

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Joint ECA/UNIDO Industry Division

Progress Report
(1 January to 30 June 1983)

1. (a) Project title : Chemical Industry Development Programme
 (b) Project Number : ATF001/03
2. Source of Fund : UNTFAD, General Fund
3. Total Cost :
 (a) Amount Provided from UNTFAD (General Fund)
 (1980) US\$ 114,169.31
 (b) ECA contribution 26½ man/months
4. Total expenditure UNTFAD General Fund
 As of 30 June 1983.

5. Summary Report on Present Status of project implementation

Following the priority given to basic industries by the Fourth Conference of African Ministers of Industry in 1977, ECA organized a chemical mission to Tanzania, Gabon, Cameroon, Nigeria, Upper Volta and Egypt to study the chemical industry sector, from 20 May to 8 August 1978. These countries covered by the mission have large natural resources like gas and oil, salt phosphates. The mission assessed the existing situations, identified opportunities for integrated development and formulated sectoral policies, programmes and targets for the development of chemical sector including fertilizers, basic chemicals, pesticides, petrochemicals and pharmaceuticals. The report of the mission was considered by a task force followed by the first ECA/UNIDO Expert Meeting on chemicals in November/December 1979. The report on the above identified project ideas provided the basis for the chemical industry development programmes.

A consultant carried out missions to assist member States in the Eastern and Southern African subregion in the collection of information and the preparation of country papers on chemicals which were presented and discussed at the Second Meeting of Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Chemicals for Eastern and Southern Africa held in Lusaka, Zambia in November 1982. Similar papers on West African countries were presented to the meeting of the Niamey MULPOC which was held in Cotonou, Benin in March 1983.

To promote co-operation among themselves, member States in the Eastern and Southern Africa undertook to identify chemicals produced in the subregion which have subregional markets. It was also agreed that other member States should envisage to participate in the Tanzania ammonia and Ethiopia potash projects. The phosphoric acid and phosphate fertilizer plants in Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe should be revitalized.

To promote co-operation in the West African subregion, it was agreed that member States lend support to the Senegalese and Togolese phosphate projects in respect of related equity participation, supply and consumption; and that ECA undertake a preliminary study on the possibility of an ammonia project in the subregion, and that ECA with the support of UNIDO undertake a general study on the utilisation of phosphate deposits in the Niger Valley.

6. Results to date:

Collection of information by a consultant to assist member States in the preparation of country papers on chemicals which were presented at the second meeting of Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Chemicals for Eastern and Southern Africa. Preparation of a preliminary study on the possibility of an ammonia project in the West African subregion which will be presented at the second Intergovernmental Committee Meeting of Expert on Chemical in November 1983. Two subregional meetings were held, one Intergovernmental Committee Meeting of Experts on Chemicals for Eastern and Southern subregion and one MULPOC meeting for the West African subregion.

7. Results still to be achieved:

Holding of the Second Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Chemical for West Africa.

8. Major obstacles to project implementation:

These include inadequate information for preparation of studies; low participation of member States in expert meetings; slow and poor communication system, lack of resources. With regard to the last, unless funds are made available to organize meetings at least once a year, there is the danger that the momentum generated so far may be dissipated with the result that it will practically be impossible to revive the interest of the member States concerned.

9. Action required:

Provision of adequate resources/including funding for participants, and less constraint on the number of activities to be undertaken and meetings to be organized.

10. Immediate expected follow up:

Preparation of the Third Meeting Intergovernmental Committees.

11. Project budget: See Annex I.

12. ECA personnel:

Estimate ECA contribution in man/months: Chief Industrial Operations Section (7) Project Officer, Chemicals (5) SEAC (4) Secretariat assistance (10½) Total (25½).