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ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY :  
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND RESEARCH COMMISSION  
(OAU/STRC)

THE SEMI-ARID FOOD GRAIN RESEARCH  
AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
JP-31 SAFGRAD

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REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE COORDINATION OFFICE OF SAFGRAD

DECEMBER 1984 - AUGUST 1985

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REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE COORDINATION OFFICE  
OF SAFGRAD

December 1984 - August 1985

1.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development (SAFGRAD) project came into being and became operational in 1977, after the successful completion of a similar project - Major Cereals Joint Project 26 (JP26) - developed in West Africa between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Organization of African Unity's Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (OAU/STRC). The main objective of SAFGRAD was to enhance the attainment of food self-sufficiency through coordination, on a regional basis, of research on five food grain crops (sorghum, maize, millet, cowpea and groundnuts) among SAFGRAD member states of which there are currently 26. Member states were expected to take full advantage of SAFGRAD's research results to apply them in their respective countries to increase food production.

To accomplish the above objective, three regional research centres were identified in the following SAFGRAD member countries: Nigeria (Institute for Agricultural Research, Samaru), Senegal (Centre National de la Recherche Agronomique, Bambey) and Upper Volta, now Burkina Faso (Kamboinse Station). At the national level support was to be given to member countries through their national research programmes as well as special SAFGRAD accelerated crop production officers (ACPOs) whose main role was to strengthen the links between research and extension.

Scientific and technical backup support was provided through two International Agricultural Research Centres, namely - The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Ibadan, Nigeria for maize and cowpea improvement and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Hyderabad, India for sorghum, millet and groundnut improvement. A third cooperator, Purdue University, was to provide scientific and technical assistance in farming systems research.

Position	Name	Nationality	Cooperator	Donor	Location
<u>ICRISAT/SAFGRAD</u>					
Sorghum/Millet Coordinator <sup>2/</sup>	B. GEBREKIDAN	Ethiopian	ICRISAT	USAID	Nairobi
Sorghum Breeder	D.S. MURTY	Indian	ICRISAT	USAID	Kamboinse
<u>FSU/SAFGRAD</u>					
Team Leader (Agronomist)	H.W. OHM	American	PURDUE UNIV.	USAID	Ouagadougou
Agricultural Economist	J. NAGY	American	PURDUE UNIV.	USAID	Ouagadougou
<u>FSR Programme</u>					
Soil Scientist	T. KIBREAB	Ethiopian	BURKINA FASO	IFAD	Kamboinse
Animal Prod. Specialist	KASSU YILALA	Ethiopian	BURKINA FASO	IFAD	Kamboinse
Agronomist	B.J. NDUNGURU	Tanzanian	BENIN	IFAD	Ina
Agricultural Economist	D.S. NGAMBEKI	Ugandan	BENIN	IFAD	Ina
<u>ACPO</u> <sup>3/</sup>	J.J. JOHNSON	American	CAMEROON	USAID	Maroua
	RENAUD HENRI	French	TOGO	FAC	Kara
	MOUSSA KABORE	Burkinabe	BURKINA FASO	USAID	Kamboinse
	LAMIN TRAORE	Malian	MALI	USAID	Sotuba
<u>ACPO Counterparts</u> <sup>4/</sup>	TOKY PAYARO	Togolese	TOGO	USAID	Kara
	Jean Nzoning	Cameroonian	CAMEROON	USAID	Maroua

<sup>2/</sup> For Eastern and Southern Africa

<sup>3/</sup> Salaries of National ACPOs and ACPO counterparts are paid by the host government. ACPO programmes are funded by SAFGRAD.

<sup>4/</sup> In countries where the ACPO is still an expatriate (Cameroon and Togo).

Management of SAFGRAD is achieved through the OAU/STRC Coordination Office (in Ouagadougou) which receives and implements recommendations from the Consultative Committee (CC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC reviews research programmes and other technical matters and submits its recommendations to CC for approval. The CC is responsible for policy and provides guidance to the overall SAFGRAD project planning and implementation. Membership of both committees includes SAFGRAD member states, donors, research cooperators and OAU/STRC.

This short report is intended to provide a brief description of activities of the SAFGRAD Coordination Office since the last CC meeting in November 1984.

