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(SAFGRAD)

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WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA COWPEA NETWORK  
(RENACO)

DRAFT REPORT OF THE 11TH MEETING OF THE STEERING  
COMMITTEE

OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO

MAY 19-21, 1992

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I

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

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### **JOINT MAIZE-COWPEA OPENING SESSION**

The International Coordinator of SAFGRAD, Dr. J.M. Menyonga welcomed the participants to the meeting. He announced that USAID had consented to fund SAFGRAD till the end of the year 1992. This, he said, has necessitated the commencement of the Impact Assessment studies on SAFGRAD as suggested by USAID.

He introduced Dr. A. Schroeder as one of the USAID consultants on the Impact Assessment technical team. Dr. Menyonga told the participants that whilst deteriorating economic conditions in the world dictate that we attain food self sufficiency, one of the major bottlenecks to the attainment of this target is the poor seed supply situation in most countries in the sub-region. He therefore suggested that the networks should take a critical look at this problem and explore the possibilities of helping to improve on the situation. He also suggested the strengthening of on-farm research in the sub-region as a means of getting technologies to farmers. On recent developments in SAFGRAD, he informed the participants that by the courtesy of the Burkinabe government, an office building has been put at the disposal of the RESPAO network. However, in order to ensure continuity of the RESPAO activities whilst funds are being sought, a decision has been taken to transfer

RESPAO Co-ordination Office, in the interim, to Ahmadu Bello University, Samaru in Nigeria. Dr. Menyonga hinted the participants that a training course in scientific writing took place in Togo last year and was co-sponsored by SAFGRAD, RESPAO, WARDA and the African Association for the Advancement of Sciences. The next course will take place at IITA; Ibadan in Nigeria between 1-14 November, 1992. The International Co-ordinator also announced that the CGIAR is organizing an interactive workshop for regional organisations involved in agricultural research in Africa later on during the year in Kenya. He added that SAFGRAD has been invited to this meeting.

The transfer of Dr. J. Fajemisin, the maize network co-ordinator, to Cote d' Ivoire; was then announced by the International co-ordinator. He paid glowing tribute to him. Dr. Menyonga informed the participants that Dr. Fajemisin is being replaced by Dr. B. Badu-Apraku from Ghana. He then apologized on behalf of Dr. M. Sedogo, Director of INERA, Burkina Faso, for his inability to be at the meeting personally.



Dr. W. Thomas, USAID, Director in Burkina Faso, in his remarks hinted the participants that a break through in solving food deficits can only be achieved through sustained agricultural research. He deplored the dumping of food aid in the sub-region by donors. Instead, he expressed the optimism that a technical gathering such as this meeting, where knowledge is shared among research scientists, can be a means for solving food deficits in the region. Referring to the drought situation in southern Africa, he said that this should pose a challenge to researchers, especially in the development of crop varieties which would withstand these adverse weather conditions. Dr. Thomas emphasized keeping funding agencies aware of our research results as a means of attracting more funds for agricultural research. On the Impact Assessment studies to be conducted on SAFGRAD, Dr. Thomas said that he was confident that a lot of positive results can be shown to policy makers and USAID for further future financial support. He believed that regional organizations such as SAFGRAD, CILLS, INSAH and CEAO can play a leading role in technology transfer.



The representative of the Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Program of IITA, Mr. E. Deganus, informed the participants about the determination of IITA to catalyse research activities of the networks in the subregion. He re-iterated that SAFGRAD has achieved a lot which should convince donors for more financial support. He also paid glowing tribute to Dr. Fajemisin whom he described as a dedicated and hard working researcher. On behalf of IITA, he thanked him for the excellent services he has rendered to SAFGRAD.

Dr. Bezuneh Taye, Director of Research, led discussions on the impending impact assessment study of SAFGRAD networks. He elaborated on the roles expected to be played by the Steering Committees, Network Coordinators, SAFGRAD Coordination Office and the Technical Assessment team. Contributing, Dr. Schroeder briefed members on the types of data and the indicators that may be utilized to monitor impact and performance of the network countries. After lengthy discussions, it was agreed that members should continue with further deliberations on the impact assessment studies in their respective networks.

THE 11TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE COWPEA NETWORK



I

**INTRODUCTION**

**a. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING**

The objectives of the meeting were to deliberate on the results from collaborative research activities during the 1991 crop season and also to review research workplans for the 1992 season of RENACO Lead Centers. The impending Impact Assessment of SAFGRAD Networks was also to be discussed.

