



AFRICAN UNION
Scientific, Technical and Research Commission
Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development

UNION AFRICAINE
Commission Scientifique, Technique et de la Recherche
Recherche et Développement des Cultures Vivrières
dans les Zones Semi-Arides

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USAID – NIGERIA SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

- 1.** Quarterly Report 1st January 02 to 31st March 02
- 2.** Progress Report 1st April 2002 to 7 June 02

Funded by USAID

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INTRODUCTION

The West Africa Small Grants Program (WASGP) in Nigeria derives from lessons learned from the USAID funded and SAFGRAD executed West African Program in Burkina Faso, Senegal and Ghana. To start-up the WASGP in Nigeria, a Stakeholders' workshop was organized at IITA, Ibadan in April 2001. The workshop brought together key actors from the National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs), the Agricultural Development Programs (ADPs), private sector, NGOs and policy makers. During the Stakeholders' workshop, salient issues and constraints to enhance micro-enterprise development were discussed and the institutional framework and mechanisms for implementing the program were adopted.

For effective coordination and monitoring of the projects, two Focal Units were established through memorandum of understanding (MOU). The MOUs were signed between SAFGRAD and the Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR) of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and the Institute for Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T) of the O. Awolowo University respectively. Two Focal Unit Coordinators were appointed within each the institutes.

As recommended by the workshop, a National Technical Steering Committee comprising representatives from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs), the Agricultural Development Programs (ADPs), IITA and ILRI, the private sector, NGOs was established. The NTSC held its first meeting in August 2001 at IITA, Ibadan. During that meeting, 18 pre-selected proposals out of 36 received by SAFGRAD were examined. Eight proposals were recommended by the NTSC for funding.

A meeting was thereafter convened at the USAID Office in Abuja (Nigeria) in November 2001 to endorse the results of the Steering Committee. Representatives from the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, USAID-Nigeria and SAFGRAD were present. Progress reports on the program implementation in general and the last Steering Committee meeting were provided to USAID at that time. Proposals recommended during the August 2001 meeting were presented and discussed during the meeting. The eight projects were endorsed by USAID.

The present Progress Report covers the period from December 2001 to 31st May, 2002 and also represents the Quarterly Progress Report for the first quarter of 2002. A first draft version of the report has been submitted to USAID-Nigeria on 15 April 2002.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of this project in Nigeria is to improve the livelihood of resources-poor farmers, small to medium-scale food processors by improving the efficiency of technology transfer. The main thrust of the project activities will be to promote agribusiness and on-farm

micro-enterprise development to particularly generate income and employment. Micro-enterprises activities are known to contribute between 40 and 70 per cent of gross domestic product in Nigeria.

The purpose of the West African Small Grants Program (WASGP) in Nigeria is to:

- i. Enable small holders farmers improve food productivity beyond their immediate household needs;
- ii. To diversify farm income by identifying and linking market opportunities to small-holder farmers and food processing;
- iii. To optimize the utilization of post harvest technologies to enhance the transformation of agricultural produce into value-added products and;
- iv. To improve the nutritional quality of basic diets through food processing and formulations and improvement of technical skills.

The objectives of the program are, therefore, to:

- Establish and/or revitalize linkages between Nigerian agricultural research institutions, development agencies, small to medium scale industries and women groups so as to stimulate growth of the agriculture sector;
- Inventory and document experiences and lessons from selected micro enterprises and to promote agro-enterprise development to generate income and employment.
- Test and share best practices and experiences of similar project (i.e. transfer and commercialization of agricultural technologies) in other countries from the sub-region and elsewhere.
- Enable the use of improved post harvest technologies by small-holder farmers and food processors to enhance the transformation of agricultural produce into value-added products.
- Streamlining the participation of Nigerian Women in the development and ownership of agribusiness, to attain food security and household nutrition enhancement.
- Promote the development of agro-enterprises to generate income and employment.

PART I.

**PROGRESS REPORT ON PROGRAM
IMPLEMENTATION**

(1st December 2001 to 31st March 2002)

FUNDS DISBURSEMENT IN FAVOR OF APPROVED PROPOSALS

Following the Abuja meeting, SAFGRAD started immediately to communicate with the different beneficiaries to make arrangements for funds disbursement. Funds were disbursed from an account established by SAFGRAD in Lagos, through the OAU/STRC Lagos office.

