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SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND RESEARCH COMMISSION  
( O A U / S T R C )

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA COWPEA NETWORK  
"Réseau Niébé de l'Afrique Centrale et Occidentale"  
( R E N A C O )

BUREAU DE COORDINATION  
DE L'O U A / C S T R  
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R E P O R T  
OF THE EIGHTH MEETING  
OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

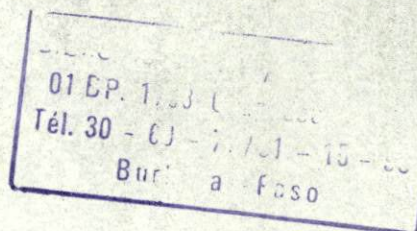
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I.  
INTRODUCTION



# 1. JOINT OPENING SESSION: MAIZE AND COWPEA

The meeting which was held at the conference hall of INFOSEC, Cotonou, Benin Republic was declared open by the Director of Agricultural Research of Benin Republic, Dr. E. B. Assan. He welcomed the delegates to Benin Republic and he stressed the importance of both maize and cowpea in that country. He stated that in the past, research efforts had been concentrated on breeding, agronomy and protection but now that new high-yielding cultivars are available, attention should be focused on marketing and utilization. He called for more research on the quality of new varieties and storage of cowpea.

Dr. T. Bezuneh (Director of Research of SAFGRAD) who represented the International Coordinator of SAFGRAD expressed gratitude to Benin Republic for hosting the meeting and for the cordial relationship existing between that country and SAFGRAD. He stated that work had been completed on the strategic plan for SAFGRAD III and copies of the report would soon be made available. According to the Director of Research of SAFGRAD, the networks have recorded positive achievements as evident in the fact that Lead Centers are now shouldering research responsibilities and facilitating the application of research results. He reiterated that a NARS-driven network is the ultimate goal. He, however, expressed concern that the programs of the networks were biased towards breeding and varietal improvement. He mentioned that SAFGRAD's major donor, USAID had reviewed the strategic plan and had also sent consultants to audit SAFGRAD's accounts. The major donor will evaluate SAFGRAD II in January/February, 1991. The Director of Research also mentioned that an appraisal of the activities of the networks has been organized by the Oversight Committee and this had proved useful. He indicated that a donor's meeting would be organized in 1991 at the instance of the QAU Secretary-General. He charged the Steering Committee members to carry out their discussions on the extension of SAFGRAD II within the framework of strategic plan for SAFGRAD III. Finally, he expressed his appreciation to IITA for backstopping the two



networks and for opening stations in the semi-arid zone. He also thanked the Network Coordinators for their devotion to the networks.

The address of the Deputy Director-General, International Cooperation Program, IITA was presented by Mr. E.F. Deganus. In his address, Mr. Deganus mentioned that views have been expressed about the networks not having clear objectives but it is now apparent that the achievements of the network could be measured. He, therefore, suggested the need for the networks to quantify their impact. He stated that the networks should come out with plans for the extension of SAFGRAD II within the framework of the SAFGRAD III strategic plan. He reaffirmed IITA's commitment to providing and strengthening technical backstopping to national programs.



## 2. COWPEA SESSION

### 1) Objective of the Meeting:

The primary objective of the meeting was to plan RENACO activities for the period between 31 August, 1990 (end of SAFGRAD II) and 1st October, 1992 (beginning of SAFGRAD III), to ensure the maintenance of the momentum of the collaborative research activities.

### 2) Attendance:

#### - Members of the Steering Committee:

- Dr. J. Detongnon (Chairman)
- Dr. O.O. Olufajo (English Secretary)
- Mr. G. Ntougkam (Ag. French Secretary)
- Mr. Ndiaga Cisse
- Mrs. C. Dabire
- Mr. G.A. Amankwa
- Dr. N. Muleba (RENACO Coordinator)

#### - Observers:

- Dr. T. Bezuneh (Director of Research, SAFGRAD)
- Dr. S.R. Singh (Director, IITA-GLIP, Ibadan, Nigeria)
- Dr. B.B. Singh (IITA Kano, Nigeria, Sub-station)
- Dr. J.C. Sentz (IITA-USAID Liason Officer, Ibadan, Nigeria)
- Mr. E.F. Deganus (Administrator, IITA-ICP, Ibadan, Nigeria)
- Dr. S.T.O. Lagoke (Coordinator, Pan-African Striga Network, Zaria, Nigeria)
- Dr. B.R. Ntare (IITA-Sadore/Niamey, Niger Sub-station)



### 3) Opening Remarks:

The chairman of the RENACO Steering Committee, Dr. J. Detongnon welcomed participants to the meeting.

