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ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT
ON THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE STRC
TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



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ON THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE S.T.R.C.

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ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT
ON THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE S.T.R.C.

Introduction

The activities of the Executive Secretariat has continued as in previous years. Special reports are being presented to the Council on the major co-operative projects which are in progress.

The Executive Secretariat at Lagos wishes to repeat again that our activities have been doubled in the past four years, and our budget has not been increased substantially. The state of our staff still falls far short of the responsibilities of the Secretariat. While the annual budget of the Executive Secretariat and its four sub-regional offices remains at about \$400,000 U.S. dollars. The activities of the Secretariat have continued to attract substantial grants from donor agencies. In the past year, a sum of 2,410,000 U.S. dollars has been given for projects in Member States as follows: -

- (i) Field inoculation campaign against Rinderpest in Eastern Africa = \$1,067,000 U.S. dollars.
- (ii) Training of middle grade Technicians = \$770,000 U.S. dollars.
- (iii) Expansion of Laboratory Facilities for the Production of Vaccine = \$128,000 U.S. dollars.
- (iv) Improvement of the major Cereal Crops in Western and Central Africa = \$145,000 U.S. dollars.

Member States have also made commendable local contribution to these projects and this has encouraged additional external technical and financial support for these projects.

A - PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Some of the projects in progress are as follows: -

- (a) Joint Campaign Against Rinderpest in Africa (JP.15)
- (b) Cereal Crop Research and Production of grains (JP.26)
- (c) Development of Medicinal Plants and Traditional Pharmacopoeia of Africa (JP.27)
- (d) Joint Campaign against Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia (JP.28)

- (e) Establishment of Plant Quarantine centres in Africa (JP.29)
- (f) Training Program for Phytosanitary Inspectors in Africa.
- (g) Trypanosomiasis Research and Control in Africa.

Short progress reports on these activities are as follows:-

(a) JOINT CAMPAIGN AGAINST RINDERPEST IN AFRICA (JP.15)

Satisfactory progress continues in the Joint Campaign against Rinderpest and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in Eastern Africa. Phase 4 areas which includes Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan, parts of Somalia, and Ethiopia has completed its second year of vaccination, and is now in its 3rd and final vaccination year. Each of the States has put in very intensive national efforts and in most of them, even in this early stage of the campaign, no more Rinderpest out-breaks have been reported. Detailed report on this item is contained in a separate document.

(b) CEREAL CROP RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION OF GRAINS (JP.26)

The Third Major Cereal Crop Conference sponsored by OAU/STRC held in Zaria - Nigeria, October, 1969 recommended among other things, the holding of a seminar on the "Environmental Factors influencing the yield of Cereal Crops in Tropical Africa" be held in July, 1971.

The provisional agenda is as follows: -

- 1 - Photosynthetic potential in the Tropics
- 2 - Climatic factors limiting the yield
- 3 - Sowing date
- 4 - Nitrogen and phosphorous
- 5 - Other elements
- 6 - Erosion and Soil work.

The Participants at the conference will be Technical officer of OAU States working in the field of Crop Research and all international Organisations interested in crop research.

The OAU/STRC co-ordinator of this project was an expatriate, but now the Director of OAU Inter-African Bureau of Soils became the co-ordinator and the deputy co-ordinator is supplied from external aid.

A sum of \$445,000 U.S. dollars in external aid has been granted by USAID for this project in West and Central Africa.

Several Countries in West and Central Africa had been visited and research workers working on improvement of millet - maize - sorghum and pulses were selected for training.

OAU/STRC is preparing a Newsletter pertaining on cereals to be distributed to all OAU/States and African Universities and specialists of Africa.

