ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
Secretariat
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ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE AFRICAINE
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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
TWENTY-NINTH ORDINARY SESSION
JUNE 23 - 30, 1977
LIBREVILLE, GABON

CM/808 (XXIX)
Annex III

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OAU SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON INTER-AFRICAN CO-OPERATION

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CM/ 808 (XXIX)
Annex III

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON INTER-AFRICAN CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES OF THE OAU

I N T R O D U C T I O N

This report gives a resume of the activities of the Executive Secretariat for science and technology and its bureaux in the past decade. It is unfortunate that the time at the disposal of the Executive Secretariat does not permit of an exhaustive and detailed account of its performances in the past decade in the way that benefits and justifies the amount of efforts put into Inter-African co-operation in the field of science and technology over the years. Be that as it may, the report of the Executive Secretariat submitted hereunder and the specialist reports submitted by the Directors of IBAR, BIS and the IAPSC give a bird's eye view of the modest efforts accomplished so far and an idea of work in hand and in progress.

The Executive Secretariat and its scientific bureaux have been considerably hampered by two major problems:-

a) shortage of staff;
and b) shortage of investment fund for multilateral and regional projects.

Because of the shortage of staff, the various expansion programmes of the Executive Secretariat over the past 10 years have not been fully executed. For example, in 1971, the Scientific Council of Africa (CSA) which is the main scientific adviser of the OAU in respect of the application of science and technology to development in Africa requested that the Executive Secretariat based in Lagos should be expanded to allow effective co-ordination of Inter-African Co-ordination in the field of science and technology in view of the increasing demand by Member States for its services.

The Executive Secretariat as the main co-ordinating machinery was to have:-

a) a division on Agriculture, Oceanography and Sea Fisheries;
b) a division on Natural Resources;
c) a division on Industrial and Technological activities;
d) a division for the Co-ordination of Field Work or the permanent Bureaux and field joint projects;
and e) an Administrative and Finance Division.

The details of the activities of the Executive Secretariat as approved by the Heads of State and Government and each divisions is adumbrated in Document L(73)13 which is attached to this report.

Consequently, work in hand and in progress being carried out by the Executive Secretariat and its Bureaux with the advice of the CSA and all the scientific panels created by the CSA as approved by the Council of Ministers and Assembly of Heads of State and Government have been done by an over-stretched and extremely limited staff.

Secondly, some of the extremely important continental projects involving co-operation among 20 or 30 and more States used to attract external financial and technical aid according to the wish of the participating Member States. Today, the position has changed tremendously. The developed Nations of the world who constitute the back-bone of the donor agencies have been giving diminishing assistance to African regional and co-operative projects. This is because they consider such projects as largely multilateral and therefore does not boost their individual ego. Further still, the present international bias against financial and technical assistance to Africa springs from the erroneous conception of the value and significance of the so-called "oil wealth".

They now prefer bilateral assistance which is usually given in a discreminatory fashion to a handful of Member States. This tendency is not in the interest of the OAU and Africa. The real interest of Africa lies in the encouragement of joint, cooperative and regional projects in which 10 to 15 member states in the same ecological zone could easily participate and pool their resources for the improvement of the welfare and augmentation of the standard of living of their people.

When joint and co-operative projects are undertaken, for example like the Survey of the Fisheries of the Tropical Atlantic involving some 19 Coastal States in West Central Africa; Member States see from the report on the project the great advantage of joint action; they are therefore better able to co-operate in the overall interest of the development of a whole region or the whole of Africa.

One of the projects at present in hand is Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development (SAFGRAD) (J.P.31) This project seeks effective co-operation of all OAU Member States stretching from Mauritania on the Atlantic Ocean Coast to Somalia on the Indian Ocean Coast. It embraces field work by scientists of no fewer than 26 Member States, viz: Mauritania, Senegal The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Upper Volta, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Niger, Togo, Popular Republic of Benin, Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Zaire, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Cape Verde Island, and Guinea Bissau. Such a gigantic project is usually executed by grouping these Member States into sub-regional groups, For example, the work in the Senegal River Basin area will involve all Member States of the Senegal River Basin countries and others in the area like The Gambia which do not belong to the Senegal River Basin area. Similarly, the Conseil de l'Entente countries will be grouped together with Ghana to ensure co-operation of that regional group while East African Community will be grouped together with Somalia and Ethiopia for purposes of co-operative activities.