## 2.0 MEMBER STATES OF SAFGRAD

SAFGRAD was originally designed for 18 countries within the semi-arid zone of sub-Saharan Africa. These included: Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea (Conakry), Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Togo and Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso). Although many other countries had applied for membership, only the following eight additional members were admitted on the basis of the geographic mandate of SAFGRAD: Botswana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tanzania and Zambia; Uganda was admitted as the 26th SAFGRAD member only this year.

## 3.0 FUNDING OF SAFGRAD

Funding of SAFGRAD has been achieved through the continued support of its multi-national donors, namely: USAID, the French Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). A significant development has been the financial contribution by the Organization of African Unity towards coordination activities of SAFGRAD during the last three years.

The United States Government (through USAID) has continued to be the major donor of SAFGRAD, supporting ACPO programmes in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali and Senegal as well as coordination activities, training and research undertaken by IITA, ICRISAT and Purdue University on behalf of SAFGRAD. A second phase of the USAID component (SAFGRAD II) is expected to begin from April 1986.

The French Government contribution (through FAC) has supported the ACPO programme in Togo. IFAD funding has been used to support national farming systems research in Burkina Faso and Benin. The programme is expected to extend to a third country (Cameroon) this year.

In order to reinforce and consolidate SAFGRAD research activities and make its results more readily available to more member states, there is urgent need for additional sources of financial support.

#### 4.0 ACTIVITIES OF THE COORDINATION OFFICE

Since the last CC meeting in November 1984 the International Coordinator, the Director of Research, the Financial Controller and the Accountant have been involved in many activities which have enhanced considerably the role of the Coordination Office of SAFGRAD. Some of the main activities include the following :

##### 4.1 FARMING SYSTEMS RESEARCH -

###### 4.1.1 PMC Meeting and Recruitment of FSR Staff

After the fourth CC meeting in Ouagadougou, the Coordination Office organized a meeting of the Project Management Committee (PMC) of the IFAD-funded Farming Systems Research (FSR) programme. The PMC is responsible for the technical and administrative management of the FSR programme. At the meeting which took place on 3-4 December 1984, at the Training Centre of the African Development Bank in Abidjan (Ivory Coast), the PMC discussed several matters relating to the implementation of the FSR programme.

At the end of the meeting, several candidates were interviewed and some selected for the following seven research positions: Animal Production Specialist, Soil Scientist and Agricultural Economist, for Burkina Faso; Agronomist and Agricultural Economist, for Benin and Soil Scientist and Agricultural Economist for Cameroon.

It would be recalled that the IFAD contribution to SAFGRAD is earmarked for strengthening national FSR in SAFGRAD member states.

#### 4.1.2 SAFGRAD/Benin Farming Systems Research Programme

Having selected the scientists for the FSR programme, it was necessary to make appropriate arrangements for the implementation of the programme. Accordingly, the International Coordinator and the Director of Research went to Benin in January 1985 for discussions with officials of the Ministry of Rural Development and Cooperatives in Cotonou. They visited the IITA/Benin Centre and discussed the possibility of using their telex facility for communication with Benin. They continued to Parakou and visited the Ina Research Station, where the SAFGRAD FSR staff would be based. They were both impressed by the enthusiasm of the people and the possible impact that the FSR programme could make in increasing food production in the semi-arid northern region of Benin.

In March 1985 the International Coordinator was in Cotonou for the signing of the OAU/STRC-Benin FSR agreement. Since then the programme has finally become operational.

#### 4.2 SAFGRAD MASTER PLAN

##### 4.2.1 Visit to Washington, D.C.

Following the recommendation of the fourth CC meeting, the International Coordinator and the Director of Research accompanied the Executive Secretary of OAU/STRC, in February 1985, to Washington D.C. to present the outline of the SAFGRAD master plan and to

discuss long-term support for the plan with various administrators and technical staff of USAID and the United States Department of Agriculture.

During the visit, various aspects of the SAFGRAD programme were discussed with officials of the World Bank and the International Agricultural Development Service in Washington, D.C. and UNDP and its affiliated agencies in New York city: the Division for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the Division for Global and Inter-Regional Programmes and the Regional Bureau for Africa.

