

WEST AFRICA FARMING SYSTEMS RESEARCH NETWORK

WORK PROGRAMME PROPOSAL
1988 - 1989

Presented by the
Coordinator to the
Steering Committee

Ouagadougou, March 1988

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the decisions of the WAFSRN Symposium held in March 1986 in Dakar and of the Steering Committee meeting of August 1986 in Cotonou, the following work programme has been elaborated for two years - 1988 and 1989 - and is submitted for consideration by said Committee. For a good understanding of the proposals the evolution, organization and functioning of the network are briefly recalled before they are discussed along with the status of funds obtained and being negotiated. A number of documents giving more detailed information are attached. Other documents may be provided upon request.

It has not been deemed useful nor possible to present right now a budget estimate for the proposed programme. Considering the commitments obtained and the promises the financial cover of the activities should not raise any difficulty. A definite programme with its budget estimates will be prepared after the meeting of the Committee and will be submitted during its next meeting.

The Coordinator

I. PRESENTATION OF WAFSRN

1.1. Historical Background

The WAFSRN was created during a FSR workshop held in November 1982 in Ibadan (Nigeria) on the initiative of IITA and IRAT with a view to promoting applied research on farming systems and developing the collaboration between the researchers working in this field in West Africa. The Steering Committee and the Coordinator elected on that occasion were commissioned to set up an organizational structure and a work programme. The lack of legal status for the reception of funds and of a permanent coordinator did not make it possible to achieve the stated objectives. The symposium held in March 1986 in Dakar instructed therefore the new Steering Committee to define a work programme the implementation of which would be entrusted to a permanent secretariat attached to the OAU/SAFGRAD and to seek the required financial means.

1.2. Status and Organization of the Network

The WAFSRN is an association of researchers and not of institutions. It is different from the other networks created by SAFGRAD and the international Institutes or CORAF (Conference of African and French Agricultural Research leaders).

For the moment there is no formal procedure for membership. In the future, we feel that a minimum procedure in the form of a membership application sent to the secretariat should be established. A network charter (as requested by the French Ministry of Cooperation for funds grant) defining its philosophy and objectives as a professional association would also be useful.

For opportunity reasons, the network has not deemed useful to make itself acknowledged by one or more governments in West Africa. In accordance with the decision taken by the Symposium in March 1986, a protocol of agreement was signed with the Semi-Arid Food Grains research and Development project (SAFGRAD) of the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission of the Organization of African Unity (OAU/STRC). Under this agreement we enjoy the legal status of OAU. Thus, all WAFSRN office deeds are carried out by the STRC Executive Secretariat. The network secretariat is based at SAFGRAD in Ouagadougou. Except for some aspects, the network personnel is recruited and managed in accordance with the same regulations as those in force at SAFGRAD. Finally in exchange for its management support and supply of services the WAFSRN transfers 10 % of its funds to SAFGRAD (see attached SAFGRAD/WAFSRN protocol of agreement).

- The different entities of the network are the following

- a) The Symposium which is held every two years in one of the countries of the region. It aims at two major objectives: first to gather as many researchers as possible in order to discuss in depth FSR. The topic must be important enough and the papers presented must enable participants to take stock of the issue and make possible one publication. Secondly, participants form the network general assembly. Part of the Symposium is thus devoted to the review of activities, to

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the definition of guidelines and to the election of the Steering Committee. During the Dakar Symposium, the Steering Committee could meet immediately in order to elect its chairman and draw up its work programme and could meet with the whole of the donors present.

- b) The Steering Committee is in charge of the implementation of the guidelines defined by the Symposium. It draws up the network work programme and monitors its implementation by the secretariat. It consists of 8 members: six elected on an individual basis, four of whom are from national institutions; the Director of Research of SAFGRAD and the network Coordinator. It elects its chairman and chooses the coordinator. It meets at least once a year.
- c) The Permanent secretariat of the Network is in charge of the preparation and implementation of the network activities. It ensures the secretariat for the Steering Committee meetings. it is headed by the Coordinator.
- d) The national correspondents who are selected among the members of the network by common consent between the national agricultural research leaders and the coordinator assist the secretariat for an active participation of national scientists in the network activities.