The main activities done jointly under the project outlined at a technical OAU/STRC meeting in January, 1976 in Ouagadougou are grouped under:-

i) Research Priorities: This is the listing of the cereals which are of primary importance in the areas, viz, sorghum, millet, maize, rice and groundnuts.

ii) Field Co-operation: By this, the scientists expect that each Member State co-operating in the project would appoint a national organiser for the project who will co-operate in the sub-region under the OAU International Coordinator to ensure the distribution of improved high yielding, disease resistant, drought resistant varities of the different cereals.

iii) Post Harvest Activity: which involves the encouragement of each Member State in the area to plan the post harvest research and development in a co-operative way while ensuring that each country would have enough strategic grain storage locations by building silos or other forms of storage which could be convenient to individual farmers or the national government as the case may be.

The whole idea is to make each Member State his brotherx' keepr in time of need. Grains would be stored up in several locations in each country so that food could be rushed to needy parts of the same country or neighbouring country in time of need.

Similarly, activities are also planned in the Livestock Production field and the Control of Livestock Disease. It is hoped that this meeting would give the Executive Secretary enough support to overcome the two major difficulties i.e. personnel and investment fund, to be able to carry out its duties as is contained in the Terms of Reference outlined under the OAU Science Policy hereunder.

OAU SCIENCE POLICY

Historically, the technical co-operation duties of the Executive Secretariat has been defined in the terms of reference contained in the report of the Algiers meeting of scientists from OAU States of February, 1964. The duties are designed to achieve the intention of the Heads of State to promote a spirit of brotherly love among all African States through technic co-operation at all levels and to ensure the improvement of the standard of living of the people of Africa.

a) to deal with all scientific and technical matters affecting the general development of Member States including matters which may be referred to by the Assembly of Heads of State and the Council of Ministers;

b) to promote the training and exchange of scientific, technical and research personnel;

c) to formulate scientific policies and to execute on request joint programmes of scientific and technological research;

d) to promote the effective utilization of the results of research with a view to accelerating economic and social development of Member States;

e) to handle external aid for projects of common interest sponsored by the Commission;

f) to provide facilities for the dissemination of information to workers in the fields of science and technology in Africa;

and g) to conduct scientific surveys of the natural resources of the continent.

And to enable the Commission to carry out the above-mentioned functions, it is permitted:-

i) to establish advisory and executive organs;
ii) to prepare scientific and technological plans and programmes;
iii) to organize scientific and technological conferences and seminars;
iv) to establish training and research institutes and information centres; and
v) to collaborate with international scientific and technological organizations in matters of mutual interest.

PRIORITIES:

In translating these broad objectives to practical propositions, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government approved a priority list of areas of co-operation among Member States at its meeting in Accra, October, 1965. These are:-

i) Agriculture

crop research
animal health and production
soils and irrigation
forestry (humid, arid areas and savannah)

ii) Oceanography and Fisheries

including the problem of sea bed.

iii) Biological Research viz Aquatic Biology, Taxonomy and Ecology including research on African Medicinal Plants and exploitation of plants and animal resources for the benefit of man.

iv) Industrial and Technological Research and Development: These include the application of modern scientific and Technological techniques viz:-

a) establishment of iron and steel complexes in designated regions of Africa;

b) encouragement of chemical industries to produce fertilizers, pesticides and other essential consumer goods for building houses, foot-wears and educational materials, establishment of ceramic industries and cement production in Member States;

c) research in building materials, designs and construction;

d) engineering - civil, mechanical, chemical, etc.

e) stimulating multi-disciplinary regional and national industrial and technological institutes for research and development;

(V) a) geology and mineralogy i.e. exploration and utilization of Africa's mineral resources.