Table 1. Approved proposals and corresponding budgets

PROPOSALS TITLE	Facilitating Institution	Budget US\$
1. Dissemination of improved soybean technologies and commercialization of soybean based products in Nigeria	N C R I	8,900
2. Certified seeds multiplication and dissemination among farmers in Oyo State	OYSADEP	12,750
3. Upgrading local sheep and goats for improved production in Ogun State	OGADEP	14,975
4. Groundnut oil production in cooperation with women groups	IAR/ABU	9,100
5. Enhancement of value-added in ginger production and marketing in Nigeria	IAR/ABU	10,600
6. Production, distribution and marketing of sorghum variety SAMSORGH 17	IAR/ABU	15,000
7. Improving beekeepers practices for enhancing production and commercialization	Biye Beekeepers Society1	1,300
8. Improved pearl millet seed increase and distribution to enhance food security	LCRI	10,000
Total		92,625

Difficulties concerning a timely receipt of disbursed funds by the implementing agencies have been reported in some cases. The issue has been discussed at length at the last Steering Committee meeting (9-10 April 2002). It was suggested that bank to bank transfer be discontinued and checks be written on the name of beneficiaries and delivered to them through the Focal Unit Coordinators. However, after consultation with the OAU/STRC Financial Officer, it appears that the clearance of checks in Nigeria takes much longer than bank to bank transfer. It was suggested to keep the bank to bank transfer and to strengthen communication between the sending and receiving ends for a closer monitoring of the funds transfer.

PROGRESS MADE ON PROPOSALS IMPLEMENTATION

Northern Regions (facilitated by IAR/ABU - Focal Unit Coordinator: Professor James Olukosi)

Progress has been made on the approved projects as follows:

1. Improving beekeeping practices for enhancing production and commercialization.

The objective of this project is to disseminate promising modern beekeeping equipment so as to enhance commercialization of beekeeping in Biye area of Kaduna State. The Biye Beekeepers Association members are the beneficiaries of this project.

However, in the process of sensitizing the association members scattered in four villages, seven other villages have benefited from the project. A total of 120 instead of the planned 50 members benefited from the training provided by the 2 volunteers sponsored by Winrock International on 6-7 February 2002. Participants at the training spanned over 6 Local Government Areas.

A total of 100 beehives have been distributed to (94 males and 6 females) beekeepers by the association by the target date planned. The project has made news in Kaduna State. There were several newspaper coverage by New Nigerian on February 1st, March 1st, March 15, March 21 and Daily Trust on their March 1st – 7 edition. The news was broadcasted on Kaduna State Radio on 7 February. An album of photographs was produced to cover the event. A video recording of the same was also made.

Monitoring of beekeepers activities is in progress and field days are planned for next quarter. The hives have been colonized and honey manufacturing has commenced in the hives.

2. Enhancing value-added ginger production and marketing in Nigeria.

This project aims to enhance farmers' ability to use improved production inputs and to link producers and marketers of ginger to local processors and export markets.

This project is progressing according to plan. Meeting was held with stakeholders (KADP, Kaduna State Ministry of Rural Development & Cooperatives (KSMRDC) and the four local cooperative groups) on 20th February. Training workshop was held 25-26 February at Kwoi on improved agronomic practices. All the cooperative groups were present; were also present



The Biye beekeeper association held a training session in collaboration with the farmer to farmer program of winrock International



Practicals with traditional beehive during the training session

the National Ginger Association of Nigeria, National Association of Farmers, KADP and KSMRDC.

Arrangements are underway to make fertilizers and other inputs available to the farmers before the season begins. Other workshops are planned for the coming quarter and arrangements are underway to invite GoldChains, a private sector who will be involved in exporting the ginger.

3. Production, Distribution and Marketing of SAMSORGH 17 in Kaduna State.

Farmers have been identified for this project in four locations in Kaduna State. Plots of one hectare size have been mapped out for each participating farmer. National Seed Service is involved in all the activities thus far and other stakeholders are being contacted. Activities are on target.

4. Groundnut oil production in cooperation with women cooperatives

This project is aimed at reducing drudgery of women in extracting oil from groundnut and improve on the quantity and quality of extraction and income by providing them with an extractor. The facilitators have met with the women groups and ADP staff to plan for the handing over of the equipment.

