

Drylands Programme

THE ISSUES ENVELOPE

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Special Programme for Sub-Saharan
African countries affected by
drought and desertification

Description of Special Programme
projects and programmes presented to
the IFAD Executive Board in 1988

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DESCRIPTION OF SPECIAL PROGRAMME PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES
PRESENTED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
IN 1988

total of five projects and programmes, for Guinea, Lesotho, Mali, Senegal and The Sudan were presented to the Executive Board in 1988. A summary description of each is given below.

(1) Guinea: Fouta Djallon Agricultural Rehabilitation Project
(Document EB 88/34/R.38/Rev.1)

Following major political changes in 1984, the Government of Guinea has adopted a number of new policy orientations and particular emphasis has been given to smallholder agricultural rehabilitation and development. This six-year IFAD-initiated project, in support of these initiatives, is aimed at increasing food production and family food security, protecting and improving the environment and creating a permanent, sustainable production system for smallholders in a drought-prone, ecologically fragile area. The area is also the watershed of major Sahelian rivers and therefore of vital importance both to Guinea and the surrounding countries. The project will be implemented in Fouta Djallon, one of the poorest regions of Guinea, which is undergoing an accelerated process of impoverishment due to the effect of shifting cultivation which hastens slope erosion and, combined with high demographic pressures, leads to scarcity of cultivable land and the increasing ineffectiveness of traditional techniques. To break this spiral of poverty and environmental degradation, the project will promote soil and water conservation measures and introduce agricultural practices to help rehabilitate the productive capacity of the soils, reverse the declining trend of production and revitalise smallholder agriculture. Project activities will be built upon the traditional self-managed village organisations and existing patterns of mutual aid and cooperation. The Village Association will be the hub of activity, with a development committee composed of a credit committee and a team of village technicians. It will be supported by an extension network based upon a modified training and visit system, complemented by village association advisers. In time, the village itself will take over management and operation of the main project activities. Project components will comprise: agricultural and livestock development, including soil conservation and environmental protection, animal health improvement, bee-keeping development and pilot actions such as bottom land development, credit and establishment of a village development fund, adaptive and applied research, and rural infrastructure and maintenance, including feeder roads and village water supply. The project will strengthen the regional services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Production, reorganise the extension services and, to ensure lasting impact, promote village associations and village technicians through

a functional literacy programme, training and support. About one-third of smallholdings in the project area are farmed by women who produce most of the food for household consumption. Overburdened by their traditional tasks, plus the additional workload imposed by the outmigration of men, the women of the area will be a specific focus of the project which will ensure their access to services and to credit for processing and marketing, and encourage their participation in village associations through the literacy programme. Besides the positive impact on the environment, about 17 250 households in about 470 villages will benefit directly from agricultural rehabilitation and over 200 000 from the rural infrastructure programme. Total project costs, estimated at US\$ 19.1 million, will be financed by an IFAD loan of US\$ 14.6 million from the SRS, US\$ 0.6 million from the Beneficiaries and US\$ 3.9 million from the Borrower. Highly concessional terms were approved by the Board.

(ii) Lesotho: Soil and Water Conservation and Agro-forestry Programme
(Document EB 88/34/R.39/Rev.2)

Soil erosion is Lesotho's most serious environmental problem. By linking soil and water conservation with crop production, this programme opens a new perspective for the successful implementation of conservation practices in Lesotho. Based on the premise that conservation programmes will be effective only if they are based on what rural people can do for themselves, using simple methods and limited resources, this seven-year IFAD-initiated programme will assist small farmers to undertake soil and water conservation measures as part of their usual farming practices. To be implemented in the lowlands and foothills of Lesotho, this programme will provide the assistance needed by smallholders to manage, rehabilitate and conserve their environmental resources and to increase the production of staple food crops. Improved crop recommendations will be promoted by a reorganised extension service which will be provided with the necessary managerial, technical and logistical support and which will promote a more target group-responsive approach. A programme of agro-forestry research and demonstrations will be initiated as part of a strategy to combat the biomass deficit. The Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Marketing will receive assistance in policy monitoring and coordination to make the best use of Government and donor contributions. It will support an annual consultation of farmers, Government and donors on conservation and the environment. The principal direct benefit from the programme will be an increase in the production of maize and sorghum. By the seventh year of the programme, an estimated 17 300 households will earn significantly higher incomes from crop production. Some of the landless will receive additional income from their work in construction and from the allocation of land in stabilised gullies. Women, who constitute two-thirds of farm labourers, are the major target group for the programme. Four sub-groups - households with land but lacking labour for cultivation, households in smaller than average holdings,

female-headed households and landless households - account for about 110 000 of the 130 000 rural households in the programme area and will be the direct beneficiaries of programme activities. However, all 278 000 households of the country's rural population will benefit from a properly trained and functioning extension service, agro-forestry development and better conservation strategy and policy coordination. Total programme costs, estimated at US\$ 8.52 million, will be financed by an IFAD loan of US\$ 7.73 million from the SRS and a contribution of US\$ 0.79 million from the Borrower. Highly concessional terms were approved by the Board.