A survey of the known resources is envisaged;

b) hydrology, climatology and meteorology;

c) cartography and surveys;

vi) Physical and Mathematical Research: Physics, Chemistry and Computer Sciences, Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy; solar energy.

vii) Manpower Development:
Encouraging regional and national training of much needed Scientific and Technological manpower including exchange programme for research workers.

viii) Promotion of appropriate legislation by way of conventions to encourage joint action by Member States, e.g. African convention on Nature and Natural Resources.

MACHINERY:

To execute this programme, the Heads of State directed that an appropriate organizational machinery should be established.

The machinery for the execution of these programme under the general direction of the Administrative Secretary-General is made up of the executive secretariat with its sub-regional offices. These are:-

Executive Secretariat itself
Inter-African Bureau for Soils (BIS)
Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR)
Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC)
and Publications Bureau.

The Heads of State have approved the establishment of the Scientific Council of Africa (CSA) which comprises eminent African Scientists, designated by the Governments of member states of the the OAU. The Council advises the OAU on scientific and technological problems of development in Africa. It is a unique continental scientific body and it is truly representative of the continent. Furthermore, there are panels of scientific committees which deal with important and urgent areas of activity. These ad hoc scientific committees are designed to assist the Administrative Secretary-General and his officials in translating broad principles into practical terms. Some of these are:-

i) International Scientific Council of Trypanosomiasis Research and control.

ii) Panel of Scientists on Agriculture and the Mechanization of Agriculture;

iii) Panel of Scientists on Geology and Mineralogy;

iv) The Panel of Scientists on Food Science and Food Technology;

v) Panel of Scientists on Oceanography and Fisheries;

vi) Panel of Scientists on African Medicinal Plants;

vii) Panel of Scientists on Science and Technology

viii) Panel of Scientists on Cartography maps and Survey;

ix) Panel of Scientists on Building Materials, Design and Construction;

X) Panel of Scientists on Iron and Steel Development in Africa;

xi) Panel of Scientists on Chemical Industries and Fertilizers;

xii) The Inter-African Phytosanitary Council;

xiii) Inter-African Panel of scientists on Animal Health and Production.

xiv) Inter-African Panel of scientists on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

PROJECTS:

With the aid of these panels which are composed of African scientists who give their services free to the Organization, the Executive Secretariat has been able to conceive and plan a number of projects some of which have been completed while others are still in progress.

Field projects usually attract external technical and financial assistance. The responsibilities of the Executive Secretariat are fourfold:-

i) to initiate projects which are of regional interest either to the whole of Africa like the Production of the "Pedological Map of Africa" or a region of Africa like the "Survey of the Fisheries Resources of the Tropical Atlantic";

ii) to draw up the project in a way which will make it attract technical and financial assistance at the international level;

iii) to look for such assistance as Member States might require; and

iv) executive the programme.

Within the past decade, the Executive Secretariat has handled the following projects:-

i) An Internal Map of West Africa (JP.24)
ii) Pedological (or soil) Map of Africa (JP.11)
iii) Guinea Trawling Survey. Survey of the Fisheries Resources of the Tropical Atlantic (JP.19)

iv) Joint Campaign against cattle disease - Rinderpest Phase 1 to 111 in the West and Central Africa (JP.15)

v) Contageous Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia Vaccine Research (CBPP) JP.16);

vi) Improvement and Development of Major Cereal Crops Research (JP.26);

vii) Joint Campaign Against Rinderpest - Eastern Africa (JP.15);

viii) Joint Field Campaign against CBPP (JP.28);

ix) Project for the Establishment of Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine Centres in Africa (JP.29)

x) Project for Drug Research Centres Using African Medicinal Plants (JP.27);

xi) Training of Phytosanitary Inspectors in Africa;

xii) Control of Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis (JP.30)

Xiii) Semi Arid Food Grain Research and Development (JP.31)

xiv) Handbook for Phytosanitary Inspectors in Africa.