**b. In Attendance**

1. Dr. O.O. Olutajo (Chairman) IAR/ABU  
PMB 1044, Zaria,  
Nigeria.
2. Dr. C. Dabire (Mrs) CRAF, 01 B.P. 476  
Ouagadougou, 01,  
Burkina Faso.
3. Mr. H. Hassane (French Sec.) INRAN, B.P. 429,  
Niamey, Niger.
4. Dr. K.O. Marfo (English Sec.) Nyankpala Agric.  
Research Station,  
P.O.Box 52, Tamale,  
Ghana.
5. Dr. N. Muleba Network Coordinator  
IITA/SAFGRAD  
01 B.P. 1495,  
Ouagadougou, 01  
Burkina Faso.



**c. Absentees**

1. Mr. F.L. Guilavogui  
IRAG-MEN  
B.P. 1003, Conakry  
Guinea Conakry.
2. Mr. M. Gumedzoe  
Director de la  
Recherche  
Agronomique,  
B.P. 2318, Lome,  
Togo.

**d. Observers**

1. Dr. D. Florini  
IITA, Ibadan,  
Nigeria.
2. Dr. Taye Bezuneh  
Director of  
Research, SAFGRAD.
3. Prof. A.M. Emechebe  
Member of Oversight  
Committee. IAR,  
Samaru, Nigeria.
4. Dr. Alan Schroeder  
USAID Consultant.
5. Mr. E.F. Deganus  
International  
Cooperation Program,  
IITA, Ibadan,  
Nigeria.

**e. Opening Remarks**

Dr. O.O. Olufajo, the chairman, welcomed members and expressed regrets over the absence of two colleagues namely, Messrs. Gumedzoe and Guilavogui. He informed members that Mr. Guilavogui could not be present at the meeting due to flight connection problems. Dr. Olufajo thanked USAID for extending funding to the networks till the end of the year. This, he said, has made the Steering Committee Meeting possible. He urged members to help make the Impact Assessment studies a success by putting up concrete proposals or suggestions during the deliberations. He introduced Dr. Florini from IITA to members, adding that she was also representing Drs. B.B. Singh and Myers, all of IITA. The chairman concluded by wishing members successful deliberations.

The network coordinator, Dr. Muleba, on his part welcomed members and drew their attention to the fact that the meeting among others, was to discuss critical variables as inputs to the Impact studies. He expressed satisfaction at the progress that has so far been made by RENACO Lead Centres, especially in technology generation.



**f. Agenda of the Meeting****(i) General Matters**

- . Formal adoption of the proceedings of the 10th Steering Committee Meeting.
- . Matters arising from the minutes
- . Impact assessment studies on RENACO.

**(ii) RENACO Activities**

- . Progress Report by RENACO lead centres
- . Report of the 1991 Cowpea Regional Trials
- . Research workplans for 1992 from Lead Centres
- . RENACO Regional Trials in 1992.

**(iii) Miscellaneous Matters**

- . Support to national programs in 1992
- . Proceedings of the Joint-Maize-Cowpea-Sorghum Seminar for research agronomists held at IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria, January, 1991.
- . Proceedings of the SAFGRAD Workshop held at Niamey, Niger, March, 1991.
- . Seed Production activities by the network.
- . The next Steering Committee Meeting.

REPORT OF THE DELIBERATIONS



**1. Formal Adoption of the Proceedings of the 10th Steering Committee Meeting**

The proceedings of the 10th Steering Committee Meeting held at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso between 11 and 14 November, 1991 were adopted as true records of the deliberations after some minor amendments.

**2. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

On why recommendations 1 and 2 of the above report (which refer to Convening a meeting of a working group of pathologists, breeders and entomologists as well as specialists on Striga and Alectra; and a training workshop on pot culture and related methodology for scientists working on Striga, respectively) had not been implemented, the network coordinator attributed this to lack of funds. He assured members that as soon as sufficient funds are available, those recommendations would be implemented.

**3. Impact Assessment Studies**

A format for the impact assessment study developed by the USAID consultant, Dr. Schroeder, was thoroughly discussed and the following additions were made:

**LEVEL 1****A. Strengthening Activities of National Programs.**

- . Identification of common constraints within the sub-region.
  - Achieved during the March 1987 Workshop.
  
- . Inventorizing research capabilities of national programs i.e. personnel, infrastructure etc.
  - Achieved during the March 1987 Workshop.
  
- . Prioritizing research activities.
  - Achieved during March 1987 Workshop.
  
- . Establishment of a network Steering Committee to oversee network activities including allocation of funds to support national programs.
  - Achieved at the 1987 Workshop
  
- . Organization of Monitoring tours, seminars, training sessions, workshops etc. to strengthen national programs.
  - Achieved between 1987 and 1991.
  
