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# Organization of African Unity Organisation de l'Unité Africaine

OAU/STRC - SECRETARIAT  
P.M.B. 2359  
LAGOS, NIGERIA.



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SEMI-ARID FOOD GRAIN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

(SAFGRAD) JP. 3I

*See pages  
4 - Summary  
Review of  
Coordinator, UNIT*

*HUGHES*

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PROJECT TITLE: Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development  
(SAFGRAD) OAU/STRC designation: Joint Project 3I.

COORDINATING AFRICAN ORGANIZATION: Scientific, Technical and Research  
Commission of the Organization of African Unity  
(OAU/STRC)

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE:

- Executive Secretary (OAU/STRC)
- Representatives of all participating Member States
- Contributing donors and cooperating Agencies
- C.I.L.S.S.

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

- Executive Secretary (OAU/STRC)
- 6 African Scientists selected according to merit
- Directors of the 3 Regional Research Stations
- 4 International Research Institutions cooperating  
in project (IITA, Purdue University, ICRISAT, IRAT)
- F. A. O.

PARTICIPATING AFRICAN COUNTRIES:

- |                  |                    |                              |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1) Benin         | (2) Botswana       | (3) Central African Republic |
| 4) Cameroun      | (5) Cape Verde     | (6) Chad                     |
| 7) Ethiopia      | (8) Gambia         | (9) Ghana                    |
| 10) Guinea       | (11) Guinea Bissau | (12) Ivory Coast             |
| 13) Kenya        | (14) Mali          | (15) Mauritania              |
| 16) Niger        | (17) Nigeria       | (18) <del>Senegal</del> ?    |
| 19) Sierra Leone | (20) Somalia       | (21) Sudan                   |
| 22) Tanzania     | (23) Togo          | (24) Upper Volta             |
| 25) Zambia       |                    |                              |

B R I E F S U M M A R Y

OAU/STRC JP.3I SAFGRAD

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BACKGROUND

In January, 1976, the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission of the Organization of African Unity (OAU/STRC) convened a meeting of all Member States in the Semi-Arid Region of Africa (see appendix A) in Ouagadougou, Upper Volta on Food Grain Research and Development.

Delegates from 14 African countries (Benin, Cameroun, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Upper Volta, Mali, Niger, Togo, Senegal), together with representatives of 9 International Agencies (West African Economic Community (.C.E.A.O.); United States Agency for International Development (USAID); British Ministry of Overseas Development (ODM); Ford Foundation (FF); French Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC); European Development Fund (E.D.F.) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), were in attendance.

It was decided at this meeting that a larger and a more comprehensive programme was needed to replace the OAU/STRC Joint Project 26 which dealt with staple food crops in West Africa. Subsequently, the Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development (SAFGRAD) OAU/STRC Joint Project 3I was proposed. The new project was to concentrate on cereal and legume crops with emphasis on: Maize, Sorghum, Millet, Cowpeas and Groundnuts. The role of International and National Research Organizations was discussed. Accelerated Crop Production Officers (A.C.P.O.) were to be posted in all participating African countries, and OAU/STRC was to coordinate all of these activities.

The resolution officially authorizing the Joint Project 3I SAFGRAD was adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers at its 27th Ordinary Session in Mauritius in June, 1976. From there it was passed on to the OAU General Assembly and was approved by the Heads of State and Govern-

ments. A second conference was held in Ouagadougou in October, 1977 to finalize the Project.

## I OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the SAFGRAD program is the development of improved cereal varieties (Sorghum, Millet, Maize) and grain legumes (Cowpeas, Groundnuts) and cultural practices which are compatible with small farm semi-arid farming systems and to promote their adaptation in participating countries. The project supports senior crops and soil scientists and farming systems researchers to develop and test new varieties and technologies under small farm conditions. It also increases liaison among researchers throughout the region through scientific conferences, planning sessions, and technical publications, and provides technical assistance and support for crop field trials at the national level. Training of African researchers and technicians is also a major component of the project.