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1.3. Financial Resources

From the very start several donors have supported the network. The German Cooperation, through GTZ, IDRC, Ford Foundation, IITA, IRAT and the French Cooperation contributed to the various activities: organization of the 1982 workshop and the 1986 Symposium, meetings of the Steering committee, activities of the Coordinator and publication of the network newsletter. As a result of the non-existence of a legal status the first grants received have been managed either by IITA or by CIRAD or by donors themselves.

The agreement with SAFGRAD permits henceforth the joint management of grants by this organization and the network. The following donors have approved or promised a contribution for the work programme submitted to the Steering Committee:

- a) IDRC has approved two funding requests and has transferred the first instalments. The first request (IDRC Project 3-P-86-0272 with a two years duration for canadian dollars 450,000) essentially supports the creation of the secretariat, its functioning and that of the Steering Committee and the Organization of the next symposium. The second request (IDRC Project 3-P-87-0107, two years for canadian dollars 184,785) supports the establishment of a scientific and technical information and documentation system within the network secretariat. Finally, IDRC accepted to participate in the study on the creation of a

scientific journal and a request should be submitted before the end of April in order to take charge of one of the consultants.

- b) The French Ministry of Cooperation has decided to support the network activities except the secretariat for a three years period (the amount would be about FF 500,000 (year). According to the information received from the officials of this ministry the release of these funds is subject to the submission of a formal request and to the elaboration of a network charter.

CIRAD has accepted to participate in the study on the creation of the journal by making available one specialist.

- c) Ford Foundation has accepted to consider a three years request for the partial funding of the secretariat and the network activities. It is also willing to support a scientific journal for a five year period.

II. THE 1988-1989 WORK PROGRAMME

Following the agreement with STRC/SAFGRAD, the financial commitments by donors and the recruitment of the Coordinator, the conditions are now fit for the implementation of a real work programme.

Some principles have been used as guidelines to elaborate the proposals which have been made:

- . The first is to create and maintain a light and cheap secretariat.
- . The second which follows from the first consists in relying on the existing organizations and collaborating with them. Thus, for almost all training activities, it is proposed that the research and educational institutions organize them. The participation of the network would be essentially limited to their design and establishment. For other activities, collaboration will also be systematically sought.
- . The third principle has been to identify the groups which the network could address and to propose activities meeting their expectations. We could thus distinguish (1) beginning FSR scientists (2) FSR scientists with some professional experience and working on the field (3) scientists responsible for FSR planning and management (4) scientists collaborating with FSR scientists or casually involved in FSR (5) FSR results users. However, priority is given to the first two groups.

The programme submitted to the Steering Committee includes eight items: (1) Establishment of the secretariat and the national correspondents (2) Creation of a scientific and technical information system (3) training activities (4) Reflection workshops and seminars (5) biennial symposium (6) Support to national research systems (7) information on the network and visits to countries (8) preparation of the 1990-1994 five years programme.

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2.1. Establishment of the Secretariat and National Correspondents

a) The Secretariat

Its establishment was initiated in early December with the recruitment of the Coordinator but was interrupted from January to late March because of the English course attended by the latter. A few major problems must be solved so that the secretariat can be operational.

- The first is related to the lack of funding for the secretary/administrative Assistant. Ford Foundation has accepted that she be taken into account in the request which should be submitted. In the meanwhile, it should be possible to recruit temporarily one person on the funds available: remainder of the Ford Foundation funds managed by IITA, IDRC grant N° 3-P-86-0272.
- The second one is a space problem. it is not certain that the secretariat and the scientific and technical information unit may have enough space in the current premises of SAFGRAD. The OAU Secretariat General and the International Coordinator of SAFGRAD have approached Burkina Faso Government in order to find a solution. However this may take time and delay the establishment of the secretariat. A transitional alternative with its financial implications should be considered immediately.

- The third issue is related to the implementation of the protocol of agreement between SAFGRAD and WAFSRN. The opening of a separate account with the joint signature of the Coordinator and one official from SAFGRAD and the setting up of procedures for funds commitment and settlement must be rapidly carried out.

