

OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD

SEMI-ARID FOOD GRAIN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
Scientific, Technical and Research Commission of the Organization of
African Unity

Transfer and Commercialization of Agricultural Technologies in Nigeria

Report of the First National Technical Steering Committee Meeting
9 - 10 August 2001 - IITA
Ibadan, Nigeria

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West African Small Grants Program

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THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL STEERING COMMITTEE (NTSC) MEETING FOR THE WEST AFRICA SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM IN NIGERIA

I. The Opening Session

Chairperson: Oyebanji O. Olumide, PCU, FMA
Rapporteur: James O. Olukosi, IAR/ABU

Thursday, 9th August 2001

The meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. The West Africa Small Grants Program Facilitator, Dr. Taye Bezuneh, introduced the representatives of partner institutions to make opening remarks:

Welcome Address by Dr. Brader, IITA Director General

Dr. Brader expressed his pleasure in the West Africa Small Grants Program (WASGP) extended to Nigeria after its operation in Ghana, Senegal and Burkina Faso. Dr. Brader hailed the laudable objectives of WASGP adding that IITA new Strategic plan includes aspect of poverty alleviation. He mentioned that the report of the First Stakeholders Consultation workshop of WASGP held in IITA 9-11 April, 2001 showed that ineffective linkages were identified as constraints to agricultural technology transfer and commercialization in Nigeria.

Dr. Brader gave a little history of IITA and stated that IITA has been collaborating with SAFGRAD for over 20 years. Initially the collaboration between IITA and SAFGRAD was with developing drought tolerant crops for the Sub-Saharan Africa also in collaboration with ICRISAT. SAFGRAD program activities have been funded by USAID for over 12 years. The collaboration transformed into networks which also involved ICRAF, ILCA, ICRISAT and IITA. In particular, the Cowpea and Maize networks evolved and the cowpea network still exists and is funded by IFAD while maize network is sponsored by USAID. These relationships have yielded positive results in terms of training scientists in the sub-region and development of short season maize varieties and *Striga* resistant cowpea varieties.

Now that SAFGRAD is moving into this new small grant program, it is useful to bring new players together to write good proposals. He suggested that the meeting should not be over critical of the proposals but give a form of training for their future development. He suggested that the Committee could improve the proposal as to make them acceptable for implementation.

Remarks by Dr. Mamadou I. Ouattara, SAFGRAD International Coordinator

Dr. Ouattara expressed delight in his presence at this first meeting of the National Steering Committee of the Agricultural Technology Transfer and Commercialization Program in Nigeria. He brought greetings on-behalf of the Executive Secretary of the OAU/STRC. He reminded participants of three important objectives of the USAID funded program among several that have relevance to today meeting as:

To identify and commercialize more productive and promising technologies to improve farmers' productivity and facilitate the development of micro-enterprises;

To facilitate women participation in agribusiness technology transfer and commercialization for food security and nutrition enhancements;

To strengthen linkages and partnership development between sources of technology and users of technology.

The International Coordinator stated that these very objectives are at the heart of SAFGRAD priorities.

A total of 36 proposals were received by SAFGRAD out of which proposals recommended based on the pre-screening exercise at level of SAFGRAD were brought to this meeting for discussion and final approval. One important objective of the program is to stimulate demand-driven technology transfer. It is therefore necessary that all projects should involve beneficiaries (farmers and women groups, agri-businesses, food processors, seed producers etc.) at all stages of proposal identification, development, implementation and commercialization.

In conclusion, Dr. Ouattara expressed his sincere thanks to the Federal Government of Nigeria and to USAID for sponsoring and financing the meeting, and to IITA for its partnership and hosting the meeting.

Words of appreciation were also tendered to the Universities, state ADPs for their collaboration and partnership to improve livelihood of farmers and combat poverty. He promised that SAFGRAD will continue to do its best for the successful implementation of the Agricultural Technology Transfer and Commercialization Program in Nigeria.

Remarks by Dr. Abdulkadir Gudugi - USAID Mission

Dr. Gudugi informed participants about what USAID is doing in Nigeria since the return to democracy. The objective was to stimulate growth of agriculture particularly to accelerate the dissemination of agricultural technologies. USAID is also collaborating with WINROCK International and IITA to enhance agricultural productivity.

An incoming project is the Marketing of Agricultural Inputs and particularly Biotechnology on seed production in collaboration with IITA.

The emphasis is on linkages and this is the necessity for bringing the Federal Ministry of Agriculture (FMA) into the meeting for sustainability of various projects supported by USAID.

