the nature, and the components of project activities based on the needs and priorities of households, cooperatives, and the communities at large.

### *7.2 Coordination and monitoring the implementation of projects*

As a regional organization, OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD has over 20 years of experience in agricultural research, the management of networks, technology transfer, and development. SAFGRAD's technical research and training services cover more than 30 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

At the regional level, OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD will coordinate and monitor the implementation of project activities. It will disburse funds for approved projects in various countries and manage grants from various sources.

A number of technical and financial reports (quarterly and annually), including workshops reviews will be submitted.

### 7.2.1 At the national level

To ensure ownership and management of approved projects at the national level, OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD has facilitated setting-up Focal Units (FU) based on the established Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with participating countries. In consultation with OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD, a coordinator of the Focal Unit is identified from the existing staff of NARS. The functions of the Coordinator of the Focal Unit include:

- Following the progress of project implementation in respective countries.
- Organizing mini-workshops on identified themes relevant to the professional development of women and articulating policy issues at national level.
- To coordinate the activities of all projects in a country.
- Submitting bi-annual (technical and financial) reports to OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD on each project activity.
- Facilitating feasibility studies of new projects.

### 7.2.2 Regional workshops

The purpose of regional workshops on identified themes is to enhance the exchange of technical information and the spill over of experiences, to assess project progress achievements, and to review the plans of work.

### 7.2.3 Evaluation and monitoring impact

Among the activities that can be pursued include:

- i. External reviews of project performance
- ii. Monitoring tours among participating countries
- iii. Establishment and concurrent assessment of impact indicators during the implementation of specific projects. Furthermore, experienced consultants will be fielded every two years to evaluate the achievements and the impacts of various

projects of the initiative based on the terms of reference also approved by donor(s).

### **VIII. Budget**

The proposed budget for the first phase of four years of the initiative is summarized in Table 1.

Over the four years about 47 percent of the budget covers the costs for implementing 10 to 13 small projects at pilot sites, research support, as well as costs for elaborating projects at the country level. Capacity building which includes training, seminars, workshops and networking, covers 15 percent of the budget. Over the four years, technical support for implementing the initiative and administrative costs amounted to 26 and 11 percent respectively of the total budget.

Donors support to OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD for various project activities include, USAID, the African Development Bank, the International Development Research Center (IDRC), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Republic of Korea (South), Nestle Research and Development Center and SAFGRAD member countries benefiting from various programs.

Table 1

**INITIATIVE FOR WOMEN DEVELOPMENT  
INDICATIVE BUDGET 2001-2004**

ACTIVITY	2001	2002	2003	2004	TOTAL
<b>I. Technical components</b>					
1.1 Project preparation at country level development	40				40
1.2 Food processing/ micro-enterprise	80	100	150	120	450
1.3 Intervention to improve nutrition of households	60	60	65	70	255
1.4 Rural & peri-urban agric.enterprise	90	125	125	145	485
1.5 Intervention for easing work loads of women	45	65	50	60	220
1.6 Reseach support	40	55	60	50	205
Sub-total I	355	405	450	445	1,655
<b>II Capacity building</b>					
2.1 Training of women trainers in extension,food processing & management of cooperative	35	40	50	55	180
2.2 Conferences ( land tenure,access to technology,credit etc.)	35	40	45	40	160
2.3 General workshops & networking	50	35	75	35	195
Sub-total II	120	115	170	130	535
<b>III. Management of projects implementation</b>					
3.1 Annual review & planning workshop	30	35	30	30	125
3.2 Evaluation		35		40	75
3.3 Project coordinator	60	60	70	70	260
3.4 Technical assistant	30	30	35	35	130
3.5 Equipment					
3.5.1 Computer & audio visual	35				35
3.5.2 Vehicle	80				80
3.5.3 Supplies & miscellaneous services	17	18	20	20	75
3.6 Travel	20	20	20	20	80
3.7 Publication	10	10	15	15	50
Sub-total III	282	208	190	230	910
<b>TOTAL I - III</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>3,100</b>
<b>IV. Overhead &amp; administrative cost 13%</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>403</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>3,503</b>