## II PROGRESS TO DATE

### A) Establishment of Project Headquarters (OAU/STRC JP 31 SAFGRAD Coordination Office) in Ouagadougou, Upper Volta

The OAU/STRC SAFGRAD Coordination Office has been functioning since May, 1978, with Mr. Akadiri-Soumaila K.O. as the International Coordinator. This office provides the following services:

- Signing Working Agreements with participating countries;
- Posting of all researchers and ACPOs;
- Free movement of researchers;
- Duty-free importation of research equipment;
- Exchange of seed material;
- Organization of scientific conferences and distribution of technical publications;

## Results of the Project Training of Personnel

(from OAU Member States)

The personnel trained on this Project are:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Type of Training</u>
5	Upper Volta	1 Ph.D. + 4 M.Sc (Planting Breeding)
4	Mali	4 M.Sc. (Planting Breeding + Agronomy)
1	Togo	M.Sc. Plant Breeding
5	Guinea	5 M.Sc. ( Plant pathology + Agriculture Economy + Agronomy)

The Project has tried uptill today, new seeds (120 varieties imported from Africa and Mexico).

### The Working Staff:

- The Accelerated Crop Production Officers (ACPOs), provided by the Project are situated now in: Cameroun, Mali, Upper Volta, Togo, Senegal and Mauritania.
- The Project provided 11 Research workers in 3 regional research Institutes.
- The Co-ordination Unit in Ouagadougou is composed of Scientists and Administration staff.

### Action Needed of OAU Member States:

- To support all the efforts carried out locally on this Project and provide hosting facilities to the working staff of JP.31
- The Government of Member States to utilize the Research results achieved in this respect and develop the production of cereal to have a green revolution in Africa.

### Action Needed from OAU Secretariat:

- To urge Member States to join the efforts in this Project and participate in different meetings.
- To support the needed administrative actions and facilitate the movement of the staff.

AFRICAN REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTRES:

Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR).  
Ahmadu Bello University Samaru, Nigeria.  
Kamboinse/Saria Research Centers, Upper Volta.  
National Agricultural Research Centers (CNRA), Senegal.

DONORS:

a) Present: - United States Agency for International Development  
(USAID)  
French Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC)

In cooperation with:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
- International Development Research Center (IDRC)

b) Potential: - Ministry of Overseas Development (ODM)  
European Development Fund (EDF)  
Ford Foundation (FF)  
Netherlands  
German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)  
World Bank (IBRD)  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
(UNIDO)

c) Budget: The budget allocated to this project now is:

(a) 10.425.000 US \$ from USAID  
(b) 75.000 US \$ from FAC

(c) the OAU/SERC making available Scientific and Administrative personnel required for this Project in Lagos.

- Aid in selection of candidates for training;
- Arranging for bids for the construction of laboratories;
- Handling all administrative and diplomatic problems in connection with the Project.

B) Recruitment and Activities of SAFGRAD Researchers (see Appendices B and C)

OAU/STRC JP.3I SAFGRAD has chosen three African Regional Research Centres for varietal and agronomic research to the adaptable to the semi-arid zones of Africa. These are:

- Kamboinse/Saria Research Stations in Upper Volta;
- ✓ - Institute of Agricultural Research (I.A.R.), Ahmadu Bello University, Samaru, Nigeria.
- ✓ - National Agricultural Research Centre (C.N.R.A.), Bambey, Senegal.

It has been decided (1st Sorghum and Millet Workshop, Mombasa, Kenya, 26 February to 1 March, 1980) to set up a fourth Regional Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, to handle research under East African conditions.

Of all the SAFGRAD Regional Research Stations, only the one at Kamboinse (Upper Volta) has been provided with research personnel under contract signed with OAU/STRC by:

I) The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

Under an agreement signed with OAU/STRC, this Institute has provided:

- I Maize Breeder
- I Soil Fertility Agronomist.
- I Production Agronomist, and
- I Entomologist.

They are working on maize and cowpeas, and collaborate with a Cowpea Breeder also from IITA but working for the Government of Upper Volta and financed by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

These researchers have their offices and laboratory at Yamboise. The construction of these buildings was entirely financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and completed in August, 1979. A shed for seed drying as well as a refrigerated room have also just been built.

II) The Purdue University in the United States has under an agreement signed with OAU/STRC, detached:

- I Rural Economist
- I Agronomist
- I Sociologist-Anthropologist

to form the SAFGRAD Farming Systems Unit.

III) The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has an Agronomist in Soil Management to work with the Soil Fertility Agronomist under an agreement signed with OAU/STRC.

The installation of researchers at the Institute of Agriculture Research (IRA), Samaru, Nigeria has been completed. This is a team composed of a Sorghum Breeder, an Entomologist and a Production Agronomist.

