



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**

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ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



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ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORT ON  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

This report is a review of the existing activities of the OAU Executive Secretariat for Science and Technology and all the Bureaux and field projects being supervised by the Secretariat.

In the period under review, all the joint projects in which Member States of the OAU are cooperating have continued to progress very well subject to the remarks which are contained hereunder:-

1. ANTI-RINDERPEST CAMPAIGN IN EASTERN AFRICA - JP.15

This project has now reached final phase and there is very little left to be done by the Co-ordination Unit. Consequently, the Co-ordination Unit has been instructed to concentrate on encouraging follow-up measures in active cooperation with the Directorate of IBAR. The follow-up measures are undertaken in all countries where the project has already been completed. In respect of Eastern Africa, work has been completed in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Somalia. Only parts of Ethiopia and a part of the Sudan is left to be completed. These parts of the respective countries are already being handled by the Directorate of the Veterinary Services of the respective countries.

The Secretariat is grateful to the donors who have assisted these projects and we are appreciative of the Council's agreement at the last Session for funds to the Co-ordination Unit to function this financial year.

The follow-up measures expected of Member States are as follow:-

- a) To vaccinate with an effective rinderpest vaccine the annual calf crop at least once per year in two successive years. These animals will be marked or ear punched so that any animal over two years old will have two such ear or identification marks.
- b) To vaccinate and mark, or ear punch, all adult cattle with no evidence of previous vaccination.
- c) To keep neighbouring countries informed of the state of affairs in respect of rinderpest through IBAR and by means of annual scheduled meetings convened by STRC/IBAR. In particular, each country will notify all concerned by the most rapid means possible of any outbreaks of rinderpest, stating the number of animals involved and geographical grid location of the outbreak.
- d) In the case of an outbreak of rinderpest, to implement the accepted control measures as quickly as possible and under professional veterinary supervision. It is essential to verify by a recognised laboratory technique the etiology of the infection. Recognised control measures would include strict quarantine of all infected herds and in-contacts, the slaughter of all animals where practicable (with the payment of compensation) and the vaccination or re-vaccination of

all animals within a radius of ten miles.

- e) To have veterinary authorities maintain strict surveillance over the movements of cattle, which shall be furnished with a veterinary health certificate,
- f) To provide adequate legislation to permit the undertaking of the requirements of paragraphs (a) - (e) above.

2. MAJOR CEREAL CROPS RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT OF FOOD GRAINS (JP.26)

Following the approval in Kampala, Uganda last July of the proposals to overhaul this project and to diversify the sources of external assistance for the project, the Secretariat is holding a Consultative Meeting in Ougadougou, Upper Volta early 1976 with a view to re-shaping the project so that emphasis will be placed on increased grain production, particularly in the areas most affected by the drought disaster. The re-organization being undertaken will concentrate on Semi-Arid zones of Africa since other parts of the Continent are not as badly affected by shortage of rain water as this zone. By definition, this zone include Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea, Cape Verde Islands, Mali, Upper Volta, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia.

The Executive Secretariat is holding this Consultative Meeting with the Crop Research Officers of Member States and donors principally to assess:-

- a) The additional man-power training required to accelerate food grain research and development in the zone.
- b) Co-operation in the exchange of high yielding and early maturing varieties of grains, field trials and seed multiplication.
- c) Improvement in grain storage technique, marketing and distribution.
- d) Co-operation with international agencies working in the area of food grain research and development.
- e) Sources of additional external aid to supplement national effort on food grain research and development where necessary.

During the period of report, additional 200,000 U.S. dollars of external aid for training of Crops Research Officers were received by the Secretariat in furtherance of the training aspect of the project. The Secretariat will continue the postgraduate training programme with the assistance of both Member Governments and external donors. The training project are so far being financed by the USAID. Two International Agencies, cooperating with the OAU on the project are the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

These agencies have received assistance from the UNDP/FAO. It is hoped that they would do some postgraduate training of agronomists in addition to their present middle level man-power courses and seminars.

3. AFRICAN MEDICINAL PLANTS RESEARCH (JP.27)

This project was reviewed at the 2nd Inter-African Symposium on African Medicinal Plants and Traditional Pharmacopoeia which was held in Cairo, July 1975. The main aspects of the project discussed at the symposium are:-

1. Review of the progress of research in Member States, particularly, at the Universities of Ife, Cairo, Dakar, Tananarive and the Institute of Chemotherapeutic Research in Kampala.
2. Ethnobotanical studies on Traditional Pharmacopoeia.
3. Pharmacological screening techniques.
4. Recent developments in phyto-chemical screening techniques.
5. The Commercial appraisal of market and potential markets for plant derived chemicals.
6. Herbal Drugs and Community Health.
7. Clinical Trials.
- and 8. Inter-African Cooperation among OAU States in Medicinal Plants.