It would be recalled that the preparation of the SAFGRAD master plan and its subsequent implementation has also been approved by the OAU Council of Ministers in March 1985 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

At the end of the Washington D.C. visit, the Director of Research continued to the University of Florida, Gainesville, for possible links in FSR support with SAFGRAD. He also stopped at Texas A. & M. University to discuss collaboration in tropical soils research for the semi-arid regions.

#### 4.2.2 Preparation of the Master Plan

With funds provided by the OAU, three consultants were recruited in May 1985 to start the ground work for the master plan. Having been briefed by the International Coordinator and the Director of Research, they had discussions with USAID staff, research cooperators, ACPOs, the Executive Secretary of OAU/STRC, member country officials, etc. Two reports were produced on the 'Framework for the long-term planning of SAFGRAD'.

#### 4.2.3 Meeting of Member Country Scientists

In order to have adequate information for the SAFGRAD master plan, a workshop was organized in Ouagadougou by the Coordination Office from 8 - 13 July, 1985. Participants were mostly agricultural



research scientists and directors from those member countries that were not visited by the three consultants mentioned above. Information obtained during this workshop was intended to provide additional information for a more comprehensive SAFGRAD master plan.

#### 4.3 CONSULTATION WITH OAU/STRC, LAGOS

As a result of difficulties in communication between Burkina Faso and Nigeria, it has been necessary for the International Coordinator to go to Lagos to discuss some important SAFGRAD matters with the Executive Secretary of OAU/STRC. This was the case in January and May 1985. Such consultations have proved to be worthwhile to ensure timely implementation of SAFGRAD coordination activities.

#### 4.4 THE ACPO/SENEGAL PROGRAMME

In March 1985, the Director of Research and the USAID Programme Officer visited the ACPO/Senegal programme. The main objective of the visit was to redefine and streamline the ACPO activities in consultation with ISRA authorities, so that the programme could become more effective. They also used the opportunity to discuss FSR collaboration with the appropriate ISRA staff.

A budget was established for the new programme. This would be considered for financing through SAFGRAD when new sources of funding have been identified during SAFGRAD Phase II.

#### 4.5 OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED

##### 4.5.1 CILSS IPM Meeting

The International Coordinator participated in a workshop on strategies of integrated pest management in the Sahel organized by CILSS in Niamey (Niger) on 6-13 December, 1984.

#### 4.5.2 CIMMYT Board Meetings

Having been nominated early this year as a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), the International Coordinator attended the CIMMYT "Presentation Week" (25-29 March, 1985) and subsequent meetings of the Board (1-2 April and 1-2 August, 1985).

During the Presentation Week, the different research programmes were presented and discussed. Two field trips were made to Obregon to see wheat and triticale trials and to Tlaltizapan for maize and ICRISAT Sorghum trials.

#### 4.5.3 Regional Sorghum/Millet Workshop

The Director of Research attended the fourth regional workshop on sorghum and millet for Eastern Africa in Soroti (Uganda) on 22-26 July, 1985. The three previous annual meetings had been held in Ethiopia (1982), Rwanda (1983) and Tanzania (1984) respectively.

After the sorghum/millet workshop, the Director of Research had discussions in Nairobi with officials of the International Council for Research in Agro-forestry (ICRAF) during which a draft collaborative research proposal was drawn up between SAFGRAD and ICRAF for further consideration within the SAFGRAD FSR programme.

#### 4.6 FUTURE SAFGRAD MEETINGS

##### 4.6.1 Maize/Cowpea Workshop

Since the past few years, SAFGRAD has been organizing a yearly maize/cowpea workshop for national scientists of its member countries. In order to avoid unnecessary duplication, it was agreed to organize it jointly with IITA and EEC. The workshop of this year will take place in Cotonou, Benin on 16-20 September, 1985.

The International Coordinator attended a preparatory meeting in Cotonou on 7-8 August, 1985 to finalize arrangements for the workshop with officials of Benin and IITA (Ibadan and Benin Centre). More than 100 participants are expected to attend.

#### 4.6.2 Drought Symposium

The symposium is scheduled to take place at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) in Nairobi, Kenya on 17-22 February, 1986. Its main objective is to review achievements and emphasize methodologies that can be adopted to strengthen national research programme capabilities involving food grain crop production under drought-stress conditions in SAFGRAD member countries.

