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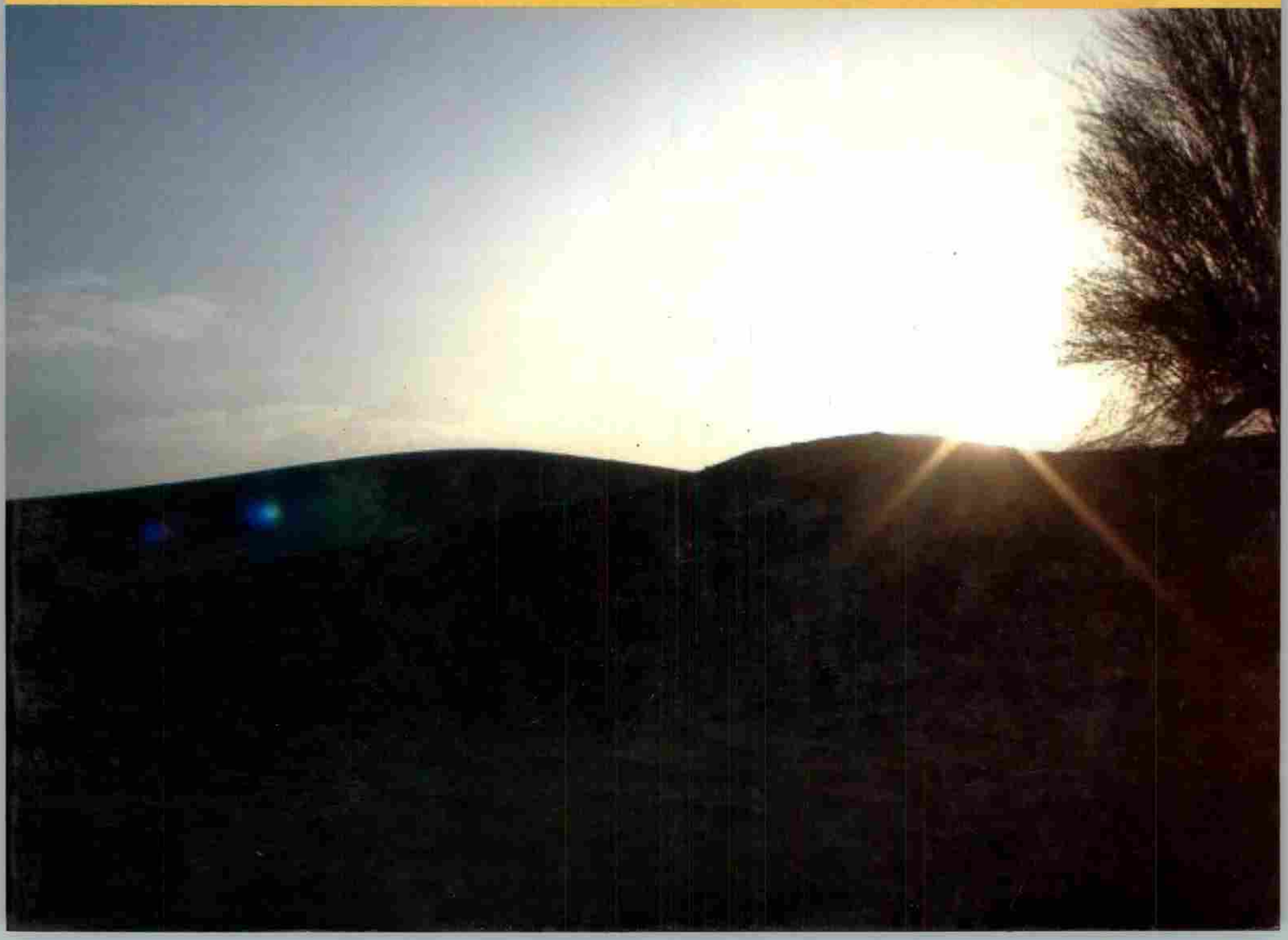
Permanent Inter-States Committee for
Drought Control in the Sahel

Annual Report 2002



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Permanent Inter-States Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel

Annual Report 2002

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His Excellency Idriss DEBY
President of the Republic of Chad
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Foreword

Moving Ahead

This report presents an overview of the activities of CILSS during the year 2002. Following on the maiden CILSS Annual Report which was published to cover the period 2000-2001, this report adopts an innovative model through focusing attention on certain initiatives undertaken by CILSS that make direct positive impacts on the conditions of life of the sahelian populations. It addresses the interests of our member states, friends and neighboring countries who desire to know about the activities of CILSS and the ways in which our actions are helping to improve the lives of our people.

It is evident that our actions cover several important areas which are essential for combating poverty and efforts to achieve sustainable human development in our sub-region. All our activities are designed and implemented to contribute in a substantial manner to the realization of the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the new partnership for African development, NEPAD. We therefore intervene in several major areas, including:

- Food security to increase productivity, support for market development to enhance the flow of regional and international agricultural products,
- Prevention and management of food crises,
- Information management: Collection, repackaging and disseminating information for development as well as reinforcing national and regional capacities.
- Natural resources management and combating desertification, to reduce environmental degradation.
- Promotion of the use of renewable resources and alternative energy technologies to harness solar energy in order to guarantee access to portable water and to improve the health and living conditions for the rural populations.
- Protection of the fragile sahelian environment and conservation of biodiversity, and
- Promotion of national population policy issues that adequately address constraints that affect populations, in particular the HIV/AIDS pandemic, in a comprehensive manner.

Executive Secretary discusses support for CILSS with World Bank officials

We are profoundly grateful to all our development partners and donors who have maintained their interest and support to CILSS throughout the year. We have worked together transparently and are certain that we have consolidated the mutual confidence that has been built between us.

In the last annual report, I promised to make *Research for Excellence* the slogan for CILSS research activities. I believe that the achievements recorded in the current report will enable you to appreciate the modest progress that we have made in this regard.