It will be responsibility of FMA to continue and cover the whole country in strengthening technology transfer and speed-up the process of rural development.

Remarks by Dr. Patrick B. Okoroafor - Rep. of Director of Agriculture, FMA

Dr. Okoroafor indicated that the Director wanted to be here in person but due to other pressing issues he could not come. However, given the importance FMA attaches to this topic, two Deputy Directors are representing the Ministry in this meeting.

Dr. Okoroafor stated that the Ministry is highly intensifying effort in the direction of food security, food safety and biotechnology. FMA, according to him, is ready to collaborate with agencies that will promote these issues in Nigeria. The Ministry is ready to play its part to move the country away from heavy dependency on the oil sector. The development of agricultural sector has the greatest potential.

Remarks by Dr. Oyesola O. Oyebanji - Chairman of session - PCU, Abuja

After Dr. Taye gave an overview of the activities for days 1 and 2, Dr. Oyebanji remarked that as the chairman of the session, he had some comments to make. He mentioned that the missing aspect in all the remarks thus far was on the Capacity Building of Enterprises Development. He claimed that PCU is on position to provide this service. For example, training in record keeping of accounts and record management can be facilitated by PCU.

Framework for the Program Implementation by Dr. Taye Bezuneh - Facilitator

Dr. Bezuneh presented the framework for the Program Implementation in a 31 - pages document. The document detailed out program development, program interventions, suggested criteria for selection WASGP projects and strategies for coordination and management of the project.

Remarks on Pre-review of proposals by Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo, SAFGRAD Regional Agronomist

Dr. Ouedraogo presented the criteria followed in arriving at the selection of the 18 out of the 36 proposals received. He gave detailed explanation on the format of submission of the proposal and based on these, the screening exercise was done by SAFGRAD staff. The detailed comments on each of the 18 selected proposals were given in a tabular form for easy digestion especially those things that were lacking and that needed to be rectified.

Each proposal writer has been informed to make amendment and bring 20 copies each of the proposals to this meeting.

The following questions were raised:

1. The Representative of the FMA informed the participants that the Federal Government had been concerned about the technologies lying in the various institutes unused. An inter ministerial

committee was therefore set up to make a catalogue of these technologies throughout the country. A total of 178 technologies were compiled out of which 86 were from agriculture alone. The question is whether we should match what we have here with the governments own list.

2. Would only two Focal Units be enough to coordinate all the projects in Nigeria?
3. What is the role of National technical Steering Committee (NTSC) since the screening had been done by SAFGRAD?
4. What was the role of the Focal Unit in the pre-screening exercise?
5. What can we do to ensure that NGO's proposals are acceptable given that many of them may not be able to write good proposals though they may have good ideas?
6. What does the "Matching fund" include?
7. What legal status are you looking for concerning the groups?
8. Should SAFGRAD institute easy, comprehensive guidelines for the proposals?
9. The assumption that technologies are there should be taken with caution. Experiences in similar programs have shown that some technologies may not work as claimed by the developers. How do we ensure the workability of these technologies before giving final approval?
10. Most of the proposals did not show evidence that the problems being addressed emanate from the clients (groups) being helped. Should the beneficiaries not be involved from the initial conceptualization of the project?

Responses to the questions

1. During this initial process proposals were received from the NARS and ADPs. Therefore the technologies being pushed in each proposals are from the NARS from which the Interministerial Committee would have got the list of technologies compiled.
2. The two Focal Units would be enough to coordinate the projects. Due to limited funding, it is not possible to establish more than two focal points. The simpler the institutional set-up for the program, the better for SAFGRAD.
3. The NTSC will deliberate on the pre-screened proposals and pick about 50% of them for approval and immediate funding. The pre-screening exercise was to reduce the burden on the NTSC.
4. The Focal Unit did not play any role in this pre-screening exercise. This is because they were established late. In the other countries where the FU's were established first before submission of

proposals, they were involved in pre-screening. After this first screening, the FU's will be involved in the pre-screening because they are closer to the beneficiaries.

5. Effort would be made by the FU Coordinators to work with the NGOs in preparing proposals. The FU Coordinators will be conducting regional workshops that bring together beneficiary NGO's and agencies informing them of how to write their proposals;
6. The matching funds can be in cash and/or in-kind contribution by the beneficiaries such as land, labour and other inputs.
7. The legal status of the cooperatives or group we are looking for are their registration with government either at local or federal. This is to show evidence that we are dealing with legally recognized groups to enhance sustainability.
8. The guidelines are already prepared for the proposals. If participants, however, have suggestions for further improvement, these can be forwarded to the Facilitator of WASGP or SAFGRAD Office.
9. The assumption that technologies are on the shelf is a matter for concern. The NTSC should approve proposals that are sound and those with proven and well tested technologies.
10. The next round of proposals will come mostly from the private sector i.e. farm association, processors, women groups, marketers etc. since these ones came from research and extension. Issues of beneficiary involvement should be ensured right from problem identification to assessment as said earlier by Dr. Ouattara, the International Coordinator.

