



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr. : GENERAL

**ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/4
21 November 2001**

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

**Second Meeting of the Committee on
Sustainable Development**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
26-29 November 2001**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
SUBPROGRAMME ON FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
DURING THE 2000-2001 BIENNium**

1. Objective of the Subprogramme

The objective of the subprogramme is to ensure food security and sustainable development in member countries of the ECA by:

- (i) planning and implementing a critical programme to raise policy-makers' awareness of the urgency of food, population and environmental concerns (the nexus issues) in development planning;
- (ii) offering member States feasible solutions drawn from best practices within Africa and around the world;
- (iii) encouraging ECA member States to develop and take full advantage of their abilities to foster and utilise science and technology for development;
- (iv) providing technical advisory services to enhance understanding and management of the complex interactions among agricultural productivity, population, environment and food security.

2. Activities Implemented during the 2000-2001 Biennium

To attain its mission objectives, the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSDD) which administers the subprogramme, planned an array of activities which it implemented during the 2000 -2001 biennium, for the benefit of ECA member States. These included one session of the Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD) which will be organized and serviced in November 2001 and to which six reports which have been prepared will be submitted on the review and appraisal of the implementation of plans of action emanating from global and regional conferences; one meeting of the follow-up Committee on the Implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration (DND) and Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD); one meeting of the Committee on Natural Resources and Science and Technology (CNRST); three ad hoc expert group meetings; and a number of recurrent and non-recurrent publications, booklets and pamphlets. The Division also provided advisory services, on request, to member states; and promoted international cooperation and inter-agency coordination . These activities are shown in greater detail below.

a) Servicing of Intergovernmental bodies

- i) The Second meeting of the Committee on Natural Resources and Science and Technology (CNRST) was organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 October to 1 November 2001

ii) Parliamentary documentation:

- a) Five reports were prepared for submission to the second Meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development on the review and appraisal of the implementation of plans of action emanating from global and regional conferences, namely:
 - International Conference on Population and Development and the Dakar/Ngor Declaration (ICPD/DND)

- The world Food Summit
- Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)
- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Agenda 21)
- Science and Technology for Food Security and Sustainable Development

The following two reports were also prepared:

- b) Report to the fourth meeting of the Follow-up Committee on the review and appraisal of African experience with the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration (DND) and the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action of the (ICPD-PA)
- c) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Science and Technology on key issues in science and technology for Africa's development

iii) **Ad hoc expert group meetings**

Three ad hoc expert group meetings were organized on:

- Population-agriculture-environment interrelationship in Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 24 to 26 October, 2000
- Science and technology for food security and sustainable development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 2 to 4 October, 2000
- Indigenous food Technology in Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 22 to 23 November 2001

iv) **Non-recurrent publications**

- A Handbook on population, environment, development and agriculture model was prepared.
- Three studies were undertaken on "The state of the environment in Africa; "The State of demographic transition in Africa" and "The Population, environment and agriculture inter-linkages and sustainable development "while a Report was prepared on "Indigenous food technology: application and potential for upgrading"
- Two booklets were prepared on "The population, environment, development and agriculture model (PEDA Model) and two posters on the world environment day (one in June 2000 and one in June 2001)
- Two pamphlets were also prepared on the Africa network on science and technology

3. **International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison**

For service delivery, the Division liaised and cooperated with key partners including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Population Division and Global POPIN, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (UNCHS), the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), World Bank Institute (WBI), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), African Development Bank (ADB) International Food Research Institute (IFPRI), the World Bank, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), some African Universities/Research Institutions and ECA's sub-Regional Development Centres (SRDCs).

In particular, the subprogramme collaborated with the following organizations and institutions:

- World Bank Institute on two Distance Learning Courses on Poverty Reduction and Food Security delivered to Ghana, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. ECA facilitated and delivered learning modules on the two courses which lasted 7 and 6 weeks respectively.
- FAO in the organization of the Subregional Meeting for Eastern Africa and the final Technical Regional Meeting on the Forestry Outlook study for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April 2000 and September, 2001 respectively.
- Within the Inter-Agency Task Force on the UN Response to Long-term Food Security, Agriculture, Development and Related Aspects in the Horn of Africa (Initiative of the UN Secretary General).
- I IASA to develop the Population, Environment, Development and Agriculture model and put it in a common shell which includes all countries so far initialised; users and technical manuals as well as some advocacy booklets have been prepared; and a regional training workshop has been organised and carried out for Eastern Africa in collaboration with SRDC-EA. In the next biennium, the Division hopes to come out with a final CD-Rom of the model and printed documentation on the model, and to carry out PEDTA training at sub-regional levels in collaboration with the SRDCs. It is expected that training on and customizing the model to specific country situations will be the subsequent stage.
- UNFPA, UN Pop. Division, IFORD, RIPS, IDEP, and CERPOD to review and appraise the DND and ICPD-PA, population estimates and projections, activities on reproductive health, the follow-up committee and the population commission.
- UNDESA to develop Population Information Network (POPIN) and contribute to the revision of demographic data for 2000
- OAU and ADB in undertaking joint regional follow-up actions to the recommendations of the DND/ ICPD including organizing jointly the 4th General Assembly of the African Population Commission, the 4th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee and contributing actively to the preparation of ADB's Population policy and guidelines.
- The Commission on Sustainable Development and the Commission on Human Settlements.
- UNEP on the preparatory process in Africa for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- UNCHS (Habitat) on the review of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in Africa and the organisation of the regional preparatory conference for Istanbul+5.
- ADB/OAU/CLI/FAO/PAN-Africa/PAN-UK/UNEP/UNIDO/WB/WWF on the African Stockpile Programme (ASP).
- The Commission on Science and Technology for Development on networking (STDEV network) and organisation of meetings

4. Technical cooperation

The Division facilitated two sub-regional training workshops on the PEDTA Model in the SRDC-EA, Kigali, Rwanda, 11-15 December 2000.

