

ECA/MRAG/TP/30/30

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

REPORT OF A MISSION  
TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL SERVICES TO  
THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF  
THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF  
THE MULTI-NATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
WEST AFRICA

NOUAKCHOTT, THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

29-31 MARCH, 1993

BY

CRISPIN GREY-JOHNSON  
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**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Executive Secretary of ECA decided that the Regional Advisers in MRAG should provide technical advisory services to the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts of the Multi-national Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs), meeting in all the five sub-regions of the continent. Mr. Crispin Grey-Johnson, Senior Regional Adviser on Social Concerns and Human Resources, was designated to render assistance in this regard to the West Africa MULPOC, whose meeting was held in Nouakchott, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, from 29 to 31 March 1993.

**II. THE MEETING**

Only six out of the sixteen member States of the sub-region attended the meeting. The agenda was thick in substance and covered the major areas of concern to co-operation, integration and development within the sub-region. The issues included agriculture, livestock and fishing; water development; rural transformation; agro-

industrial development; trade and finance; the integration of women in development; as well as measures for strengthening co-operation and integration in the sub-region, including strategies of assistance to the IGOs.

Apart from intervening in the discussions, the Senior Regional Adviser presented a JEFAD document entitled Measures for Developing the Institutional Aspects of Rural Transformation in Some West African Countries. He also presented the report (Annex I) of MRAG's services to the sub-region in 1991. Paragraphs 79 to 81 as well as Recommendation 10 of the Final Report of the Meeting (Annex II) record the positive reception given to the report, as well as the further confirmation of the need felt by member States, for the services of MRAG.

Mauritania, Mali and Burkina Faso expressed their desire to call on MRAG for advisory services and technical assistance in macro-economic modelling, environment and development, food and agriculture and human resources.

### III. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no doubt that the MULPOCs have an important role to play in evolving effective co-operation, integration and socio-economic development strategies and programmes within their various sub-regions. Their current resource limitations are, as is well known, a major constraint on their greater effectiveness. Hopefully, the imminent restructuring of the Secretariat will remove most of this constraint. It is in this hope that attention is drawn to para (iii) of the Final Report's Special Recommendation, which

"requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to use all the means at his disposal, notably, under the framework of the restructuring exercise, to

**ECA/MRAG/93/6**

**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

**REPORT ON MRAG ACTIVITIES  
IN  
THE NIAMEY MULPOC  
SUBREGION  
IN  
1991-1992**

**March 1993**

ECA-MRAG's Activities in Niamey-MULPOC

Introduction

The last meeting of the Committee of Officials of the Niamey MULPOC in which ECA-Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (ECA-MRAG) participated was held from 27 to 30 March 1991 in Niamey.

As will be recalled it was at that meeting that member States were informed of the creation of ECA-MRAG whose mission is to apply multi-disciplinary, multisectoral and cross-country approaches to the solution of the socio-economic development problems with which African countries are confronted. To this end, MRAG carries out its activities with coherence and flexibility of response within a framework that takes into account the interlocking requirements for strategy at the national, subregional and regional levels.

ECA-MRAG is composed of ten senior experts, charged with the tasks of strengthening the links between ECA's research and analysis and their effects on Africa's development. The ten experts cover the following areas:

- Economic Cooperation and Integration (2 experts)
- Agricultural and Rural Development
- Public Administration and Management
- Environment and Development
- Energy and Development
- Statistical Development
- Policies and Instruments for Structural Adjustment and Transformation (Macro-economist)
- Social Concerns and Human Resources
- Development Finance and Debt Management

The group should be viewed as an important complement to the resources available at ECA-MULPOCs. The group also works closely

security which had taken into account other related issues such as energy, environment as well as subregional and international trade.

### Industry

In the field of industrial development, emphasis was placed on the following:

- (i) harmonization and coordination in the manufacture of farm implements;
- (ii) strengthening of cooperation towards utilization of capacity to manufacture inputs such as fertilizers;
- (iii) rational use of existing training institutions;
- (iv) cooperation in the exchange of raw materials as well as information on manufactured products;
- (v) optimizing the capacity of production of various public industries;
- (vi) environmental consequences of industrial development particularly with respect to effluent discharge as well as emission of poisonous gases into the atmosphere.

### Trade and Finance

Regarding trade and finance, the following were identified as the major constraints:

- (i) redefining the role of monetary and financial institutions particularly with respect to

availability of credit facilities for entrepreneurs;

- (ii) building of transportation and communication structures to facilitate trade within the subregion;
- (iii) implementation of measures and policies aimed at reversing the externally oriented economies;
- (iv) establishment of information system on markets for various products.

#### Development of Human Resources

The following were noted with respect to human resources development:

- (i) training and improvement of agricultural techniques for achievement of food self-sufficiency and security;
- (ii) solving unemployment of University graduates before considering other training programmes;
- (iii) better use of existing institutions.

#### Economic Integration

There was need to create legal structures and mechanisms at the national level as well as rationalize activities of the individual IGOs in order to create a larger and more viable economic grouping rather than encouraging the multiplicity of IGOs in the subregion. Taxation problems needed to be addressed and particularly in view of the fact that richer countries were reluctant to trade with poorer ones. Liberalization of trade should go hand in hand with production.

## Statistics

There was need to strengthen statistics departments of the Ministry of Planning, particularly in the areas of data collection as well as dissemination. In addition, it was desirable to train staff who would undertake various types of surveys such as household survey, agricultural survey as well as compilation of external trade data.