Conclusion:

- The issue of using OGADEP as a Focal Point was discussed at length. OGADEP is one of the several ADPs in the south-west and has no mandate beyond its own state. IAR and T at Ibadan has the mandate to cover the whole of south-west.
- It was resolved that SAFGRAD should dialogue with Director IAR & T and OGADEP for the purpose of shifting the FU to IAR & T. Professor Peter Oyekan who is present in this meeting is a staff of IAR & T. He can liase between SAFGRAD, IAR & T and OGADEP to assist in this change over without causing any disaffection.
- The four technology transfer stations established by FMA at Gashua, Dan Alassan, Ubiaja and Uguaba can serve as focal contact points.

Thursday 9th August, 2001 - Afternoon session

Concurrent Working Group Sessions - 15:00 - 18:15 hours

Three concurrent sessions were held

The main task of the three working group sessions has been to review and screen proposals using established criteria (Annex 1).

Thursday, 9th August 2001

II. Concurrent Working Group Session: 15:00 - 18:15

Group Session One: Post Harvest and Farm Produce Processing

This working group comprised of 12 participants

Moderator: Mr. Abdulkadir Gudugi, Representative of the USAID/Mission Nigeria
Rapporteur: Mr. Anga Boma, from Goldchains International, private sector.

Eight proposals were received for review. Because of the absence of some participating institutions, due to problems of communication, five proposals were read, discussed and rated. Members were asked to read the other three papers and score using the technical criteria (attached matrix Annex 1.)

Presentation of proposals

1) *Dissemination of soybean technologies and commercialization of soybean products in Nigeria*

The National Cereal Research Institute presented the proposal. Among the issues raised regarding this proposal included:

- Business plan to ensure generation of income by the beneficiaries (i.e. farmers and food processors);
- Participation of women to benefit from the project;
- Affordable price of soybean fortified products;
- The sustainability of the project.

Group Submission/Decision

The group found very relevant the pre-screening comments of SAFGRAD and recommended:

- a. The proposal need to be revised to address the above issues;
- b. Develop business plan ensuring ownership of project activities and business ventures by small-scale food processors, farm households, etc.
- c. To reduce the budget to confirm support of small grants;

The committee stressed that revised version of the document should satisfactorily respond to issues raised and be re-submitted to SAFGRAD. Scores 35.8 out of 54 (71.2%)

2) Guna Melon Production and processing

This proposal was presented by the representative of Lake Chad Research Institute. The discussion on this proposal raised the following issues:

- The extent of production of Guna Melon in the North Eastern Region of Nigeria;
- The demand of Guna Melon Production and its actual and potential yield under traditional and improved practices;
- The comparative advantage of Guna Melon as oil crop;
- Information on the primary processing technologies to be used is virtually lacking;
- Output capacity of the oil extraction of the particular technologies to be introduced;
- Proposal lacks cost benefit analysis.

Groups submissions/Recommendation

The groups have found very useful the pre-screening comments of SAFGRAD on the proposal. But the suggestions were not fully incorporated into the proposal. The group recommended further development of the proposal to be relevant to the objectives of the West Africa Small Grants Program. Proposal was not approved.

3) Groundnut Oil Production in Cooperation with Women Cooperatives

This proposal was presented by the Focal Unit Coordinator of the Institute for Agricultural Research of Ahmadu Bello University. Initially, the group examined if the pre-screening comments made at the level of SAFGRAD were included in the modified version of the proposal. It was noted that:

- Adequate background information on the beneficiaries for example, on farm cooperative/or association including their legal status has been documented;
- Provision of technical assistance by IAR and extension in the region;
- Ensuring the ownership of the project by the women group;
- Provision of matching funds in cash/or kind by the beneficiaries. It was noted that matching fund will be provided through consumable items, such purchase of raw material, fuel, etc.
- Linkages to market outlets has been established;
- Business plan not developed;
- Cost-benefit analysis not incorporated;
- There is need to undertake preliminary brief survey to establish if technology to be introduced will increase extraction yield of the groundnut oil;
- Technology chosen will reduce drudgery of work to women and minimize cost;

- Project will generate income to members of cooperatives.