Eight of these projects have now been completed. The Anti Rinderpest Campaign - JP.15 for example, now require only follow-up measures by all the member states that participated in the project. These are Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Mali, Guinea, Upper Volta, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Togo, Benin, Sudan, Tanzania, Niger, Chad, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia and Nigeria. The Project was carried out in 5 phases between 1963 and 1975. The Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR) which is the specialized organ of the Executive Secretariat for livestock development is now charged with the responsibility for co-ordinating the work of member states on the follow-up measures to ensure that the entire cattle population is immunised against the disease.

The need for the establishment of a chain of plant quarantine centres in Africa and training of pest control and plant quarantine officers of member states, is a perrenial problem which will continue to receive the attention of the OAU and all International Agencies in the agricultural field. This project has been code-named Joint Project No. 29. It is specifically supervised by the Directorate of Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine centres based in Yaounde.

The campaign against centagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia (CBPP) known as JP.28 is also still in progress particularly in West and Central Africa. This is because action has been taken against this disease in Eastern Africa along with the Anti-Rinderpest campaign.

The research on African Medicinal Plants and the preparation of Traditional Pharmacopoeia in member states (JP.27) is a new industrial research project which was commenced on the initiative of the OAU Executive Secretariat for Science and Technology. The report of this project shows that about 8 research centres are actively co-operating with the OAU on the project. Only

last summer, the WHO has also indicated interest in this research work. It is hoped that other International Organizations will co-operate with Africa in this important field.

The control of Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis is an extremely sensitive area of Inter-African co-operation because, almost one-half of the arable land of Africa South of the Sahara is infested with this disease. Consequently, both man and animal are unable to inhabit the infested area. The Executive Secretariat of the OAU has taken active action in co-operation with OAU member states, the WHO and FAO in combating this scourge.

Furthermore, the Executive Secretariat through its livestock officers is in the process of publishing a Tsetse Distribution Map of Africa for which it has received generous financial assistance from the Nigerian Government. This map will be up-dated from time to time jointly by the scientists in all member states and the Executive Secretariat of the OAU in co-operation with WHO and FAO. Training schemes are also being organised in co-operation with other international agencies under the aegis of the OAU for scientists from some 24 member states of the OAU who will in turn train field control and laboratory research officers in member states on the problem of combating tsetse and trypanosomiasis. This project has been named JP. 30.

Following the recent unhappy and tragic experience of the drought in a number of African states, the Executive Secretariat with the approval of the Scientific Council of Africa has launched a grain development programme known as "Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development "(JP.31) with the assistance of a number of international organizations. This cereal project deals

with sorghum, millet, maize, rice, legumes and other staple food grains. Reference has been made to this project in the introduction to this report. It is known as Joint Project No. 31 and it is expected to be carried out in active co-operation with member states in all the 26 states concerned. It is hoped that the launching of this regional project will encourage each member state to make specific budgetary provisions for improvement in research and development of food grains. The most important new element in this project is the emphasis on Post Harvest Activity which has been hitherto neglected. It is considered that if all member states of the OAU co-operate in ensuring research on the storage of grains and establishment of stock of grain reserve, Africa will not be confronted with the embarrassing position of asking food aid from outside the continent. This is not to deny the concept of inter-dependence of nations in the jet age. It is however aimed at ensuring that OAU member states seek to depend on one another rather than external agencies.

Other elements of industrial and technological research on which the Scientific Council of Africa (CSA) have made concrete proposals are research and development in the field of building construction, design and technology. The Scientific Council of Africa (CSA), discovered that very few member states of the OAU have Institute for Building Research for active research on local materials for building houses or other constructional activities. The Scientific Council of Africa's suggestion is therefore aimed at further training of personnel for each member state and encouragement of regional centres in building technology by the improvement of existing small research centres.

Similarly, cartographic work is in its infancy in Africa. Because of the security nature of cartographic activities, and because of the importance of maps development planning, The Scientific Council of Africa (CSA) has also suggested that the OAU member states should take joint action in the development of cartographic services in Africa and the training of scientific personnel to handle cartographic matters. It also considered that in view of the highly sophisticated remote sensing equipment already developed by advanced countries, Africa requires to re-train its Cartographers to ensure that they keep abreast of modern changes.