## Possible Areas of Intervention by ECA-MRAG

After a careful review of the major problem areas of the subregion, ECA-MRAG suggested that the following areas required further appraisal and possible intervention by the group:

### Promotion of Sustainable Management of Land and Water Resources for Agricultural Production

- (i) Range and livestock development
- (ii) Reclamation of degraded land including sand dune stabilization
- (iii) Cereal production and marketing
- (iv) Development of vegetable and horticultural crops
- (v) Management of shared water resources (international lakes and river basins)
- (vi) Development of marine and coastal resources
- (vii) Formulation of agricultural policies and programmes
- (viii) Development of early warning systems for drought

### Harnessing of Indigenous technologies

- (i) Development and improvement of indigenous technologies
- (ii) Promotion of women activities in the subregion



- (iii) Control of pollution including dumping of hazardous industrial and agricultural chemicals

#### Promotion of Marketing and Transportation within the Subregion

- (i) Liberalization of trade in the subregion
- (ii) Formulation of transportation master plan

#### Promotion of Economic Integration

Harmonization and rationalization of functions of IGOs.

The Niamey MULPOC on receipt of the ECA-MRAG Report suggested the need for a joint mission to be undertaken in the subregion in order to consult further with member States, IGOs and UN agencies with a view to ascertaining some areas of special concern and interest to individual member States thereby assisting to rank priorities in a coherent and cohesive manner. However, for a variety of reasons, this proposal could not be acted upon. The Niamey MULPOC further pointed out that the main priority programme would be in the area of food production encompassing, inter alia

- (i) Strategies for improving the role of women in food production and marketing;
- (ii) Rationalization and effective utilization of existing agricultural research and training institutions;
- (iii) Rationalization of fertilizer production in the subregion;
- (iv) Enhancing indigenous technologies;
- (v) Assistance to member States to incorporate environmental concerns in their national development plans;

- (vi) Promotion of afforestation and reafforestation programmes using fast-growing trees for provision of fuelwood;
- (vii) Assessment of coastal soil erosion;

**Activities Undertaken by ECA-MRAG in the Subregion  
in 1991-1992**

**IDEP Training Programmes**

Several missions have been undertaken to or on behalf of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) based in Dakar to assist the organisation in the preparation of course programmes as well as participate in training programmes.

A mission undertaken to IDEP in April 1991 by the Regional Advisors on Environment and Energy reviewed the three-month specialization programme in the area of energy, environment and development in Africa and suggested a new course structure which takes into account the interaction and complementarity among energy-environment-development. It is targeted at decision or policy makers and management staff in energy, environment and development planning, government organisations, agencies or parastatals as well as researchers and lecturers in these fields.

The new course programme consists of lectures, case studies, exercises, group discussions and field visits with respect to the subject matter of the various modules.

A training course held at the Institute in May 1992 on manpower and employment planning for 17 public servants from 11 countries saw the participation of the Regional Adviser on Social Concerns and Human Resources as a resource person. The advisor prepared a background paper entitled "Manpower and Employment

within an African Context" which formed the basis of lectures and discussions at the training sessions.

The course content included the evolution of human capital theory in development economics, manpower planning as well as employment planning.

In November 1992, the Regional Adviser on Policies and Instruments for Structural Adjustment and Transformation in Africa (macro-economist) provided lectures at IDEP on a course module in the basic Diploma Programme on Macro-economic Policy Analysis, Management and Planning in Africa. The series of lectures covered broad areas on "Development Economics: Theories and Strategies" including: study of economic development, political economy of Africa, theories of development and under-development, towards a strategy of African development as well as prospects for African development in the long-term.

The course placed emphasis on development of analytical and technical skills required to help planners and policy makers design, implement and monitor macro-economic development plans and programmes.

Similarly, the Regional Adviser on Public Administration and Management participated in an IDEP-organized training seminar on policy analysis and development for ten ECOWAS senior officials in Abuja, Nigeria. He presented lectures on policy analysis as well as a case study focusing on the application of policy analytical techniques to economic cooperation and integration problems.

**UNDESD and AAPAM Seminar on Decentralization/Strengthening  
of Local Government (UNDESD)**

The Regional Adviser on Policy Management and Institutional Reform participated in, and served as, Rapporteur-General at the

senior policy seminar on Decentralization and Strengthening of Local Government which was held in Banjul in July 1992.

The seminar provided a forum for the exchange of views and experiences on local government issues as well as explored avenues for further study and research on policies in local government administration. An additional objective of the seminar was to lay the foundation for the preparation and development of training packages for improvement of skills and techniques among senior and middle level officials in local government administration.

**Mission to Chad, Nigeria and Cameroon on Measures for  
Promoting Subregional Cooperation in Livestock Production  
and Development**

The mission was undertaken in April 1991 by the Regional Adviser on Food and Agriculture at the invitation of the Chad Government for the promotion of subregional cooperation in livestock production and development. Three countries namely Chad, Nigeria and Cameroon which are in close proximity to one another and which also possess common features in their livestock development were visited. Livestock movement across the common borders in search of water, pasture and livestock services and markets is a frequent occurrence. The main objective of the mission was to identify possible areas of cooperation in the development of livestock for increased production.

The mission recommended the need for development of research in the subregion for improvement of livestock breeds which are adapted to the region. The specific areas of research recommended include: animal productivity, genetics and breeding of livestock adapted to savanna conditions, animal physiology, marketing livestock and livestock products. A project proposal for the development of small ruminants in the lake Chad basin for US\$1 million was also formulated.

### Missions to ECOWAS to Review the ECOWAS Treaty

The regional Advisers on Economic Cooperation and on Integration and Structural Adjustment Programmes and Transformation (macro-economist) have on several occasions undertaken missions to the ECOWAS Headquarters to provide technical advisory services to the Intergovernmental Committee Reviewing the ECOWAS Treaty which was established in 1990 by the Summit meeting of the Heads of State and Government held in Banjul. At the Intergovernmental Committee Meeting held in January-February 1991, MRAG's contributions were in two areas namely (i) the study on the private sector (formal and informal) in the evolution of ECOWAS and (ii) evaluation of the studies on the service sector and joint production enterprises.

At another meeting held in April 1992, the Regional Advisor on Economic Cooperation and Integration served as a resource person to the Intergovernmental Committee. This was the fourth mission to be undertaken by this Regional Adviser to ECOWAS.