Recommendation

Based on the above analysis, it was recommended further assessment of the technology choice. The group concern has been why this technology for an efficient extraction of ground oil has not been disseminated and commercialized. In general, the proposal has been recommended for WASGP funding support. If the oil extraction implement is found efficient, capacity building for artisan to promote fabrication has been suggested. Score 40.4 (74,8%)



Traditional and Mechanized groundnut oil extractors developed by the Institute of Agricultural Research, Ahmadu Bello University

4) Post Harvest Adaptive Technology Transfer

The proposal was presented by the Representative of International Food Basket Foundation.

After lengthy presentation and discussion, it was noted:

- The proposal still not focused and did not narrow its objectives and scope of activities;
- Considerable proportion of the fund has been allocated for salaries. USAID representative informed as a matter policy that payment of salaries or wages for institutional staff are not allowed as components of grants;
- That the proposal has not yet clearly identified the beneficiaries and market outlets for the proposal outputs.

Recommendation

- a. *The proposal needs to be revised taking into consideration the above and previous comments by SAFGRAD;*
- b. *The budget of the proposal should be reduced to be considered for small grants. Score 29 (53.71%). Proposal delayed approval until the incorporation of above suggestions.*

5) Enhancing of Value-added in Ginger Production and Marketing in Nigeria

IAR/SAFGRAD Focal Units Coordinator presented the activities of the proposal.

After lengthy discussion, the following issues were raised:

- The revision of the proposal took into consideration comments of SAFGRAD pre-screening and review committee. In this regard, affirmative response was given;
- The presenter also reported that cost-benefit analysis will be included in the proposal;
- The budget of the proposal should be re-visited to reduce administrative and travel costs;
- Project needs to develop a business plan.

Recommendation

- *Revise proposal in consultation with beneficiaries;*
- *Link project to market outlets;*
- *Develop partnership of stakeholders with marketing agencies cooperatives industry by defining specific roles;*
- *Clearly identify the contribution of research i.e. technologies to be introduced.*

The above proposal is recommended for funding provided the above suggestions are incorporated. Score 32 (59.2%)

6) Utilization of Cassava for Chips among four Women Groups by Oyo State ADP

Due to the communication problem, the ADP of Oyo State did not attend the early part of the meeting to present the proposal.

Based on previous agreement, the groups were asked to read thoroughly those proposals not presented for discussion. These proposals were rated with others.

It was noted that:

- The proposal needs to be developed based on the comments provided by the pre-screening committee at the level of SAFGRAD;

- Revised proposal can be re-submitted to SAFGRAD and to NTSC. Score 27 (50%)

Group recommended that OYO State ADP is contacted to further develop the proposal and re-submitted to SAFGRAD

Group Session two: Livestock and Fisheries related Project

Members include:

Moderator: T.O. Williams, ILRI
Rapporteur: Edith Sanni, private sector
Sotonya Anga, private sector
Peter Williams, Winrock International
Mamadou I. Ouattara, SAFGRAD

This group session reviewed and screened the following five proposals:

1) Women/Youth targeted training for enhancing family income

Proposed by the National Agricultural Extension Research Liaison Services (NAERLS). The IAR/SAFGRAD Focal Unit Coordinator presented the proposal. Lengthy discussion followed. It was noted that:

- The proposals lacked focus attempting to undertake training in several activities;
- Pre-screening comments by SAFGRAD were not incorporated into the proposal. These include training activities only in beekeeping and promoting soybean cottage industry;
- Trainees be encouraged to develop two proposals in the two above mentioned areas for small grants competition to enable them practice their new skills in their respective communities and peri-urban areas;
- Proposal lacks specific description of training activities;
- Approaches of selecting beneficiaries not clearly defined;
- The proposal lacks details on costing and business plan.

Recommendation

Group decided not to rate the proposal. But recommended for the substantial revision and development of the proposals taking into account the above comments and earlier suggestions. The proposal has been rejected until it is further developed.

2) *Improving Traditional Beekeepers Practices Proposed by Bieye Beekeepers Association*

Technical expert of the association and Team Leader presented the proposal. After lengthy dialogue, the issues raised include:

- Virtual lack of business plan;

- Need more information/approaches how the members will benefit from the project. Can it generate net-return in medium-term;
- The involvement of women is reported to be restricted due to traditional practice;
- Proposed budget should be revised and reduced;
- Linkages and partnership with research should be strengthened;
- Output of the project should be elaborated.