C) Recruitment and Activities of Accelerated Crop Production Officers (ACPO)

In order to provide a viable link between researchers and extension agents, Accelerated Crop Production Officers (ACPOs) will be stationed in each participating African country. These technicians



will be integrated into the national research facility of the country where posted and looked upon as their specialist. They will conduct field trials on newly developed grain varieties using new cultural practices and will report results obtained to the SAFGRAD Coordination Office. They will also collect information on existing varieties and cultural practices in their area for incorporation into the regional research.

JP.3I SAFGRAD got under way with the arrival of the International Coordinator a year and a half ago. The number of ACPOs posted should therefore not give cause for undue concern. USAID is financing three expatriate ACPOs who have already been posted in Upper Volta, Mali and Cameroon. Two more national ACPOs will shortly be financed by the same Agency in Senegal and another country.

The French Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC) is financing two expatriate ACPOs for Togo and the Revolutionary Republic of Guinea. FAC has also promised to provide two more expatriate ACPOs for the People's Republic of Benin and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and intends to financially and technically support the activities of several national ACPOs.

We have asked participating Member States to send us the name, curriculum vitae and a draft triennial budget of their national ACPOs for both financial and technical support.

D) Conferences organized under JP.3I SAFGRAD

- |      |  |              |
|------|--|--------------|
| 1979 | -- 1st Maize Workshop, 20-23 February,<br>Upper Volta.                         | Ouagadougou, |
|      | -- 1st Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee,<br>2-4 May, Lome, Togo.    |              |
| 1980 | -- 2nd Maize and Cowpea Workshop, 12-15 February,<br>Ouagadougou, Upper Volta. |              |

- 1st Sorghum and Millet Workshop, 26 February to 1 March, Mombasa, Kenya.
- I98I -- The First Workshop on Farming Systems is scheduled to be held in Dakar, Senegal on 12-15 January.
- Third Workshop of Maize and Cowpea, 23-27 February Ibadan, Nigeria.
- The Second Workshop on Sorghum and Millet, 16-20 March, Gaborone, Botswana.
- The 2nd Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, 20- 22 May, Abidjan, Ivory Coast.
- The 1st Meeting of the Advisory Committee 25-27 May, Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

### III TRAINING

13 African researchers (from Upper Volta, Mali, Togo and Guinea) sponsored by the USAID are currently undergoing training in the U.S. Several lists of African candidates for training in Plant Breeding, Plant Physiology, Plant Pathology, Entomology, Agricultural Economics, Anthropology and Rural Sociology have been received at the SAFGRAD Coordination Office and are being processed.

### IV INFORMATION

JP.3I SAFGRAD has a quarterly Newsletter, the third issue of which has just been published. It provides a valuable forum for the exchange of information among researchers and enables us to report on progress being made.

### V ASSISTANCE FROM DONORS

To date, it is only the USAID that has provided support for JP.3I SAFGRAD. FAC has just started to contribute by providing two expatriate ACPOs as we mentioned earlier on and by promising to award us quite a number of long and short-term fellowships. The mission on which the International Coordinator of OAU/STRC went recently was meant

to secure financial and technical support from International Donor Agencies who were present at the October, 1977 meeting, but who have not yet started their contribution (ODM, FAO, FED, IDRC) and from potential donors such as GTZ, Netherlands, UNIDO, UNDP and the Ford Foundation.

#### VI CONSULTATIONS IN MEMBER STATES

So far, the International Coordinator has only been able to visit 10 Member States with a view to posting ACPOs and getting a full view of research problems encountered there. Consultations will continue after the scheduled visit to JP.3I SAFGRAD's donors.