- . Germplasm Flow: Lead Centres may be consulted by the network coordinator for information on number of crosses/families/populations generated in their endeavours to develop new cowpea genotypes.



**B. Evidence of the Strengthening of National Programs**

This is exemplified by the output of research activities being carried out by the Lead Centres.

**C. New Technologies Generated by Lead Centres**

This is evidenced by the increase in number of varieties nominated for cowpea Regional trials over the years by the Lead Centres.

**LEVELS 2, 3 AND 4**

It was observed that most of the indicators required at these levels may be obtained at the SAFGRAD coordination office or in the various countries where the Impact Assessment team would be visiting. The network Coordinator, however, was advised to contact individual national programs, should there be the need for some specific information.

**4. RENACO ACTIVITIES****(i) Progress Report by RENACO Lead Centres**

The report was presented by the Network Coordinator, Dr. Muleba. Whilst he could not report on research activities from Cameroun and Niger because they had not been received, the report from Senegal could not also be discussed because it was received very late.

Below are the reports from Burkina Faso, Ghana and Nigeria.

**Burkina Faso:** It was observed that attempts to develop improved and well adapted cowpea cultivars; combining good grain quality, high yields, disease and insect pests and Striga resistance for the semi-arid region has been very satisfactory.

**Ghana:** New aphids and thrips resistant varieties and also varieties able to withstand diseases and excess moisture conditions have been identified. These genes are being incorporated into good genetic backgrounds for further evaluations before release.

**Nigeria:** Scab, brown blotch and Septoria leaf spot disease resistant cultivars as well as Alectra and Striga resistant lines have been found.

Work on cowpea agronomic research in Nigeria and Burkina Faso included plant population studies, soil-water management, intercropping and mineral nutrition.

During the discussions which followed it was suggested that efforts should continue to get the reports from cowpea researchers in Cameroun and Niger.



The coordinator announced that Cameroun would be hosting a World Cowpea storage conference in January, 1993. He added that the organizers have approached the network to help in the identification of possible participants from the sub region. This, to him, indicates the continued interest Cameroun has in the network. The Steering Committee members expressed their appreciation for the achievements so far made by the Lead Centres.

**(ii) Report of the 1991/92 Regional Cowpea Trials**

Eighty five sets of trials made up of an observation nursery and four regional trials were tested by member countries. Recovery rate was quite high, about 72%.

For the observation nursery, KVx 402-5-2, IT 89 KD-374 and IT 87D-697-2 were among the top performers.

Although none of the cultivars evaluated in the Striga resistance trial was immune to the parasite at all the locations; B 301, IT 81D-994 and KVx 291-47-22 exhibited the highest levels of resistance. Only B 301 combined both Striga resistance with high grain yield. In addition, the lines KVx 402-5-2 and KVx 402-19-5 were tolerant to Striga since despite high Striga infestations, grain yields were quite high.

In the Regional trial for adaptation to the Sudano-Sahelian Zones, the most adapted cultivars were KVx 402-5-2, KVx 396-4-5-2D, KB 85-18 and KVx 402-19-5, all developed in Burkina Faso, *except KB 85-18, which came from INRAN, Niger* KVx 396-4-5-2D, KN - 1 (Vita 7) and CR -06-07 were among the lines observed to be adapted to the northern Guinea Savanna.

For the transitional and coastal zones, IT 82E-32, IT 82E - 16 and CR - 06-07 released or about to be released in Ghana were the top performers.

The Steering Committee expressed satisfaction at the high quality and encouraging recovery rate from the regional trials. However, the coordinator was advised to remind cooperators to correctly fill in the accompanying information sheets for each trial. This is to facilitate meaningful interpretation of the results from these trials.

### **(iii) Research workplans for 1992 from Lead Centres**

Research proposals from only two countries received earlier by the coordinator namely, Burkina Faso and Ghana, were discussed. Niger and Nigeria, however, submitted their proposals during the Steering Committee Meeting.



Burkina Faso in its breeding proposals on cowpea indicated an establishment of a breeding nursery of new crosses to be initiated in 1992 and generations of *new lines* crosses extracted from previous years'. There would also be adaptation trials, preliminary advanced yield tests and Striga resistance trials. All these are part of attempts to develop suitable cowpea genotypes for Burkina Faso in particular, and the sub-region in general. It also proposed trials in cowpea agronomy, entomology, pathology and virology.