(c) - Development of Medicinal Plants and Traditional Pharmacopoeia of Africa

Following the recommendation of the first symposium on African Medicinal Plant and African Pharmacopoeia and the recommendation of Scientific Council of Africa the OAU/STRC is sponsoring research centres for concrete projects likely to lead to the economic exploitation of African Medicinal plants. The first of ~~these~~ projects has commenced at the University of IFE. The main objectives of the project is to explore the local resources of potential curative agents and the best means of processing them locally. Definite economic and sanitary advantages of such a project will promote local resources and provide several employment opportunities. A quarterly Newsletter will be distributed to all OAU member states and African Universities reporting the data and information drawn from this project. Similar projects are already in progress at the University of Cairo, University of Dakkar and at the University of Eastern Africa. The Executive Secretariat intends to encourage all Universities and

Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa to embark on this research scheme with vigour. It is proposed to canvass donor agencies for additional funds to support this project in due course.

(d) - JOINT CAMPAIGN AGAINST CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEURO-PNEUMONIA (CBPP) IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA (JP.28)

During the Kinshasa meeting on CBPP in December, 1969, one of the recommendations demanded that the executive Secretariat of the OAU/STRC to take immediate action to prepare the way for a joint action against CBPP. In view of the fact that there exists some uncertainties as to the technical feasibility of this eradication scheme, the executive secretariat asked a Sub-committee of the OAU, FAO, OIE expert Panel on CBPP to study the situation thoroughly, and make a detailed report.

The report of this Sub-committee re-affirmed the stand of the CBPP expert panel in 1967 that it is possible to control and eventually eradicate CBPP by a joint campaign. With this report in mind, in July, 1970, the Executive Secretariat of STRC called a Regional Technical Cooperation Committee meeting of all the Sub-regional groupings in West and Central Africa to discuss among other things details on the execution of a joint-campaign against CBPP.

Present in this meeting were representative from OERS Conseil De l'Entente, OCAM, Niger River Commission and Tchaï Basin Commission, Ghana, Nigeria, FAO, and OIE. In this meeting an official programme of work was drawn up and various posts for the execution of this project such as International Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator, International Organisers were created. The International Coordinator will be an official of the OAU while the officers to fill the other post shall be appointed by the different Sub-Regional groups and Countries. The OAU International Coordinator has since the July meeting visited all the heads of the Sub-Regional groupings in West and Central Africa to discuss details of the project. It is hoped that a technical meeting shall be held within the 1st half of 1971 to plan out the actual field cooperation for this project. A detailed account of

the meeting, and its recommendations as submitted under a separate item.

(e) - ESTABLISHMENT OF PLANT QUARANTINE CENTRES IN AFRICA (JP.29)

In consideration of the serious damage to the agricultural industry of OAU States by plant pests and diseases, it was agreed that a chain of Plant Quarantine Centres be developed to ensure that all seeds and vegetative materials be imported to any part of the continent is first quarantined and is to be released for cultivation only if certified free of diseases. To this end, the centres in Muguga, Kenya was to be improved to serve the Eastern Sea-board of Africa, the centre in Alexandra, to serve North of Africa, the centre in Ibadan to be improved for humid West Africa; and the centre in Tananarive to be improved. A new centre is to be created at Niamey for the Sudanian Zone of Africa.

So far, action has been taken by the Executive Secretariat in close collaboration with the OAU Member States concerned to get the project off the ground. UNDP and FAO experts have been invited to evaluate the projects and a sum of \$706,000 U.S. dollars has been granted in external aid to one of the Centres. Consultations have commenced on the expansion and the creation of other centres.

(f) - TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PHYTOSANITARY INSPECTORS IN AFRICA

The objective of these training courses is to give middle level Plant Protection Service personnel the professional training needed to enable them to perform their duties adequately in matters of Plant Quarantine, Plant Inspection and Plant Disease Control.

A recommendation of the Nairobi meeting of the IAPSC of 1966 requests the Executive Secretariat in cooperation with FAO and UNDP and with the concurrence of OAU States, to establish training centres in different parts of the continent of Africa. Action has been taken on this recommendation and a programme for the training course for Phytosanitary Inspectors in Africa has been sent to all OAU Member States, Universities and Research Centres in Africa.

