

FIRST MEETING OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
OF THE SAFGRAD COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH NETWORKS

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The first meeting of the Oversight Committee of the SAFGRAD Collaborative Research Networks took place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 26 February 1987, just after the election of its members listed below:

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| 1. Prof. L.K. FAKAMBI | - Chairman |
| 2. Prof. Ibrahim A. BABIKER | - Member |
| 3. Prof. M.A. EMECHEBE | - Member |
| 4. Mr. H. MERCER-QUARSHIE | - Member |
| 5. Dr. G.H. SEMUGURUKA | - Member |
| 6. Dr. Da SANSAN | - Member |
| 7. Dr. J.A. AYUK-TAKEM | - Member |

The International Coordinator of SAFGRAD is the Secretary of the Oversight Committee.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- to nominate the chairman of the committee;
- to establish a preliminary work programme;
- to set the date of the next meeting.

The meeting was attended by the following:

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| 1. Prof. Ibrahim A. BABIKER | - Member |
| 2. Prof. M.A. EMECHEBE | - Member |
| 3. Prof. L.K. FAKAMBI (Chairman) | - Member |
| 4. Mr. H. MERCER-QUARSHIE | - Member |
| 5. Dr. G.H. SEMUGURUKA | - Member |
| 6. Dr. E.R. TERRY | - Observer |
| 7. Dr. J.M. MENYONGA | - (SCO), Secretary |
| 8. Dr. Taye BEZUNEH | - (SCO), Observer |
| 9. Dr. Noel JOHNSON | - (OAU/STRC), Observ. |

Dr. Da SANSAN and Dr. J.A. AYUK-TAKEM, two members of the committee, were absent at the meeting.

The seven members of the Oversight Committee were elected from a list of nine short-listed candidates during the meeting of National Agricultural Research Directors of SAFGRAD member countries held in Ouagadougou from 23 to 26 February 1987. Dr. Da SANSAN and Dr. AYUK-TAKEM were elected in absentia and could, therefore, not attend this meeting.

Professor Leopold FAKAMBI of Benin was unanimously elected chairman of the Oversight Committee and the International Coordinator of SAFGRAD to serve as Secretary. The main criteria used for the election of the chairman were his readiness to respond to the calls of the coordination office and his accessibility to SAFGRAD.

After the election, Professor FAKAMBI expressed his appreciation to all the members and promised to do his best to give satisfaction to SAFGRAD as a whole. He also indicated that the committee would give priority attention to network activities to which special emphasis had also been expressed by the national directors.

The Chairman immediately presided over the first meeting. During the discussions that followed, the committee agreed that each member should endeavour to assist SAFGRAD in its renewed drive to strengthen national programmes of its member countries. Zonal responsibility was accepted as one of the ways to maintain regular contact and greater impact with member countries. Some committee members were selected, one for each of the four geographic zones, to serve as SAFGRAD contact persons or zonal coordinators, namely:

West Africa

Anglophone	-	Prof. EMECHEBE
Francophone	-	Dr. Da SANSAN

<u>Central Africa</u>	- Dr. AYUK-TAKEM
<u>East Africa</u>	- Prof. BABIKER
<u>Southern Africa</u>	- Dr. SEMUGURUKA

The above members could be requested to represent SAFGRAD in workshops, monitoring tours or other relevant activities involving national programmes in their respective zones. The SAFGRAD Coordination Office (Oversight Committee Secretariat) was requested to assist in developing further topics for the zonal coordinators.

It was also agreed that members would be assigned special responsibilities relating to SAFGRAD technical activities: networking, farming systems research, on-farm testing (ACPO), resident research, etc. Members were requested to give the idea more thought in preparation for further discussion at the next meeting.

Regarding the Franco-African meeting of National Directors of Agricultural Research scheduled to start on 23 March 1987 in Abidjan, the Secretary was requested to contact CIRAD and propose that SAFGRAD be represented by Prof. Fakambi, Chairman of its Oversight Committee. It would be recalled that during the week of 23-27 March, the International Coordinator will be attending the World Bank meeting of the Special Programme of African Agricultural Research (SPAAR) in Brussels, while the Director of Research will be in Ouagadougou for the workshop on Maize and Cowpea Collaborative Research Networks for West and Central Africa.

The next meeting of the Oversight Committee was scheduled for 25 September 1987 in Maroua, Cameroon to coincide with the SAFGRAD conference on on-farm testing (21-23 September 1987). The agenda of the Oversight Committee, which should include (among other topics) report of the meeting of National Directors of Agricultural Research, maize and cowpea workshop, should be

forwarded to the members in due course.

In the absence of further discussion, the meeting closed at 16.20 hours.

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African Union Specialized Technical Office on Research and Development

1987-02

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