Three of the four groundnut oil extractors have been fabricated by IAR. The training of the cooperatives is slated for 30th April by which time the fabrication would have been completed. After the training the women group will take ownership of the extractors.

5. Improved Pearl Millet seed increase and distribution to enhance food security

The funds for this project have just reached the implementing agency. However, the project would still be on target as all necessary arrangements have been made in anticipation of the funds. The rains would not start until after May in Maiduguri where the project is located.

In general, the projects are all on course. Targeted impacts are going to be met and in some cases greater impact than originally anticipated would be achieved.

Southern Regions (facilitated by IAR&T - Focal Unit Coordinator: Professor Peter Oyekan)

1. Dissemination of improved soybean technologies and commercialization of soybean based products in Nigeria, facilitated by NCRI, Badeggi.

Objectives:

- To re-activate a cottage-level soybean processing centre for women group at Tungan Maje, FCT.
- To train the women group members of the Women Cooperative in improved methods for products (dadawa, soymilk, etc.).
- Stimulate increased cultivation of soybean both for seed and grain in the community.

Implementation status

- Baseline survey of project area has been completed and the report expected before the end of April 2002.
- Training in soybean utilization was conducted for members of the Women Cooperative Group at Tungan Maje FCT from 20 – 22 March 2002. Although the report of this training has not been submitted, the Focal Unit Coordinator was present at the opening ceremony which he addressed with about 40 members of the Tungan Maje Women Co-operative and 8 men from the community in attendance.
- The dilapidated processing center that could no longer be renovated has been pulled down, a new site has been provided by the Village Head and foundation for new structure dug. It is expected that FCT and Gwagwalada Area Council will provide matching fund to build the new centre.
- Three meetings of the Project Launching Committee chaired by PCU were held, 2 at NCRI, Badeggi and 1 at PCU headquarters in Sheda attended by USAID official.
- NCRI had started the fabrication of processing equipment needed at the processing centre.

2. Certified Seed Multiplication among farmers in Oyo State, facilitated by Oyo State ADP.**Objectives:**

- To involve private farmers in certified seed production as out-growers thereby increasing their income.
- To make certified seed more readily available to farmers close to their abodes thereby promoting use of disease resistant (e.g. DMR maize) varieties.

Implementation status

- Funds transferred from OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD office were confirmed by the nominated bank by middle of March 2002.
- 19 qualified seed growers have been selected:
 - 15 farmers will produce 20MT of maize.
 - 8 farmers will produce 10MT of soybean
 - 11 farmers will produce 6MT of cowpea.
- Registration of the seed growers as a cooperative is at advance stage (N7,000.00 registration fee already paid by the seed growers).
- A meeting was held between the ADP and Managing Director of Premier Seeds Limited to work out functional and mutually beneficial linkage between the informal and the formal seed sectors.

3. Upgrading of local sheep and goats for improved production in Ogun State.

Objectives:

- To enhance sheep and goat production.
- To increase animal protein source.
- To promote the integration of crop and livestock sub-sector.

Implementation status

- Revised project proposal with “Focus on Fattening of Sheep and Goats through improved nutrition and animal health care” has been re-submitted.
- Ogun ADP has not been able to confirm if funds have been released.
- Farmers beneficiaries have been identified.
- Source of improved breed of sheep and goats have been identified.

CHANGES IN PROJECT PERSONNEL AS WELL AS COMMODITIES PURCHASED FOR THE ACTIVITY

No major changes in project personnel is to be reported.

Small processing equipment are being purchased or fabricated for project activities according to work plans and approved budgets.

PROBLEMS AND SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Collaboration between RUSEP (funded by USAID-Nigeria) and this project was demonstrated by active participation of the IAR&T based Focal Unit Coordinator in the presentation of the RUSEP field studies in Oyo State to the beneficiaries and the formal launching of RUSEP at IITA. It is hoped that seeds produced under this project will benefit production activities under RUSEP.

Winrock International and Biye Beekeepers Association:

Lesson Learned: Collaboration with Winrock International on this project has been very fruitful.

- Opportunities should therefore be explored on how Winrock Int. can collaborate in other projects.

The present method of fund release to implementing agencies through inter-bank transfer had a problem (the implementing agency not knowing when the money gets to the bank or the receiving bank crediting a different account of the implementing agency). It is suggested that checks be issued to beneficiaries through the Focal Unit Coordinator who, by personally delivering the check, will make the beneficiary accountable to the Focal Unit Office for use of the funds according to approved workplan.