(g) - TRYPANOSOMIASIS RESEARCH AND CONTROL IN AFRICA

Owing to unforeseen circumstances the biennial meeting of the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research (ISCTR) was postponed from November, 1970 to September, 1971. After the last ordinary session of the Council, the Executive Committee of the ISCTR met in Nairobi and recommended the postponement to enable both the FAO and the WHO participate fully at the Conference. This postponement will also give Research Workers the opportunity to bring their notes up-to-date on the latest work in progress in their laboratories.

Meanwhile, Research workers continue work at O.C.C.G.E., Bobo-Dioulasso (Upper Volta) Kaduna (Nigeria), Eastern African Trypanosomiasis Research Organization (EATRO) (Uganda), and at other research stations in Member States on this problem. Once every two years, research workers are brought together at the meeting of the OAU International Scientific Council on Trypanosomiasis Research (ISCTR). The Scientists discuss among other things, the progress of research in this problem, methods of field control of the disease and possible eradication campaign in selected regions of the continent. The ISCTR is to become Joint OAU/FAO/WHO/ISCTR if the 1971 meeting comes off successfully.

(B) - TECHNICAL MEETINGS

In the report to the Council at its last Ordinary Session, Council was informed of all the technical meetings organized and run by the Secretariat between 1967 and 1969. The following meetings are either already organized or proposed by the Executive Secretariat: -

1970

- Ad-hoc Executive Committee of the Scientific Council of Africa (C.S.A.) 23 - 24 February, 1970 Addis Ababa
- The Biennial Conference of West African Science Association April, 1970 Ibadan
- The Third Meeting of The Scientific Council of Africa (C.S.A.) 20 - 23 April, 1970 Cairo
- JP.15 Eastern Africa Annual Review Meeting (November, 1970) Kampala

- The First Regional Technical Co-operation Committee of the OAU and All Sub-Regional Groupings in West and Central Africa (21 - 23 July, 1970) Lagos
- OAU/STRC Staff Meeting (23 - 27 July, 1970) Lagos
- Regional Group for Africa of the Advisory Committee for the Application of Science and Technology to Development (19 - 22 October, 1970) Addis Ababa

The following Technical Meetings are to be held in the near future: -

I TECHNICAL MEETINGS (DATES FIXED)

- Meeting of the Board of Governors of the College for Wild Life Management Tanzania
- The Advisory Committee for the Application of Science and Technology for Development (14th Session) (15 - 26 February, 1971) New York
- OAU/OIE/FAO Expert Panel on CBPP (March, 1971) Paris
- OIE General Conference (May, 1971) Paris
- The Fourth Meeting of the Scientific Council of Africa (April, 1971) Lagos
- Eleventh Session of IAPSC (12 - 15 July, 1971) Rabat
- Technical Co-operation Committee on JP.28 (July, 1971) Dakkar
- OAU/STRC Seminar on Environmental Factors influencing the yield of Cereals Crops in Tropical Africa (July, 1971) Dakkar
- OAU Scientific, Technical, Educational Health Commission (August, 1971) Addis Ababa
- UNACAST - Advisory Committee for the Application of Science and Technology for development (15th Session) November, 1971 Geneva

II TECHNICAL MEETINGS (DATES NOT FIXED)

- (1) Meeting of Coordinators of National Organiser of CBPP J.P.
- (2) Meeting of Directors of Veterinary Services.
- (3) Meeting of Directors of Laboratories (Net).
- (4) Meeting on the execution of Conservatory Measures of JP.15.
- (5) Inter-African Committee on Earth Sciences.