Research proposals for 1992 from Ghana covered only the semi-arid region which touched on cowpea breeding and entomology. In the breeding program, there were proposals to place Striga resistance or tolerance genes into the background of desirable cultivars. Breeding for heat tolerance and insect pest resistance were the other breeding proposals. In Cowpea entomology, Ghana will survey cowpea insect pest dynamics in traditional polyculture involving cowpea. Screening cowpea for resistance to thrips, Maruca and pod sucking bugs would take place in 1992.

**(iv) Regional Trials for 1992**

In conformity with an earlier decision of the Steering Committee to send out new trials once every two years, there would be a repetition of the 1991 regional trials in 1992. However, members who require seeds of the 1991 trials to enable them execute the 1992 program may procure them from the network coordinator.

**MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS****Support to National Programs in 1992**

Members agreed that with the exception of Senegal and Burkina Faso, financial support to national programs should be the same as that of 1991.

Whilst Burkina Faso would receive US 3,000 dollars to support its research activities, Senegal would get US 1,000 dollars. (Table 1). The reduction in Senegal's allocation from US 2,000 dollars in 1991 to the present level has become necessary in view of the fact that it has scaled down its breeding program because of the departure of the substantive breeder for further studies. An additional sum of US 5,000 dollars would be paid to Burkina Faso for seed multiplication activities for the regional trials.



Funds allocated to national programs  
for the 1992/93 crop season

Table 1: ALLOCATION DE FONDS AUX PROGRAMMES NATIONAUX  
POUR LA COMPAGNE 1992

<del>Pays</del> Country	Montant alloué (\$) Amount
1. Benin	2,000.00
2. Burkina Faso	3,000.00
3. Cameroon	2,000.00
4. Cap <sup>e</sup> Verde	580.00
5. Republique Centrafricaine <i>Central African Republic</i>	580.00
6. Cote d'Ivoire	580.00
7. <sup>The</sup> Gambie	580.00
8. Ghana	2,000.00
9. Guinee <sup>a</sup> Bissau	580.00
10. Guinee <sup>a</sup> Conakry	580.00
11. Mali	2,000.00
12. Mauritanie <sup>a</sup>	580.00
13. Niger	2,000.00
14. Nigeria	4,000.00
15. Senegal	1,000.00
16. Tchad	580.00
17. Togo	580.00
18. Sierra Leone	580.00

**Proceedings of the Joint Maize-Cowpea-Sorghum seminar for  
Research Agronomists.**

The proceedings of this seminar held at IITA, Ibadan in January 1991 are in print.

**Proceedings of the SAFGRAD Workshop held at Niamey, Niger  
in March, 1991**

The proceedings are in the process of being printed.

**Seed Production Activities by the Network**

Members considered the suggestion made by the International Coordinator of SAFGRAD, Dr. Menyonga, that the networks should consider being involved in seed production activities.

After a lengthy discussion, members unanimously agreed that due to technical, financial and political implications involved, it may not be feasible for the network to undertake this venture. Instead, the network may encourage individual member countries to do so.



**Next Steering Committee Meeting**

Members were informed that the next Steering Committee Meeting to be called by the Director of Research, SAFGRAD; would be after completion of the Impact Assessment Studies. This would take place in Ouagadougou, possibly in September or October, 1992.

III

RECOMMENDATIONS



### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Steering Committee reiterated. The following recommendations made during the 10th Steering Committee Meeting held at Ouagadougou between 11 and 14 November 1991.

1. In view of the recent outbreak of cowpea diseases in the northern Guinea Savanna and the devastating effect of Striga, it is recommended that if funds are available, a meeting of the working group of breeders, pathologists, entomologists and Striga and Alectra specialists be convened latest by March, 1992 to devise ways of tackling the problems and to plan collaborative research.
2. Considering the fact that the scientists working on cowpea Striga are presently using different methodologies, the committee recommends that IITA should assist the network by organizing a training workshop on pot culture and related methodologies for scientists working on Striga in the sub-region, such training may take place at the Institute for Agriculture Research, Samaru as well as IITA.

3. The committee noted with satisfaction the encouraging report of the final evaluation of SAFGRAD II and the achievement of the networks so far. It is recommended that all efforts should be made to ensure continued funding of the networks in order to consolidate the gains of the past years and maintain the tempo of research activities. SAFGRAD should intensify its role in sensitizing policy makers in member countries through the Organization of African Unity to the importance of research in attaining sustained food sufficiency.
  
4. It is recommended that some of the weaknesses that were pointed out in the evaluation report, especially the non-inclusion of socio-economic studies should be tackled as soon as possible.



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