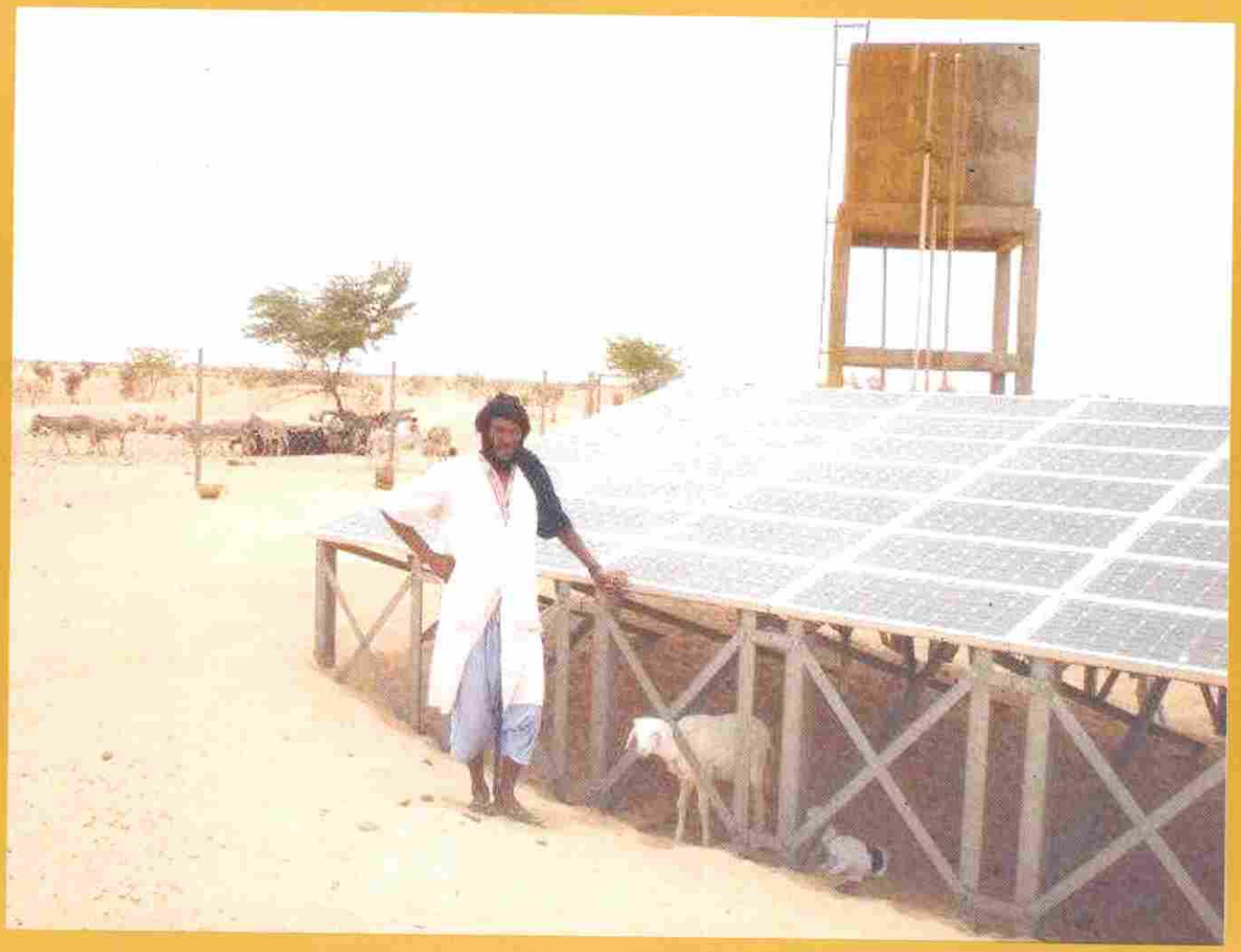
A new spirit of determination and excellence has been created at CILSS as is evident from our achievements. But we hope to build on these achievements and continue in our determination to effectively reduce hunger, poverty and the misery that is being experienced by the sahelian peoples.

It is with great pleasure and honor that I present to you, the CILSS Annual Report for 2002 and respectfully invite you to join us in our efforts to protect the sahelian environment and conserve the genetic biodiversity towards achieving sustainable human development and food security in the Sahel.

Musa S. Mbenga
Executive Secretary, CILSS
Executive Secretariat, Ouagadougou,
Burkina Faso

Features

- Hope from above: Harnessing solar energy to improve the living conditions of Sahelians
- Strengthening technical services in CILSS member States through training and human resources development at the AGRHYMET Regional Center
- Harmonization of Pesticides Regulations in Sahelian countries



Solar panels harness energy for sahelian communities

Hope from above: Harnessing solar energy to improve the living conditions of Sahelians

Traoré Seydou
Coordinator, Regional Solar Program

Over eighty percent of Sahelian peoples are estimated to live in extremely arid, arid and semi-arid environments where agricultural production represents the majority of sustainable livelihoods activities. The livelihoods activities are highly vulnerable to a variety of natural disasters such as desertification and droughts. Desertification results from a combination of local and worldwide climate changes and uncontrolled human activities. Despite the fact that sahelian countries are characterized by strong agricultural activities, their economies have continued to experience stagnation over the last ten years when the population records an average growth rate of 3.2%, with a high percentage of rural people living well below the poverty line.

The Sahelian environment is characterized by harsh living conditions

Thus, a 1380 kilowatt peak power supply was installed for the pumping of drinking water, lighting and refrigeration to the benefit of the rural populations of the Sahel.

The general consensus is that these facilities have made a major impact on the lives of the rural communities in many ways. For example, there has been a general improvement in the health status of the rural communities; women and children no longer trek long distances to obtain potable drinking water. Now, they collect clean water from pumps installed in strategic locations near their homes in the villages for cooking, drinking and washing clothes, thus drastically reducing labor formally involved in searching for and fetching water. Women now have time to rest and take care of their children and other domestic chores.

Women speak about having more time to rest and take care of children and other domestic chores

The installation of taps has also encouraged the development of a flourishing small business of collecting water from taps and selling to homes in urban and rural areas; this business engages primarily women and children who obtain reasonable income especially during the dry seasons when compound wells tend to run dry.

Water borne diseases such as schistosomiasis and guinea worm, which were prevalent when rural populations depended on standing water bodies that are commonly infested with parasites and vectors of parasitic diseases, have been drastically reduced, giving greater hope of improved health for rural communities. Ready access to clean water has also promoted and facilitated small scale commercial activities such as livestock production, production of tree seedlings for afforestation programs as well as vegetable production, processing and marketing, all of which generate household revenue and reasonable levels of financial independence for rural people, specially women.

Other benefits of this program include the creation, facilitation and empowerment of local organizations, associations and partnerships to take full responsibility for maintenance and management of the installations. Communities have been convinced to appreciate the value of the solar energy program and now voluntarily pay the rates for water and electricity.

Rural communities now collect water from pumps installed in strategic locations in villages

According to a cattle herdsman who is a beneficiary of the solar program in Mauritania *"The solar water supply is a very good installation. Previously, it took a whole day and whole night to get water for our herd of cattle from a well 60 meters deep. We used to draw water with the aid of donkeys and camels. A minimum of three people was needed for this task. Today, we only have to open the tap in order to fill our basins. I came this morning and I am already leaving because of the rapid delivery of clean water from the tap. I thus have a whole day's rest, but before, it was a whole day of hard work to just get water."*

National governments have incorporated solar energy technology in their national water policies and strategies.

Local private entrepreneurs have been encouraged and supported to actively participate in the photovoltaic and solar energy business while their maintenance and management capacity for solar energy infrastructures have been considerably strengthened.

Consultative frameworks and monitoring-evaluation mechanisms coupled with reliable monitoring of investments have been created and now fully operational. The RSP program has also promoted technical advancements particularly in the area of efficient technology that is affordable and adapted to the daily life in the Sahel regarding water and sanitation infrastructures.