- (6) Inter-African Committee for Surveys and Maps
- (7) Inter-African Panel of Scientists on Science and Technology
- (8) Inter-African Committee on Agriculture and Mechanization.
- (9) Inter-African Committee for Conservation, Utilization and Development of Nature and Natural Resources.
- (10) Inter-African Committee on Oceanography, Sea and Inland Fisheries.
- (11) Inter-African Committee for local Building Materials and Housing.
- (12) Symposium on Bilharziasis and Related Disease.
- (13) Food Technology and Conservation.

(6) - THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL OF AFRICA (C.S.A.)

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The C.S.A. comprises eminent African scientists designated by the government of member states of OAU. So far 32 states have designated members. These are: -

Algeria	Mauritania
Cameroun	Morocco
Central African Republic	Niger
Chad	Nigeria
Congo (Brazzaville)	Rwanda
Congo (Kinshasa)	Senegal
Dahomey	Sierra-Leone
Ethiopia	Somalia
Ghana	Sudan
Guinea	Tanzania
Ivory Coast	Togo
Kenya	Tunisia
Liberia	Uganda
Madagascar	United Arab Republic
Malawi	Upper Volta
Mali	Zambia

The following countries have not so far appointed their representatives to the Scientific Council:

Libya	Botswana,
Burundi	Gabon
Gambia	Lesotho
Mauritius	Swaziland
and	Equatorial Guinea

The Executive Secretariat would like to remind governments to appoint their representatives together with an alternate member to enable this important scientific organ fulfil its role of OAU adviser on scientific and technological matters. A circular was sent to all OAU member states on that effect.

The next meeting of this C.S.A. will be held in April, 1971. Notifications about this meeting will be issued shortly from the General Secretariat.

(D) - TECHNICAL BUREAUX

The machinery for executing these programmes under the general direction of the Administrative Secretary-General is made up of the Executive Secretariat and three technical bureaux - Inter-African Bureau for Soils (B.I.S.), Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (I.B.A.R.), Inter-African Phyto-sanitary Commission (I.A.P.S.C.). There is also a Joint OAU/FAO/WHO Nutrition Commission concerned with dissemination of information of nutritional matters.

Brief resume of the functions and the activities of the bureaux are discussed hereunder.

1. Inter-African Phytosanitary Bureau is based in Yaounde, Republic of Cameroun, its functions are to assist member governments 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 problem 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 organizes meetings of these subjects.

2. 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; and
- to provide up to date lists of specialists working in Africa.

Services rendered

The Director or his deputy makes periodic visits to member countries and participates in meetings dealing with soil science in Africa and elsewhere. Close contact is maintained with the appropriate UN Specialized Agencies and other specific organizations.

Twelve "Monthly Analytical Bulletins" are published each year, bringing to those interested, a summary of 250 - 300 recently published scientific papers regarded as being the most important in this field. Another publication, "African Soils" is published quarterly and contains original contributions.

The Bureau provides on request, bibliographical reference lists on specialized subjects. This service is of particular value to specialists beginning a new line of research and to experts preparing to undertake a technical assistance mission. BIS also maintains an up

to date list of pedologists working in Africa.

These services make the Bureau an admirable 'departure base' for technical assistance missions and specialists working in Africa. They can assemble their basic documentation and find out the names of research workers and what they are doing at the various centres that they will visit.

3. Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR) is based in Muguja, 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 conservatory measures at the end of each Phase of the Rinderpest Campaign;
- (4) to encourage animal production and improvement of livestock industries in member states.
- (5) Development of Livestock and Marketing in Africa.

Services rendered:

The Director (or his deputy) visits Member countries and participates in meetings in Africa and elsewhere which deal with the problems of animal health. The bureau maintains close relations with international bodies concerned with similar problems.

The Bureau publishes "The Bulletin of Epizootic Diseases of Africa" quarterly. This deals with 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. Abstracts are made from the world veterinary literature and the annual reports of veterinary departments in Africa for distribution. Information leaflets on a great variety of subjects of general veterinary interest are prepared for distribution to field officers to whom such information would not otherwise be readily available.