N B. Amount in thousands of US \$

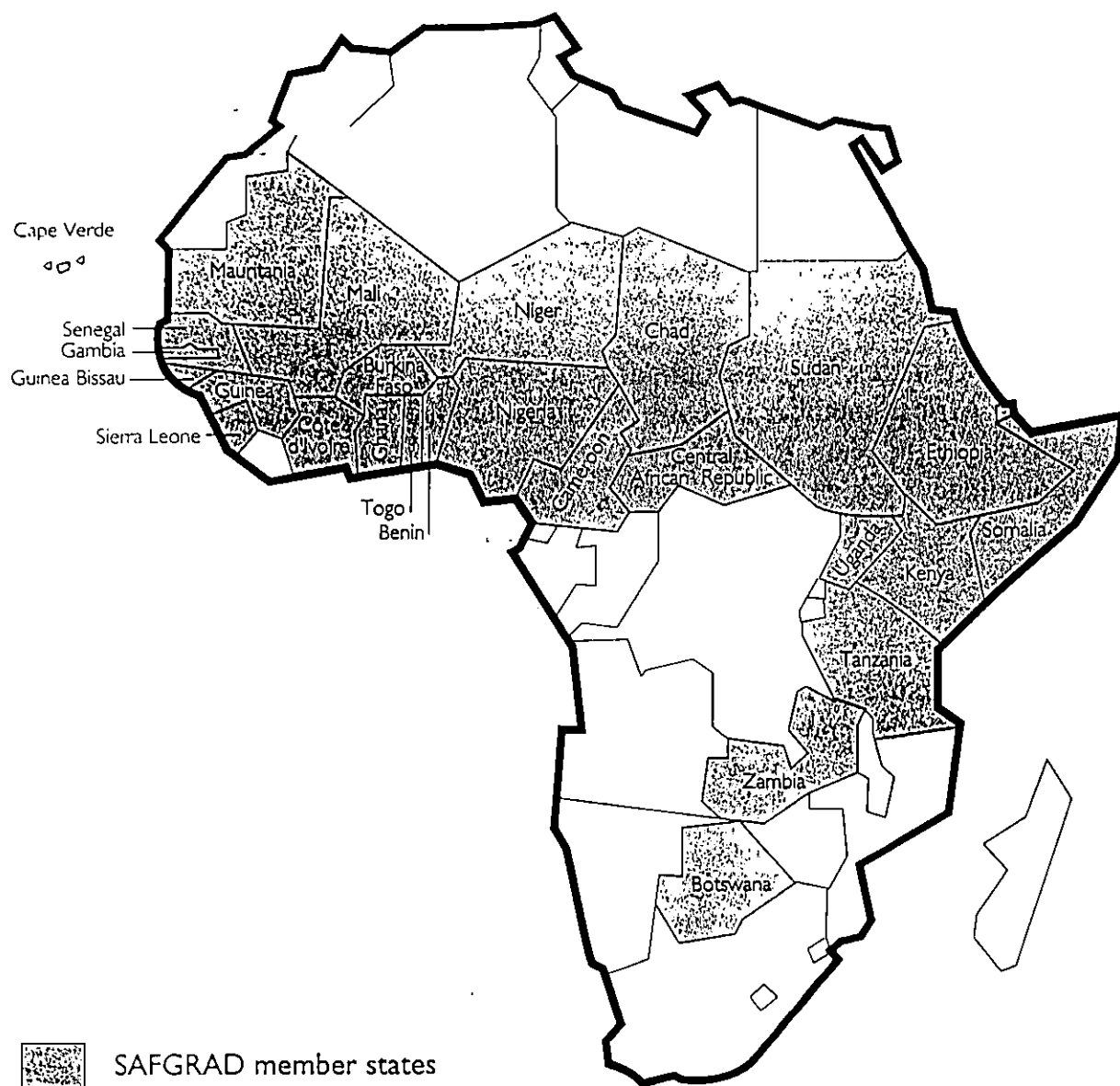


Fig. 1: SAFGRAD member countries

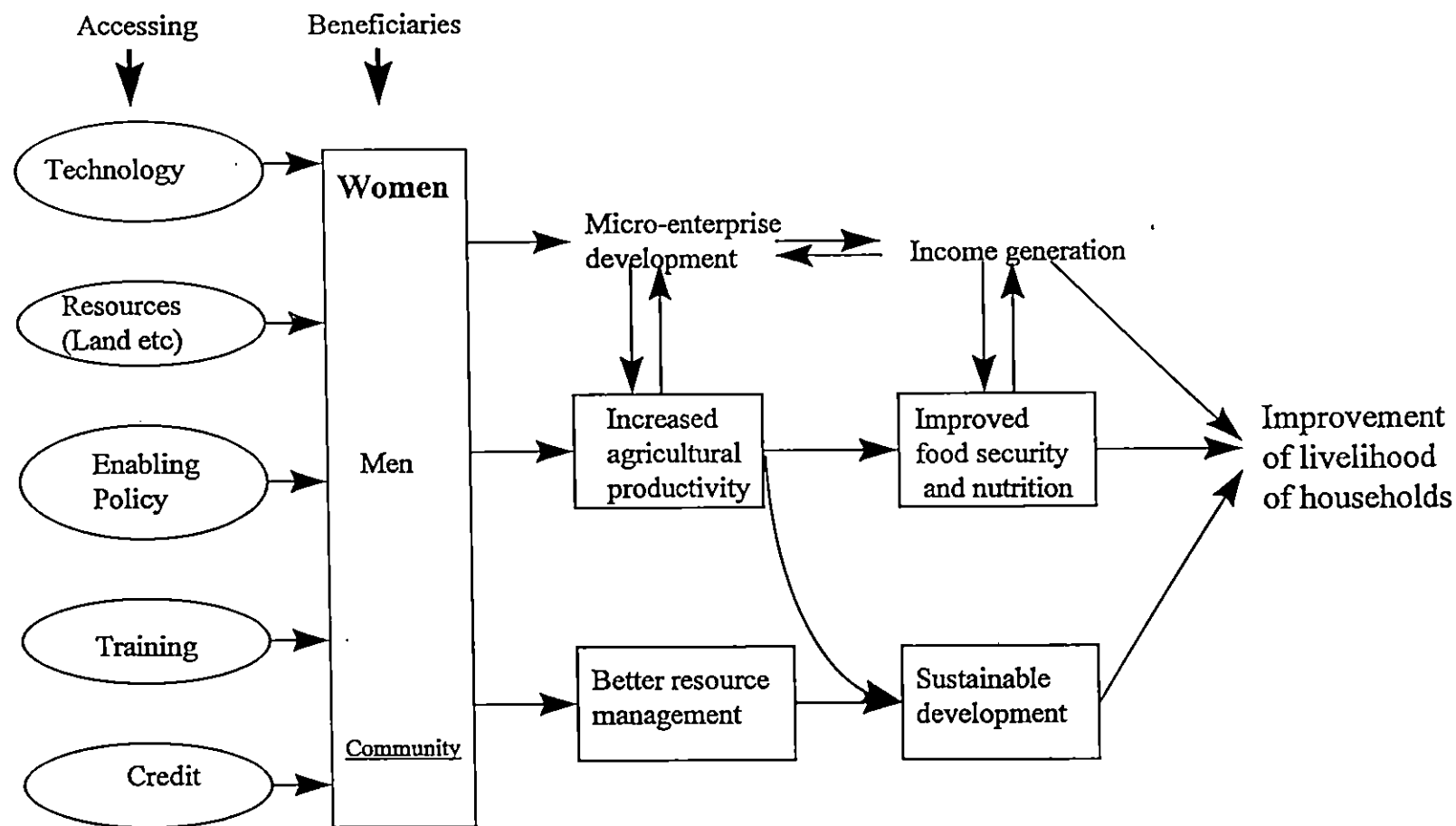


Fig. 2: Schematic outline for accessing resources, technology, etc. to women for enhancing agricultural growth and natural resources management to improve living conditions of households in West Africa.



Annex 1: Population, Percent Urbanization, GNP per capita, and Infant Mortality Rate,  
West African countries

	Population (millions) 1997	% Urban Population 1993	GNP per capita Dollars 1996	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000) 1995
Benin	5.7	30	350	81
Burkina Faso	11.1	23	230	109
Cap Vert	0.4		1090	32
Côte d'Ivoire	14.3	42	660	85
Gambia, The	1	24	320	122
Ghana	18.3	35	360	73
Guinea	7.6	28	560	124
Guinea-Bissau	1.1	21	250	129
Liberia	2.5			113
Mali	11.5	26	240	149
Mauritania	2.4	51	470	107
Niger	9.8	16	200	114
Nigeria	118.4	38	240	87
Senegal	8.8	41	560	72
Sierra Leone	4.4	35	210	132
Togo	4.3	30	300	77

Sources:

Population, GNP per capita, Infant mortality rate from Banque Africaine de Développement, Rapport sur le Développement en Afrique 1998

% Urban population from agriculture from World Bank, World Development Report 1995, Washington D.C.