A seminar on Project Implementation is planned by the IAR&T Focal Unit for Team Leader of all approved project during the first half of May 2002. The Agric. Officer from USAID,

PCU Representative, RUSEP Coordinator and Commissioners of Agric. or their representatives from the States benefiting from the project will be in attendance. The agenda of the seminar will include how to make impact with the project, reporting, project sustainability and linkages.

Focal Unit Coordinators from IAR&T and IAR will visit Ghana from 16 – 19 April to study some of the West African Small Grants Program (WASGP) that SAFGRAD/USAID supported.

ACHIEVING INTERMEDIATE RESULTS

Beekeepers Association:

The following suggestions made by Mr. Bob Cole and Mrs. Ann Hamman, the two Winrock Volunteers, confirm that the project is achieving expected results and will certainly contribute to positive impact on the livelihood of the concerned population:

Continue educating the beekeepers in the target villages;

Make copies of the top bar hive book for distribution to beekeepers;

Encourage products made from hive products to increase income of beekeepers and for the benefit of people;

Distribute knowledge of pollination benefit both to beekeepers and to crop growers; and

Encourage other extension agents to institute a beekeeping program like the one they were having a success with.

Soybean Processing:

Two intermediate results are in clear view at this initial stage of this project.

40-member Women cooperative has received training for empowerment for increased income generation and improved family nutrition in Tungan Maje, FCT.

The soybean products that women in the community will start to make may become applicable in the implementation of National School lunch programme of the Federal Government in Gwagwalada Area Council of FCT.

Certified Seed Production:

The 36 tonnes of certified seed grown by the seed growers cooperative during 2002 will benefit the Federal Government Special Project on Food Security especially in Oyo State which is one of the 17 pilot States where the SPFS is being implemented.

Most of the other activities are at an early stage and results can not be produced at this time.

PRIORITIES FOR THE UPCOMING QUARTER

Main priority areas for the program implementation will be:

1. Monitoring for a successful implementation of the 2001 approved proposals: SAFGRAD and Focal Unit Coordinators will concentrate on the effective implementation and facilitation of those activities just starting and the monitoring of on-going activities, with emphasis on documentation of lessons learned and success stories.
2. Facilitating the start and successful implementation of proposals approved by the last (April 2002) Steering Committee. Activities to be conducted will include: liaising with USAID Nigeria for proposals endorsement, facilitation for an appropriate revision of approved proposals according to the Steering Committee recommendation, funds disbursement.



PART II.
PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
(1st April 02 to 7 June 02)

THE SECOND NATIONAL TECHNICAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Second National Technical Steering Committee meeting was held at IITA, Ibadan, on April 9–10 2002. The meeting was attended by about 30 people including representatives from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Economic Commission for Africa, IITA, National Research Institutes, Universities, ADPs, Private Sector, NGOs, USAID projects implementers, etc... During the meeting, SAFGRAD staff and Focal Unit Coordinators provided update on program implementation, progress achieved and identified constraints. A concept note on an initiative for developing a private sector-led seed industry was also presented by Dr. Taye Bezuneh, senior advisor, SAFGRAD.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to the screening of received proposals. Sixty proposals were received by SAFGRAD. After a first pre-screening, thirty proposals have been retained and submitted to the Steering Committee. During the steering committee meeting, proposals were screened through working group sessions.

The following proposals were recommended for funding by the steering committee:



A working group at the NTSC meeting for screening proposals

Group A : Post-harvest and Farm Produce Processing

1. Establishment of a Cassava Processing Industry:

Applicant: Ex-trainees of Leventis Foundation Agric. School, Agenebode Operating as: Weppa Young Cassava Growers Association;

Facilitating Institution: Technical Advisory Panel of Leventis Foundation Agric. School, Agfenebode. Contact Person: Dr. A.I. Adewumi, Executive Secretary, Leventis Foundation, (Nigeria) Ltd./GTE.

Objectives: Adoption of improved cassava processing technologies.

Activities: training and equipment for a Cassava Grower Association in improved gari, cassava chips and cassava starch production.

Expected Outputs: Members of the association trained and equipped for improved cassava processing. A number of micro-entrepreneurs will be developed / established.

