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REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EASTERN AFRICA WORKING GROUP
OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT (IGCESTD) ON CONCRETE PROJECTS PROPOSALS FOR SUBREGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Introduction

The Eastern Africa Working Group of the IGCESTD held its first meeting from 21 to 23 November 1984. After reviewing the terms of reference given to the subregional working groups, the meeting gave a detailed consideration to the three priority areas:

1. Science and Technology Development
2. Basic needs covering food and agriculture, forestry, health, water, housing and the environment
3. Industry including energy, transport and communication

The meeting undertook a detailed review of major issues and problems under each priority area and identified the following specific themes of common interest which could form the basis for the development of subregional projects:

Priority Area 1 - Science and Technology Development

1. Impact of frontier technologies on development
2. Effectiveness of science and technology planning and policy-making bodies.

Priority Area 2 - Basic Needs

1. Conservation and utilization of moisture for food production
2. Post-harvest losses.

Priority Area 3 - Industry including Energy, Transport and Communication

1. Energy for cooking
2. Energy for farmpower
3. Industrial energy
4. Saving of energy.

Concrete project proposals

In the light of the discussion at the first meeting and the emerging needs, the Working Group is invited to consider the following project proposals viz: Development of a Subregional policy in Science and Technology for East African Subregion and Water Conservation for Food Production. Justifications for these projects are given in the project documents proper.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project Title: Development of a subregional policy in Science and Technology for East African subregion

Sector: Science and Technology

Duration: One year

Government
Implementing

Agencies: National focal points on Science and Technology

Estimated Budget: US\$23,800.-

Executing Agency:

Starting Date:

Government Inputs:

THE PROJECT

I. Development Objectives

The long-term objective of a projection development of a subregional policy on science and technology are:

(a) Enable member States of the East African subregion to plan their activities in the field of science and technology in a harmonized way so as to make optimal use of limited resources.

(b) Enable member States of the subregion to develop and apply science and technology that meets the requirements of both national and subregional socio-economic development.

(c) Assist member States to find a market for their products which will not suffer the competition usually experienced when concerted action is absent.

II. Immediate objectives

(a) Allow experts and policy makers of member States to discuss at a workshop, national policies in science and technology, and frame a suitable subregional policy.

(b) Create and or strengthen subregional mechanisms for the development and application of science and technology, where necessary.

(c) Strengthen co-operation in the development and application of science and technology for socio-economic development.

III. Special Consideration

With the advent of new and emerging science and technology, specially developed in the North to meet the needs of developed countries, African products are being gradually squeezed out of the world market, and are losing their market competitiveness. Subregional agro-ecological endowments require that a common policy be agreed upon to exploit the national products to the best advantage of the member States. The presence of neighbouring competitors producing similar products in a subregion is a great asset to developed countries who are the main buyers of these products. Science and technology can be utilized to make the products in such a way that neighbouring countries do not lose their competitive edge. To develop and apply such appropriate science and technology, it is essential to have a subregional policy based on co-operation between the member States, who are keen on sharing common knowledge and exploiting new and emerging science and technology in a harmonized way that maximizes on the limited resources available.

The East African subregion is made of eight States, seven of whom have long stretches of marine coastal areas. Each State is trying to exploit the marine resources to the maximum, very often with the help of foreign powers, many of whom have interests in more than one country. The exploitation of these resources at national level is very often in competition with neighbouring countries. There is no subregional policy that can guide them to maximize on their profits. Science and technology can be exploited to make them more competitive on a subregional level, and hence the need for a subregional S&T policy that takes account of national policies, and harmonizes the activities in the subregion. Many other examples in the field of agriculture, minerals, forestry, water conservation, transport, health and the like, can be quoted, to show the need for a subregional policy in science and technology.

IV. Background and Justification

The East-African subregional working group, in its first meeting in Addis Ababa in 1984, considered the working area on science and technology development. The stress at that time was on the establishment and strengthening of National Science and Technology Bodies, and the formulation of national science and technology policies. Many countries of the subregion now have such science and technology policies based on government declarations in national socio-economic objectives. These policies now need to be studied in the overall subregional context, in the light of international socio-political and economic developments, and a subregional policy distilled out of them. Such a subregional policy will guide policy-makers and heads of governments in orienting their national activities so as to capitalize on the existing and future trends in development. The role of science and technology in this process cannot be overemphasized, specially with the advent of new and emerging technologies. Co-operation in the subregion can only be based on common interests themselves leading to common policies.

The East African Working Group in Science and Technology for Development offers a forum for national experts to air their views on common problems

and to come up with projects for subregional development. The organization of a subregional workshop that can develop a subregional policy in science and technology is a project that will help member States to work towards the objectives mentioned in I and II above.

V. Outputs

(a) Workshop of experts and policy-makers of the East African subregion that will allow them to meet and discuss national and subregional policies on science and technology.