The objective is that the Secretariat should be operational by the end of May at the latest.

b) National Correspondents

The idea of designating national correspondents to assist the network coordinator and even of creating national sub-networks has been discussed several times within the Steering Committee. Such an idea needs to be discussed again and clarified on the following points: why national correspondents? Who is to be designated? How?

At the beginning the idea was to have in each country a correspondent responsible for assisting the coordinator in the collection and dissemination of FSR related information and creating a national network. This implies that the person occupies an institutional position important enough and that the national authorities agree. Furthermore, while in some countries where FSR is practised by several research agencies, a national coordinator has been designated (Nigeria, Cameroon), in other countries a directorate or a division of the national research institute has been entrusted with it. The choice of national correspondents different from these officials may raise some problems or just limit their usefulness. The differences in the organization of FSR in each country, the lack of precise information and the frequent changes of

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leaders in each country lead us to propose a more flexible and pragmatic approach. As a first step the Coordinator should try and establish close relationship with the FSR leaders in the various countries and see whether it is possible to rely on them as national correspondents. This group is important for three reasons: first, its collaboration is indispensable for creating and running our scientific and technical information system; secondly, the support to national scientists and programmes will be necessarily channelled through them. At last, this group has a priority interest in reflection and support as regard FSR orientation, planning and management. We therefore suggest that a meeting of FSR leaders of all the network member countries be convened in early 1989 in Ouagadougou. Such a meeting would have the following concrete objectives: (1) To present and discuss the WAFSRN programme, (2) to take stock of the participation of researchers and of the information available country by country. This could enable us to consider the ways and means to strengthen them and to outline a programme of support and visit to the countries (3) to review the requirements and procedures for reflection, support and training in FSR organization and management. ISNAR could be invited to activate this component and to contribute to the resulting work programme. The other international institutes (ICRISAT, IITA, WARDA, SAFGRAD, CIRAD, ILCA) may also be invited to participate in this meeting. This could be a good opportunity for an in-depth discussion on the collaboration they already maintain and also on the collaboration hereafter proposed within the biennial programme of the network.

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2.2. Creation of a FSR Scientific and Technical Information System

The general objective is to collect, process and disseminate information about FSR. The information collected would be processed and mostly stored in a computer base of data and disseminated in various forms: (i) an annual catalogue of institutions involved in FSR and of research programmes (ii) a semi-annual catalogue of FSR scientists working in West Africa (iii) a semi-annual bulletin including articles by researchers, bibliographic references and analyses of documents with their localization (iv) a quarterly letter of information from the WAFSRN.

The available human means and financial resources compel the limitation of this objective if the secretariat wants to perform the other tasks. A documentalist with a "Baccalaureat" (General Certificate of Education) level plus two years of higher education must be recruited for this purpose but the whole secretariat will have to work in this information unit. The documentalist should also attend a 30 days course at IITA/Ibadan and a 23 days course at the Sahel Institute in Bamako. If he is recruited in late May, as we expect, the establishment of the system will start seriously only in early August. An important effort of information collection and processing will be required before starting information dissemination.

a) Information Collection and Processing

Several agencies are already carrying out this work and willing to help us. Kansas State University has taken over the work previously achieved by the

Farming Systems Support project and could provide us with the information available from the American Universities and the projects supported by USAID and American Foundations. The CIRAD documentation Center in Montpellier carries out the same work for France and francophone countries in which its scientists are operating. The International Centers ILCA, IITA, ICRISAT, WARDA, ISNAR, FAO etc... are also collecting and treating information. The donors and some of the projects they are funding have important and very useful information. The World Bank through its projects of support to national agricultural research institutes, SAFGRAD, the AGRI project (Assistance to the Management of Research Institutes) which is funded by IDRC and has carried out a diagnosis analysis of the agricultural research institutes in the Sahel countries should be non negligible sources of information. Our policy must consist in establishing collaborative links with these organizations in order to obtain this information, complete it and make it available to participants. We believe that the secretariat should particularly emphasize the collection and processing of information relating to institutions, programmes, scientists and non conventional literature in West Africa Countries. The relations with FSR leaders in the countries and the visits paid by the Coordinator to the scientists and their programmes will be essential for collecting information but also for inciting them to draft and send the information to the Secretariat.