#### VII CONCLUSION

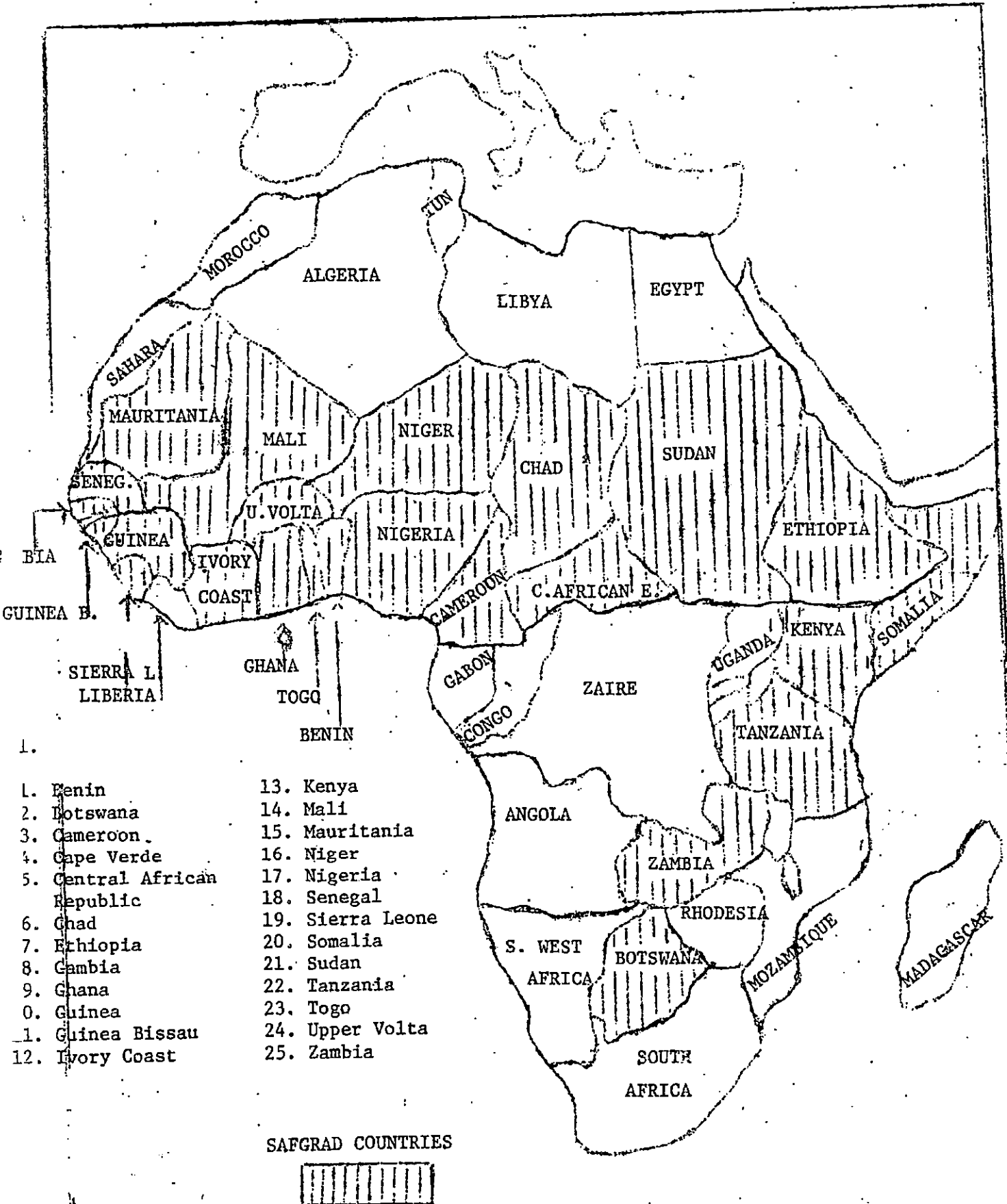
JP.3I SAFGRAD has had a good start. It is expanding rapidly and regardless of the fact that it only got off the ground a year and a half ago has achieved a great deal in terms of research, training and other important aspects.

We urge all Member States and Donors to join us in the fight against hunger and malnutrition towards the achievement of JP.3I SAFGRAD's objectives.

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Appendix A

PARTICIPATING AND COOPERATING COUNTRIES IN SAFGRAD PROJECT



## APPENDIX A

-9-

POSITION	NAME	ORGANIZATION	DONOR	LOCATION	DATE ARRIVED ON DUTY
Maize Breeder	V. Asnani	IITA	USAID	Kamboinse Research Station Upper Volta	May, 1979
Maize Agronomists	Mario S. Rodriguez	IITA	"	" " "	April, 1979
Soil Fertility Agronomist	F. Brockman	IITA	"	" " "	April, 1979
Entomologist	Y. Rathore	IITA	"	" " "	April, 1979
Production Agronomist	P. Christensen	Purdue University F.S.U.	USAID	" " "	January, 1979
Agricultural Econo.	Ram Singh	" " "	"	" " "	October, 1979
Rural Sociologist Anthropologist	Swanson	" " "	"	" " "	November, 1979
Soil Management Agronomist	PERRIER	ICRISAT	USAID	IRA Samaru Nigeria	
Sorghum Breeder Entropologist	RAO	"	"	" " "	
Production Agronomist	BOWLING	"	"	" " "	
Entomologist	MCFARLANE	"	"	" " "	