The Symposium reviewed cooperation in this research work over the past six years and made comprehensive recommendations for follow-up at both the regional and national levels in Africa. At the end of the meeting, Professor Adjanooun of Benin, a member of the Scientific Council for Africa (CSA) became the Chairman of the OAU Panel on African Medicinal Plants. Other members of the panel of experts are drawn from Egypt, Mali, Ghana, Uganda, Nigeria, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Tanzania, Congo Brazzaville and Madagascar. This panel is charged with the duties of evaluating the progress of work in this important area of research in Africa so as to encourage research laboratories in all Member States to undertake concrete and commercially oriented research for the exploitation of African flora. Detail Report of this important symposium will be submitted to the next meeting of the Council for approval to enable the Secretariat take follow-up action on other aspects of the recommendations.

Meanwhile, all Member States are advised to encourage as far as possible, research in this new field of activity so that the best of our natural resources might be put to good use. Some of the diseases against which the regional and national research workers operate are:- Anti-cancer, Anti-Malaria, Anti-biotics, Anti-sickling, Insecticides and Anti-diabetes to mention only a few.

4. JOINT CAMPAIGN AGAINST CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEURO-PNEUMONIA (CBPP) (JP.28)

During the period of report, the Office International des Epizootics (OIE) met in Africa and discussed this important OAU project. It was noted that shortage



of fund has seriously affected the progress of the work. For example, there is no external aid for the project apart from the assistance given to Central Africa between 1973 and 1974. Other Member States cooperating in the project have relied largely on national funds. It has not been financially possible to appoint a separate Co-ordination Unit for the project and the Secretariat has relied largely on its livestock Officer (the Director of IBAR) taking time off to do the co-ordination.

In view of the present position of the project, the Secretariat would suggest that consideration might be given to a Livestock, Health and Production Operational Fund from which this and other livestock Projects might be financed. If the idea of this mutual aid fund were agreeable, then, the Secretariat might be in position within the next year or so to employ a separate Co-ordination Unit to assist Member States where the disease is at present endemic to complete the project with the minimum of delay.

The provision of such an OAU Fund would also attract the attention of donor agencies who might be willing to contribute to the fund to assist Livestock projects. In December 1975, the Director of IBAR participated in the Lake Chad Basin Commission Meeting and informed the Governing Council of the Commission of the position of this project and the need for intra-African sources of finance.

5. ESTABLISHMENT OF PLANT QUARANTINE CENTRES AND TRAINING OF PHYTOSANITARY INSPECTORS (JP.29)

The proposed meeting of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council in Abidjan, Ivory Coast was postponed

to the second half of 1976 at the instance of the Government. Consequently, the Executive Secretariat convened a meeting of the Executive Committee of the IAPSC in the middle of November 1975 to evaluate the progress of this project, and to obtain scientific advice on a number of important Plant Quarantine and Plant protection problems that have accumulated over the past two years.

The Committee agreed among other things that the Ibadan training centre in Nigeria should as far as possible become a bi-lingual centre by the appointment of a franco-phone instructor to the staff of the centre. The Secretariat was to appeal to the UNDP/FAO to ensure that the course to be run at the Ibadan centre in 1976 is bi-lingual. Already, the UNDP/FAO have provided the centre an anglo-phone instructor.

Secondly, the Executive Committee approved of the Cairo Training Centre which proposed to take as many as 20 franco-phone candidates in 1976. The combined effect of the Cairo and Ibadan centres would be to reduce the present shortage of trained francophone plant protection personnel in most OAU States. Nevertheless, the Government of the Ivory Coast has agreed to host the main IAPSC meeting in the second half of 1976 and it is expected that progress will be made in the establishment of the Training Centre in Abidjan.

Other problems handled by the Committee during its three-day meeting include the need to re-organize the existing Locust Control Organization in Africa with a view to reducing the expenditure of Member States on Locust Control machinery. It has been established by the Secretariat

that a re-organization will be in the interest of OAU Member States and it is hoped that the 32 Member States of the OAU who are at present members of various Locust Control Organizations would cooperate with the Secretariat in the re-organization exercise so that larger external support might be given to the locust control exercise in the different zones of Africa.

6. TRYPANOSOMIASIS RESEARCH AND CONTROL (JP.30)

The Secretariat is still in the process of obtaining external aid for printing the Tsetse Distribution Map of Africa which was prepared for the OAU and submitted to the Dakar meeting of the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC). Printing the map will cost some 100,000 U.S. dollars. The Secretariat expects that both the FAO and WHO will cooperate with the OAU Secretariat in realizing the project. These UN agencies have also been asked to cooperate with the Executive Secretariat in updating the map from time to time.

The surveys of the Tsetse infested areas of parts of the Juba riverine area is being passed on to the FAO who discussed this proposal at a meeting held in Accra, December 1975. The FAO has agreed to cooperate with the Executive Secretariat of the OAU to complete the project and the OAU Secretariat hopes that the new FAO programme for the control of Animal Trypanosomiasis will take account of this project particularly in view of resolution XI of the World Food Conference which demands that the FAO should take active interest in Trypanosomiasis research and control.