Improved management and sustainable maintenance of systems now make it possible to improve the access of the poor to potable water and sanitation systems.

Program Expansion

Encouraged by the outstanding successes achieved in the first phase, the European Union has approved funding for a second phase RSP II, for 6 years which became operational in 2001.Total financial commitment for phase II is about 73 million Euros.

The objective of phase II is to expand the installation of solar water systems to cover many more rural communities in the sahel. It is envisaged that 465 new drinking water systems will be installed. In addition, local organizational and management capacities will be developed for the operation and maintenance of the drinking water systems, create awareness of the advantages of the system and strengthen the private sector participation in the solar system enterprise. The new phase will consolidate the gains achieved from phase I. Furthermore, the lessons learned in phase I will serve to improve on the management structures to bring greater hopes for improved lives for the sahelian rural populations.

Although these efforts have contributed to reducing the problem of access to potable water, a lot more needs to be done to alleviate the suffering of people who live in the Sahel.

Strengthening technical services in CILSS member states through training and human resources development at the AGRHYMET Regional Center

Sankung B. Sagnia
Officer-in-charge of the Training Major Program
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Introduction

The AGRHYMET Regional Center (ARC) based in Niamey, Niger, one of specialized institutes of the CILSS, was created in 1974 as a regional training center in Agrometeorology and Hydrology serving the nine CILSS member countries. The domains covered by the ARC evolved over time to include other vital areas such as crop protection, maintenance of hydro-meteorological instruments and microcomputers used for processing and transmitting data. Training and human resources development programs at ARC have now been extended to include operational activities applicable in vital fields such as crop and pest monitoring, remote sensing, biophysical and socio-economic data collection and analyses for the purpose of producing and disseminating decision making tools and information to end users, management of climatological and hydrological data banks, agricultural statistics, and geographic information systems (GIS). These decision making tools are used for early warning systems in food security and natural resource management.

CILSS member countries are characterized by the fragility of the Sahelian agro-ecological environments, vagaries of the climate, drought and advancing desertification. Coupled with poor soils, inadequate investments in irrigated agriculture and pest and disease pressures, these natural phenomena have largely hampered the region's capacity to effectively achieve food security and minimize the degradation of its natural resources. These environmental constraints have constantly posed major challenges to Sahelian countries and their institutions. The development of human resources through professional training at the AGRHYMET Regional Center was identified as a starting point for tackling these problems and underscores the determination of the CILSS member countries in this regard.

From its inception in 1974, training activities of the ARC, particularly in Agrometeorology, Hydrology and Maintenance of Hydro-meteorological Instruments, were carried out in the framework of the AGRHYMET Program, with financial and technical support from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Development Program and the Swiss Government. The crop protection training component was initiated in 1981 through a Crop Protection Training Project (DFPV) financed by the Dutch Government. Training activities at the ARC are currently funded by a consortium of donors, namely DANIDA, Italy, France and USAID.

The main thrust of the ARC training is to provide Sahelian countries with qualified manpower for field operations in specialized areas of development. Using the knowledge and skills acquired at ARC, the graduates should be able to perform efficiently in the jobs that are assigned to them in their home countries.

The training programs of the ARC are therefore designed to build and strengthen the capacities of the national services of CILSS member states in agriculture, meteorology, and the environment. The extent to which this objective has been met can be assessed through the achievements of the long term and continuous training activities, scientific and technical information dissemination and other related activities as well as the levels of competence of ARC graduates in the various tasks and duties assigned to them in their respective countries.

Achievements of long-term training

Long term training at the ARC is conducted in Agrometeorology and Hydrology (3-year "*Ingénieur*" course: equivalent to the Bachelor of Science degree and 2-year Higher Diploma course) and in Crop Protection and Maintenance of hydro-meteorological instruments and micro-computers (2-year Higher Diploma courses). From its inception to date, 755 trainees successfully graduated in these training courses. Of these trainees, 679 (90%) originated from CILSS member countries and 76 (10%) from non-CILSS member countries. Figure 1 shows the distribution of graduates between the different training domains and between CILSS and non-CILSS member countries from 1975 to 2002.

These figures show the extent to which CILSS has contributed to providing qualified manpower for implementation of food security and natural resource management programs in the member states. A recent survey conducted in July 2002 showed that ARC graduates constitute the bulk of the technical staff working in Agrometeorology, Hydrology and Crop Protection programs in CILSS member countries. In some cases, 100% of the technical staff is composed of ARC graduates (see Table 1).

This survey further revealed that the national Directors of these services confirmed that the training programs offered by the ARC have a positive impact on strengthening their technical capacities. In all the member countries of CILSS, the ARC graduates are the principal animators of the Multidisciplinary Working Groups (MWG) set up to monitor the

The gender dimension

Women play a crucial role in agriculture in the Sahel where 77% of them are engaged in agricultural production and are responsible for 50% of total food production. They are involved in all stages from production to consumption: sowing, weeding, harvest, storage, processing and preparation. Therefore, women could benefit from extension information and training in order to provide them with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to sustainable food security through increased crop production.

Significant progress has been made in the enrolment of women for training at ARC. Before 1995, the percentage of women enrolled in ARC courses did not exceed 2% of an average annual student population of 70. Between 1995 and 1997 however, the enrolment of women increased to 18%, and attaining 46% in 1999. This significant rise in admission of women for training results from the adoption of admission policies that favor women, donor support in providing scholarships for women and an awareness campaign targeting decision makers in the CILSS member countries. Such initiatives are plausible for promoting the desired changes in the role of women in all sectors of sahelian rural development. In the light of this evolving picture, the ARC has revised the contents of various training courses to take into account gender issues. For example, the Agrometeorology curriculum now incorporates meteorological and climatic information such as sowing, weeding, pesticide applications, drying, food processing, and storage activities in which rural women are particularly involved.

International collaboration and Strategic orientation

Technical cooperation arrangements and collaborative linkages between the AGRHYMET Regional Center are established with various research and educational institutions in developed and developing countries. The institutions include the Luxemburg University Foundation (FUL) in Belgium, the Wageningen Agricultural University in The Netherlands, the University of Reading in the United Kingdom, Danish educational and research institutions, the University of Niamey in Niger, the University of Bobo-Dioulasso in Burkina Faso, the Regional Centre for Training in Remote Sensing (RECTAS) in Nigeria, various agricultural schools in the Sahelian Countries, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). These arrangements are based on training missions, research activities, technical assistance and the execution of joint projects to enrich the training content and strengthen the training delivery at ARC.

An innovation to improve training and to increase the availability of specialized courses to CILSS countries, ARC successfully initiated the transfer of some courses from Europe to Africa. In 2002, the ARC successfully organized transfer to Niamey, the training course on Statistics for Agricultural Climatology (SIAC), formerly run in the United Kingdom by the University of Reading, for West African countries.