The Network Coordinator, Dr. N. Muleba thanked members for finding time to attend the meeting. He also introduced Dr. S.T.O. Lagoke, Coordinator of Pan-African Striga Network who was attending the meeting as an observer. He indicated that during the meeting, Dr. Lagoke would brief members on the activities of the Striga Network.

### 4) Agenda of the Meeting:

The following agenda was adopted for the meeting:

#### 1) General matters:

- Adoption of the proceedings of the 7th meeting of the Steering Committee, held at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 26-30 March, 1990.
- Matters arising from the minutes of the 7th meeting of the Steering Committee.

- . CRSP activities
- . Supplementary budget proposal
- . Research workplans of Lead Centers for 1990
- . IITA-GLIP-Niamey, Niger and IITA-GLIP-Kano, field days.
- . Joint seminar (maize-cowpea-sorghum and millet) for research agronomists.
- . Plans for a joint maize-cowpea-sorghum workshop.
- . Proceedings of the 1989 joint maize-cowpea workshop.
- . Proceedings of the 1988 seminar for scientists from Lead Centers.



- . . . Proceedings of the 1989 training course of scientists from weak centers.
- . . . Proceedings of the 1989 training course for scientists from weak centers.
- . . . RENACO visits to national programs.

ii) RENACO activities

- Mid-year report of RENACO
- 1990 cowpea monitoring tour
- Visits to Central African Republic and Tchad
- Visits to the Gambia and Cape Verde.

iii) SAFGRAD-II: Proposal for extension

iv) Miscellaneous

- Nomination of varieties for the 1991-92 regional trials.
- Pan-African Striga network.



II  
REPORT OF THE DELIBERATIONS



## 1. RENACO ACTIVITIES

### 1) Mid-year report of RENACO

The report covered the period from 1 April to 30 September, 1990. Activities during the period include:

- RENACO Trials: Scientists were requested to repeat the 1989 regional trials in 1990. Fresh seeds of lines included in the Striga resistance trial were sent to countries that conduct that trial in 1989. In addition, 13 lines combining Striga and insect pests resistance and 23 Striga resistant lines were sent to Lead and Associate Centers upon request.
- Collaborative research: Six RENACO Lead Centers and an Associate Center conducted collaborative research activities in all aspects of cowpea crop improvement. Financial support was provided by the network to facilitate the implementation of their research activity workplans.
- Cowpea Monitoring Tour: Nine scientists from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, The Gambia, Niger and Nigeria participated in the cowpea monitoring tour. The national cowpea programs of Burkina Faso, Niger and Nigeria as well as ICRISAT/IITA-GLIP, Sadore, IITA Kano sub-station and IITA-GLIP Headquarters in Ibadan were visited from 27 August to 14 September, 1990.
- Visits to national Programs: The Network Coordinator visited Mali and Senegal while members of the Steering Committee visited Central African Republic, Tchad, The Gambia and Cape Verde.

The Chairman of the Steering Committee and the Network Coordinator visited Niger from 6-10 June, 1990.



## 2) 1990 cowpea monitoring tour

The tour was conducted from 27 August to 14 September, 1990 as scheduled. The following scientists participated in the monitoring tour:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Dr. J. Detongnon  | (Cowpea Breeder, Benin)  |
| 2. Dr(Mrs) C. Dabire | (Cowpea Entomologist, Burkina Faso)<br>(participated only in Burkina Faso) |
| 3. Mr. J. Ouedraogo  | (Cowpea Breeder, Burkina Faso)   |
| 4. Mr. G. Ntoukam    | (Cowpea Entomologist, Cameroon)  |
| 5. Mr. M. Bojang     | (Cowpea Agronomist, The Gambia)  |
| 6. Dr. M.O. Akyaw    | (Cowpea Entomologist, Ghana)   |
| 7. Dr. S.D. Maiga    | (Cowpea Entomologist, Niger)   |
| 8. Mr. A.A. Zaria    | (Cowpea Agronomist, Nigeria)   |
| 9. Dr. O.O. Olufajo  | (Cowpea Agronomist, Nigeria)   |
| 10. Dr. N. Muleba    | (Coordinator, RENACO)  |