A last important point which should be made clear is that the information unit is not oriented towards the creation of a documentation centre. This would not be of great use and the financial

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means do not allow it. The purchase or collection of documents will be limited as far as possible to those which must be analyzed. The information will be systematically localized in order to enable those interested to get to the source. In borderline cases where the unit will have to provide them with documents, forwarding microfiches and disquettes will be preferred.

The purchase of computer and microfiching equipment has been planned for the information unit. According to the information which we have been able to collect, the purchase of a micro-computer Mac Intosh with its fittings and software would be the best choice for both document base management and micro-editing. IITA has made this choice and could advise us and train the documentalist in this system.

b) Information dissemination

the list of documents to be produced and their frequency need to be reconsidered.

The production of an annual list of FSR institutions and programmes as well as a semi-annual list of scientists would be a very heavy workload. Furthermore, one may wonder whether it is useful to produce a semi-annual list of scientists. In a first place at least the two lists should be merged into one annual list.

The production of a semi-annual bulletin including scientific articles, bibliographic references and document analyses raises a serious problem. Considering the secretariat personnel this work will be almost entirely borne by the

Coordinator. The time he will be able to devote to it will not make it possible to review or make review the articles proposed neither probably to ensure a regular issue. Finally, to restrict the newsletter to FSR seems to be a too limited choice in relation to the type of articles published and the target public. We suggest that the semi-annual newsletter be abandoned in favour of a real scientific journal and that the network newsletter which already publishes research notes, bibliographic references and document analyses be strengthened.

The network quarterly newsletter has been issued quite regularly since 1986 thanks to IITA (Dr. Mutsaers) and CIRAD (Dr. Benoit-Cattin). The secretariat in Ouagadougou will not be able to take charge of it before the fourth quarter of 1988. Nevertheless it will be useful to maintain the collaboration with IITA and CIRAD and extend it. A real canvassing campaign aimed at obtaining information to be published will be launched as soon as possible. The dissemination of the newsletter must also be increased. The inventory of FSR scientists institutions and programmes should be instrumental but we have already obtained the mailing list of the Farming Systems Support Project.

c) Creation of a Scientific Journal

The creation of a scientific journal was already part of the original objectives of the network. After Ford Foundation expressed its willingness to support this initiative, discussions between some members of the Steering Committee, the Coordinator, Ford Foundation, IDRC and CIRAD led to a consensus

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for a preliminary feasibility study of the journal. The terms of reference of this study are attached. They were sent to the leaders of agricultural research and higher education in West Africa and to some organizations as well as qualified individuals in order to obtain their opinions. The study mission which should take place in May 1988 is simply postponed until November. The Steering Committee should therefore plan a meeting in January to discuss the study report and take decisions so that the Secretariat may prepare a request for funding.

2.3. Training Activities

It should be reminded that the principle adopted by the network is to avoid as far as possible devising and implementing training activities by itself but to identify the needs of its members; to enhance and share their taking charge of by existing institutions which have this orientation. It should not compete with them but play a catalytic role. The training activities mentioned above are proposed subject to the agreement of the organizations identified. For the moment no negotiation has been entered into. The objectives, the content and conditions of such training activities are therefore only outlined. The starting dates are tentative.

✓ a) Workshop on the Approach to Systems Research

Until now, FSR training workshops in West Africa have been organized by the Farming Systems Support Project and by IITA. The FSSP has come to an end. IDRC has attempted to assist Dschang University

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(Cameroon) in organizing an annual workshop with the collaboration of Florida University and IITA. CIRAD also plans to organize a workshop with Cameroon agricultural research. These efforts have not been conclusive for the moment. We have been able to discuss with all the above mentioned partners except the Cameroonians. All of them agreed that WAFSRN should resume the initiative so that this training workshop placed under the responsibility of Dschang University but which should receive candidates from other West African Countries be effectively organized. The Network, CIRAD, IITA, Florida University would support the University to open this workshop and seek the funds required. IDRC remains interested in supporting financially the workshop and the principle of a joint IDRC-WAFSRN mission to Dschang in June 1988 has been informally adopted.