The other project of extreme importance to all OAU member states particularly in view of the need to develop agricultural resources pari-passu with industrial development is recommended that Iron and Steel Complex be established in more states in Africa. To this end, it has recommended that existing sub-regional groupings like Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), East African Community and other sub-regional groupings should pool their resources to ensure maximum utilization of their industrial power to assist in a rapid economic take-off by the economies to ensure maximum utilization of their industrial power to assist in a rapid economic take-off by the economies of member states to sustained economic growth.

The need for a comprehensive survey of the natural resources of Africa is intimately related to the cartographic project. Howeve the Executive Secretariat proposes to convene shortly, a meeting of the Panel on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources so that the 1968 Algiers Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources might be roviewed to keep abreast of modern changes.

Nuclear Power

The problem of energy is now a very sensitive problem the whole world over. Consequently, the Panel of Scientists on Technology, has recommended that there is an urgent need for Africa to get involved in the nuclear technology even if this may be at peripherral but important areas like the use of radio isotopes in medicine, development of new crop varieties through irradiation, etc. There is need also for the building of additional reactors in some of Africa's research establishments, research institutes or Universities, to acquire the technology of the utilization of nuclear energy for generating power. The worlds consumption of energy is rising steeply and sources of energy are being ruthlessly depleted. Natural gas and petroleum are being exploited at such a rate and on such a scale that in another two decades they may cease to be of importance as energy sources because of scarcity due to depletion. Nuclear energy will gain the ascendancy. The need therefore for Africa to preserve and conserve her energy sources is obvious. At the moment, not only is the petroleum in Africa being tapped mostly by foreign interests at a fast rate but, African countries themselves are utilising as little as 0.01%. The other important energy source, Uranium is also being tapped by these foreign interests. The danger is obvious that these power resources may be exhausted by the time African countries need them for their own technological advance. African countries with uranium deposits should therefore not permit exploitation of this resource by foreign countries. It must be noted that known deposits in Europe and America are being conserved whilst exploitation is greatest in Africa.

Documentation Centres

There is urgent need for collecting and disseminating information about the scientific work carried out in different African states. Already, the OAU/STRC has 3 Bureaux which do some documentation viz; Inter- frican Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR) in Nairobi, Inter-African Bureau for Soils (BIS) in Bangui and Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) in Yaounde.

The OAU could therefore prepared itself in co-operation with the UNESCO for the establishment of Science and Technology Libraries and Documentation Centres at least initially on a regional basis. Such institutions would serve as depositories for current scientific development throughout the world through acquisition of the right kind of international journals.

There is need for the establishment of Research Notes and Records covering all the fields of science and technology on the research results done by African scientific workers which could be circulated among scientific establishments and institutions.

Regional Centres for Advanced Training and Research

The Executive Secretariat has reported at the last C.S.A. meeting that comprehensive proposals are already on hand for the establishment of one of the centres of advanced research and training recommended by the CSA. The Council of Ministers of the OAU has approved the establishment of the centre for advanced training and research on Earth Sciences since 1972.

The project which is a pilot scheme in the establishment of a chain of 10 centres for advanced training and research in Africa is expected to supplement the efforts of member states to train highly skilled scientific personnel for various national services as a part of the development effort of each state. It is also expected to supplement and support through research and development, the effort of member states to achieve accelerated

development aimed at higher living standard of their citizens. The list of the 10 centres approved at the time enunciate:-

i) Earth Sciences (including geology, geophysics, mineralogy, etc.)
ii) Applied Science and Engineering;
iii) Food Science and Technology;
iv) Water Resources, Planning and Development;
v) Marine Science and Technology;
vi) Human Medicine and Pharmacology;
vii) Veterinary Science;
viii) Climatology and Meteorology;
ix) Basic Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics) and
x) Social Sciences (documentation, teaching and research).

The estimated cost of the project at the time the proposals were approved was about 4 million US dollars. Of this, the host country, Kenya was expected to donate land and a cash sum of one million US dollars.

Unfortunately, not much has been done by way of actually establishing the centre since the proposals were approved. It might be necessary at this meeting that concrete proposals be made to enable this project to take off the ground.