APPENDIX C

POSITION	NAME	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	DATE ARRIVED	COMMENT
ACPO-Mali	JERRY JOHNSON	USAID	Bamako-Mali	September, 1977	
ACPO-Upper Volta	Corstian Korteweg	"	Kamboinse Research	April, 1978	
ACPO-Cameroon	Owen Gwathmey	"	Maroua Research Station Cameroon	May, 1979	
ACPO-Togo	Robert Martin	FAC	Lamakara Togo	before June, 1980	
ACPO-Guinea		"	Kankan People's	in July, 1980	
ACPO-Benin		"	INA Research Station Benin	Soon	
ACPO-Mauritania	THACH SAKOL	"	Kaedi Research Station Mauritania	Soon	
National ACPO-Senegal	Mankeur Fall	USAID	North of Senegal	February, 1980	
National ACPO-Ivory Coast			North of Ivory Coast		
Guinea Bissau	expatriate				
Gambia	expatriate				
National ACPO-Central African Republic					

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APPENDIX D: NEEDS OF OAU/STRC JP.3I SAFGRAD

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I COORDINATION OFFICE

- Financing for Additional Staff
- Financing for Travel in Africa
- Financing for Office Equipment
- Vehicles

II TRAINING

- Post-graduate fellowships in Africa, Europe, Canada, USA, etc.

III RESEARCH

a) Personnel

- 4 Plant Pathologists (millet and sorghum) for: Senegal, Upper Volta, Togo, Benin;
- 2 Plant Breeders (maize and cowpea) for: Togo, Gambia;
- 1 Plant Breeder (Cowpea) for : Upper Volta;
- 1 Plant Breeder (millet and sorghum) for: Benin;
- 3 Entomologists for Upper Volta, Togo, Gambia;
- 5 Agronomists for: Upper Volta, Mauritania, Togo, Guinea Bissau, Botswana.

b) Financing for both national and expatriate ACPOs

- |                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| - Botswana      | - Nigeria                  |
| - Cape Verde    | - Central African Republic |
| - Ethiopia      | - Sierra Leone             |
| - Gambia        | - Somalia                  |
| - Ghana         | - Sudan                    |
| - Guinea Bissau | - Tanzania                 |
| - Kenya         | - Chad                     |
| - Niger         | - Zambia                   |

C) Infrastructure

i) Reinforcement of research stations of needy Member States:

- Cape Verde
- Gambia
- Guinea Bissau
- Togo
- Chad
- Benin
- Niger
- Somalia
- Upper Volta (Kamboinse)
- Laboratories for:
  - Agronomy
  - Seed Breeding
  - Pathology

ii) Research team for Sorghum/Millet in East Africa

- I Agronomist (sorghum/millet)
- I Plant Pathologist (sorghum/millet)
- I Plant Breeder (sorghum/millet)
- I Entomologist (sorghum/millet)

D) Studies requiring financing

- Ecological and plant/environment interaction studies for better utilization of natural resources
- Research on small farm equipment
- Collection of vegetal material (germ plasm)
- Storage and stock protection
- Use of animal traction.

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ACCELERATED CROP PRODUCTION OFFICERS (ACPOs)

Duties and Responsibilities

The ACPO will serve as a catalyst in developing links between the Regional Research Group (SAFGRAD) and the International Center on the one hand and National Research/Extension Groups on the other in an assigned country or area.

The ACPOs preferably will be provided by the participating country. He should be a well trained, experienced local agricultural officer; however, some expatriates will be required during the initial years of the SAFGRAD Program until such time as replacements can be selected and trained.

The incumbents of the ACPO position will be supplied and fully financed (including logistics) by one or a combination of the following: (1) Participating National Governments where qualified individuals exist; (2) Donors.

The ACPOs will be integrated into the national research facility of the country where posted and looked upon as their specialist. He will function in close liaison between the senior national/area researcher, OAU/STRC, and SAFGRAD researchers. The ACPO position will be established and filled on the basis of a request from the appropriate participating country agency and will benefit from aid solicited by OAU/STRC from donors. The ACPO may assist national researchers in planning conducting field trials (utilizing regional, international research results) on national stations where applicable. Additionally, it may be necessary for him to assist national research/extensionists put some field trials out on farmer sites in order to test improved seeds and related technology in the key ecological zones of the country. This

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