2. Commercial Production of Fish Crackers:

Applicant: Egbe Omoniyi Ebute Afuye Farm Estate.

Facilitating Institution: Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR).

Objectives: to increase intake of protein and income through appropriate processing; to create job opportunities through fish crackers production and marketing. Project Activities: train and equip members of the association in fish crackers processing (utilizes fish and cassava starch).

Expected Outputs: improved nutrition, increased farmers revenue.

3. Production and commercialization of sugarcane and sugar by rural and peri-urban farmers of Nigeria.

Applicant: Bida Sugarcane cooperative Multipurpose Society Ltd., Bida, Niger State;

Facilitating Institution: NCRI, Badeggi. Contact Person: Dr. S. Agboire.

Objectives: organize and train local chewing cane farmers of the Bida Multipurpose Co-operative Society on industrial cane production and processing into brown sugar; fabricate and install mini processing plant for the production of free flowing granular brown sugar and liquid sugar.

Project activities: establishment of on-farm seed cane multiplication plots, training of co-operative farmers on commercial production of sugarcane, fabrication and installation running of a 10 tcd brown sugar plant at Gbajigi.

Expected outputs: good, disease and pest free sugar cane planting material available to farmers; adoption of improved cane varieties; 1500 tons of improved industrial cane available; operational 10 tcd brown sugar plant employing 20 to 30 local people. Several enterprises that market brown sugar will be established/organized.

4. Enhancing productivity of sesame cultivation and efficiency of processing into commercial products.

Applicant: The Kwandare Women Multi-purpose Group Association, Lafia, Nasarawa State.

Facilitating Institution: NCRI, Badeggi. Contact Person: Mr. A.C. Uwala.

Objectives: to assist farmers to increase sesame seed production through provision of improved and high yielding varieties; to introduce improved technology on the processing of sesame to soap and oil to women multi-purpose co-operative group; to fabricate and establish an easy to operate cost-effective oil extraction machine at Kwandare; to link farmers and proces-

sors with prospective market outlets.

Project activities: Replacement of farmers varieties with improved, high yielding varieties (NCI BE-02E and NCRI BEN-05L); establishment of cottage enterprises soap making industry; extraction of sesame oil using appropriate technology; linkage of farmers/processors with buyers.

Expected outputs: improved family earning; employment in sesame-based commercial ventures; sale of seeds to exporters; on average 500 kg of sesame harvested per hectare.

5. Improved Processing, packaging and marketing of local condiments (dawdawa) for economic empowerment in Kaduna State.

Applicant: Care and Action Research Non-Governmental Organization (Care-NGO), Kaduna.

Objectives: training on modern ways of processing, packaging and marketing of local condiments for selected communities. Provide backstopping and support to these communities on more outlets for selling their produce.

Expected output: it is expected that the project will assist not less than 1000 families in Kaduna State in improving their income, food production and employment especially for women.

6. Ikorou Cassava Processing and Marketing Project.

Applicant: Divine Daughters Multipurpose Co-operatives, Ikorodu, Lagos State.

Facilitating Institution: FIRRO; Contact person:

Objectives: (a) capacity building: training in leadership skills, enterprise development skills, post harvest technology - cassava processing for value-added, marketing and market research; (b) procurement of cassava processing equipment.

Expected Outputs: Capacity of the co-operative members in playing various managerial, supervisory and operational roles strengthened; cooperative producing and marketing high quality cassava gari, starch and odorless fufu.

Group B. Livestock and Fisheries Related Project

1. Establishment of a small-scale entrepreneur in grass-cutter production. Oyo State Cane-Rat.

Applicant: Farmers Association.

Facilitating Institution: Vertebrate Pest Ecology Unit of IART. Contact Persons: Prof.(Mrs.) M. Akande, Head of Unit; Dr. J.O. Fayenuwo, Vertebrate Pests Ecologist.

Objective: to increase level of animal protein intake, generate revenue and create job opportunities through grass-cutter farming.

Project activities include training in grass-cutter domestication, raising of grass-cutters according to the training and production guidelines manual developed by IAR&T and the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria. The beneficiaries will sell weaners to other interested farmers.

Expected Outputs: Capacity of three small entrepreneurs to raise grass-cutter created. Sell of weaners will contribute to diffusion of the technology to other farmers.