Plans are also under way to transfer, the Agricultural Statistics course also from the University of Reading to ARC Niamey. Furthermore, the ARC is planning to transfer a specialized diploma course in Agrometeorology ("DES (Diplôme d'Etudes Spécialisées) en Agrométéorologie") that has been taught at the Luxemburg University Foundation (LUF) in Belgium since 1979. The transfer of these courses to ARC makes them more accessible to developing country students by reducing the tuition and related costs. Plans are underway, with some French institutions to introduce a new course on Natural Resource Management into the ARC training program agenda in the very near future.

Harmonization of Pesticides Regulations in Sahelian countries

Ahmadou Diarra and F.A. Abiola
Permanent Secretary and President
Sahelian Pesticides Committee,
INSAH, Bamako, Mali

Introduction

Agricultural intensification is closely associated with increased pest populations and the use of pesticides has been the major method for pest control to reduce yield losses currently estimated at 30 to 40% in the Sahel. When improperly used, pesticides are known to be hazardous to man and to pollute the environment and therefore not conducive to supporting sustainable agriculture. Currently, there are alternative methods for pest management which are environmentally friendly and suitable for sustainable agricultural production. Such methods include the use of Integrated Production and Pest Management (IPPM) strategies. Despite the availability of alternative methods of pest management, farmers in the Sahel and indeed all over West Africa, continue to depend on chemical pesticides for pest control.

The distribution and use of pesticides in sahelian countries was poorly regulated resulting in serious consequences to human health and the environment. Furthermore, national systems lack pesticides policies, sufficient expertise and efficient regulatory mechanisms to control the distribution and use of pesticides. These issues have been a major concern to the regulatory national bodies in the Sahel and in other countries of West Africa.

To ensure that pesticides used in the sahelian countries are effective, of suitable quality and of low hazard to man and the environment, the 9 Member States that constitute the Permanent Inter-States Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), decided to introduce the concept of common registration of pesticides. In 1992, all CILSS countries signed a document on Common Regulation for the Registration of Pesticides.

Document on Pesticide Regulation

The objective of the Common Regulation is to combine the experience and expertise of CILSS Member States in the evaluation and registration of pesticides in order to

ensure controlled distribution, rational and judicious use of pesticides, as well as the protection of human health and the environment.

This common regulation covers the authorization, distribution, use and control of active ingredients as well as formulated products of pesticides in all CILSS Member States. It is applicable to synthetic and bio-pesticides, defines the liabilities of the member States, the registration procedures and the duties of the regional regulatory body, known as Sahelian Pesticides Committee (CSP).

During the years that followed the signature of the Common Regulation, CILSS Member States have modified their national phytosanitary legislations, in order to take into account the provisions of the common pesticide registration as well as the implementation of pre- and post-registration activities such as pesticide efficacy evaluation, control of pesticide imports and use, and the monitoring of ecological and human health effects of pesticides.

Pesticide Registration

The common pesticide registration body, the Sahelian Pesticide Committee (CSP), became operational in 1994. It acts as the Regional Regulatory Body and assesses registration dossiers submitted by pesticides companies and grants CILSS permits that are valid for all CILSS Member States.

The Committee is chaired by a Chairperson appointed in accordance with the provisions in the Internal Rules of Procedure of the CSP.

The composition of the Sahelian Pesticide Committee (CSP) is as follows:

i. two experts of each Member State: *ordinary member*
ii. three toxicologists working in the Sahel: *ordinary member*
iii. the Permanent Secretary of the CSP: *ordinary member*
iv. the Technical Director of OCLALAV: *associated member*
v. one representative of ECOWAS: *associated member*
vi. one representative of the IPC/AU: *associated member*
vii. one representative of the AGRHYMET Center: *associated member*
viii. one representative of FAO: *observer*
ix. one representative of WHO: *observer*
x. one representative of the pesticide registration system of West and Central Africa: *observer*

The experts of the sahelian countries are specialists in different aspects of plant protection, toxicology, eco-toxicology or chemistry. Based on the nomination by their Ministries, ordinary members of the CSP are appointed, by decree, by the CILSS Coordinating Minister and are vested with the powers to make decisions on pesticide registration.

The CSP can co-opt any resource person according to his/her qualifications.

Solar energy used for water supply to produce tree seedlings

Program Highlights

Executive Secretariat

CILSS maintained its structure of six Major Operational Programs during the year with continued efforts to implement the approved priority program activities. In some instances, progress in program implementation was constrained by the late release of project funds and an acute shortage of technical staff. Nevertheless, considerable progress was made to achieve high levels of project performance in all activities. This was achieved through improvements in the co-ordination of activities and greater coherence between the six major programs, the national implementing agencies as well as with regional and international development partners.

On the regional and international scene, CILSS undertook three outstanding activities during year 2002. First, after so many years of operating from inadequate facilities, the CILSS headquarters was officially inaugurated in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 23 January 2002 by His Excellency President Alpha Oumar Konaré, Chairman of the CILSS Summit of Heads of State and Government.

Secondly, CILSS participated fully at the World Summit on Sustainable Development which was held in Johannesburg South Africa. At this summit, CILSS presented the case for and drew the attention of the United Nations and international community to the importance of efficient management of natural resources for sustainable development in the Sahel. Information was provided to the international community on the

Official opening (above) of the CILSS Headquarters (right) by His Exellencies Presidents Alpha Oumar Konaré and Blaise Compaoré in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

collaborative efforts underway not only to manage the natural resources of the sahel but also to harness the resources to improve the living conditions of the Sahelian peoples.

The third landmark activity is the launching of the Sahel Foundation on the 1st of June 2002 by His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konaré, the President of the Republic of Mali and Chairman of CILSS at the Palais des Congres in Bamako Mali. The Foundation is created *to provide support to CILSS to mobilize regular and sustainable financial resources necessary to fulfill its mandate.* Resources of the Sahel Foundation are designed to be managed in accordance with the following principles; participatory management through the Board of the Foundation, professional management of the resources by internationally reputable financial managers and transparency in the management process.

The Sahel Foundation was launched by HE Alpha Oumar Konaré in June 2002

Policy Programs

Food Security

The long-term strategic objective of the Major program on Food Security is to contribute to creating favorable conditions for sustainable development in the Sahel to achieve food security through sound natural resources management. Conditions for sustainable food security could be attained through what is now commonly described as an Open Sahelian Zone. The food security program activities during the year were therefore focused on contributing to achieving these objectives through three major thrusts, namely promoting the development of National Food Security Strategies, setting up Common Agricultural Policy Frameworks, and facilitating Regional Food Products markets. The major concern of the program was to promote improved functioning of national and regional markets in agricultural produce.