The Division also contributed to a major study on internal migration and urbanization in Ethiopia with a focus on Addis Ababa, at the request of the Addis Ababa City government Urban Development and Work Bureau. It also provided some advisory services in science and technology networking to the government. The Division also prepared a report on "Urban Infrastructures : Planning and management" for a workshop organised by the Tigray Regional State Government/Works and Urban Development Bureau, from 11 to 13 October 2000 at Mekele, Ethiopia.

5. Additional Activities

Some additional activities implemented include:

Publications:

- Africa's Population and Development Bulletin. One issue in June-July 2000
- FSSDD 2000 Annual Brochure
- The Subprogramme's (Division's) Web Site
- Report to the Second meeting of the Working Group for the Follow-up Committee on the implementation of the DND/ICPD-PA (Dakar, Senegal, 14-16 June 2000)
- Report to the African Ministerial conference on the Implementation of Habitat Agenda (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 6-8 November 2000)
- Research agenda on the relationships between women's reproductive health and household food security in Africa.
- Report on Enhancing science and technology policy capacity for food security and sustainable development in Africa through ESTNET

Meetings:

- Organization of a high level stakeholders' meeting on sustainable development was organised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 17 to 19 January 2000 to establish a preparatory process for the review of the implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa.
- Regional African Ministerial Conference on the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda held from 6 to 8 November 2000, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to review the progress made by African countries in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to adopt a regional position for the Special Session of the UN General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda
- Second Meeting of the Expanded Joint Secretariat (EJS) for the WSSD on the African Preparatory Process was held from 12 to 13 March 2001 in Dakar, Senegal to formally launch the African Preparatory Process for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World summit on Sustainable Development was held from 15 to 18 October 2001 in Nairobi, to assess progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and to identify areas where further efforts were needed to address challenges on the road from Rio.

6. Perceived Impact of Activities

The activities aimed at accomplishing the following: (a) awareness creation leading to better knowledge and increased discussion of the holistic treatment of population, agriculture and environment concerns in development planning and policy-making (population, agriculture and environment interrelationships are given high political support); (b) building national and local capacity to analyse and manage nexus issues in the context of sustainable development; (c) improved monitoring of the political and societal commitment to the implementation of particular programmes, and global plans of action of various regional and global conferences; and (d) adoption of effective science and technology policies and strategies for addressing the nexus issues as well as increased awareness and commitment of member States to apply science and technology to ensure food security and sustainable development.

7. Indicators of Achievement

In order to ensure that the above objectives are achieved, the subprogramme endeavoured to meet the following criteria: These are:

i) For meetings, workshops, seminars:

- The meetings, workshops or seminars are well organized and held as programmed and their objectives are achieved as evidenced from the feed back from the participants/representatives of the member states. A post-meeting evaluation questionnaire was always completed by participant/representatives of member states and the Advisory bodies.
 - High level of attendance (over 70% of invited participants)
 - The reports of the meeting together with the conclusions are disseminated to the end-users within the agreed time frame.

ii) Policy analysis and Publications

- The publications are produced as programmed and are of high quality (through vigorous policy analysis) as evidenced from the comments of the in-house peer review committees, the advisory bodies as well as from the feed back from the end- users.
- The issues discussed in the publications address contemporary food security and sustainable development problems in member countries and the recommendations made are considered useful and implementable based on the responses from member states in the feedback questionnaire sent with the publication.

iii) Training workshops

- The training workshops are well organized and well attended.
- Improved understanding by participants of the interrelationships among population, agriculture and environment (nexus issues) and the need to integrate them in food security and sustainable development programmes.
- Acquisition of improved skills in the analysis of the nexus issues
- Ability of trainees to use the PEDDA model.

iv) Advisory services

- Are not only provided but also provided on time.
- Are considered useful and implementable based on the feed back from the concerned country or institution (Sometimes the clients send letters of appreciation to ECA for the services rendered).

v) Cooperation and collaboration with partners

- Cooperation activities are well implemented as agreed between ECA and its partners
- Enhanced cooperation, collaboration and interactions between ECA and its partners as evidenced from increased exchange of letters, e-mails, faxes, etc, requesting various

information and assistance from ECA and vice-versa.

- Activities implemented for the benefit of member states are considered useful based on the feedback in post-activity evaluation questionnaires completed by the countries.

Using the indicators of achievement provided above, it appears that the Division's policy analysis and advocacy activities are producing a noticeable impact on its clients as they are now more aware of the need to integrate the nexus issues in their development planning. The activities have also improved the capacity of member states to analyse these issues. The Division's websites have provided improved sources of information particularly on science and technology issues, and led to increased connectivity and networking among policy makers in the areas of population, environment, agriculture and science and technology. The feedback also received on some of the Division's recurrent publications and meetings/workshops has been very favourable in terms of their utility, capacity building, etc. The Biennium has also witnessed enhanced cooperation and collaboration with partners in terms of increased interactions, joint activities, information exchange, etc.