Places visited were:

- |                |                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| - Burkina Faso | : From 27 August to 1 September |
| - Niger        | : From 2 - 6 September          |
| - Nigeria      | : From 7 - 10 September         |
| - IITA/Ibadan  | : From 11-14 September          |

The overall impression of participants was very satisfactory. However, the following observations were made by participants and they requested for necessary actions by appropriate authorities:

- i) There is a need for a full-time cowpea agronomist in Burkina Faso.
- ii) Cowpea is a very important crop in Niger. Participants were therefore concerned about the termination of the IITA-GLIP program in Sadore because this may weaken Niger's national cowpea program, especially considering the fact that Niger is one of the RENACO Lead Centers.



- iii) There is a need for a pathologist and an entomologist in the Kano IITA program and also a need for the IAR breeder to have the opportunity to work fully with Dr. B.B. Singh in IITA Kano sub-station for one cropping season.

Commenting on the termination of IITA-GLIP program at Sadore, the Director of Research, SAFGRAD informed members that the International Coordinator of SAFGRAD has written to IITA to reconsider the decision. He further stated that although IITA had already made the decision, SAFGRAD would not relent in its efforts to address the issue at all levels.

The Director of GLIP promised to inform IITA management about the concern of the Steering Committee on this issue.

### 3) Visits to Central African Republic and Tchad:

Mr. G. Ntoukam presented a report on his visits to Central African Republic and Tchad with the primary objectives of knowing the reality of their cowpea national programs, the constraints to cowpea production and the impact of RENACO activities. He noted that although cowpea is a very important food crop in both countries, research on cowpea is poorly organized and research activities are coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture. Cowpea research coordinators have been appointed in the two countries.

The impact of RENACO activities is felt more in Tchad than Central African Republic. A Tchadian has taken part in one of the in-service training organized by RENACO. The following cowpea varieties obtained through RENACO are being grown in Tchad: TVx3236-016, KN-1, TN88-63, IT81D-985 and IT81D-994; while in Central African Republic cultivars TVx1948-01F and KN-1 are popular.

Both countries did not receive financial and logistic support from RENACO. They requested for help towards the development of their relatively new cowpea programs.



#### 4) Visits to The Gambia and Cape Verde:

The report was presented by Dr. O.O. Olufajo who undertook the visits on behalf of RENACO. He indicated that although cowpea is important in the diet of the people of The Gambia, only a small fraction of the country's requirement is produced locally. Moreover, cowpea research is accorded a low priority. He visited experimental plots at Yundum Research Station and on-farm trials. With regards to the impact of RENACO activities on the country's agriculture, he noted that two cowpea varieties TVx3236 and TN88-63 obtained through SAFGRAD regional trials had been released in the Gambia. Three additional cultivars -IT83D-728-13, IT84S-2049 and IT81D-994 also obtained from SAFGRAD regional trials are in the process of being released. The national cowpea program of The Gambia has participated in all activities of RENACO except in-service and higher degree training.

Only one (Santiago) of the nine islands was visited in Cape Verde. Cowpea is an important component of the cropping systems of Cape Verde because of its drought resistance and short duration. Two improved cowpea cultivars KN-1 and IT83D-442 obtained through the SAFGRAD regional cowpea trials are in the pre-release stage. With the exception of in-service training, Cape Verde has participated in all activities of RENACO.

#### 5) Planned activities:

The following activities are scheduled to take place between November, 1990 and March 1991:

- 1) The ninth Steering Committee meeting to be held from 8-14 March, 1991 at Niamey, Niger.
- 2) Joint Maize, Cowpea and Sorghum networks seminar for research agronomists to be held at IITA-Ibadan, 7-21 January, 1991.
- 3) Joint Maize, Cowpea and Sorghum networks workshop scheduled to take place at Niamey, Niger, 8-14 March, 1991.