Coordination of program activities was significantly improved through the organization of regular consultations and management meetings to share ideas and information, and to assess progress in program implementation. These meetings also provided opportunities for preparing joint programming, for supervision, monitoring, and evaluation missions as well as formulating mechanisms for contributing to the Regional Food Security Strategic Framework. Furthermore, training of food security program personnel in project programming, monitoring and evaluation techniques strengthened in-house capacities for project implementation.

National Food Security Strategies: Through better understanding of the conditions that favor sustainable agricultural production in the Sahel, national food security strategies were successfully designed. The results of studies in water control, soil fertility, fisheries and livestock management, in the context of Priority Investment Programs (PIP), were used to formulate regional and national food security strategies for the five-year period 2003-2007. Burkina Faso and Mali have incorporated their national food security strategies in their five-year national economic and social development plans. With financial assistance and technical collaboration with CTA, the Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation in Wageningen, The Netherlands, the Food Security program successfully organized a regional meeting

on sustainable financing of agriculture. Participants at this important meeting were drawn from peasant Farmers Organizations, network of business professionals, representatives from regular commercial banks, other financial systems, NGOs, specialists from the legal profession, and relevant development partners. At this meeting, a multi-annual regional action plan was developed on decentralized financing of sahelian agriculture, and strategies were identified to set up arrangements for sustainable financing of agriculture. National Committees comprising representatives of State, the commercial banks, farmers organizations and other financial systems were set up in Burkina Faso, The Gambia and Mali to gradually develop into privatized financing agencies for sustainable agricultural production.

Common Agricultural Policies: A strongly participatory and consultation process for formulating the Common Agricultural Policies (CAP) for West Africa and Chad, within the framework of the CILSS/ECOWAS collaboration, was initiated. It is expected that the process will provide an opportunity for critical examination of existing national agricultural policies with a view to exploring the merits of harmonized common agricultural policies in West Africa and Chad. This will hopefully minimize duplication of efforts in the implementation of agricultural strategies.

Regional Food Products Markets: Regional trade in agricultural and food products in the Sahel are characterized by serious trade barriers, unfair trading practices, freight stocks exchanges and un-coordinated frontier markets. Efforts to regularize regional trade and to significantly reduce these constraining factors are underway through the formation of National Consultative Committees (CNC) on trade promotion in the 9 CILSS countries.

Through support of the Food Security program to National Consultative Committees, substantial progress was made in several areas including the following.

- Reduction of the travel time Livestock exporters taken for moving livestock from Ouangolodougou to Abidjan from 2-3 days to 10-24 hours.
- Creation of National Consultative Committee in trade promotion of Fruit and Vegetables in Burkina Faso.
- Technical documentation was completed for the creation of National Consultative Committees in Niger, Chad and Cote d'Ivoire.
- Establishing functional linkages between CNC and partners, for example between CNC-RA Burkina with Bio-Food Sector, CNC of Togo with the SADAOC Network and CNC of Mali with CAE, CLUSA and APROFA.

The pilot phase of the project, Observatory of Unfair Trading practices (OPRAF) at the borders, was initiated through preparation of the Terms of Reference for a detailed study on road harassment. CILSS concluded arrangements with UEMOA to collaborate in adopting the same indicators and methodologies for data collection and processing, monitoring and evaluation procedures, and to undertake regular consultations through the exchange of information.

The National Freight Stock Exchange of Burkina Faso, which is now firmly established, organized a training workshop for personnel involved in frontier trade and regularly published the weekly bulletin on the availability of transport and freight facilities. A similar national freight stock exchange was also developed and is now fully operational in Senegal while the national freight stock exchanges of Niger and Togo are at advanced stages of being established.

Frontier Markets: Significant advances were made in the improvement of marketing and in regional livestock trade especially at the frontiers in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. The Frontiers Market Project (FMP), supported by the Common Fund for Commodities, completed the construction of rest points at Niangoloko, in Burkina Faso, Sikasso in Mali, and at Sabon Manchi in Niger.

The Frontier Market Project has contributed to improving the regional livestock marketing system. For example, infrastructures and equipment of the livestock markets in Bittou and Niangoloko, in Sikasso and Sabon Manchi and Bawku are considerably improved. Institutional and organizational processes and management of the livestock markets are well established and function efficiently through Management Boards. The Management Board of the Sikasso Livestock market has been transformed into a Frontier Market Management Company (SOGEMAF Limited). Major frontier market restrictions have been reduced and the frontier markets now run so smoothly and efficiently that they attract large and increasing numbers of people who frequent the markets, particularly from neighboring countries.

Prevention and management of Food Crises

The food situation analysis framework that was designed by the Food Security Program is adopted by CILSS countries to produce

Frontier cattle market in Burkina Faso now operational in the Sahel

status reports of national food situations which are discussed at national and regional consultations. Policy makers, development partners and the civil society use the information provided in these reports for monitoring the food situation in the region and for deliberations at meetings of the Famine Prevention Network.

Four countries, Cape Verde, Gambia, Mauritania and Senegal, with serious food situations, were assisted through technical missions to prepare reports on the emergency measures that should be taken in each country to alleviate the suffering of the populations caused by food shortages.

Studies were initiated on the harmonization of methodologies for identification and analysis of vulnerable zones.

Processing and consumption of agricultural food products

Activities of the Food Security Program during the reporting year were also directed at strengthening PROCELOS national committees through technical and financial support. National PROCELOS committees, have initiated plans to become more autonomous and operate as private associations. The PROCELOS committees in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Niger have been successfully converted into private associations while a similar process is well under way in The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Mali and Chad. A common model has been adopted for regular publication of national agro-food bulletins to promote information exchange in the sub-region.

The program encouraged and supported companies involved in the processing and packaging of food products to improve the quality of the packaging and to provide reliable nutritional information on the package labels of processed foods. Sub-regional committees were set up to harmonize and validate action plans to promote improvements in the quality of processed foods in the sub-region. Furthermore, support was provided to private food processing companies to participate in the National Cultural Week in Burkina Faso and for the PROCELOS Committees of Cape Verde, Mali and Senegal to be represented at the Dakar International Food Technology Show (SIAGRO). Sponsorship was also provided for the participation of Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Niger at the 8th edition of the SIAO and for prizes for the food industry.

The overall output from activities of the Food Security Program during the year hold considerable promise for creating a more sustainable food security situation in the Sahel. Program activities are now better coordinated and collaboration with the other CILSS Major Policy and Technical Programs in implementation of activities has become more effective. All the Sahelian countries have developed national food security strategies and the preparation of a common agricultural policy (CAP) framework for the West Africa and Chad has been successfully initiated. The difficulties confronted by trade at the frontier markets are minimized and regional food products markets are better coordinated, operate more efficiently and in line with WTO and related international protocols and agreements.

Natural Resources Management

Based on the comments of the Technical and Management Committee, the Major program on Natural Resources Management reviewed and re-organized its activities to ensure that they responded to the requirements of the CILSS member states and stakeholders and that the program outputs have a positive influence on the environment. Deliberate actions were first taken to strengthen the coordination of program activities through improving the programming process, more effective monitoring of progress in the implementation of project activities, and adopting an efficient program approach in the pattern of collaboration between the six major programs of CILSS.