### Mission to SAFGRAD on Development of a Research-Extension-Farmer Linkage Project

The mission was undertaken by the Regional Advisers in Food and Agricultural, Policy and Planning and in Environment and Development in May-June 1992 at the invitation of SAFGRAD. The purpose of the mission was to assist in the conceptualization and development of a "research-extension-farmers linkage network". This request necessitated the MRAG team to undertake missions to Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria. The team held discussion with farmers, researchers, NGOs, government administrators, etc. The report presents the major findings and recommendations as well as a US\$2.5 million project proposal for the development of village-based sustainable land use management plans in the semi-arid regions of West and Central Africa.

### Advisory Services to CILSS

The mission was undertaken by two Regional Advisers (Economic Cooperation and Integration, and Social Concerns and Human Resources Development) and the Chief of the Environment Unit in the Natural Resources Division. CILSS had requested MRAG to identify the training needs in the areas of development policy and management of subregional projects as well as provide advice on the restructuring of CILSS within the context of long term recovery plan.

The mission report made a number of recommendations including one on the need for CILSS to reduce its donor-dependence by having itself transformed into a specialized agency for environment and development issues under ECOWAS.

### Mission to the Association of African Universities

The Association of African Universities (AAU) requested the Services of MRAG to prepare a project for strengthening the capacities of African Universities. The Adviser in Social Concerns and Human Resources undertook the assignment. In consultation with the senior staff of the AAU, the project was put together and provides for five final outputs over a four-year period, viz:

- (a) one undergraduate textbook in African agriculture;
- (b) one undergraduate textbook in pharmacology for African students;
- (c) Three hundred post-graduate research grants for problem-solving research in the basic and applied sciences, the medical sciences and the food and agricultural sciences;
- (d) The establishment of a Regional Universities Consultancy Bureau (RUCOB)
- (e) The creation of Centre for the Exchange of Information on University Research (CEXIN)

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UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
MULTINATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONAL  
CENTRE (MULPOC) FOR WEST AFRICA  
13TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS  
29 - 31 MARCH 1993  
NOUAKCHOTT, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

DRAFT REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
COMMITTEE MEETING OF MULPOC EXPERTS

## INTRODUCTION

1. The thirteenth intergovernmental committee meeting of MULPOC experts for West Africa was held in Nouakchott (Islamic Republic of Mauritania) from March 29 to April 1, 1993.

2. Three speeches were given at the opening ceremony by the Director of MULPOC, the President of the twelfth intergovernmental committee meeting of MULPOC experts, and the Minister of planning of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. The Minister of Fisheries and Marine Economy, the Minister of Rural Development and Environment, and the Minister of Commerce, Handicrafts and Tourism honores this meeting with their attendance.

3. A UNDP representative also attend the opening ceremony.

### A. PARTICIPATION

4. The following states were represented at the meeting :

Burkina Faso  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Niger  
Nigeria  
Senegal

Election of new officers  
(Item 2 of the agenda)

5. The participants elected by acclamation the following officers to lead the works of the thirteenth committee meeting.

- President : Mauritania
- Vice - Rapporteur : Nigeria
- Rapporteur : Mali

### B. SETTING UP OF THE AGENDA AND THE PROGRAMME OF WORK (item 3 of the agenda)

6. After amendments to the agenda and the programme of work, the participants have decided the following :

#### a) Agenda

1. Opening Session

- (a) A minute's silence : prayer or meditation



- (b) Speech by the Director of MULPOC
  - (c) Speech by the Chairman of the twelfth meeting of the Committee of Experts - Head of Niger's Delegation
  - (d) Welcoming speech by His Excellency the Minister of Planning of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
2. Election of Officers
- (a) Chairman
  - (b) Vice - Chairman
  - (c) Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the agenda and work programme
- (a) Agenda
  - (b) Work Programme
4. Detailed consideration of the implementation of work programme

#### PART ONE

- I - 1991-1992 Annual survey of the social and economic conditions of the West African subregion and prospects for 1993-1993

#### PART TWO

#### II - Agriculture and Livestock and fisheries

- (a) Policies and strategies for the production, processing and consumption of food-stuffs in West Africa and proposals for promoting food self-sufficiency at the subregional level.
- (b) Possibilities for the dissemination of Burkina Faso's experience in the field of small dams and related fishery and vegetable crops development projects.
- (c) Proposals for improving the marketing of cattle and goats among West African countries through the establishment of improved corridors.
- (d) Progress on the technical publication of compendium of results of West African Agricultural Research Centres in the field of improved seeds and modalities.

- (e) Report on measures to develop institutional aspect of rural transformation in selected African countries.
- (f) Report for the Committee of Intergovernmental Experts of the Niamey-based MULPOC of Implementation and follow-up of the recommendation of the Ministerial Conference held in Rabat, Morocco, from 30th March to 1st April 1989, on halieutic cooperation among the African countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean.
- (g) Report on the state of advancement of the seminar on the development of food self-sufficiency programme for West Africa towards the formulation of a common agricultural and food policy for ECOWAS.

### III - Industry

- (a) Industrial processing of leguminous plants in the coastal countries of West Africa and their marketing in the Sahelian countries with a view to reducing their food deficits.
- (b) Technical publication on integration based on production and comparative advantage towards industrial development of West Africa

### IV - Trade and Finance

Report of the subregional seminar on the financing of small and medium-scale enterprises in West Africa.

### V. Integration of women in development

Report on the activities of the Niamey-MULPOC in the field of integration of women in development.

### PART THREE

- VI - Report on WADIS and the activities of PADIS in the West African subregion.

### PART FOUR

- VII - Strengthening of Economic Cooperation and Integration in West Africa

Reports on the meetings of sectoral committees of the Association of West African IGOs on joint and complementary projects in the fields of :

- energy ;
- industrial development ;

- trade and finance ;                      - information and training ;
- energy.