Recommendation

Proposal although recommended for funding need to be re-developed to ensure processing and commercialization. Score 27 (50%)

3) Induced Breeding of Fresh Water Catfishes using Fresh Pituitary and other Methods

Each member of the group was asked to critically read and assess the document since the Oyo ADP did not receive the e-mail to attend the NTSC meeting. It was noted that:

- Pre-screening comments provided by SAFGRAD not included;
- Technology to transfer to farmers/or communities not clearly identified;
- Women involvement as beneficiaries of the project not stated;
- Cost-benefit analysis not estimated;
- Proposal need to be fully developed;
- Budget for the proposal not stated. Score 18 (33.3%)

Recommendation

The group rejected the proposal

4) Upgrading of Local Sheep and Goats for Improved Production in Ogun State

This project has been proposed by OGADEP. Members read the proposal and observed:

- Proposal is well developed but the objectives should be reduced;
- Pilot villages and number of small ruminants each farmers is expected to raise or own for the study should be reduced;
- Proposal should be re-modified also taking into consideration the pre-screening comments provided by SAFGRAD;
- Proposed budget should be revised to receive small grants;
- Involvement of women not fully incorporated into the project;

- Lack of business plan and cost benefit analysis.

Recommendation/Action

The group rated the proposal based on individual reading and general dialogue. The proposal was rated and recommended for funding. Score 33 (55.55%)

5) Farmgate Production and Commercialization of Cassava Root Meal for Livestock Feed

This proposal has been submitted by Root Crops Research Institute which representative was not able to attend the NTSC meeting. The group read the proposal and noted that:

- Proposal has been prepared hurriedly and lacks technical details to attain technology transfer and commercialization;
- The proposal did not establish linkages between the producer and market outlets;
- No provision of matching fund;
- Technologies and methodologies for transformation of cassava root into livestock feed not adequately identified and developed respectively. Score 19 (35.2%)

Recommendation

Considering the potential of cassava for livestock feed, the committee suggested the proposal should be further developed. At this stage, the proposal should not receive small grants support.

Group Session three: Seed increase and distribution of high yielding cultivars and multiplication of improved planting material

Moderator: Oyekan, Peter - IITA

Rapporteur: Yemisi Oketayo Adeolu

Food Basket Foundation International

This has been the smallest group comprised of four members including Dr. Babandi, M. Amin of PCU, and partial participation by Dr. Taye Bezuneh, SAFGRAD.

Working Group Three Report

Five proposals were considered for further screening following SAFGRAD's assessment

Two proposals revised in line with SAFGRAD's suggestions were presented by submitting institutes.

- 1) Pearl millet seed increase to enhance food production in the north-east - Lake Chad Research Institute (LCRI).

The recommendations from pre-screening by SAFGRAD have been incorporated.

- It was additionally suggested by the Group that budget of N850,000.00 for seed processing and storage equipment be deleted as LCRI already has these equipment under the breeder seed unit established during NARP.
- Drop hybrid variety.

Proposal recommended for support by WASGP. Score - 30 PTAs (55.5%)

2) Production, distribution and marketing of sorghum variety Samsorgh 17-IAR

Part of SAFGRAD preliminary screening recommendations have been incorporated

- It was further recommended by the committee that a linkage be established between community-based seed growers and the major seed companies in the north-west zone (Premier Seed Ltd. and ALHERI Seed Company) for mutual survival of both the formal and informal seed producing systems.

Recommended proposal for WASGP support. Scores - 30 pts (55.5%)

3) Certified seed multiplication and dissemination among farmers of Oyo State - OYSADEP

The group considered the recommendation from SAFGRAD's preliminary screening to be readily adaptable by OYSADEP.

- The group further recommends that cassava and tomato be dropped from the proposal since the RTEP will take care of cassava while from the tonnage given for tomato seed in the proposal it appears the program is quite conversant with tomato seed production.

Recommended for WASGP support provided comments are incorporated. Scores - 31 pts (57.4%)

4) Accelerated multiplication and distribution of improved cassava planting materials in selected areas in the cassava belt of Nigeria-NRCRI

The group felt that RTEP will take care of this activity which already has a good foundation from ADIATN to build on.

The proposal not recommended for WASGP support. Not scored.

5) Multiplication of improved seed potato cultivars for distribution to farmers - NRCRI

This is also an activity under RTEP. Not scored/or rated.

WASGP support not recommended.

Summary of the group recommendations is that the three community-based seed activities be supported, as seed is very important for achieving increased crop production.

III. Friday, 10th August 2001 - Session

NTSC meeting started at 10:00 a.m. with the comments of the consultant on the development of satellite seed production scheme in Nigeria involving the community based seed production, the private seed producers, the NARIS and the IARCs i.e. IITA, WARDA and ICRISAT as source of

foundation seed, the national seed services the project coordination unit (PCU) of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture.