2. Fish seed production venture to sustain fish farming in catchment area.

Applicants: Gboko fish farmers Coop society, Benue State; Nigerian Association of Sustainable Business, Oyo State; Fish Farmers and Sea Food Dealers Association, Owerri, Imo State.

Facilitating Institution: National Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research. Contact Person: Dr. A.N. Okaene.

Objective: train selected fish farmers in production of improved hybrid catfish venture; identify ready markets for fish seed production; create necessary awareness, linkages between individual farmer and NIFFR and ADP nationwide. Activities include training, production of fish seed and feed, monitoring and evaluation.

Output: capacity created for members (number not available) of three fish farmers co-operatives to produce fish seed and fish feed.

3. Utilization of cassava plant based rations for poultry and small ruminants among Aba Ara-Oyo Jamade Cooperative Farmers Groups.

Applicant: Technology Vision Organization (TECHNOVISOR), Ibadan. Private NGO. Contact Person: Prof. O.O. Tewe, Coordinator and Team Leader.

Objectives: Develop and promote appropriate processing technologies, formulation and technologies for production of poultry and small ruminants in rural communities of Oyo State; to promote the technologies; to develop capacity of farmers on cassava processing for livestock feed.

Expected Outputs: Members from two communities will benefit from capacity development in use of cassava based technologies for poultry, livestock and fish feed.

Group C. Seed increase and Distribution of High Yielding Cultivars and Multiplication of Improved Planting Material

1. Large-scale multiplication distribution and processing of 3 improved varieties of cassava/sweet potato for distribution to rural farming communities.

Applicants: Imebuogu Umuabali Fadama Farmers Multipurpose Coop Society Limited.

Facilitating Institutions: NRCRI, Abia ADP. Contact Persons: Dr. T.N.C. Echendu, Head NRCRI Cassava Program; Dr. Eme Okoro, Program Manager.

Objectives: Multiplication and distribution of three improved varieties of cassava (NR 8082, NR 8083, NR 87184) and sweet potatoes (TIS 87/0087, TIS 8164 and TIS 2532-OP-13) developed by the NCRI and IITA and make these materials available to farmers and small scale entrepreneur for commercial production.

Project activities include training, production of improved cassava and sweet potato varieties and sell of stems and wine to farmers.

2. Large-scale multiplication of three improved cassava varieties and sweet potato for distribution to rural farming communities.

Applicants: Umuobasi-Ukwu Fadama Farmers Multipurpose Coop Society Limited.

Facilitating Institutions: NRCRI, Abia ADP. Contact Persons: Dr. T.N.C. Echendu, Head NRCRI Cassava Program; Dr. Eme Okoro program manager.

Objectives: Multiplication and distribution of three improved varieties of cassava (NR 8082, NR 8083, NR 87184) and sweet potatoes (TIS 87/0087, TIS 8164 and TIS 2532-OP-13) developed by the NCRI and IITA and make these materials available to farmers and small scale entrepreneur for commercial production.

Project activities include training, production of improved cassava and sweet potato varieties and sell of stems and wine to farmers.

3. Large-scale multiplication of three improved cassava varieties and sweet potato for distribution to rural farming communities

Applicants: Ebem Ohafia Women Group/Fadama Farmers Multipurpose Coop Limited.

Facilitating Institutions: NRCRI, Abia ADP. **Contact Persons:** Dr. T.N.C. Echendu; Dr. Eme Okoro.

Objectives: Multiplication and distribution of three improved varieties of cassava (NR 8082, NR 8083, NR 87184) and sweet potatoes (TIS 87/0087, TIS 8164 and TIS 2532-OP-13) developed by the NCRI and IITA and make these materials available to farmers and small scale entrepreneur for commercial production.

Project activities include training, production of improved cassava and sweet potato varieties and sell of stems and wine to farmers.

4. Large-scale multiplication of CISADANE rice variety for onward distribution to swamp rice-growing farmers of Abia State.

Applicants: (1) Amaiyi Igbere Community Farmers Multipurpose Coop Society Limited; (2) Akoli Agboji Abiriba River Basin Rice Farmer's Multipurpose Coop Society Limited

Facilitating Institution: NCRI, Abia ADP, NSS. **Contact Person:** Dr. Eme Okoro.

Main objective of the project is to multiply and distribute the Cisadane rice variety to the swamp rice growing farmers of Abia State who will go into large scale rice production.