#### 6) Discussion on RENACO activities:

The network was commended for the remarkable achievements made within the short time of its existence. Members were unanimous that the Lead Centers are doing a good job but they expressed the need for continuous review of the activities and available manpower of Lead and Associated Centers. Moreover, in future, it may be more appropriate to fund specific research activities in both Lead and Associate Centers.

The meeting agreed that all lines nominated by Lead and Associate Centers as well as International Centers for inclusion in the regional trials must be tested in a preliminary trial to be conducted by Lead Centers and other interested Centers.

Members expressed the need for more funds for training and research. The Director of GLIP-IITA indicated that if the committee recommends a candidate for higher degree training, IITA could assist in funding the candidates training provided the candidate is considered qualified for an award by the IITA selection committee. Such a candidate must be registered in a recognized University, must have other sources of funds to cover tuition and must be prepared to carry out his/her research in IITA headquarters or any of the IITA-based locations.

It was decided that working groups should be formed in the areas of breeding, agronomy, entomology and pathology including Striga. The groups should be formed during the March 1991 workshop and the Network Coordinator should allocate funds to the groups and also work out their roles.

With regards to the visits of Steering Committee members to RENACO member countries, members were unanimous that this was a step in the right direction. However, they expressed the follow up the visits in order to derive maximum benefits from contacts already established.



## 2. SAFGRAD-II: PROPOSAL FOR EXTENSION

### 1) Joint maize-cowpea session:

A joint Maize-Cowpea session was held to discuss the desirability of deliberating on the proposal for the extension of SAFGRAD-II at this point in time. After an exhaustive discussion, it was decided that considering the fact that SAFGRAD-II will end on 31 August, 1991 while SAFGRAD-III will not commence until 1 October, 1992, it was necessary to put forward a proposal for extension of SAFGRAD II to cover the 13-month period between SAFGRAD-II and SAFGRAD-III.

Another issue discussed during the session was the criteria to be used in assessing the impact of the networks. The following criteria were suggested:

- i) Technical: Extent of exchange of germplasm among NARS and between NARS and IARCS.
- ii) Transformation of agriculture: The influence the materials which have passed through the networks have had on the agricultural production in member countries, in terms of acreage devoted to the cultivation of such materials.

- iii) Exchange of technical information: Proceedings, workshops, seminars, monitoring, etc.

It was noted that in assessing the network, it is important to also highlight the weaknesses of the network.

It was also felt that SCO is in a better position to carry out impact studies.

### 2) Cowpea Session:

The following budget items were planned for RENACO for the period covering 31 August, 1991 to 1 October, 1992:



## 1.0. Staff Salaries and Allowances:

- Network Coordinator
- Support Staff

## 2.0. Network operations:

- Travel
- Research Field Staff
- Transport, Fuel and Vehicles maintenance
- Office Maintenance and Computer
- Field supplies
- Experiment Stations Expenses.

## 3.0. Collaborative Research

- Project 1: Burkina Faso: Striga
- Project 2: Nigeria: Disease
- Project 3: Niger: Drought
- Project 4: Cameroon: Storage
- Project 5: Senegal: Savanna breeding
- Project 6: Ghana: Breeding coastal zone
- Project 7: Working groups (breeding, agronomy, entomology and pathology including Striga).

## 4.0. Research Technology Adapting Countries

- Project 1: Elite Germplasm Evaluation
- Project 2: Variety Development
- Project 3: Breeder Seed Production
- Project 4: Technology Verification

## 5.0. Training

- Short Term Group 1 In-Service

## 6.0. Workshops/Monitoring Tours

## 7.0. Steering Committee Meetings

## 8.0. Publications

Budget estimates would be attached to each of the items by the Network Coordinator in consultation with SCO and IITA.



### 3. MISCELLANEOUS

- 1) Adoption of the Proceedings of the 7th Meeting of the Steering Committee held at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 26-30 March, 1990

The proceedings of the 7th meeting of the Steering Committee were adopted as the true records of the deliberations of the meeting subject to some minor corrections.