## Annex 2: Background agricultural statistics, West African countries

	% GDP from Agricultural Production 1994	% Active Pop. in Agriculture 1996	Index of Food Prod per capita (1979-81=100) 1993	Supply of daily calories per capita 1992
Benin	34	54	119	2532
Burkina Faso	34	84	132	2387
Cap Vert		35		
Côte d'Ivoire	41	49	89	2491
Gambia, The	28	80	76	2360
Ghana	46	52	115	2206
Guinea	24	74	98	2390
Guinea-Bissau	45	79	110	2556
Liberia		70		
Mali	42	80	91	2279
Mauritania	27	45	81	2685
Niger	39	86	77	2257
Nigeria	43	64	129	2125
Senegal	17	77	111	2265
Sierre Leone	47	61	86	1695
Togo	38	67	106	2243

## Sources:

Percent active population in agriculture from Banque Africaine de Développement, Rapport sur le Développement en Afrique 1998

% GDP from agricultural production, Index of food production per capita, and Supply of daily calories per capita from  
Programme des Nations unies pour le développement (PNUD), Rapport mondial sur le développement humain 1997,  
Economica: Paris

## Annex 3: Social Statistics by gender, West African countries

	Adult (15 yrs and older) Illiteracy Rate 1995		Primary School Gross Enrollment Ratio 1993-95		Net Primary Enrollment Ratio 1993-95		Secondary School Gross Enrollment Ratio 1993-95	
	Women	Men	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males
Benin	74	51	52	92	43	74	10	23
Burkina Faso	91	71	30	46	24	37	6	11
Cap Vert	36	19	129	132	100	100	26	28
Côte d'Ivoire	70	50	58	79			15	20
Gambia, The	75	47	67	78			15	28
Ghana	47	24						
Guinea	78	50	34	63			6	18
Guinea-Bissau	58	32	47	81				
Liberia	78	46						
Mali	77	61	27	41	19	30	6	12
Mauritania	74	50	72	85	55	64	11	19
Niger	93	79	22	36			4	9
Nigeria	53	33	79	100			28	33
Senegal	77	57	57	72	48	60	12	20
Sierre Leone	82	55						
Togo	63	33	97	140	72	98	14	41

Source:

The World Bank, African Development Indicators 1998/99

## Annex 4: Food security status in selected West African countries

Country	Population facing food insecurity (%)	Per capita daily calories supply (calories)		Average annual cereals imports (000T)	
		1965	1989/89	1974	1990
Benin	18	2,019	2,115	8	126
Burkina Faso	33	1,882	2,002	99	145
Niger	28	1,996	2,321	115	86
The Gambia	19	-	2,339	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	8	2,352	2,405	172	502
Ghana	36	1,937	2,167	177	337
Mali	35	1,938	2,114	281	65
Nigeria	17	2,185	2,454	389	502
Senegal	21	2,372	2,162	341	534
Togo	29	2,454	2,210	6	111
Average	24.4	1,323.8	2,229	137	205

Source: Extracted from Okai, 1997, West and Central Africa Maize Collaborative Network, 1998

## Annex 5: Some Partners and Collaborating Institutions and Organizations

- (1) National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES) actively involved: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.
- (2) NARES occasionally involved include: Guinea, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cap Verde.
- (3) Agricultural Networks
  - Maize, sorghum and rice networks funded through USAID.
  - Millets and cowpea networks funded through Swiss development Cooperation.
- (4) International Agricultural Research Centers as important sources of technology
  - IITA – for supply of technology for maize, cowpea, soybean, cassava, plantain and for food technology.
  - ICRISAT – for sorghum and millets improved cultivars and on semi-arid farming systems.
  - ICRAF – Agroforestry and fuel food production.
  - ILRI – Small ruminants production.
  - CIRAD – Agriculture and food technology information.
- (5) United Nations Agencies
  - FAO – joint activities on food security.
  - UNICEF – Children food and its processing.
  - UNFPA (United Nation Population Fund)
- (6) Private sectors
  - Micro-entrepreneur and farm associations, about 15 of them in different countries collaborate with SAFGRAD.
  - Nestle R & D – Joint studies for commercialization of crops such as cowpea .
  - Food processors – women's groups and others in each country.
  - Millers – Breweries, livestock feed lots, etc.
  - NGOs with targeted projects in women development
- (7) Farmers cooperatives in the countries where the program will be operational.
- (8) Donors for the OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD programs activities: The organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank, USAID, Nestle and the Republic of South Korea, and some African countries.

2000-02

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