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UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division

PROGRESS REPORT

For the Period from 1st January to 30 June 1989

Project Title

PREVENTION OF POST-HARVEST FOOD LOSSES

1. Project Title: Prevention of Post-harvest Food Losses
2. Funding Source: Federal Republic of Germany
3. Total Cost: US\$563,378
4. Total Expenditure: US\$467,500
5. ECA Contribution

During the period under review, ECA provided project with the services of the following personnel:

- Economic Affairs Officer acting as project officer (3 man-months)
- Economic Affairs Officer (1 man-months)
- Secretary (5 man-months)

The Director of the Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division provided the staff directly involved in project implementation with continuous guidance.

Also, the ECA continued to provide project with required administrative support including office and communication facilities.

6. Summary report on present status of project implementation

Since the beginning of project implementation in January 1986, the following planned activities have been effectively completed:

(i) General assessment of causes and magnitude of post-harvest food losses in three subregions:

- Great Lakes Countries (1986)
- Central Africa (1987)
- Eastern and Southern Africa (1988).

Country reports as well as subregional synthesis have been prepared and despatched to member countries. The country reports included profiles of projects which can significantly contribute to improve the prevailing situations.

(ii) Organization and servicing of subregional workshops on methods and techniques to reduce and prevent post-harvest food losses, intended for decision-makers.

- West Africa in Lomé, Togo in February 1987
- Eastern and Southern Africa in Nairobi in October 1987
- Central Africa in June 1988

(iii) Preparation of technical publications

- Measures to improve the utilization and marketing of fish in West Africa (1987);
- Method of assessing animal products losses in Eastern and Southern Africa (1987);
- Methods and techniques to reduce post-harvest food losses (1987);
- Measures to improve the utilization and marketing of fish in Eastern and Southern Africa (1988).

During the period under review, the following main activities have been implemented:

(i) Organization and servicing of a seminar on causes of post-harvest food losses intended for English-speaking senior extension personnel, in Nairobi in June 1989.

(ii) Organization and servicing of a workshop on project analysis and planning, including an Objective Oriented Project Session (ZOPP) for senior English-speaking agricultural economists.

(iii) Preparatory work for the organization of a seminar and workshop intended for French-speaking countries, similar to those mentioned in (i) and (ii) above, to be held in Niamey, Niger in November 1989.

7. Results to date

All planned activities contained both in the initially submitted project document and the addendum document related to activities in 1988 and 1989 have been effectively implemented. It is noteworthy that member States have been sensitized on the importance of reducing post-harvest food losses as part of their strategies of attaining food self-sufficiency.

Also, the activities undertaken in the framework of project contributed in the identification of a number of projects. More especially, the feasibility study on processing tuber crops in the Great Lakes Countries has been appreciated by member States of this subregion.

The subregional workshops contributed in bringing together African experts involved in related activities.

Although in a limited number, extension personnel have been exposed to techniques and methods proper to reduce and prevent post-harvest food losses.

8. Results still to be achieved

At this stage of project implementation, only the organization and servicing of a seminar intended to French-speaking extension personnel and a ZOPP workshopp for French-speaking agricultural economists is yet to be achieved. These two meetings are scheduled to take place at Niamey, Niger from 6 to 18 November 1989 and the preparatory work is underway.

9. Major obstacles to project implementation

Since the beginning of implementation of project activities, there have been no major obstacles.

10. Action required

At this stage of implementation and with six months left before the termination of project, it is necessary to take steps for the extension of project based on the findings of completed activities.

11. Immediate expected follow-up

One of the major findings of project is the need to improve the communication channel in order to reach the farmers and rural traders handling the bulk of food commodities. It is necessary to prepare the project document for follow-up activities. The project document will be prepared and submitted to donor before the termination of the on-going project.

12. Project budget

The financial statement related to expenditures against the allocated resources will be submitted to the donor after it has been prepared by the ECA Finance Section.