The first announcement has been sent out and many positive replies have been received as well as titles of papers to be presented during the symposium. The Director of Research attended a preparatory meeting in Nairobi on 30 July, 1985 in which discussions were held together with the Director of the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources of OAU/STRC, the SAFGRAD/ICRISAT Coordinator, the head of KICC and other Kenyan Government officials. The next local organizing committee meeting is scheduled for September, 1985 in Nairobi.

It would be recalled that before the first announcement was prepared, steering committee meetings on the symposium had already been held early this year in Ouagadougou (for West Africa) and Nairobi (for East and Southern Africa). The second announcement is expected to be out at the end of September 1985. More than 100 participants are expected to attend.

#### 4.7 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF SAFGRAD

During the period under review, the Financial Controller and the Accountant undertook various trips to ensure adequate financial management of SAFGRAD funds.

##### 4.7.1 ACPO/Mali Programme

Although USAID missions in the respective member countries assist SAFGRAD in financial management of the different ACPO programmes funded

by USAID, the SAFGRAD Accountant undertakes inspection tours from time to time. He was in Bamako, Mali from 11-15 December, 1984 for routine inspection and to assist the ACPO in the preparation of his 1985/86 budget. This kind of training is essential to ensure continuity of good financial management when SAFGRAD assistance is phased out.

#### 4.7.2 ACPO/Togo Programme

Since the final departure of ACPO/Togo last year and that of his counterpart who proceeded for further studies, it was necessary to brief the new counterpart on procedures of SAFGRAD financial management and to assist him in the preparation of his financial report. This was effected by the Accountant from 30 April to 5 May, 1985 in Kara, Togo.

The Accountant was obliged to go to Kara again from 29 June to 3 July, 1985 to assist the new ACPO who had just arrived to replace the former one. It would be recalled that the ACPO/Togo programme is financed by FAC.

#### 4.7.3 SAFGRAD FSR Programme

As already stated in 3.0 above, IFAD funding is presently used to support farming systems research of two national programmes: Burkina Faso and Benin. To give these programmes the financial flexibility needed for the smooth running of their activities it is necessary to open special accounts as close as possible to the stations where the programmes are located.

It was for this reason that the Financial Controller of SAFGRAD undertook a mission (5-9 June, 1985) to Benin to open an account for the SAFGRAD/Benin FSR programme. He introduced the SAFGRAD accounting system (for FSR accounts) at Ina Station and, together with the Director of Ina Station, accommodation and transportation were arranged for the new scientists.

During the workshop of national agricultural research scientists and directors (8-13 July, 1985) in Ouagadougou, participants expressed the wish for visits by the International Coordinator and Director of Research to more SAFGRAD member states - which has, so far, not been the case during the past two years. It is hoped that with further strengthening of the Coordination Office, such contacts would be increased in the near future.

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SAFGRAD INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Position	Name	Nationality	Cooperator	Donor	Location
<u>Coordination Office</u>					
International Coordinator	J.M. MENYONGA	Cameroonian	OAU/STRC	USAID	Ouagadougou
Director of Research	TAYE BEZUNEH	Ethiopian	OAU/STRC	IFAD	Ouagadougou
Financial Controller	E.A. ODonkor	Ghanaian	OAU/STRC	IFAD	Ouagadougou
Accountant	E.A. ADANLETE	Togolese	OAU/STRC	USAID	Ouagadougou
Administrative Assistant	M.A. BRIGGS	Gambian	OAU/STRC	IFAD	Ouagadougou
Project Manager	A. FLEMING	American	PASA	USAID	Ouagadougou
<u>IITA/SAFGRAD</u>					
Team Leader (Maize Agronomist)	M. RODRIGUEZ	Colombian	IITA	USAID	Kamboinse
Cowpea Agronomist	N. MULEBA	Zairean	IITA	USAID	Kamboinse
Cowpea Breeder	V.D. AGGARWAL	Indian	IITA	IDRC/IITA	Kamboinse
Entomologist	J.B. SUH	Cameroonian	IITA	USAID	Kamboinse
Maize Breeder	A.O. DIALLO	Guinean	IITA	USAID	Kamboinse
Soil Scientist	H.R. HULUGALLE	Sri Lankan	IITA	USAID	Kamboinse

1/ As at 1 August, 1985.

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