One proposal that come readily to mind is that the Council of Ministers might empower the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU to encourage the development of some existing University or Institutions of Higher learning in OAU states where any of the disciplines outlines above are at present being run to assist such institutions to be developed into regional centres. Such centres will cater for students from other African states under an OAU or UN Fellowship to be arranged by the Executive Secretariat for Science and Technology. In this way, the OAU will get around the prohibitive cost of establishing new centres de novo.

The Executive Secretariat is at present running Laboratory and field Courses on this principle in Cairo, Egypt, Ibadan, Nigeria and Nairobi, Kenya. Similar courses are planned under the OAU jointly with WHO and FAO on trypanosomiasis research and control is scheduled for Bobodioulasso in Upper Volta.

The main objective is to ensure an overall improvement in training and manpower development because shortage of personnel at all levels has become one of the most important constraints in the execution of economic development programme of most OAU states.

In the past decade, the Executive Secretariat has trained well over 700 persons under different training courses in several disciplines by encouraging member states with some facilities to improve on these in the interest of Inter-African co-operation. The Secretariat is happy to report that all OAU states with some facilities have responded favourably to the Executive Secretariat's appeal on this issue. Council might wish to agree to recommend this approach to assist manpower development.

TECHNICAL BUREAUX:

The 4 technical bureaux of the Executive Secretariat at present are IBAR, BIS, IAPSC and the Publications Bureau. However, the panel on building research and technology has recommended that in the interest of inter-African co-operation a building research and building technology bureau be established. Similarly, the symposium on Cartographic Services and the Training of Cartographic personnel also suggested that the OAU should have attached to the Executive Sceretariat a Bureau to take care of cartographic matters in Africa, particularly in view of the present tendency the whole world over to improve on the sophisticated equipment being used for cartography, maps and surveys.

The Publications Bureau is now functioning within the Executive Secretariat in Lagos and this has accentuated the problem of developing it into a documentation centre as recommended by the CSA. While the existing bureaux do some documentation, it is extremely important to note that shortage of data is one of the problems confronted by planners in Africa. Improvement of documentation services is therefore a necessary desideratum to the Executive Secretariat.

INTER-AFRICAN PHYTOSANITARY COUNCIL (IAPSC) is based in Yaounde Republic of Cameroon, its functions are:-

To assist Member States to -

a) prevent the introduction of diseases, insect pests, and other enemies of plants into any part of Africa;

b) eradicate or control them, so far as they are present in the area;

c) prevent their spread.

Services rendered:

The Scientific Secretary (or his assistant) makes periodic visits to member countries to discuss with Government experts the problems and difficulties faced in plant protection matters.

He distributes to Member Governments documents, circulars and information sheets dealing with all aspects of phytosanitation; i.e. legislation, geographical distribution of pests, diseases, noxious weeds and their host plants, the dangers which would occur if such pests, diseases and noxious weeds not present in Africa were to be introduced by various means, education of travellers in phytosanitary risks, organization of plant protection services, establishment of plant quarantine stations, training of phytosanitary personnel etc.

He also maintains close liaison with other international organizations interested in plant protection and organises meetin on these subjects.

The Scientific Secretary of the IAPSC is also in charge of JP.29 i.e. the establishment of Plant Quarantine Centres and Training of Phytosanitary Inspectors.

The meeting of Inter-African Phytosanitary Council held in Blantyre, Malawi in 1973 recommended that this branch of the activities of the OAU be expanded to cope with increasing demand for services by Member States. To this end, it Recommends:-

i) setting up of ad hoc bodies including a Panel of Scientific Consultants and a Permanent Executive Committee;

ii) establishment of good documentation centres in member countries and also at the IAPSC Secretariat in Yaounde;

iii) improving the Phytosanitary scientific journal to keep member governments informed about pest and disease situations in Africa and around the world;

iv re-organizing the IAPSC so as to encompass most of the plant protection activities on the continent; and

v) to strengthen the Secretariat personnel by employing an additional Assistant Scientific Secretary.