Training in advanced participation methods was organized to improve staff performance in project implementation, monitoring and evaluation. An efficient system has now been put in place whereby the terms of reference of staff on field missions are expanded to include paying attention to issues and activities related to other CILSS major policy programs.

Implementation of activities of the Convention to Combat Desertification

During the year, program activities to combat desertification devoted considerable attention to five main thrusts as follows;

i. Elaboration of National Action Plan Programs to combat desertification; Twelve(12) out of 17 countries in West Africa now have their National Action Plans on Desertification Control.

ii. Supporting the implementation of the sub-regional Action Plan for Desertification control in West Africa, SRAP-WA. Missions were undertaken to Guinea-Bissau, Guinea Conakry and Sierra Leone to assist with the preparation of their national action plans for the control of desertification, NAP-CD. The NRM program also held discussion with CEMAC on providing support to countries in the Central Africa sub-region in the preparation of their national action plans for desertification control.

being expanded in scope and to include many more interested partners. During the reporting year, actions were taken to strengthen the management of project implementation. A procedures handbook, as well as formats for project briefs were prepared to provide guidance on project formulation and management processes. To sensitize potential partners and provide information on the project, an information brochure on the project was published, and the IREMLCD Web Page was re-designed.

The projects selection process, undertaken by the CILSS-France Selection Committee, resulted in the final selection of eleven projects to proceed to the project formulation stage.

Political, legal and institutional environment for sustainable management of natural resources in the Sahel

Following the Praia regional conference on land issues and decentralization in the Sahel, CILSS has focused some attention on creating a legal framework and organizational instruments to promote a participatory approach to the management of natural resources. A workshop was organized in Chad to identify national priorities themes for natural resources management.

The NRM program provided technical support for land tenure security programs in some CILSS member states. Support included the organization of a technical brainstorming session on *Rural Land Tenure for Sustainable Development in the Sahel and West Africa*, to identify elements in the framework for new directions in land tenure matters. Through financial and technical support, equipment and technical training at the Land Tenure Center in the USA were provided for management of the land tenure database at the National Land Tenure Observatory in Chad. Documents were also finalized for establishing a similar Land Tenure Observatory in Senegal. Preparatory missions, financed by USAID Decentralization and Local Governance Project, were also undertaken to launch the observatory in various regions of Senegal.

Another crucial activity during the year is preparation of the final documentation and other arrangements for launching of PRAIA+9. The aim of this project is to assess the progress made, since the 1994 Praia Forum, on land tenure security and local governance in land resources management, and to define new policy guidelines for equitable access to land and natural resources in order to reduce the current land conflicts in the sub-region.

PRAIA+9 will hopefully lead to drafting of a Regional Rural Land Tenure Charter that will incorporate guidelines for implementation and enforcement.

Appropriate strategies for Household and alternative Energy sources

The Major Program on Natural Resources Management undertook the preparation of necessary documents and follow-up of the dossier for European Union financing for phase II of the PREDAS project. A new grant agreement amounting to 3.5 billion FCFA, was secured for the project and allocations were made to cover project start-up activities in various CILSS member states.

The program provided support for countries to establish national HES committees and focal points. Information workshops were organized to sensitize development partners and beneficiaries on the PREDAS project, and a regional validation workshop was facilitated on methodologies for the development of national HES programs. An inventory of Sahelian experts on household energy was compiled into a Regional Directory of HES Experts and published in the website: www1.netaccess.bf/test/predas/default.php.

To build national capacities in HES, the NRM program collaborated with the AGRHYMET Regional Center to conduct training of national trainers in renewable energies for natural resources management. A second training course involved over 25 women and craftsmen from Niger in the use and maintenance of the solar pressure-cooker, BITATORE, which is now widely adopted in the Sahel. Finally, studies were initiated on the potentials of the plant *Typha australis* as an alternative source of household energy.

Other related activities carried out during the reporting year included

- Support for training to define the criteria and indicators for decision-making in forests and forest resources management together with development of action plans for experimental application of these indicators.
- Studies, in collaboration with USAID, in forest resources management and local communities. The aim of this study is to assess the status of forest resources management in West Africa and to formulate national policies for forest resources management, which focus on a peoples-centered forest development strategy, giving rural populations the rights and means for sustainable management of their forest resources.

The BITATORE is an efficient energy saving cooking device specially developed for the Sahelian communities

Population and Development

Activities of the Population and Development program were effectively coordinated and managed through participation at CILSS technical and management meetings, technical consultations as well as attendance at major relevant regional and international conferences; these include:

- The INSAH Scientific Committee meetings.
- The INSAH Management retreat.
- Fifth World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Centers Partners Day of the French Center for Population and Development Studies (CEPED) in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- Fourth General assembly of the African Population Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Meetings on Mobilizing political commitment for national action against HIV/AIDS, Youth and Migration problems, jointly organized by the AU/ECA/ADB Secretariat in cooperation with UNFPA, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Furthermore, follow-up actions on grant agreements and conventions resulted in the extension of the USAID-INSAH grant and agreement by CIDA and the University of Montreal to finance the second phase of the Population and development project in the Sahel; extension of the subcontract between the Academy for Educational Development and CERPOD to finance the project on *Support to Analysis and Research in Africa, (SARA)*. The contract between CERPOD and the Population Reference Bureau provided support for professional services of a Communications Specialist for the program.

During the year, the research activities of the Population and Development program were implemented in three strategic thrusts namely, Population and development research, Institutional capacity building and Population policies and programs. Publication of research reports, demographic data sheets and country demographic profiles continued actively.

Population and Development Research

Migration and urbanization - CERPOD coordinated the national components of migration studies in Mauritania covering aspects such as, new trends in migration, determinants of migration, socio-economic consequences of migration, migration and the economic status of sahelian women and characterization of urban unemployment resulting from rural/urban migration. Staff of CERPOD organized training, for the consultants conducting the studies, in the use of the STATA software for managing the data collected.

Considerable progress was made with studies aimed at a detailed analysis of household lifestyles, including changes in housing patterns, socio-economic analysis of living conditions in households, and the establishment of a database on household characteristics.

The study on migration and HIV/AIDS was initiated through a Memorandum of understanding signed for collaboration with the John Hopkins University of the USA.

Health and Society - Plans were concluded for studies on monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS control programs in order to improve the quality of research on HIV/AIDS prevention and to develop appropriate indicators to measure social and cultural changes which support adoption of HIV/AIDS prevention behaviors. Analysis of data collected at the Kolondieba Population Observatory was completed, imported to the UORC and analyzed. This research report was published in June.

