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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

**First Meeting of the Committee on  
Natural Resources and Science and Technology**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
15-18 November 1999**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND WORK PROGRAMME IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES (in FSSDD)**

### **Overview and summary of activities**

The activities of this component aim at assisting member States in building an endogenous scientific and technological capability to address Africa's development; particularly as it relates to nexus issues, i.e. the interrelationships between population – agriculture - environment. The activities support three critical transitions: from high to low population growth, from low to high productivity agriculture and from environmental degradation to environmental conservation and rehabilitation.

The activities strengthen cooperation between member States in tackling regional and subregional issues in science and technology through a regional conference, publications on key issues of interest to member States, advocacy, awareness raising, networking and technical cooperation. The activities also strengthen international cooperation and inter-agency coordination, harmonization and liaison with institutions and organizations concerned with science and technology for the sustainable development of Africa.

### **The expected results are the following:**

- Increased member States awareness and commitment to apply S&T to ensure food security and sustainable development.
- Promoted effective S & T policies and strategies for addressing the nexus issues.
- Shared relevant information on S & T and best practices and enhanced communication amongst S & T community.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1998-1999**

#### **Servicing of Intergovernmental / Expert Meetings**

##### **(a) Substantive Servicing of Meetings**

##### **Preparation of CNRST1 Meeting**

##### **(b) Other Services Provided**

- Expert Meeting on Science and Technology for Food Security and Sustainable Development (February 1998). The meeting focused on identification, recording and diffusion of best practices in science and technology for food security.

- Organization of the First Meeting (May 1998) and Second Meeting (June 1999) of the ECA Science and Technology Advisory Board. The meetings proposed orientations for ECA for an effective program of activities in science and technology.
- First Executive Dialogue of Ministers and Leaders of the Private Sector in Science and Technology for Africa's Development (June 1998). The meeting discussed three themes: (1) Africa's technological development in the context of globalization, (2) Information technology in support of food security and sustainable development, and (3) Research institutions – Industry relations within the National Systems of Innovation”.
- Training seminar on technology-based development: visiting scholar's scheme (June 1999).

#### **Other substantive Activities (Non-recurrent Publications)**

##### **(a) Technical Documents Produced by the Members of the S & T Team**

- A Policy Brief on ‘Science and Technology for Sustainable Development’.
- A Brochure on “Science and Technology in the Renewed ECA”.
- Compendium of Best Practices in Science and Technology for Food Security and Sustainable Development (Database on Lotus Notes).
- Role and potential of indigenous food technologies for sustainable food security. (4 documents).
- Concept and design of ESTNET – The ECA Science and Technology Network.
- Paths to technology-based development: lessons for Africa.
- Paper prepared and presented at the Africa Regional Council Conference of the International Association of University Presidents, held in Accra (Ghana) from 9 to 11 June 1999.
- Higher education and informal sector partnership.
- Paper prepared and presented at the Africa Regional Council Conference of the International Association of University Presidents, held in Accra (Ghana) from 9 to 11 June 1999.
- The role of Government in national technological development.
- Paper prepared and presented at the Sensitization Workshop on Appropriate technology for Development, held in Maseru (Lesotho) from 11 to 13 August 1999.

##### **(b) Technical documents produced with the assistance of consultants**

- Technological capability building in the South: lessons and opportunities for Sub-Saharan Africa.

- Issues of environmentally friendly technology: lessons for Africa.
- Management of technology in developing countries: lessons for Africa.
- Management of technology in the global context: lessons for Africa.
- Technological transitions: technical upgrading of indigenous food technology in Africa.
- Africa's competitiveness and sustainability: insufficiency of natural resources.
- Africa's technological capability and global competitiveness: challenges for the 21st century.

© Field projects

- Contribution to the PEDDA model – a computer-assisted model which captures the long-term interrelationships between Population, Environment and Agriculture variables, including of technological inputs, and their impacts on food security.
- Preparatory work for the launching of the ESTNET – a collaborative network of science and technology policy-making institutions and policy-makers to enhance access to information related to science and technology policies in Africa. The network has a steering committee and comprises a number of databases and a Website.

**International Cooperation and Inter-Agency coordination and Liaison**

The ECA was represented by members of the science and technology team at the following meetings or events:

- Eighth International Conference on Management of Technology held in Cairo (Egypt) from 15 to 17 March 1999.
  - Africa Regional Council Conference of the International Association of University Presidents, held in Accra (Ghana) from 9 to 11 June 1999.
  - Sensitization Workshop on Appropriate Technology for Development, held in Maseru (Lesotho) from 11 to 13 August 1999.
  - Jury panel for the examination and selection of the best African inventor/innovator for the award of the OAU/WIPO goal medal ( OAU premises 14-16 June 1999).
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## **ACTICITIES IN 2000-2001**

### **1. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert meetings**

#### **a) Substantive Servicing of Meetings**

Second meeting of the Committee on Natural Resources and Science and Technology (CNRST2)

#### **b) Parliamentary documentation**

Report to the Committee on Natural Resources and Science and Technology (CNRST2) on key issues in science and technology for African development.

#### **c) Other services provided**

- Meetings of the Advisory Board on Science and Technology

### **2. Other substantive activities**

**a) Recurrent publications:** Compendium of best practices in science and technology for food security and sustainable development.

**b) Non-recurrent publications:** Technical publication on Linkages between Research and Agro-industries in Africa.

#### **c) Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits**

Two Newsletters on the ECA Science and Technology Network (ESTNET).

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

- Cooperation and liaison with member States, key international, regional and subregional intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions in science and technology (e.g. CGIAR, CORAF, AAS, PUST, OAPI, ARIPO, ATPS, AFRISTECH) which are concerned with science and technology for sustainable development.
- Coordination and harmonization with other United Nations Agencies and institutions concerned with science and technology for development, such as the United Nations Commission for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD), UNU/INRA, UNCTAD, FAO, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNEP, WIPO, etc.).

**4. Technical cooperation**

Advisory services:

- Periodic provision of advice and technical support to member States and institutions on various issues related to science and technology development.
- Backstopping of ECA-sponsored institutions in science and technology, including: the African Regional Center for Technology (ARCT).