VIII - MULPOC's Assistance to IGOs in its subregion

- (a) Organisation of policy organs meetings ;
- (b) Publication of the directory of West African IGOs ;
- (c) Publication of the Liaison bulletin of the IGOs ;

IX - Information

- (a) ECA Multidisciplinary advisory services ;
- (b) Fourth World Conference on women to take place in Beijing, China from 4 To 15 September 1995 ;
- (c) Subregional Seminar for West Africa on Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP)
- (d) Coordination, Harmonisation and Rationalisation of African IGOs ;
- (e) Implementation of the multisectoral aid-project in West Africa during the fourth period of UNDP programme.

PART FIVE

# X - MULPOC's Work programme and priorities

- (a) State of the advancement in the implementation of the work programme and priorities for 1992-1993 ;
  - (b) Report of the third meeting of the follow-up and evaluation committee of the MULPOC ;
  - (c) Proposed work programme and priorities for the 1994-1995 biennium ;
  - (d) Special United Nations Fund for the Development of Africa.
5. Preparations for next meeting
  6. Date and venue for the next meeting
  7. Other matters
  8. Review and adoption of the report of the meeting
  9. Closing Session
    - (a) Final Communique
    - (b) Vote of thanks
    - (c) Remarks of Chairman of the meeting
    - (d) Closing speech by the Minister of Planning of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

## b) Programme of work

MONDAY, 29 MARCH 1993

- 8 am - 10.30 am Registration of participants
- Meeting of Heads of delegations
- 11 am - 11.30 am Official opening of the thirteenth meeting of the committee of experts
- 11.45 - 1 pm Presentation of reports
- 3.30 pm - 6.30 pm Presentation of reports (continued)

TUESDAY, 30 MARCH 1993

8 am - 1 pm Presentation of reports (continued)

3.30 pm - 6.30 pm End of review of reports

WEDNESDAY, 31 MARCH 1993

Drafting of the report of the meeting

4 pm - 6 pm Review and adoption of the report of the meeting

6 pm - 6.30 pm Official closing of the thirteenth meeting of the committee of experts.

#### C. REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

7. In his speech on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. B. AKPORODE CLARK thanked His Excellency Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, President of the Government and the People of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for accepting to host the thirteenth intergovernmental meeting committee of MULPOC experts. The Director of MULPOC also thanked the representatives of the host country for the brotherly welcome of all the participants to the meeting.

8. After thanking the Minister of Planning for attending the opening ceremony of the meeting, he welcomed the representatives of governments whose attendance is a testimony of the importance given by the governments to interafrican cooperation in order to face the problems of the continent. The Director of MULPOC went on and said that he believed that the outcome of the meeting will include solutions to the many socio-economic problems faced by the continent.

9. Furthermore, the director of MULPOC quoted the Executive Secretary of the ECA and referred to "the close relationship between the political and social changes on the one hand, and the severe economic crisis, on the other hand, which Africa has experiences for more than a decade". Accordingly, he cited some of the effects of these changes such as famine, drop in the production, scarcity of necessary services, lack of basic infrastructures, and the continued decrease of income per inhabitant.

10. In addition, the Director of MULPOC mentioned the economic groupings presently, in existence in Europe, Asia, and Latin America, to show how important it is for Africa to achieve economic integration or be marginalised. On this issue he insisted on the necessity to develop cooperation between the states and intergovernmental organisations in Africa in order to achieve better results.

11. In this regard he mentioned that the 6th conference of Africa IGO's Association insisted on the important role these organizations should play through a close collaboration in order to recover the subregion economy. The director of MULPOC spoke too of ECOWAS' task as a henceforth unique organization in charge of carrying through the integration process in West Africa. He also mentioned the study on the rationalisation of the subregion IGOs currently conducted by IDEP on ECOWAS' request.

12. The Director of MULPOC has also in his speech referred to the United Nations New Plan of Action for Africa Development in the 90th and beyond, saying that the 13th committee could take advantage of the above mentioned programme framework. At the end he reiterated MULPOC deep gratefulness to the head of state as well as to the Mauritanian government and people for having arranged the meeting.

13. In his speech, the Chairman of the 12th meeting committee (Niger), thanked on behalf of all the delegates, the representatives of the hosting country for the warm and friendly reception. He also urged the participants to carefully study during the meeting, the main socio-economic problems hindering the development of the subregion and to come up with suggestion for their solution.

14. He concluded by congratulating MULPOC/ECA for the efforts made in the organisation of the thirteenth committee.

15. In his opening speech, His Excellency the Minister of Planning of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, welcomed the experts of member States attending the 13th meeting of MULPOC for West Africa.

16. After reminding that MULPOC is the best means for implementing Lagos Plan of Action, His Excellency urged the participants to make of this meeting a fruitful forum for mutual exchange in order to give a new stimulus to the regrouping dynamics currently prevailing in the world.

17. Before ending his address, His Excellency, congratulated MULPOC experts for the good quality of their documents and declared open the thirteenth session of the intergovernmental committee of MULPOC of West African experts, to whom he wished success.

1991-1992 Annual Survey of the Social and  
Economic Conditions of the West African Subregion  
and Prospects for 1992-1993 (Agenda Item I)

In his presentation of the document ECA/MIE/NIA/93/XIII/3, the representative of the secretariat remarked that on the whole the economic and social situation of the region has worsened in 1992 in comparison to the preceeding year. Infant, evidence of this situation is indicated in the low or unchanges figures of the net product which has increases very slightly (2,4%) in comparison to a 3% increase in 1991.

On the social level there has been a real awareness about the necessity of an economic development focusing on people but little has been done regarding the impact of this awareness on the important factors involved in this sector, namely the demographic growth rate, the unemployment rate, and the coverage of expenses towards people which have continued to hold attention.

This situation is not only due to a decrease in the structural price of exported products and the impact of debt but also to internal conflicts, agro-climatic conditions and the international environment situation.

Finally, in 1992 there was a renewed interest in integration problems whose priviledges advocate in the subregion is ECOWAS, the Secretriat of which attempted to evaluate the results mor objectively.