Population, Environment and Development - The main activity implemented for this project component is training in the application of the SPECTRUM model for advocacy and sensitization, with financial support from UNFPA-Burkina Faso. Another activity which was completed is the study on integration, environment and urban planning in Burkina Faso. The report of this research was compiled for publication in a book while a glossy brochure was produced in collaboration with UERD and the Demography Department of the University of Montreal.

Gender, Family, and Development - Identifying factors that are essential for promoting the education of children and the participation of young girls in basic educational programs is the aim of this research effort. A survey of family dynamics and child education in Mali was completed and prepared for publication.

A project to study men/women relationships in rural development identified during a project identification mission to CILSS countries was initiated. The Guinea-Bissau pilot study on the agricultural component of this project was completed and the report was critically reviewed for publication.

CERPOD staff, together with specialists from other major CILSS programs and international collaborators from the University of Michigan, participated actively in the Fourth African Population Conference held in Marrakech, Morocco. They facilitated sessions such as Gender and Poverty, Migration, Urbanization and Poverty, Food self-sufficiency and Poverty, Food requirements of the Household and Management Strategies and Youth and

Information

Activities of the major technical program on Information focused attention on data collection, processing, storage and dissemination of technical information for the benefit of development programs in the Sahel.

Data collection, processing and storage

A wide range of technical data was routinely collected from the national programs of CILSS member states and transmitted to the AGRHYMET Regional Center ARC for processing and storage. The information collected include climatological, agrometeorological, physanitary, pastoral, hydrological and socio-economic data, all of which are useful in the development of early warning systems for weather and agricultural production. NOAA and METEOSAT satellite data were received at ARC. The METEOSAT Images are processed and recorded on CD-ROM discs and sent to the national meteorological services as decadal (Ten-day periods) NDVI (normalized difference vegetation index-greenness) images transmitted by email.

Dissemination of Information

During the year, professional staff of the Information program participated actively in monitoring activities, technical consultations and regional meetings, particularly in the six risk zones affected by irregular rainfall patterns. Monitoring of agro-pastoral cropping seasons was also conducted in order to assess the food situation in the CILSS countries namely Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde and The Gambia, most affected by prolonged breaks in rainfall. The outcome of these activities is the preparation and dissemination of news bulletins on the current food situation for 2001/2002 and also for the 2002/2003 periods as well as revised Cereals Balance Sheets.

Development of Tools and Methodologies

Efforts were continued, through strong collaboration with development partners, in developing vital tools and models for facilitating prediction of situations in the Sahel. The tools and methodologies successfully developed during the year include the following:

- Crop water balance and millet yield forecast (DHC-CP)
- Simple Tool for analyzing satellite images and reprocessing METEOSAT images
- Prototype of a local information system known as *Carte d'identité rurale*
- Biomass maps for rangelands and pastures management
- Development of the SARRAH predictive model for forecasting legume and cereal yields and
- Improved rainfall estimation methodology of the AGRHYMET Regional Center.

Attendance at various international meetings and conferences was valuable through providing opportunities for the Information program to make presentations on the work of CILSS and to establish further collaboration in the areas of Water Resource Assessment and Climate change and water resources in West Africa.

Training and Capacity Building

The regular activities conducted by the Training Major Program (TMP) during the year included the following:

- General administration and coordination of the Major Training and Capacity Building Program TMP;
- Basic Training Programs: the graduation of Higher Technician Students in Instrumentation and Microcomputing and Engineer Students in Agrometeorology, the recruitment of new intakes of students in Agrometeorology, Hydrology, Crop Protection and Instrumentation & Microcomputing and the strengthening of the teaching staff;
- Continuous Education Programs (workshops, seminars and individual training courses) conducted in the areas of intervention of the two major programs of the AGRHYMET Regional Center and
- Scientific and technical information retrieval and dissemination.

Administration

The following activities were carried in an effort to achieve effective coordination of the activities of the major program on training and capacity building, TMP; revising and finalizing the project document for the second phase of the Danish Co-operation support to TMP, preparing terms of reference for the TMP lecturers and assistants; preparing terms of reference for consultancies funded by USAID; preparing Memoranda of Understanding for co-operation between ARC and the Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey (Niger) and the Polytechnic University of Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso); recruiting new lecturers; finalizing the negotiations with the University of Reading in England, and organizing meetings with the Directors of National Meteorological Services of the CILSS member countries

Technical Training Programs

Training of Engineers in Agrometeorology (ECA) and for the Higher Diploma in Instrumentation and Microcomputing (HDCIM) were successfully completed during the year, with 18 students graduating.

There were four new intakes of students for the Higher Diploma Course in Agrometeorology (HDCA), Hydrology (HDCH), Instrumentation & Microcomputing (HDCIM) and Crop Protection (HDCCP) and a new intake of students for the Engineer Course in Crop Protection (ECCP). The courses were given through collaboration arrangements between ARC, and the Luxembourg University Foundation (FUL) which provided a part-time lecturer for the program. The course content adequately covered various theoretical aspects as well as a very strong practical component of all the subject areas. In addition, Higher Technician students in Instrumentation and Microcomputing conducted specialized projects for theses, lasting 6 weeks, in major topics including setting up of a Barometer, a Thermometer, an Anemometer, a Hygrometer and a Digital Rain gauge as well as a Central Alarm Station, a Microwave Link between 2 computers and a Stereo Amplifier of 2x150W.

The theses projects for Engineer Students in Agrometeorology lasted 7 months including a 4-month data collection phase that took place in most cases in the students' country of origin. These theses provided a framework for studies regarding the transfer of tools developed at ARC to National AGRHYMET Components (NAC). They focused attention on various themes including:

- the impact of climate variability on the natural vegetation and crops;
- desertification monitoring;
- the consequence of dry spells on agricultural production;
- sowing dates for to cotton and sorghum,
- agroclimatic factors, bio-ecology and dynamics of sorghum insect population;
- locust monitoring;
- use of remote sensing for water resource monitoring;
- use of DHC (Crop Water Balance software) for crop yield estimation, rice field development (zoning, agrometeorological monitoring, dyke construction);
- use of woody plants in an environmental monitoring system.

ARC courses include practical training in Agrometeorology

Collaboration with other Institutions

Collaboration with the African School of Meteorology and Civil Aviation, EAMAC was highly beneficial for the courses in Meteorology and Instrument Maintenance. Thus, courses in Telecommunication-Telegraphy-Telephony, Measurements of Pressure, Temperature, Humidity and Wind at high altitude, Meteorological Equipment/Devices with electronic components: (SADIS, Weather Radar, Automatic Weather Forecasting Stations), Antennas & Propagation, Electricity (Higher Technician Course in Instrumentation and Microcomputing) and Space Meteorology, Mapping, Physical Meteorology, Climatology (Engineer Course in Agrometeorology) were given by lecturers of EAMAC. As part of the FUL's support to the Engineer Course in Agrometeorology, some professors from Belgian universities gave lectures to the students concerned in Micrometeorology, Instrumentation, Telemetry, Crop Morpho-Physiology, Soil-Plant-Atmosphere Modeling, Data Assessment and Project Management.