It is hoped that Council will agree to the proposals for expansion so that this arm of the OAU might fulfil its task more effectively.

INTER-AFRICAN SOILS BUREAU (BIS) is based in Bangui, Central African Republic. Its functions are:-

- to maintain close contact with organizations, services and persons concerned with conservation and utilization of soils in Africa and outside Africa.
- to maintain an up-to-date specialist library;
- to provide an information service on general and specific subjects;
- to provide up-to-date lists of specialists working in
- The Director or his Deputy makes periodic visits to member countries and participates in meetings dealing with soil science and agronomy in Africa and elsewhere;
- Close contact is maintained with organizations, service and persons concerned with conservation and utilization of soils in Africa; and outside Africa;

- The maintenance and constant improvement of specialised Library. At the present day (1976) it includes 4,000 books, 10,000 pamphlets and 614 periodicals;
- The reception and systematic examination of 614 pedological and agronomic periodicals which provide the material for a documentary index in which index cards are classified by author and by subject according to a very detailed scientific plan. This enables the rapid selection of index cards relating to particular subjects;
- The compilation and diffusion of bibliographies on specialized subjects as requested. The range of these bibliographies is very wide; basic bibliographies for specific missions or research, lists of literature on very specific subjects, drawing up of basic lists of works for the establishment of a library etc.
- The selection and forwarding of bibliographic index cards concerning scientific questions followed up by the BIS at the request correspondents;
- The publication, three times a year of the periodical "African Soils" which contains original contributions;
- The publication of a "Quarterly Analytical Bulletin" 4 times every year drawing the attention of persons or organizations interested in soil science in general and conservation and utilisation of soils in particular to 120 - 150 analysis of some of the most important articles dealing with this subject;

and - The Bureau keeps a list of the soil specialists working in Africa and also receives the annual reports as well as the reports of projects from research stations and centres working in its scientific field.

INTER-AFRICAN BUREAU FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES (IBAR) is based in Nairobi, Kenya. Its functions are:-

1. to establish and maintain a uniform procedure for collecting animal disease statistics from Member Government showing:-
   a) the technical and economic aspects of the contagious diseases of animals and any other diseases which may threaten the domestic livestock of Africa;
   b) outbreaks of those diseases and their development;
   c) methods of control and prophylaxy;
   d) research work in progress on these diseases.
2. to establish an information and documentation centre for the up-to-date distribution of information;
3. to assist member states in maintaining follow-up measures at the end of each Phase of the Rinderpest Campaign.
4. to encourage animal production and improvement of livestock industries in Member States.

Services rendered:

The Director and his officers visit member countries and participate in meetings in Africa and elsewhere which deal with the problem of animal health and production. The bureau maintains close relations with international bodies concerned with similar problems like the O.I.E., FAO, WHO, and others. A member of

its staff participated in a recent Livestock Development Study of parts of Africa.

The Bureau publishes 'The Bulletin of Epizootic Diseases of Africa' quarterly. This deals with the aspects of veterinary science of particular importance to Africa. It also distributes a monthly and quarterly 'Summary of outbreaks of animals diseases' on twenty eight selected diseases of special interest, based on information supplied by the veterinary services of Member Governments. From the information supplied, geographical distribution maps are also compiled and published. The IBAR bulletin now has an Editorial Board. It is also being suggested to change its title. Abstracts are made from the world veterinary literature and the annual report of veterinary departments in Africa for distribution. Information leaflets on a great variety of subjects of general veterinary interests are prepared for distribution to field officers to whom such information would not otherwise be readily available. Both the IBAR Bulletin and information Leaflets are now printed and publishe in Nairobi.

A very important function of the Bureau is the organization of training courses and seminars on subjects suggested within its area of competence. The Director of IBAR is also the Secretary of the ISCTRC and International Co-ordinator - JP.28.

PUBLICATIONS BUREAU:

The Publications bureau distributes the various documentations issued by all organs of the STRC.

1977-06

Report of the Secretary-General on the Activities of the OAU Science and Technology on Inter-African Co-operation

Organization of African Unity

African Union