The perspectives for 1993 will depend on solutions to backwardness factors that will be put forward. The Secretariat concludes that one should not expect immediate positive results and that the situation for 1993 would at least be without much change.  
Item II (a) (b)

Possibilities for the dissemination of Burkina Faso's  
experience in the field of small dams and related  
fishery and vegetable crops development projects  
(Agenda item II (c) )

The Secretariat presented the document ECA/MIEE/NIA/93/XIII/7 entitled "Proposals for improving the marketing of sheep and goats among West African countries based on improved corridors". He mentioned that the sahelian pastoral area has, thus far contributed through intensive exploitation to meet at aceptable levels the demand in meat of Sahelian countries and also meet the demand of neighbouring countries. The availability of meet has become irregular due to sucessive bouts of drought which have destroyed a great deal of the ecological balance leading to a constraint reduction of pastures, empoverishment of soils and overgazing on

pastures.

The combined effects of these factors caused the following difficulties : conflicts in rural areas between farmers and stock breeders, inappropriate fodder content for the cattle, low cattle production, low cattle productivity and poor marketing.

The purpose of the present study is to :

- (1) study the situation of animal husbandry in West Africa by focusing on the problems of marketing of sheep and goats ;
- (2) make proposals for the building of improved corridors in order to improve the market system of cattle.

The study has dwelled on proposals leading to the building of improved corridors and the establishment on these corridors of viable pastoral and agro-pastoral areas which would allow appropriate management of the ecological space by reducing as possible the problems and social conflicts among the users.

Also some elements of commercial policy were suggested to improve the mutual exchange of animal products in order to create, in the sub-region, the maximum of added value, to provide life cattle to countries, to assist countries showing a deficit to reach or approach a high threshold of self supply in animal protein and to make sure that countries with surplus channel their flows towards countries showing a deficit.

In their discussion, the delegates insisted on the necessity of developing improved corridors in order to find adequate solution for the problem of marketing. That would help secure regular supply of life enable to countries sharing deficit.

Answering a question about the limitation of the studies' topic to sheep and goats why, the representative of the Secretariat indicated that the topic was decided by MULPOC 12th meeting in order to put together these small animals in accurate improved corridors inside the countries before exporting them from regrouping markets.

Agenda item II - (d))

Progress on the TECHNICAL Publication of Compendium of Results of West African Agricultural Research centres in the field of Improved Seeds and Modalities/

In presenting document ECA/MIE/NIA/93/XIII/8, the Secretariat



indicated that the aim of the progress report on the technical publication of compendium of results of West African agricultural research centres in the field of improved seeds and modalities was to appeal to the member States to provide such information available to the MULPOC whenever such requests were to be made. The need for collaboration with the member States in the compilation of the compendium was necessitated by the fact that the MULPOC might be able to mount missions to all countries in view of financial resource constraints.

The Secretariat highlighted the importance of publishing such a compendium as it would assist in : bridging the gap that exists in the dissemination of available information, stimulating interest in the utilization of improved seeds by small-scale farmers ; approaching researchers of the on-going efforts elsewhere in order to avoid unnecessary and expensive duplication of efforts ; and commercializing of seed production as well as allowing researchers to concentrate efforts on other aspects of seed production impoverishment.

In the discussion that followed, the delegates underscored the importance of the project and urged the Secretariat to update some of the information. The meeting also emphasized the need for the MULPOC to contact all the existing research institutions as well as the relevant intergovernmental organizations within the subregion in order to compile an up-to-date information on improved seed varieties utilization in the Subregion.

The meeting urged the member States to provide the MULPOC with the information when such request is directed to them. It was imperative for the member States to collaborate fully with the MULPOC in the publication of the compendium if a fuller picture is to be reflected in the publication.

Report on measures to develop institutional aspect  
of rural transformation in selected African countries

(agenda item II - (e) )

The secretariat presented document RSTD/JEFAD/92/3(b)(ix)/27, entitled, "Report on Measures to Develop Institutional Aspects of Rural Transformation in Selected African Countries". The paper, restated the case for pursuing rural development strategies and goals for the peculiar development needs of the West African sub-region. First, given the severe food problems of the sub region, the importance of strengthening food production capacity, which is, in turn a function of the strength of the rural sector, should be

of topmost priority. Secondly, given the levels of poverty within the subregion and the strong commitments which governments have made towards its alleviation, rural development which would target the majority of the population, would be the only viable strategy to pursue, towards attaining the objective of effective poverty alleviation. Thirdly, the subregion's economy is for the most part agrarian, hence any real economic growth, without the stimulation of growth in the rural sector. Among the many interventions, required to support rural development, the paper had focused on the institutional aspects, which must constitute the nerve-centre of all actions designed to bring about rural development.

The document emphasized that the past development strategies neglected rural development in favour of urban/industrial development, at great cost to food security and self-sufficiency and poverty reduction. Coupled with this policy lapse, was the poor performance of public rural development institutions, which failed to properly manage natural resources, create strong and efficient rural infrastructure, develop the sector's human resources, stimulate sustainable growth in agriculture and promote the growth of agricultural entrepreneurship. Much support had been accorded to Africa, through public and voluntary institution, to promote rural development ; however, this support was, largely misplaced : financing and logistics rather than institutional and management capacity-building ; an excessive dependency on experience outside expertise to the detriment of local counterpart training ; too strong a reliance on the market for determining resource allocation. There emerged also, with time, an over-reliance on central government to catalyse the process of rural development ; dirigist, top-down approaches to rural development with little involvement of the people in needs assessment and identification, programme formulation and implementation ; heavy bureaucratic processes and procedures ; poor resource utilization and accountability ; low salaries and wages systems for rural development and related staff, leading to low motivation and productivity ; poor human and other resource management practices. The record over the years, was that rural development was by-and-large frustrated.