A very important function of the Bureau is the organization of training courses and seminars on subjects suggested within its area of competence.

4. The Publications Office: distributes the various documentations issued by all organs of the STRC. Its offices are in Niamey, Republic of Niger.

5. FAO/WHO/OAU Joint Commission for Food and Nutrition in Africa

The Commission is at present housed in FAO Buildings in Accra with a Secretary supplied by the FAO and an Assistant Secretary from WHO. The terms of reference of the Commission are as follows: -

- (a) to assure liaison at inter-African level in the field of food and nutrition, particularly in respect of the collection, analysis and circulation of information;
- (b) to effect a practical review of food and nutrition problems in Africa, draw the attention of FAO, WHO, STRC and the members appropriate solutions to these problems.

The Secretariat of the Commission is responsible for the collection and distribution of available information in Africa in the field of nutrition and the analysis of information thus collected in order that it may serve as a basis for the planning and carrying out of the various governments' food programmes. Activities in this field also tend to promote standardisation of survey methods in order to re-establish comparable results for the whole of the continent. In addition to promoting studies relating to the detection, diagnosis, treatment and prophylaxis of nutritional diseases, the Secretariat is

also responsible for promoting the training of personnel, research work and preparation of reports on all problems arising in this field, in order to propose recommendations to Member States. The Commission publishes periodically a Bulletin on nutrition known as "Food and Nutrition in Africa".

It now being proposed that the Commission should henceforth undertake or assist: -

- (i) the planning and implementation of food and nutrition programme in various Member Countries in Africa;
- (ii) the promotion of the adoption of standard methods of food and nutrition surveying in order to obtain comparable results over the entire regions of Africa;
- (iii) the detection, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases of nutritional origin;
- (iv) the training of Nutrition workers in research institutes and Universities in Africa;
- (v) food research and the adoption of up to date food process or processing, preservation, and storage of food stuff.

S.T.R.C. STAFF

The Senior staff of the Executive Secretariat and its sub-offices

are: -

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>NATIONALITY</u>
Executive Secretary	A. O. Odelola	Nigeria
Asst. Executive Secretary	P. M. Diouf	Senegal
" " "	A.H.A. Razik	U.A.R.
Chief Accountant	V. K. Acquah	Ghana
Director IBAR	P. G. Atang	Cameroun
Deputy Director, IBAR	M. Sall	Senegal
2nd Deputy Director, IBAR	P. Nderito	Kenya
Livestock Officer, IBAR	U. Adeniji	Nigeria
Scientific Secretary, IBAR	P. Katondo	Tanzania
Director, IAPSC	E. Milla	Cameroun
Deputy Director, IAPSC	P. Addoh	Ghana
Director, BIS	Vacant	

Deputy Director, BIS

Dr. Rasheed

U.A.R.

Documentalist

Vacant

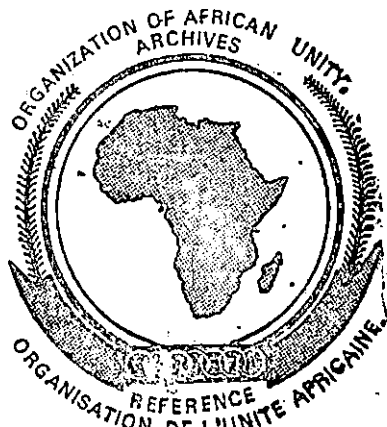
Publications Officer

"

Asst. Publications Officer

"

These senior officers are supported by about 60 auxiliary staff of all grades from Bilingual Secretary and Assistant Accountant to ordinary messengers. We need at least additional 3 senior officers in Lagos, 2 more in Nairobi, 2 more in Bangui, 3 more in the Publication Section and 3 more in Yaounde. We also need additional 10 intermediate secretarial staff. All these are required to keep up the present tempo of our activities. As we expand, we certainly require quite a substantial expansion in the ranks of scientific staff.



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