(iii) Mali: Kidal Food and Income Security Programme
(Document EB 88/35/R.68/Rev.1)

The Kidal circle is one of the poorest in Mali and its population suffered disproportionately in the droughts of 1973 and 1984. Many people fled to neighbouring regions and some are still there, destitute; those who returned are very poor. Over 80% of the households have a number of animals below what is considered as the minimum size for decent subsistence in a pastoral setting. Yet there is potential in Kidal for balanced pasture use and a better standard of living for the pastoralists, through a careful rehabilitation of the Kel Adrar pastoral economy. The opportunity cost of not doing so is high, in terms of lost economic advantages, the continuing economic and social costs of the destitution of Kidal herders, and the risk of ecological degradation if Kidal continues as an unmanaged range open without control to whoever has been able to accumulate animals. This five-year IFAD-initiated programme aims to: (i) help rehabilitate and develop the economy of the Kidal area and reduce the risk of economic collapse in future droughts; (ii) assist the voluntary return of destitute pastoralists presently living under precarious conditions in neighbouring areas, in particular in southern Algeria, promote sustainable herders associations for self support and as a basis for resisting future droughts; and (iii) improve agriculture and livestock production, as well as the family incomes of the poorest, including women. To achieve these objectives, the programme components will include: (a) strengthening the institutional framework for local development; (b) providing credit, infrastructure and inputs to improve production, marketing and food security; (c) introducing new techniques to conserve soil and water, and regenerate and manage pasture; (d) improving infrastructure and introducing programmes in health, training and functional literacy; and (e) carrying out necessary studies and monitoring to define future long-term development strategies. Beneficiaries will be encouraged to participate in the provision of inputs, the management of water control facilities, pasture management, and evaluating programme activities and drought contingency planning. Total programme costs, estimated at US\$ 14.8 million, will be financed by IFAD through a loan of US\$ 10.15 million and a grant of US\$ 0.85 million from the SRS, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) (US\$ 2.5 million), the United Nations

Children's Fund (UNICEF) (US\$ 0.4 million), the World Food Programme (WFP) (US\$ 0.34 million), the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD) of the United Kingdom (US\$ 0.25 million), the Borrower (US\$ 0.16 million) and the Beneficiaries (US\$ 0.15 million). Highly concessional terms were approved by the Board.

(iv) Senegal: Agro-forestry Development Project
(Document EB 88/35/R.69/Rev.1)

Drawing on experience gained and lessons learnt through the implementation of the Integrated Rural Development Project of M'Bour-Louga and several other agro-forestry projects in Senegal, this six-year IFAD-initiated project will have the following broad objectives: (a) to arrest the environmental degradation now proceeding apace with the disappearance of fallows, overcropping and excessive forest clearances, in part encouraged by the earlier groundnut export boom and by the mounting population pressure on land; and (b) to raise agricultural output and thus farmers' incomes and standard of living. The project will have six main components: (i) agro-forestry, calling for agricultural intensification over 24 000 ha and for reconstituting tree stands in association with cropping, in view of their beneficial agronomic effects and their supplying a range of useful products for the population, as well as contributing to erosion control; (ii) small-scale irrigation schemes, receiving water from new or rehabilitated wells and boreholes, with the associated development of fruit growing and market gardening; (iii) inputs and credit; (iv) income-generating activities organised mainly through economic interest groups and women's development groups, the latter to be helped to operate mills and cereal banks and to engage in livestock fattening; (v) institutional support, in particular for the extension services promoting these components, together with appropriate technical packages; and (vi) research and development and monitoring and evaluation. The project area, of 2 520 km², covers the départements of Diourbel and Bambey in the heart of the Groundnut Basin. The target group will comprise some 7 000 families, representing 70 000 prospective beneficiaries. Total project costs, estimated at US\$ 17.13 million, will be financed by IFAD (US\$ 11.13 million) from the SRS, the Borrower (US\$ 0.96 million) and, in the form of labour, the Beneficiaries (US\$ 5.04 million). Highly concessional terms were approved by the Board.

(v) The Sudan: En Nahud Cooperative Credit Project
(Document EB 88/35/R.70/Rev.1)

This seven-year IFAD-initiated project aims at increasing the agricultural production, incomes and food self-sufficiency of some 16 400 poor, drought-affected, rainfed households, by improving the efficiency of the credit delivery of the Agricultural Bank of The Sudan (ABS), strengthening agricultural extension services and

promoting cooperative activities and group initiatives. The population increase in the project area and the consequent reduction of fallow periods in the shifting cultivation system threaten to cause significant damage to the soil, one of the few natural resources on which to build economic recovery. The project will concentrate on agricultural extension and research to boost food production, emphasising an increase in yield rather than area cultivated, so as to avoid further erosion. The provision of credit will support the development effort through: (i) short-term loans for both food and cash crops, and for household vegetable gardens, cultivated mainly by women; and (ii) medium-term loans for water supply development, equipment purchases and off-farm rural enterprises. In addition, ABS' capacity will be strengthened through the provision of physical infrastructure, personnel, staff training and operating funds and the Office of the Registrar of Cooperatives will be supported through the training of key personnel to promote sound cooperatives, as well as the provision of necessary infrastructure and operating funds. The following essential agricultural development services will be strengthened: (i) extension services for the diffusion of simple and more effective technology; (ii) seed multiplication and distribution of improved seeds; (iii) forestry development to establish community nurseries for the propagation and distribution of "hashab" tree seedlings for both the production of gum arabic and to arrest soil degradation. It is expected that total annual incremental production will amount to 15 500 tons, mainly millet and groundnuts, with a further increase to 19 100 tons by full development - 20% and 25% respectively. Net cash incomes of cooperative members in the northern and southern parts of the project area are expected to increase by 37% and 44% respectively. Total project costs, estimated at US\$ 16.7 million, will be financed by IFAD through a loan of US\$ 8.80 million and a grant of US\$ 0.7 million from the SRS, the Government of Finland (FINNIDA) (a grant of US\$ 2.5 million), the Borrower (US\$ 1.0 million) and ABS (US\$ 3.7 million). Highly concessional terms were approved by the Board.