The purpose of the satellite seed production scheme is to enhance complementarity and synergies among key stakeholders i.e. NARIS, the CGIAR, IARCs, the public and private sectors, the beneficiaries, engaged in the development of high yielding cultivars, increase of foundation seed, production of certified seed, marketing, distribution and making available improved seed of various crops and planting material to farmers.

The scheme will promote seed production, processing, technology transfer, distribution and marketing.

After brief discussion on the seed production satellite scheme (SPSS), the NTSC endorsed operationalizing a working committee comprised of the above mentioned key stakeholders to fully develop the program.

The two papers on ginger highlighted the economic potential, constraints of production and processing. Over the last decades ginger has evolved as most important root crop export.

It was pointed out that about 80% of external trade demand is for dried whole-bleached ginger.

Furthermore, it was suggested shift from the export of primary product of ginger to increased processing to add-value of ginger produce to minimize price fluctuation characterization of the world market. It was noted the utilization and market demand for ginger can increase the availability of several products. Through this project dissemination and transfer of post-harvest technology for transformation of ginger into several value-added products was stressed.

IV. The Recommendations of the National Technical Steering Committee (NTSC)

The NTSC in its deliberation of 9 and 10 August 2001 made the following recommendations:

1) Approval of proposals (Annex 2.)

Based on presentation of the working groups reports, discussions and ratings using approved criteria (matrix Annex), the NTSC recommended the following proposals for funding by USAID supported West Africa Small Grants Program provided salient comments are included:

A. POST HARVEST AND FARM PRODUCE PROCESSING

The following project proposals have been approved:

- i. ***Groundnut oil production in cooperation with women cooperatives***
- ii. ***Dissemination of soybean technologies and commercialization of soybean based products***
- iii. ***Enhancing value-added ginger production and marketing***
- iv. ***Utilization of cassava for chips among four women groups in Oyo State. The proposal should include comments provided and re-submitted.***
- v. ***Post harvest adaptative technology transfer (provided the proposal is modified as suggested)***

As indicated above, three proposals were recommended and two delayed in the area of post-harvest and farm-produce processing. Approval was delayed of two the proposals that required further development on methodology, re-design and re-orientation to benefit beneficiaries.

B. LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES RELATED PROJECTS

The following two project proposals have been approved:

- i. ***Upgrading of local sheep and goats of improved production***
- ii. ***Improving traditional beekeepers practices (provided proposal activities is further developed)***

C. SEED INCREASE AND DISTRIBUTION OF HIGH YIELDING CULTIVARS AND MULTIPLICATION OF IMPROVED PLANTING MATERIAL

The following three project proposals have been approved:

- i. ***Improved pearl millet seed increase and distribution to enhance food security***
- ii. ***Production, distribution and marketing of sorghum variety SAMSORGH 17***

iii. ***Certified seed multiplication and dissemination among farmers of Oyo State***

In general, funding of the above project proposals will require further modification of proposals including comments provided by NTSC.

1. Focal Units (FU)

The NTSC reviewed the functions, institutional arrangements and geographical locations of the two Focal Units established. At IAR/ABU the site of FU has been endorsed to follow-up and monitor implementation of WASGP in Northern Nigeria. The second FU established in collaboration with OGADEP at Ogun State did not confirm regional mandate of research institutions. The NTSC recommended the relocation of the FU at the Institute of Agricultural Research and Training. OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD has been encouraged to contact IAR and T to establish MOU to base FU for follow-up and monitoring WASGP activities in the south-west.

2. After discussion on the rapporteurs report, the NTSC endorsed those proposals selected by the respective working groups. It also waived its follow-up session on this matter since it found that screening process has been transparent and satisfactory adhering to the established criteria.

3. Furthermore the NTSC:

- Noted that most of the approved proposals need to be re-oriented to attain program objectives. It recommended further revision and development of activities based on comments and guidelines provided.
- Recommended that most of the grants fund not be used for administrative purposes (including paying salaries) but rather for the project activities to directly benefit communities. It was suggested that less than 15% of the fund to be utilized to follow-up implementation of project activities.
- Suggested that attempts should be made to identify and document success stories in technology transfer and the development of agribusiness in Nigeria. Lessons can serve for further acceleration the commercialization of agriculture.

4. With regard to the realization of satellite seed production scheme, NTSC recommended the realization of working group involving keys stakeholders i.e. through the facilitation of PCU and OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD.