b) Workshops on Training/Reflection in Research with Farmers

The idea is to gather scientists with at least some years of field experience in order to enable them with the assistance of practised specialists to compare their experiences and to deepen some additional research tools. The workshops are meant for Systems Research Scientists but also for other scientists working occasionally or not among farmers whatever the methodology used. To allow a disciplinary investigation, three workshops would be proposed with a 15 days to 1 month duration for some ten participants:

- A workshop on agronomic surveys and trials for farmers. The participants would be agronomists and plant production scientists. IITA would be requested to be the foreman of this workshop.

- A workshop on zootechnic surveys and trials for herdsmen and agro-pastoralists. The participants would be zootechnicians and animal scientists. ILCA would be requested as foreman.
- A workshop on socio-economic surveys and analyses in rural area. The participants would be agro-economists and rural sociologists. ICRISAT (which has already organized this type of workshop in Hyderabad, India) would be requested as foreman to organize it in Africa.

The difficulty in organizing such workshops and the capacities required from the animators call for a great flexibility. Each foreman should call in the competences existing in the national, international and foreign research organizations. One working language may also be envisaged but it should change each year. It may also be necessary to collaborate with other networks in West Africa or even in the other regions of Africa. The detailed content of each workshop will have to be defined later through surveys among those interested and during discussions with the foremen. One may only put forward a few topics likely to interest the participants: elaboration of research programmes and projects, elaboration of a work plan, diagnosis method, trials and testing techniques with the participation of producers, results analysis, pluridisciplinarity practice, use of micro-computer, drafting of research reports, etc...

The objective of the Secretariat is to get these workshops organized in 1989 or at the latest in 1990.

c) Workshop on the Approach to Scientific Writing

It seems interesting to include in the project of creation of a scientific journal a workshop designed to initiate researchers in the writing of notes, reports and articles depending on different publics: scientists, decision makers, users of research results, etc... One may possibly add to this training an initiation in various presentation techniques. There is no training workshop in this field for the scientists of the region and very few of them have profited by such a training during their studies. The IDRC information division could be requested to ensure this training with possibly the participation of CIRAD.

d) One aspect which may be apparently secondary in the WAFSRN training component will consist in systematically informing researchers about the training courses which will be offered to them. This will be mostly done through the network newsletter.

2.4. Reflection Workshops and Seminars

We feel that this component should include two aspects: the workshops organized by the network itself and the seminars, colloquia and workshops jointly organized or sponsored by the network.

Taking into account our resources and the limited capacities of the secretariat, the network should in the first place organize only research workshops gathering a limited number of participants (a maximum of thirty). For each workshop an individual not paid by the network would be responsible for the design, the animation and the editing of the workshop.

proceedings with the support of the secretariat. A national research institute with a programme working on the selected topic and being able to offer a minimum of facilities and support for the organization of the workshop should also be identified. For the events jointly organized or sponsored the Steering Committee should establish a few selection criteria. The relevance of the topic, the financial implications and working time requirements are important elements to be considered.

a) Network Reflection Workshops

For each major ecological zone of West Africa we propose that the FSR programmes with at least two years of field experience meet in order to compare their results. The issues that would be considered for each workshop would be the same: which have been the constraints identified and in which order of priority? Which improved technologies have been proposed and tested with the producers? Which have been the results? Which have been or may be the implications and consequences of this research for other programmes, for the research institute, for the extension services, for the agricultural policy?

We propose to organize four workshops: one for the hydro-agricultural development areas assigned to family farms; one for the Sahelian zone with dominating animal husbandry, one for the Sahelian zone and another for the Savanah zone. Such a division may be arbitrary and concise. It could be reviewed after the inventory of the existing research programmes but the number of four

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workshops should not probably be exceeded. Contacts have been established for the first workshop which could be hosted by the FSR Team of the Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research working in the Senegal River Valley. The Agricultural Research Center of St. Louis has a conference hall with simultaneous translation facilities. A WARDA team working on irrigated rice is based there. Field trips are also possible. An agronomist from the CIRAD farming systems, specialist in irrigated crops who already organized a seminar on hydro-agricultural development lands in 1986 is willing to play the role of animator.