The paper also reviewed a number of recommendations that could be undertaken to rebuild institutional capacities for effective enhancement of rural development in the West African subregion. In spite of the ineffectiveness of cooperatives in rural development, efforts must be made for them to play their role as important catalysts and conduits for inputs, credit and training as well as agents for marketing, storage and the procurement of rural production technology. Through carefully designed policies they could be transformed into efficient agents for the stimulation of food production, distribution and marketing. Government should ease their control over the efforts of cooperatives so as to allow them to operate as rural entrepreneurs, as well as grant them a special status in respect of taxes and subsidies in the interest of rural

development. Institutionally, they should be assisted to strengthen their capacities to manage change through extensive programmes of staff-training and other forms of management development interventions for greater effectiveness.

Voluntary and non-government organisations, which in recent times, have been making significant inroads into the promotion of rural development at the grassroots level, should be further empowered to be able to channel their huge development resource flows towards the poorest of the poor and towards the goal of poverty alleviation. Their relationship with local and central government entities should also be better clarified, and their efforts better coordinated towards the attainment of mutually-agreed priorities. Private entrepreneurs, preferably from the rural sector itself, should be empowered through a significantly increased access to credit, skills, markets and technology to raise rural productivity and incomes by investing more in direct agricultural production, production input supply, rural transportation, agricultural marketing, food processing, etc...The informal sector, which is largely urban - based, could be encouraged to select its place in employment creation in the rural areas.

The public sector could assist in the strengthening of rural development institutions by reducing its interference with or control over them to devolving power to local authorities ; increasing public expenditure in the build up of rural infrastructure ; and creating an enabling legal environment for institutional development.

In the ensuing discussions, one delegation noted that the points raised in the paper regarding the role of cooperatives and the need for decentralization of central Government, were valid, and that its government, for one, endeavoured to ensure that cooperatives developed the capacity for self-management. Government was also striving to make decentralization was effective and render it more beneficial to the rural areas.

The point was also made that while the informal and subsistence agricultural sectors had in the past been neglected in development planning, their new - found importance in socio-economic development, had encouraged a number of African countries to begin planning more consciously towards their growth and development.

Industrial Processing of Leguminous plants in the Coastal countries of West Africa and their marketing in the Sahelian countries with a view to reducing their food deficits (Agenda Item III (a) )

A representative of the Secretariat presented a study entitled "Industrial processing of leguminous plants in the Coastal countries of West Africa and their marketing in the Sahelian countries with a view to reducing their food deficits".

The purpose of this study was to present the technical and economic capacities of the industrial treatment of leguminous plants and tuber with particular emphasis on tuber.

Before introducing the industrial processing of these plants, the study analysed the state of agriculture production and post-harvest system which causes the various losses and the nature of the industrial processing of these plants in view of a better preservation of the food stuffs and their marketing.

The reduction of post harvest losses and the production of adequate, simple and healthy food depend on the appropriate utilisation of traditional preservation methods and new discoveries in the scientific domain. Many of such traditional methods were developed in food technology institutes and permit transfer to the industrial domain.

In this report a detailed technico-economic and financial study was presented about the processing of Cassava tuber into flour for bread and other agro-industrial surveys concerning the tubers and the leguminous plants.

The purpose of these surveys is to provide basic information to investors and organisation which encourage investments, and they are presented in easy form for large-scale use. These projects even the consumption of these produce by West African people and the particular conditions of the sub-region. These projects do in fact use perishable raw materials in the coastal countries whose technologies are accessible.

The technico-economic and financial study of industrial processing of cassava tuber shows in the case of Cote d'Ivoire that it is possible for Africans to master a technology and improve it in the context of its environment.

The major problem after the industrial processing of these products remains the marketing, in the Sahelian countries. At this stage it is important to master the transportation system by reducing as much as possible the cost of transportation through the creation of efficient distribution networks. Thus, thanks to the nutritional value of these produce will help reduce food shortage among certain groups of people who need some supplement in their diet.

The debates were on the need to industrialise at a small scale first the perishable produce to allow farmers to preserve their

harvest and thus facilitate their marketing in the countries which demand them. A particular emphasis should be put on the level of investments and the capacity of the users to master the proposed technologies.

Technical Publication on Integration based on production  
and Comparative Advantage towards Industrial Development  
in West Africa (Agenda Item III (b))

In presenting document ECA/MIE/NIA/93/XIII/9 the Secretariat noted that while industrialization had been given prominence as a means of freeing the countries from the loggia of underdevelopment and economic dependence, the experience had remained disappointing because it was faced with the limited size of domestic markets, technological backwardness and the absence of entrepreneurial class and poor work ethics. These bottlenecks underpinned the need to promote economic integration for the purposes of enhancing economies of scale and specialization in industrial production. The orthodox model adopted such as the market integration, complementarity, and development integration economies context due to the operational scope and direction of regional trade ; equities in the distribution of benefits ; policy towards foreign investments ; and lead to the duplication of industries and segmentation of the markets.

The Secretariat further pointed out that while the lack of production base had undermined the market integration approach to economic integration even when tariff barriers and other quantitative restrictions had been eliminated. The same structural handicaps would also affect the economic integration approach

since the two were the same side of the same coin. It was against these factors that a mixed approach was being proposed. It was equally suggested that the mixed approach strategy of both market and production be based on selected strategic industries contained in the ECOWAS industrialization Master Plan. The prerequisites for the achievement of this modified approach depend on the development of human resources, internal mobilisation of resources for the promotion of new investments and coordination of industrial policy at subregional level.

In the ensuing discussion, the meeting emphasized the need for Africa to find its own modified economic integration approach since the model pursued thus far had not been successful. It was further stressed that in the light of the empirical evidence, it would be prudent for the countries of the subregion to limit the integration through production to few selected projects based on the criteria of : (i) which products were to be produced now and in the future ; (ii) the requirements of the production processes in terms of human capabilities, investment, technology and innovation both far now and in the future ; and how those elements were to be provided at the various stages of projects development. It was indicated that by considering some of those issues, perhaps a sound foundation for genuine industrial development could be laid down.