Project activities include training, seed production, dissemination, monitoring and evaluation.

5. Massive production of hybrid yams for dissemination in the yam zones of West Africa (TDr89/02565, TDr89/022461 and TDr89/02677).

Applicant: Yam program National Root Crops Research Institute, Umudike, Nigeria.

Facilitating Institution: National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Umudike, PMB 7006, Umuahia Nigeria.

Main objective of the project is to disseminate improved hybrid yams cultivars (TDr 89/025654, TDr 89/02461 and Tdr 89/02677) developed by NRCRI in collaboration with IITA.

Main activities will be production of yam seeds, distribution to farmers of the yam belt of Nigeria, monitoring and evaluation.

6. Improved Fruit and vegetable budding and seedlings production

Applicants: (1) Horticultural growers association, Ogotun, Ekiti State; (2) Horticultural growers association, Baayaje, Surulere Local Government, Oyo State; (3) Horticultural growers association, Egbeda Local Government, Oyo State; (4) Mr. Adeniran, Akufo, Iddo Local Government, Oyo State.

Facilitating Institution: National Horticultural Research Institute.

Objective: promote adoption of improved high yielding, disease resistant and early maturing planting materials. Project will target farmers' association who are currently collaborating with the National Horticultural Research institute (NIHORT).

Activities will include training (improved nursery techniques, management techniques), establishment of nurseries, marketing of budding, grafts and seedlings; monitoring and evaluation.

7. Making Improved Seeds Adequately Available for Effective Agric. Technology Transfer, Food Self- sufficiency and food security for Nigerian and West African Farmers.

Applicant: Premier Seed Nigeria Ltd, Zaria, Kaduna State.

Objectives: include making improved, high yielding seeds available to farmers, identifying and demonstrating best varieties according to agro-ecological zones, accelerating seed technology transfer and providing technical training to farmers.

Project activities will include training (seed technology, marketing), development of linkages (research/private/farmers, farmers to farmers), developing guidelines for seed production, and information dissemination.

USAID / SAFGRAD MEETING FOR PROPOSALS ENDORSEMENT

A SAFGRAD/USAID meeting was held on 15 April 02 at USAID – Nigeria office for endorsement of proposals recommended by the NTSC meeting. The representative from PCU was not able to attend the meeting due to a conflicting calendar.

Progress reports of 8 projects being implemented were highlighted by Focal Unit Coordinators.

Proposals recommended for WASGP support by the Second NTSC meeting (9-10 April 2002) were presented. These include 6 in Post-harvest and farm produce processing; 3 in livestock and fisheries related projects; and 8 in seed increase and distribution of high yielding cultivars and multiplication of improved planting materials.

The meeting at USAID generated an interesting and constructive debate aiming at the improvement of the relevance of selected proposals to WASGP goals and objectives.

It was pointed out that the WASGP was designed specifically to promote and accelerate the transfer and commercialization of agricultural technologies by creating partnerships between research, the private sector, NGOs, community and household groups. The program was also to strengthen the capacity of rural small holders and micro entrepreneurs to develop agribusiness enterprises, hence increasing employment and income“. Through WASGP competitive grants, proven, economically viable and environment friendly technologies were to be made accessible to end-users.

Projects supported by WASGP may serve as pilot activities to commercialize technologies in order to generate income and employment as well as enhance food security. It is anticipated that success stories of WASGP can be scaled-out by development agencies at community and national levels.

Several issues were raised; these include : the relevance of funded activities to the objective of the WASGP-Nigeria; necessity of having baseline information and setting targets; ensuring a good geographic coverage of the country; necessity of using proven technologies which already have a market; necessity of disseminating the technologies beyond the small group of grant recipients; taking into account impediments to technology commercialization; establishing partnership with other USAID funded programs.

It was decided that the new proposals recommended by the NTSC-2002 should be reviewed and revised taking into account the issues raised and suggestions should be made to applicants to modify their proposals accordingly. The seed increase project submitted by the Premier

Seed was deferred for funding since the applicant may not be eligible for small grants.

A conceptual document for developing private sector led seed Industry in Nigeria presented by Dr. Taye was discussed. After brief exchange of views on the proposal, it was suggested that OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD liaise with IFDC since the latter has been funded by USAID for input distribution and marketing.