Contacts could be established with the ILCA team in Mali for the Sahelian zone workshop.

INERA in Burkina Faso or INRAN in Niger could host the Savanah zone workshop.

The objective we are proposing for these workshops is twofold. The first would be to enable the researchers or the teams working on the field to make acquaintance and to establish direct and continuous links of exchange and collaboration. The second would be to prepare the next symposium meeting.

b) Jointly Organized or Sponsored Workshops

For the moment two proposals have been made. The first comes from a non governmental organization "Innovations et Réseaux pour le Développement" (Innovations and Networks for Development) which supports farmers organizations in West Africa and is willing to organize jointly with the network an informal workshop regrouping representatives from

farmers' organizations and researchers in order to discuss new channels for the dissemination of agricultural research results. WAFSRN would have to identify scientists and programmes working directly with farmers' associations in order to participate in this workshop. IDRC would be ready to finance the workshop.

The second proposal comes from the "Reseau de recherche sur la Resistance à la Sècheresse (R3S)" (Drought Resistance Research Network) which, in the framework of the project of characterization of drought effects on Sudano-Sahelian farming systems financed by the European Economic Community wishes to organize a workshop on the adaptation of farming systems to drought.

Other proposals are to be expected.

2.5. Biennial Symposium

a) Date of Symposium

Since the last symposium was held in March 1986 in Dakar, the next symposium should normally take place in March 1988. This date is however too close to find a host country, to collect the funds required, to organize the symposium and give it a quality content.

Furthermore, the implementation of the network programme will not be advanced enough to present a substantial assessment. Therefore we suggest that the symposium be postponed until late 1989 just before the closing of the current funding of the secretariat.

Other decisions must however be rapidly taken by the Steering Committee.

b) The Host Country

Two or three host countries should be henceforth selected with an order of priority so that the chairman of the committee and the Coordinator can make the necessary arrangements for the approval of the national authorities and the agricultural research institute of the host country. After Senegal and a Sahelian and francophone country, the choice of a non-sahelian and anglophone country would be probably desirable: Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra leone, Liberia. The presence of a national from the host country in the Steering Committee may also be an element to be considered. This can facilitate the contacts and support the organization of the symposium.

c) The theme

It is necessary that the symposium theme be defined at the beginning of 1989 by the latest, for example during the January 1989 Steering Committee meeting which would review the study on the Scientific Journal. This would make it possible to request in sufficiently due time notable scientists to introduce the general theme and national scientists to prepare papers specific to their countries or research programmes.

The theme of the last symposium was related to the FSR status in the different countries of West Africa with emphasis being on FSR organization and institutionalization problems. The theme of next

symposium could be connected with the following questions: Has FSR improved the process of development and transfer of improved technologies for agricultural producers? Has it made it possible to reorientate agricultural research on producers priority problems? Has it had an impact on agricultural policy? etc...

Since the above proposed workshops for each agro-ecological zone should reflect on these questions, their reflections and the synthesis documents to be prepared would provide the main material for the symposium. Actually, some answers could be given to the questions which research leaders, governmental authorities and donors have started raising concerning the efficiency and usefulness of FSR.

d) Taking Charge of Participants

During the last symposium, two participants per member country plus the members of the committee had been taken charge of by the network in order to ensure the representation of all countries. In our opinion this practice should be maintained while urging the scientists to seek funds to cover their own participation. This should not raise any problem in the case of research projects funded by donors. The secretariat should henceforth endeavour to collect the funds necessary for the symposium. An allocation of US 35,700 is included in the IDRC project 3-P-86-0272. Estimates could be made in the requests to the French Cooperation and to Ford Foundation. An additional request could be eventually made to the German Cooperation.