#### West African Development Information System (WADIS) (AGENDA Item VI)

Under this agenda item VI the Secretariat pointed out that the host Government of the Republic of Niger continues to support the activities of WADIS. It had financed the UNVS posts of data processing expert and agricultural expert from its IPF resources that had been assigned to the WADIS project. In addition, MULPOC had put at the disposal of the Centre, the services of a documentalist. The Secretariat further explained that due to the exorbitant cost of operating HP 3000 that had been purchased for the Centre, it had been decided to replace the equipment and to replace it with micro-computers which were cheap to run. It was also envisaged that links would be made with PADIS, UNDP computer network as well as with other Centres in the subregion, and the diskets would be produced and made available to member States and other end-users in this regard, a budget estimate of about \$270.000 for the running of WADIS operation for two years had been worked out.

In the discussion that followed several delegates sought clarification as to why the equipment that had been purchased for the system had not been used. Other sought to know whether the resources obtained through the sale of the equipment would be used by WADIS. The Secretariat gave clarifications and noted that the experience from the use of similar equipment had revealed that it was costly to run and maintain. As concerns resources to be

obtained from the sale of HP 3000 would go back to the undp that had purchased the original equipment and would not be used by the System.

The need of the WADIS Centre to intensify contact with the existing Centres in the subregion was underscored by the willingness of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to have its Information Centre for economic and technical development based with the Ministry of Commerce linked to the WADIS system. The importance of such link was stressed and a mechanism to facilitate contacts would be worked out.

The meeting urged the WADIS Centre to intensify its activities and contacts with all the existing centres in the Subregion.

#### Strengthening of Economic Cooperation and Integration in West Africa (Agenda Item VII)

In presenting reports of sectoral committees of the Association of West African IGOs on joint and complementary projects in the fields of :

- agriculture and livestock - ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO/VI/CS/4
- trade and finance - ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO/VI/CS/6
- industrial development - ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO/VI/CS/7
- information and training - ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO/VI/CS/8
- energy - ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO/VI/CS/9

as well as the reports of the Sixth meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Association of West African Intergovernmental Organizations ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO/92/19 and the Report of the Sixth Conference of the Chief Executive of the Association of IGOs in West Africa ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO/92/20, the Secretariat informed the meeting that all the meetings of IGOs had been held in Ouagadougou, BURKINA Faso from 8-18 March 1993. The recommendations that emanated from the sectoral committees meetings were contained in annex 2 of the Report of the Sixth meeting of the Committee of Experts. The Secretariat also highlighted some of the main issues considered by the meeting of the CHief Executives, such as the IDEP/ECOWAS study on the rationalisation of IGOs in West Africa ; the outcome of the IGOs for West Africa on Disaster Management Training Programme, and the report of the Ad hoc Committee on the future of the Association.

The outcome of the IGOs meetings in Ouagadougou had demonstrated the willingness of th IGOs to strengthen their cooperation and to harmonize their activities. The Chief Executives also undertook to cooperate with the IDEP/ECOWAS study.

The meeting took note of the reports.

MULPOC'S Assistance to Igos in the Subregion  
(Agenda Item VIII (a, b, c) )

In presenting ECA/MIE/NIA/93/XIII/15, the Secretariat outlined the main areas in which it produced cooperative efforts among the IGOs in the subregion. These included institutional reinforcement of associating exchange of information ; improvement of the performance ; and harmonisation of the work programmes. The Secretariat had encouraged twenty IGOs to sign the cooperation Agreement and that the Lake Chad Basin Commission Committee on development of river, lake and water basin. In the area of the exchange of information among the IGOs, the Secretariat indicated that the first issue of the Liaison Bulletin had been published as well as the Directory of West African Intergovernmental Organizations. The harmonisation of the IGOs' work programmes and activities were on the other hand carried out through the six sectoral technical committees, in order to promote cooperation and/or to avoid the duplication efforts among the IGOs.



The Secretariat presented a report on the activities of the ECA-Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group in the Niamey-MULPOC Subregion in 1992/93. He recalled the MRAG's last report presented to the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts in 1991 at Niamey. It was pointed out the services of the Group would be placed at the disposal of the member States. It was once again ready to provide multidisciplinary advisory services in any area of socio-economic development to member States. The report on ECA-MRAG has feilded nine multi-dissciplinary missions to the subregion providing services in the construction of training in energy, environment and development, manpower and employment planning, socio-economic policy analysis, management and planning ; and decentralization and strengthening of local government advisory services were also provided to devise measures for promoting sub-regional co-operation in livestock production and development ; the development of research/extension/farmer linkages ; on training needss analysis of the CILSS Secretariat ; and, within the context of the Abuja Treaty, on a review of the ECOWAS Treaty MRAG also assisted the Association of African Universities to draw up a five-yearr project designed to strengthen the capacities of African Universities, from which, many Universities of the sub-region would, no doubt, benefit.

Finally, the Secretariat reminded the meeting of the composition of the Group and invited each member States to call upon it for its free services.

Observations were then made from the floor. The representative welcomed the creation of MRAG and underscored its potential usefulness to member States not only in assisting them realiostically prepare their development plans or structural adjustment programmes, but also to bring the experiences of other African countries with which they are more familiar to bear on their initiatives in socio-economic development. Member States are urged to fully exploit the services of the Group in all the areas covered by it, viz macro-economies, statistics, energy and development, environment and development, development administration and management, social concerns and human resources, economic cooperation and integration, food and agriculture and debt management.

## MOTION DE REMERCIEMENT

Les participants à la treizième réunion du Comité d'Experts du Centre Multinational de Programmation et d'Exécution des projets (MULPOC) de l'Afrique de l'Ouest tenue à Nouakchott du 29 au 31 Mars 1993, expriment leurs remerciements au peuple et au Gouvernement de la République Islamique de Mauritanie pour l'hospitalité chaleureuse empreinte de fraternité qui leur a été réservée pendant leur séjour dans ce beau pays.