TECHNICAL BUREAUX:

The technical bureaux of the Executive Secretariat have been functioning as usual during the period of report.

INTER-AFRICAN BUREAU FOR SOILS (BIS)

The Director of BIS made a number of liaison visits to North African countries, namely, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco and also to Chad. He has not only discussed soil conservation and agronomic problems with his colleagues in these countries but has been of help to his scientific colleagues in the respective countries in proposals in respect of soil erosion, irrigation and allied matters. Similarly, the Deputy Director of BIS who is also the International Co-ordinator of JP.26 has taken action interest in Grain Field Trials in a number of countries and he is at present personally supervising the Trials in Central Africa.

The BIS has also being of considerable help to both the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA) and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in their research programmes.

INTER-AFRICAN BUREAU FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES (IBAR)

Both animal health and animal production duties of IBAR have also continued during the period under report. The Director of IBAR personally participated in a number of international meetings which are of direct bearing on OAU activities. He presented papers at the OIE African

Regional meeting and also read a paper at the FAO Trypanosomiasis Control meeting. In addition, he is a member of the Joint OIE/OAU/FAO Expert Panel on CBPP. In his capacity as International Co-ordinator of JP.28, he has produced feasibility studies on the Lake Chad Basin Area, Conseil de l'Entente and OMVS areas of West and Central African countries. These reports have been sent to Member States and donor agencies for technical and financial support.

The other scientific staff in IBAR have taken active part in animal production work in cooperation with other international agencies. IBAR has been, during the period of report, the main source of information on Animal Diseases in Africa and has been responsible for the work of the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC). IBAR also undertakes follow-up Measures on Anti-Rinderpest Campaign (JP.15) in cooperation with the Co-ordination Unit of the Campaign. The Executive Secretariat obtained the sum of 7,000 U.S. dollars during the period to complete the work on Follow-up Measures. IBAR is also supervising the Tsetse Distribution Map of Africa.

#### INTER-AFRICAN PHYTOSANITARY COUNCIL (IAPSC)

The Scientific Secretary of the IAPSC has made a number of liaison visits during the period of report at the request of Member States. His job was to advise on the importation of vegetative materials into Africa. At the request of both international organizations and the Member States of OAU concerned, the Scientific Secretary has visited proposed Intermediate Post-Entry Plant

Quarantine Centre in Turin and a similar centre in Spain. He has also at the request of Member States concerned looked into the problem of South American Rubber Disease. In all these cases his scientific reports were considered by the Executive Committee of the IAPSC at its last meeting and his recommendations assisted the policy recommendations proposed to all Member States on these important issues. Since diseases know no political boundaries, it will be dangerous to import any vegetative material into any part of Africa irrespective of whatever measures have been taken outside Africa without such an imported vegetative material passing through an OAU recognized Regional Plant Quarantine Centre. The other scientific staff at the Scientific office have also made a number of liaison visits to advise technicians in Member States on different crops and pests of agricultural products. In addition, the office also produces a bi-annual journal for Plant Protection comparable to the BIS and IBAR bulletins.

TECHNICAL MEETINGS:

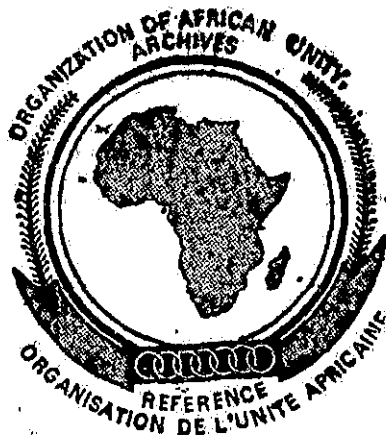
During the period of report, the Executive Secretariat and its bureaux organised 5 technical meetings, namely:-

1. The Second Inter-African Symposium on Traditional Pharmacopoeia and African Medicinal Plants - Cairo.
2. The Executive Committee of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council - Lagos.
3. Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development Ouagadougou, Upper Volta.

4. Meeting of the Inter-African Committee of Experts on Mechanization of Agriculture and
5. Meeting of Inter-African Panel on Cartography.

GENERAL

The General Secretariat would like to draw attention to the problem of shortage of scientific staff in our offices. The Executive Secretariat in Lagos is badly depleted of scientific personnel. Unfortunately, the amount of responsibility which devolves on the Executive Secretariat as a result of previous recommendations and resolutions of the Council has increased almost five-fold in the past 5 years. The Administrative Secretary-General intends to give some priority to the recruitment of Scientific personnel to both the Executive Secretariat in Lagos and the Bureaux in Nairobi, Bangui and Yaounde. This has become absolutely necessary to enable the OAU maintain the normal standard of work to which the scientific community in all Member States are already used to. The Administrative Secretary-General hopes that he can count on the support of the Council of Ministers on this matter by encouraging their nationals to respond to the advertisement of the General Secretariat from time to time.



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