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2.6. Support to National Research Systems

It has been decided that the Network can provide specific supports to national research systems in the field of FSR in addition to the activities discussed above. These supports would be designed to the research institutes and programmes as well as to researchers and would only be granted upon request. This implies that the network should beforehand build up a real expertise and that the applicants should be perfectly aware of the possibilities offered by the network.

However one should wonder which supports the network could offer and in the first place at least a priority should be established between the supports in order to define a strategy and a calendar for their implementation.

The competences of the network are first of all the competences of its members. Logically priority should be given to the technical supports which the experienced researchers of the network can give to other researchers. The priority targets would therefore be the researchers and the programmes. These supports would be on the orientation, the definition and the evaluation of the research programmes and on the methodological support to researchers.

Another area of expertise which the network could try to cover relates to the planning, the programming, the organization and the evaluation of FSR within the framework of national research structures. This area seems less urgent because donors are most often the applicants in this area and they have their own consultants. However it may be interesting to offer to national systems an expertise different from that of donors.

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A third area which may be explored concerns the valorization of research results. Many national structures can only produce unconventional documents in the form of duplicated reports confidentially disseminated. If the network decides to publish a journal and if a small team is set up for this purpose, national structures and researchers could be offered the possibility of editing (review, page-setting, off-set printing) and disseminating the documents which are worth going beyond the national framework. A series "Research Proceedings and Documents" could be added to the Scientific and Technical Information Unit.

The strategy we are proposing for setting up this component of support to national systems would be the following: this component would be first presented and discussed during the national FSR leaders meeting which we intend to organize in early 1989 in Ouagadougou and readjusted according to the discussions. Then, from the computerized file of researchers a sub-file would include the experienced researchers who would have agreed to undertake support missions at the request of the network and who would have provided the necessary information. Thus, those who apply for support could receive information about the senior researchers likely to meet their requirements.

The Committee must by then decide upon the policy that should be followed and the funding of these supports. Will the cost of these supports be entirely or partially borne by the network and/or by the applicant (the applicant may be a donor and not the beneficiary)? Will the candidates be paid or not? At which rate? By whom? We feel that the sub-component on the support for research results valorization must be

free of charge. Estimates could be made in the future funding requests and in the future five years programme. The sub-component "support to programmes and researchers" and the sub component "support to planning .. and evaluation" may entail high costs if they are entirely borne by the network, not to mention the foreseeable reluctance of our donors. Their scope would be reduced if they were covered by the applicants. Sharing the cost between the applicant, particularly if the latter has a funded project, and the network should be sought. Eventually if the support requested is important and /or requires several missions or several researchers a specific funding may be looked into. On the contrary, the supports provided by the Coordinator would remain free of charge. A partial compensation to the scientists commissioned need to be considered. In any case, this component should remain limited within the 1988-1989 programme so as not to handicap the others.

2.7. Information on the Network and Visits to Countries

Once the programme has been drawn up by the Steering Committee, we shall start informing the potential members of the network, the national, international and foreign organizations as well as donors.

We intend to devote for this purpose a special issue of the network newsletter which will be largely disseminated. In addition to a presentation of the network, of its organization and operation as well as of the work programme, this issue would include information on the members, the research institutions implementing FSR programmes, the various programmes and publications. Announcement applications will also be made to the newsletters and letters published by

other networks and various research organizations. Similarly during the workshops, seminars and conferences to which we shall be invited, we shall try everytime to inform the participants about the network and its activities.

On the other hand, taking into account the important work which the secretariat will have to achieve in 1988, the visits to countries should only be systematized in 1989 after the meeting with national leaders. In 1988, the travels of the coordinator will, as a priority, be devoted to discussions with other organizations on collaborative links.

2.8. Preparation of the 1990-1994 Five Years Programme

The two IDRC fundings which support the operation of the network and some essential activities will terminate in late 1989 if we assume that considering the delay in the start up an extension without a significant financial impact may be obtained. A work programme should therefore be prepared during the first half year of 1989 and the requests for funds during the third quarter in order to avoid any break in the activities. The choice of a five year period for this programme would be a good compromise between donors regulations and the duration required to get good results. Discussions should be devoted to this issue during the next meeting of the Committee in January 1989.

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