5. Realizing the problem of supply and importation of raw materials by agro-industries, the NTSC recommended the establishment of more business linkages between producers and agro-industries. In this regard, it was stressed research extension and private sector and marketing agents could play key role to maximize the delivery of raw material to industries.

6. It was suggested that guidelines and format for preparing proposals particularly involving farmers, food processors, agribusiness, women groups etc. should be clear and short. NTSC recommended the development of new format in consultation with Focal Units.

7. It was emphasized capacity building activities (i.e. training, workshops, etc.) for enhancing technology transfer and commercialization should be further developed in collaboration with regional and national institutions.

8. It was suggested that proposals or any other documents to be treated by NTSC should be sent to members ahead of its meeting.

Annex 1: The General Criteria for Screening Proposals of WASGP

Criteria	Project Title				
	1	2	3	4	5
Type of project					
- Preparation of the project					
- Relevance to objectives of the project					
- Private sector orientation					
- Objectives achievable					
- Sustainability					
Choice of Technology					
- Simplicity to transfer					
- Income generation potential					
- Attract demand for technology					
Work Plan					
- Activities address achievable objectives					
- Schedule of plan attainable within indicated timeframe (2 years)					
- Attainment of expect output					
Other Parameters					
- Potential of women involvement					
- Potential for stakeholders partnerships					
- Attainment of food security					
- Potential of matching fund component					
- Potential to improve nutritionally quality					
- Capacity building (training, etc.)					

Criteria are rated using the following scale:

- Average = x
- Good = xx
- Very Good = xxx

Annex 2. Proposals recommended for USAID funded Small Grants Support

PROJECT TITLE	INSTITUTE	AVERAGE SCORE OUT OF 54=100%	PERCENTAGE TOTAL%
i. Groundnut oil production with women cooperatives	Institute for Agricultural Research, Ahmadu Bello University	40.4	74.8
ii. Dissemination of soybean technologies and commercialization of soy based products	National Cereal Research Institute (NCRI)	38.5	71.2
iii. Enhancing value-added ginger production and marketing	Institute for Agricultural Research/ABU	32	59.2
iv. Utilization of cassava chips among four women groups in Oyo State	Oyo State ADP*	27	50.0
v. Post-harvest adaptive technology transfer	Basket Food International* (NGO)	29	53.7
vi. Up-grading of local sheep and goats of improved production	OGADEP Ogun State	30	55.6
vii. Improving traditional beekeepers practices	Bieye Beekeepers Association* (private)	27	50.0
viii. Improved pearl millet seed increase to enhance food security	Lake Chad Research Institute	30	55.6
ix. Production, distribution and marketing of sorghum variety SAMSORGH 17	IAR/ABU	30	55.6
x. Certified seed multiplication and dissemination among farmers in Oyo State	OYO State ADP*	31	57.4

* Proposals that require substantial modification, reorientation and further development. Revised proposals will need to be re-submitted to OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD

Annex 3: Agenda of the National Technical Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday 9nd August 2001

SESSION I

- 09:00 – 09:45 : Registration
- 10:00 – 10:30 : Opening Session, Chairman, **Salisu Ingawa, PCU**
Rapporteur: **James Olukosi**
- Welcome remarks, IITA representative
 - Remarks by International Coordinator,
Mamadou Ouattara
 - Remarks USAID Mission Representative, Nigeria, **Abdulkadir I. Gudugi**
 - Opening remarks Federal Ministry of Agriculture, **Mr. O. Edache, Director**
- 10:30-10:45: COFFEE BREAK
- Chairperson: Salisu Ingawa*
Rapporteur: James Olukosi
- 10:45 - 11:10 : Framework for the program implementation,
Taye Bezuneh, Facilitator
- 11:10 – 11:30 : Remarks on the pre-review of proposals (based on guidelines for preparing proposals) **M. Ouedraogo, OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD**
- 11:30 - 11:40 : Discussion
- 11:40 – 12:20 : Formation of Working Group
- 12:20 – 13:30 : LUNCH BREAK
- 13:30 – 15:00 : Reading of proposals

SESSION II: Presentation of Proposals

GROUP SESSION ONE: Post-harvest and farm produce processing

Moderator: Bahiru Duguma
Rapporteur: Anga Boma

- 15:00 - 15:15 : Guna Melon production and processing (Lake Chad Research Institute and Farmers) **W. B. Ndhahi**