- 2) Matters Arising from the Meeting of the 7th Meeting of the Steering Committee:

CRSP activities: The Deputy Director of CRSP, Dr. R.D. Freed wrote to convey his inability to participate in the 1990 cowpea monitoring tour due to prior commitments. He added that CRSP is already funding manpower development in two member countries of RENACO-Cameroon and Senegal. He also invited the Network Coordinator for a two-week training session on MSTAT at Michigan State.

The Network Coordinator said that softwares have been received from CRSP and training in the use of MSTAT would be organized if fund is available in the next phase of SAFGRAD.

Considering the importance of computer in present-day agricultural research, the Director of IITA-GLIP, Dr. S.R. Singh promised that IITA-GLIP would fund the training on the use of MSTAT. To this end, IITA-GLIP would organize a training for participants from Nigeria and Republic of Benin at IITA, while that for participants from Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso would take place at ICRISAT, Niamey. Two or three persons would be trained from each country.

Members of the Steering Committee expressed gratitude to the Director, IITA-GLIP for his kind gesture and the commitment of his program to the enhancement of professional capability of NARS scientists.

The Network Coordinator was requested to follow up the offer by IITA-GLIP.



### 3) Supplemental budget proposal:

Members were informed by the representative of the Deputy Director General, ICP-IITA that the supplementary budget proposal had been submitted to SPAAR and there had been continuous follow up. SPAAR indicated that individual donors had been assigned responsibilities for funding specific projects and that the donors would contact ICP-IITA on the outcome of its requests. The Director of Research, SAFGRAD promised to follow up the matter during the meeting of SPAAR scheduled to take place in Mali in November, 1990.

It was suggested that it may be better for each country to enter into bilateral arrangement with SPAAR or donors. For example, IDRC is willing to support projects in Benin Republic, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali. The donors that have responsibilities for cowpea research are GTZ, IDRC and USAID.

### 4) Research Workplans of Lead Centers for 1990:

The Network Coordinator and the Chairman of the Steering Committee visited Niger as directed by the Steering Committee and they held discussions with the Officers in charge of Agricultural Research on ways and means of improving Niger's participation in RENACO activities. They were well received and the meeting ended with renewed confidence between INRAN and RENACO. As a result of that meeting, a Coordinator for cowpea research, Mr. A. Moutari had been appointed, workplans for 1990 had been submitted and justification had been sent for money given to Niger in 1988 in support of cowpea research.

### 5) IITA-GLIP-Niamey, Niger and IITA-GLIP-Kano Field Days:

The 1990 cowpea monitoring tour was planned in such a way that the tour combined with field days organized by IITA-GLIP. However, the time IITA-GLIP Headquarters in Ibadan was visited during the monitoring tour did not coincide with the period of field activities.



6) Joint Seminar Maize, Cowpea, Sorghum and Millet for Research Agronomists:

The seminar will be held from 7-21 January, 1991 at IITA, Ibadan. The funds allocated by the participating networks to cover seminar expenses are as follows:

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Cowpea Network  | \$15,000.00 |
| Maize Network   | \$15,000.00 |
| Sorghum Network | \$10,000.00 |

Letters of invitation had been sent to 25 participants from all member countries of SAFGRAD, except Sierra Leone, through each country's Director of Research. Resource persons had also been identified and the roles they are expected to play had been communicated to them.

It was felt that the Sorghum Network should also contribute \$15,000.00 towards the conduct of the seminar.

The Director of Research, SAFGRAD promised to look into ways of providing the remaining \$5,000.00 expected from the Sorghum Network.

7) Plans for Joint Maize-Cowpea-Sorghum Workshop in 1991:

Niger requested that the dates of the workshop be shifted from 25-30 March, 1991 to 8-14 March, 1991. This request had been granted, and the workshop will now take place from 8-14 March, 1991 at Niamey, Niger. To date, 22 abstracts had been received from cowpea scientists by the RENACO Coordinator and they had been forwarded to reviewers.

8) Proceedings of the 1989 Joint Maize-Cowpea Workshop:

The revised version of the proceedings had been received and the proceedings will soon be published.



9) Proceedings of the 1988 Seminar for Scientists from Lead Centers:

The proceedings had been revised and sent to publisher at Ahmadu Bello University at Zaria, Nigeria.