Ils ont été très sensibles aux efforts louables déployés par la République Islamique de Mauritanie pour assurer la parfaite organisation et le plein succès des travaux de cette réunion.

Les participants prient Monsieur le Ministre du Plan de transmettre à Son Excellence Monsieur MAAOUYA OULD SIDI AHMED TAYA, Président de la République Islamique de Mauritanie, leur profonde et sincère gratitude pour son dévouement et son engagement au service de la cause de l'intégration et la coopération économique africaine et particulièrement pour la sous-région ouest-africaine.

Fait à Nouachott, le 31 Mars 1993

LA REUNION

## RECOMMANDATIONS

1. La création des couloirs aménagés pour promouvoir la commercialisation entre les états de la sous-région du bétail sur pied.
2. La promotion du traitement industriel des produits agricoles en vue de réduire les pertes et de favoriser leur commercialisation.
3. La création d'un poste de Coordinatrice de programme IFD (Integration de la Femme au Développement au sein du MULPOC pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest.
4. Le soutien de la CEA et du MULPOC aux efforts des Etats concernés pour obtenir le financement des projets identifiés dans le cadre de la Convention régionale sur la coopération halieutique entre Etats africains riverains de l'Océan Atlantique.
5. L'exhortation de la CEA à prendre en charge financièrement la participation d'un délégué par Etat membre aux réunions statutaires du MULPOC.

## RESOLUTION

MULPOC/MIE/NIA/1993/XIII/1

La treizieme réunion du Comité Intergouvernemental d'Experts du Centre Multinational et d'Execution des projets pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest basé à Niamey, République du Niger, tenue à Nouakchott, République Islamique de Mauritanie,

NOTANT avec préoccupation la persistance des conditions économiques négatives dans les pays de la sous-région de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, malgré plusieurs années de réformes politiques et l'existence d'une situation intérieure plus favorable à la croissance dans la plus grande partie de la sous-région,

AYANT, une fois de plus, passé en revue les énormes potentialités et possibilités de développement des secteurs clés pour la transformation des économies de la sous-région et tout particulièrement l'agriculture et les secteurs connexes,

RAPPELANT le Plan d'Action de Lagos, le PPREA, le PANUREDA et le CARPAS en tant que cadres adoptés par les Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement africains pour le renforcement de la coopération entre pays africains et l'accélération de l'intégration des économies africaines,

RAPPELANT, en outre le Traité d'Abuja adopté par les Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement en juin 1991 et établissant la Communauté Economique Africaine qui crée un nouveau défi pour tous les pays africains, en particulier pour la sous-région de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

1. Félicite Monsieur Layasi Yaker pour sa récente nomination comme Secrétaire général adjoint des Nations Unies et Secrétaire exécutif de la Commission Economique pour l'Afrique :

2. Salue les initiatives prises récemment par la CEA pour formuler de nouvelles stratégies de développement pendant les années 1990 au-delà, et en particulier les programmes globaux dans les domaines d'intérêt vital pour la sous-région de l'Afrique de l'Ouest tels que l'agenda 21 sur l'environnement et le développement ainsi que les stratégies pour la mise en oeuvre du Taité d'Abuja ;

3. Demande au Secrétaire exécutif de la CEA d'user de tous les moyens à sa disposition, notamment dans le cadre de l'exercice de la restructuration, pour renforcer le Secrétariat du MULPOC de Niamey afin de lui permettre de mieux aider les pays de la sous-

région dans les domaines de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, de l'environnement et du développement, du développement humain, notamment l'intégration des femmes dans le processus du développement, les ressources en eau, le commerce et les finances.

## VOTE OF THANKS

The participants to the 13th meeting of Committee of experts of MULPOC for West Africa held in Nouakchott from March 29 to March 31, 1993, expressed in gratitude to the people and government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for their warm and fraternal hospitality during their stay in their beautiful country.

They have been very deeply touched by the commendable efforts made by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to ensure the proper organisation of the meeting that made for the successful outcome of its work.

The participants would like to request the Honourable Minister of Planning to convey their deep and sincere appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency Colonel MAAOUYA OUL SIDI AHMED TAYA, Head of State of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for his commitment and outstanding services to the cause of cooperation and integration of Africa in general and the West African Subregion in particular.

Done in Nouakchott on 31 March 1993

THE MEETING

## RECOMMANDATIONS

1. Creation of improved corridors to promote livestock marketing between States of the Subregion.
2. Creation of post of Coordinator of the Programme for the Integration of Women in Development (IWD) for West Africa within MULPOC and support for the preparations effective participation of West Africa Women in the projected Fourth World Conference of Women in Beijing, China.
3. Support by ECA and MULPOC for efforts of member States to obtain funding for selected projects within the frame work of the Regional Convention on Halieutic Cooperation among the African Countries bordering the Atlantic ocean.
4. Support to ECA and MULPOC to continue their efforts and assistance for the formulation of policis and strategies for the production, procesing and consommation of food stuffs in West Africa and proposals for promoting food self-sufficiency and security on the subregion.
5. Invitation to member States to examine the benefits of the experience of Burkina Faso in the field of small dams and related fishery and vegetable crops development projects.
6. Reaffirms support for WADIS and calls on ECA and MULPOC to take effectual measures to strengthen the Centre and its activities.
7. Assistance being rendred by MULPOC to the Association of IGOs of West Africa in the area of cooperation, coordination, harmonisation and rationalisation.
8. Notes with satisfaction the outcome of the Dakar Seminar on the Financing of Small and Medium-scale Enterprises and invited member States and Regional Financial Institutions to participate actively in the next seminar.
9. Welcomes the proposal by UN Disaster Management Training Programme for Africa to organize subregional and national seminars

on disaster management training programmes in West Africa.

10. Invite member States and IGOs to request for the free consultative services of the MRAG.