REVISION PROCESS OF RECOMMENDED PROPOSALS

Based on the USAID meeting results and comments from the plenary session of the second NTSC meeting, SAFGRAD started a process of revision and improvement of all recommended proposals (except the Premier Seed proposal to be dropped) by involving beneficiaries and facilitating institutions.

The following additional guidelines have been developed by SAFGRAD for that purpose:

- *Choice and use of technology: target proven technologies that already have a market and have potential for rapid spread. Proposals should therefore contain a short but sound analysis of market demand and market outlets for the technology. Information and data for the analysis may often be obtained from facilitating institutions or sources of technologies such as IITA and NARIS.*
- *In collaboration with the facilitating institutions, provide baseline data on the technology commercialization/dissemination and set achievable targets (i.e. quantifiable outputs). These information should allow SAFGRAD and USAID to evaluate the progress made through the number/list of improved agricultural technologies extended to end-users i.e. farmers, food processors, etc., the number of beneficiaries and other potential users of the technology and the area covered (particularly for seeds).*
- *For all proposed activities, provide geographic location information that can allow the geo-referencing of the activity on Geographic Information System (GIS).*
- *Each proposal should encompass a strategy for dissemination and sharing of successful experiences on technology transfer to other communities/business enterprises. This should allow to ensure that although the grant is given to only one group or association, the supported activities should contribute to a rapid spread of the technology to other groups, communities and regions.*
- *For all training activities, provide information on the type of training, the target audience and the number of trainees.*
- *All proposals should contain a business and work plan within sequential time frame and budget outlays.*

Monitoring and evaluation should be arranged by SAFGRAD with the following emphasis:

- *Use of allocated resources according to work plan and approved budget*
- *Implementation of the dissemination strategy*
- *Identification of impediment to technology dissemination*
- *Identification, documentation and analysis of success stories and lesson learned*
- *Provision of input to the USAID-Nigeria monitoring scheme*
- *Budgeting of funds based on schedule of project activities not exceeding 16 months period.*

The two Focal Units Coordinators in consultation with OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD assisted project applicants to revise recommended proposals according to the guidelines. Proposals that cannot be improved in a satisfactory manner or that do not correspond to the criteria for the choice of technology will be dropped.

The following time frame was adopted for the revision process:

- Until 26 May 2002: Focal Unit Coordinators discuss guidelines with applicants and assist them in the revision process (additional resources were provided for that exercise).
- 3rd June 02: deadline for resubmitting revised proposals by e-mail to FCU and SAFGRAD.
- 3 to 7 June 02, review by SAFGRAD and Focal Unit Coordinators of revised proposals. Selection of proposals to be submitted to USAID.
- Week 10 to 15 June 02: submission of revised proposals to USAID ; feed back and final endorsement.
- Immediately after, start releasing grants to approved beneficiaries.

At the date of 7 June 02, only 7 revised proposals have been received at SAFGRAD office in Ouagadougou. However other proposals have been received by the focal unit coordinators . All received proposals will be discussed with USAID during the week 10 to 15 June 02 in Abuja.

LAUNCHING OF THE WEST AFRICAN SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM IN NIGERIA (WASGP), 12 APRIL, 2002

The USAID-OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD/FMA&RD project has been formally launched in Nigeria at Tungan Maje FCT on Friday, 12 April 2002. The launching was attended by Officials from the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Director and other staff, USAID Mission in Nigeria, NARIS Directors, Local Government and Community Chiefs, SAFGRAD staff and a large crowd from the local population.



Launching of the West Africa Small Programme-Nigeria at Tunjia Maje, near Abuja FCT, Nigeria

Over 100 people comprised of women, children, farmers, etc participated and visited displays of soybean products.

Welcoming and introductory remarks were delivered by:

- the Chairman, Gwagwalada Area Council,
- the Director of PCU and Chairman of the NTSC, representing the Federal Minister of Agriculture;
- The International Coordinator, OAU/STRC-SAFGRAD
- The Director, USAID-Nigeria

The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Federal Capital Territory delivered the keynote address and formally laid the foundation stone for the construction of the new farm produce-processing centre for use by the community.

The launching ceremony benefited from a good media coverage and provided high visibility to the program in Nigeria and particularly in the FTC area.



Soybean processing at community level: Officials sampling meals made by women groups at Tunjia Maje



Participants at the second National Technical Steering Committee Meeting in IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria on April 9-10, 2002

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