(b) Draft subregional policy on science and technology for the consideration of member States at national levels.

(c) Report of the deliberations of the workshop.

VI. Inputs

1. From member States

(a) Member States contributions to the workshop in delegating experts and high-level policy makers conversant on science and technology policies.

(b) National science and technology policy documents or policy declarations that will form the basis for workshop discussions.

2. ECA and OAU Secretariats

ECA and OAU in collaboration with the convenor country will help in organizing the workshop.

VII. Budget

A minimum of two participants per member State are required, one expert and the other a high-level policy-maker.

1. Travel of 14 participants	US\$2,000.00
2. DSA for one week 700 x 14	9,800.00
3. Travel and DSA of secretariat	3,500.00
4. Administrative support	<u>1,500.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>23,800</u>

PROJECT PROPOSAL II

Project title: Moisture conservation for food production

Sector: Science and Technology

Duration: One year

Government

Implementing

Agencies: Ministries of Agriculture and Ministries responsible for water development

Executing agency: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Starting date:

Government inputs:

Estimated budget: US\$ 69,000.00

THE PROJECT

The long-term objectives of the project are:

- (a) To motivate member States of East Africa into subregional co-operation through joint projects;
- (b) Assist member States of the East African Working Group of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology development, to develop new technologies to conserve moisture considered as crucial for production;
- (c) Assist member States of the East African Working Group to develop crop varieties that will thrive on limited moisture.

II. Immediate objectives

The immediate objectives are:

- (a) Collection, compilation and analysis of information on water conservation, irrigation techniques and water requirements with respect to different crops;
- (b) Identification of those techniques for moisture conservation, management and utilization;
- (c) Mobilization of irrigation experts within each country to study the water supply potential of their respective country and devise effective mechanism for moisture conservation and utilization.

III. Special consideration

A team should be organized in an appropriate interministerial commission to act as a national focal point which will handle the issue of moisture conservation, management and utilization for food production.

The national focal point should popularize campaigns to sensitize the people on the need for moisture conservation and effective utilization for food production.

R&D on various aspects of irrigation study should be organized and strengthened by the national focal point.

IV. Background and justification

The East African subregional Working Group, in its first meeting in Addis Ababa in 1984, noted with great concern the working problem of moisture conservation leading to drought in the subregion. This problem has affected a number of countries and has greatly reduced their capacity to feed themselves.

Since food production cannot be carried out in the absence of adequate moisture, the problem deserves the highest attention by all concerned. On the other hand, it is also felt that the main problem is not so much an absolute lack of moisture but inability to conserve and effectively utilize whatever moisture is available. It is therefore felt that high priority should be given to the development and effective utilization of techniques for moisture conservation and management.

There has been a steady decline in food production per unit land area for a growing population in many countries of East Africa. Food production can no longer be sustained by the traditional agricultural practices relying solely on natural precipitation. New technologies to conserve moisture are crucial. There is also a need to develop crop varieties that will thrive on limited moisture. The technologies to conserve moisture need not be elaborate and expensive. Some of these are well-known and readily available, and information on suitable technologies developed elsewhere can be sought through the UN System, and through intergovernmental organization.

The problem of moisture conservation is both short term and long term, and there is a lot that can be done at national level by the people themselves; for example farmers can be mobilized for irrigation schemes. Elaborate moisture conservation systems can be developed in the long term. National institutions should be involved to study and identify needs for irrigation techniques and equipment, through surveys. There is also a need to generally sensitize governments to the needs to conserve moisture and utilize it rationally.

V. Outputs

- (a) Report on identified techniques for moisture conservation, management and utilization by member States of the Group;
- (b) Establishment of a National Focal Point for moisture conservation and management;
- (c) Report on the collection, compilation and analysis of information on water conservation, irrigation techniques and water requirement for different crops; this report should be circulated to member States of the Group and discussed during the proposed workshop;
- (d) Report on crop varieties that will thrive on limited moisture;
- (e) Production of video films for farmers and extension workers;
- (f) Publication of findings.

VI. Inputs

1. African governments' participation

The African governments will nominate National Focal Point (NFP) for moisture conservation and management. This NFP constituted by experts on moisture conservation and management will prepare a national paper which will identify and make an inventory of existing techniques for moisture conservation and management.

2. ECA Secretariat

ECA in collaboration with the convenor will react as co-ordinator and will provide administrative facilities for reports, meetings.

VII. Budget

	no/m	US\$
1. Eight national papers by national experts	8 x 1	16,000.-
2. Consultants: (1) Agronomist	2	15,000.-
(2) Irrigation Technologist	2	15,000.-
3. Consultative workshop for 10 experts		10,000.-
4. Administrative support		3,000.-
5. Production of video films		5,000.-
6. Publication of findings		5,000.-
TOTAL		69,000.-