10) RENACO Visits to National Programs:

With the exception of Guinea Conakry and Mauritania, all the countries slated for visitation by either the Network Coordinator or members of the Steering Committee were visited. Dr. J. Detongnon could not visit Guinea Conakry and Mauritania due to ill-health.

11) Funds Allocated in 1990 in support of Cowpea Research:

The following amounts had been released to Lead Centers and other national programs that had expressed their needs by 15 October, 1990.

| Country      | Date    | Cheque No. | Amount                           |
|--------------|---------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Senegal      | 4/7/90  | 1503223    | 412.500 F CFA                    |
| Burkina Faso | 5/7/90  | D1131268   | 825.000 F CFA                    |
| Ghana        | 12/7/90 | 1180       | 280.320 F CFA<br>(or \$1,000.00) |
| Mali         | 24/9/90 | 1876317    | 275.000 F CFA<br>(or FF 5.500)   |
| Cameroon     | 18/7/90 | 1503226    | 275.000 F CFA                    |
| Niger        | 30/8/90 | -          | 275.000 F CFA                    |
| Nigeria      | -       | -          | \$ 2,000.00                      |



## 12) Pan-African Striga Control Network:

The Coordinator of Pan-African Striga Control Network, Dr. S.T. Lagoke briefed the meeting on the genesis, objectives, activities and future outlook of the network. According to him, the primary objective of the network is to coordinate various activities on Striga in Africa in order to produce an acceptable solution to Striga problems at farmers' level. This objective is expected to be achieved through assistance to national programs in areas of coordination of activities on Striga, finance, technical backstopping, information dissemination, training and annual workshops.

The Striga network is prepared to service existing commodity networks to ensure effective prosecution of Striga trials in order to enable NARS select suitable components of Striga control packages. At present, the network is funded solely by FAO but plans are underway to solicit the assistance of other donors.

## 13) 1991-92 Regional Trials:

The Network Coordinator requested national programs to send seeds of varieties they wish to nominate for the 1991-92 regional trials before the end of February, 1991. This would enable him to multiply the seeds during the off-season and despatch the packages before the commencement of the season.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS  
AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
III



### RECOMMENDATIONS

The cowpea research network Steering Committee would like to make the following recommendations:

- 1) The visit of members of the Steering Committee to RENACO member countries is a step in the right direction. It is therefore strongly recommended that there should be a follow up to these visits in order to derive maximum benefits from the contacts already established.
- 2) In order to provide quick solutions to common problems of cowpea production in the sub-region, it is recommended that working groups be formed in the following specific areas: breeding, agronomy, entomology and pathology including Striga.
- 3) It is recognized that a lot of achievements have been made through the network activities but these have neither been properly documented nor quantified. It is therefore, recommended that the Network Coordinator should write to national programs to provide a list of varieties that have been released and those that are about to be released and if possible, provide approximate areas of production.
- 4) In view of the fact that cowpea is a very important crop in the Sahelian zone, the Committee recommends that IITA should continue its activities in this zone in collaboration with ICRISAT through the Sadore Station.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Members of the SAFGRAD Network Steering Committee wish to express their profound gratitude to:

- SAFGRAD Coordination Office for logistic support and guidance;
- USAID for financial support and keen interest in the network;
- IITA for its commitment to the network and provision of technical backstopping to national programs;
- The Network Coordinator, Dr. N. Muleba for his devotion to the network;
- The Government and people of Benin Republic for their warm reception.



SIGNIFICATION OF ACRONYMS USED

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Bean/Cowpea CRSP: | Collaborative Research Support Program  |
| GLIP              | : Grain Legume Improvement Program  |
| IAR               | : Institute for Agricultural Research (Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria)           |
| ICRISAT           | : International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics                        |
| IITA              | : International Institute of Tropical Agriculture   |
| INRAN             | : Institut National de Recherches Agronomiques de Niamey                                  |
| NARS              | : National Agricultural Research System   |
| OAU               | : Organization of African Unity   |
| RENACO            | : Réseau Niébé d'Afrique Centrale et Occidentale (West and Central Africa Cowpea Network) |
| SAFGRAD           | : Semi-arid Food Grain Research and Development   |
| SCO               | : SAFGRAD Coordination Office   |
| USAID             | : United States Agency for International Development                                      |



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1991-01

# REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE (RENACO)

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