- 15:15 – 15:30 : Dissemination of soybean technologies and commercialization of soybean based products in Nigeria (National Crop Research Institute)
- 15:30 – 15:45 : Groundnut oil production in cooperation with women cooperatives (IAR/Farmers cooperatives).
IAR/SAFGRAD Focal Unit Coordinator
- 15:45 – 16:00 : Enhancing the productivity and efficiency of rural small-scale oil palm processors.
Y. Adeoti and OGADEP
- 16:00 - 16:15 : Post harvest adaptive technology transfer (Food Basket Foundation). **I. O. Akinyele**
- 16:15 – 16:30 : Utilization of cassava for chips among four women groups (Oyo State ADP)
- 16:30 – 16:45 : *COFFEE BREAK*
- 16:45 – 17:00 : Enhancing of value added in ginger production and marketing in Nigeria (IAR and Farmer Cooperative)
IAR/SAFGRAD Focal Unit Coordinator.
- 17:00 - 17:15 : Enhancing gari production through efficient cassava processing, Y. Adeoti, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State.
- 17:15 - 17:45 : Comments and Discussion

GROUP SESSION TWO: Livestock and fisheries related projects

Moderator: *T. O. Williams*
Rapporteur: *Edith Sanni*

- 15:00 - 15:15 : Farm gate production and commercialization of cassava root meal for livestock feed (NRCRI and farmers proposal). **M.C. Ikwelle**
- 15:15 - 15:30 : Induced breeding of fresh water catfishes using fresh pituitary and other methods – Oyo State ADP.
- 15:30 - 15:45 : Improving traditional beekeepers practices (Bieye Beekeepers Society) **Alhadji Idriss Mohammed Barau**
- 15:45 - 16:00 : Upgrading of local sheep and goats for improved production in Ogun State.
OGADEP/SAFGRAD Focal Unit Coordinator.
- 16:00 - 16:15 : Discussion
- 16:15 – 16:30 : Women/youth – targeted training for enhancing family income NAERLS/ABU. **IAR/SAFGRAD Focal Unit Coordinator**
- 16:30 – 16:45 : *COFFEE BREAK*

16:45 – 17:30 : Discussion

WORKING GROUP THREE: Seed increase and distribution of high yielding cultivars and multiplication of improved planting material

Moderator: **A. Joshua**
Rapporteur: **OGADEP/SAFGRAD Focal Unit Coordinator**

- 15:00 - 15:15 : Improved pearl millet seed increase and distribution to enhance food security. **Lake Chad Research Institute. W. B. Ndhabi**
- 15:15 - 15:30 : Multiplication of improved seed potato cultivars for distribution to farmers (NCRI). **M.C. Ikwelle.**
- 15:30 - 15:45 : Production, distribution and marketing of sorghum variety SAMSORGM 17 (IAR/ABU).
IAR/SAFGRAD Focal Unit Coordinator
- 15:45 - 16:00 : Certified seed multiplication and dissemination among farmers of Oyo state. Oyo State ADP.
- 16:00 - 16:15 : Accelerated multiplication and distribution of improved cassava planting materials in selected areas in the cassava belt of Nigeria (NRCRI). **M. C. Ikwelle.**
- 16:15 – 16:30 : *COFFEE BREAK*
- 16:30 - 17:15 : Discussion

Friday 10th August 2001

SESSION III

Chairperson: International Coordinator, OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD
Rapporteur:

- 08:00 – 9:30 : Completion of Rapporteurs Report
- 08:00 – 08:45 : Comments by facilitator and the private sector:
- i) The satellite Seed Production Scheme, **Taye Bezuneh & A. Joshua**
 - ii) Production and commercialization of ginger
Sotonye Anga
 - iii) Small-scale poultry and fishery enterprises, **Edith Sanni**
- 08:45 – 09:30 : Comments and Discussion

- 09:30 - 09:45 : *COFFEE BREAK*
- 09:45 – 09:55 : Report of the Working Group one
- 09:55 – 10:05 : Report of the Working Group two
- 10:05 – 10:15 : Report of the Working Group three
- 10:15 – 11:00 : Discussion
- 11:00 – 11:20 : Overview on criteria and Guidelines for Screening Proposals
Mahama Ouedraogo
- 11:20 – 12:00 : Discussion
- 12:00 – 14:00 : *LUNCH BREAK*
- 14:00 – 16:00 : National Technical Steering Committee Meeting for rating & screening proposals
- 16:00 – 16:30 : *COFFEE BREAK*
- 17:00 – 17:30 : **CLOSING SESSION**
- Rapporteur Report
 - Closing remarks

Annex 4: List of participants

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Participants at the First National Technical Steering Committee Meeting held in IITA, Ibadan on August 9-10, 2001

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