The 2002 admissions

Admission of students into training courses for year 2002 was conducted by means of short-listed of candidates by a Commission at ARC set up for that purpose. Altogether 283 applications were screened by a selection Commission out of which 242 applicants successfully made the short-list for the selective entrance examinations.

A significant feature of the 2002 admission exercise was the acceptance of 5 new batches of students as follows: the 2002-2005 intake of Engineer Students in Crop Protection and the 2002-2004 intake of Higher Technician Students in Agrometeorology, Hydrology, Instrumentation & Microcomputing and Crop Protection. This pattern of student admission is significant and unprecedented at ARC because (i) for the first time a total of 95 students were enrolled at the same time, (ii) 5 batches of students were admitted simultaneously, (iii) Students were enrolled for the first time as Engineer Students in Crop Protection and (iv) a significant proportion of self-sponsored students (23 students out of 95) were enrolled for various training courses. Scholarships were distributed to students in the different courses of study based on the phase II of the Danish Co-operation Support Project document (Table 3).

The 72 holders of the DANIDA scholarships consist of 18 students in each of the following courses: Engineer students in Crop Protection, Higher Technician Students in Agrometeorology, Hydrology and Instrumentation & Microcomputing. There are 24 women out of the 72 successful students, which accounts for 33% of the total enrolment.

They include 11 Engineer Students in Crop Protection, 6 Higher Technician Students in Agrometeorology, 4 Higher Technician Students in Hydrology and 3 Higher Technician Students in Instrumentation & Microcomputing.

In addition to these 72 scholarship holders sponsored by the Danish Co-operation, 11 scholarship holders were admitted according to academic qualifications including 8 students (4 Nationals of Niger, 1 Mauritanian and 3 Senegalese) for the Engineer Course in

Table 3. Number of successful candidates in relation to the total number of selective entrance examination candidates and ratio between successful female and male candidates.

CILSS Country	ESCP	HTSA	HTSH	HTSIM	Total per Country	% of candidates selected*	Female/ Male Ratio
Burkina	2	3	3	3	11	30(11/37)	2/11
Cape Verde	2	0	0	2	4	80(4/5)	1/4
The Gambia	1	2	2	2	7	37(7/19)	0/7
Guinea-Bissau	2	2	2	3	9	31(9/29)	6/9
Mali	2	1	1	0	4	57(4/7)	1/4
Mauritania	1	0	2	2	5	45(5/11)	2/4
Niger	3	4	4	2	13	22(13/59)	6/13
Senegal	3	3	2	2	10	25(10/40)	3/10
Chad	2	3	2	2	9	38(9/24)	2/9
Total per course of study	18	18	18	18	72		
Female/Male Ratio	10/18	6/18	4/18	3/18			23/72

Legend:
ESCP = Engineer Students in Crop Protection,
HTSA = Higher Technician Students in Agrometeorology,
HTSH = Higher Technician Students in Hydrology,
HTSIM = Higher Technician Students in Instrumentation and Microcomputing

* Numbers in parentheses denote the actual number of successful students with respect to the total number of candidates for the selective entrance examination.

Crop Protection and 3 Burkinabè students for the Higher Diploma Course in Agrometeorology. Admission of 12 Higher Technician Students in Crop Protection (8 Nationals of Niger, 2 Mauritanians and 2 Nationals of Chad) was done purely on the basis of their academic qualifications. These scholarships are funded by the European Union, the Belgian Co-operation, the French Co-operation, USAID and the John-Paul II Foundation for the Sahel.

Continuous Education Programs

The Coordinating Unit for the Continuous Education Program, in collaboration with the other units of the Information Program and Training and Capacity-building Program conducted continuous training sessions, refresher training courses and attachments during the period under review in the ARC's areas of intervention. These are summarized in Table 4 which shows that altogether, 260 people received various forms of training during the reporting period.

Table 4. Summary table of Continuous Training Courses Conducted in 2002.

Theme	Dates	Number of participants
Role of Renewable Energy in the Conservation of Natural Resources and Food Security in the Sahel	March 2003	28
The Stratification of Sahelian Agroecological Zones (Land Use/Land Cover)	April 16–27	16
Introduction to Databases for Natural Resource Management and Food Security	March 11–22	15
Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis of Food Security Systems	April 22–May 04	13
Integrated Methodologies for Surveying Natural Resources	May 13–24	15
Conversion of lands into urban ones: Analysis and Planning for Food Security and a Sustainable Environment	June 17–27	13
Deriving Inputs from Ground and Climate Data for Modelling and Spatial Analysis in Natural Resource Management	October 28–November 11	13
The Issue of Climatological Data Management in National Meteorological Services (NMS) and at the AGRHYMET Regional Centre (ARC)	May 26–28	8
Workshop for Validating the Context of Structural Vulnerability	April 08–12	14
Utilizing Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems for Studying Interactions between the Climate and Desertification	September 13–26	11
Utilizing Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems for Studying Interactions between the Migration of Populations and Desertification	September 30–October 11	13
Management of Cultivated Lands and Pastures	October 14–25	19
Statistics in Agroclimatology and Hydrology (SIAC)	June 17–August 09	14
Workshop for Validating Training Modules in Gender in Crop Protection	December 09–13	14
Phytosanitary Legislation and its Enforcement	July 22–31	38
Various Individual Refresher Training Courses and Attachments	On request	16
TOTAL		**260**

Research activities to support training

Resident lecturers of the major training program are encouraged and supported to engage in research activities in specialized topics such as crop protection, agrometeorology, and hydrology in order to provide technical inputs to enrich the practical aspects of the training sessions. Furthermore, the research sites serve as field practical sites, case studies or subjects for the practical thesis work during the final year of instruction. During the reporting year, the following research topics were undertaken by various lecturers.

- monitoring of insect pests of vegetable crops (cabbage, tomato, onion, lettuce, green pepper, watermelon and sunflower) on the market gardening plots of Liboré, Banibangou, Saga, Balléyara and Sadoré (ICRISAT). Among these crops, cabbage, tomato and watermelon were the most infested by insects (*Helulla undalis, Plutella xylostella, Helicoverpa armigera* and *Spodoptera littoralis* on cabbage; *Helicoverpa armigera* on tomato and aphids on watermelon);
- trials in irrigated rice cultivation plots at Kirkissoye. Rice yields based on on-farm cropping practices (OCP) were compared with yields obtained from 500 m² plots in which integrated crop management techniques (ICM) were applied.
- entomological studies on 95 varieties of cowpea collected on-farm during the 2001 rainy season (TVX-3236 as a control) at the ARC's irrigated plot in order to assess the crop performance against attacks by thrips and pod borers.

When completed the analysis of the results of these studies will be incorporated in the teaching curricula of the crop protection training courses.

The Library at AGRHYMET in Niamey

Publications

A major activity during 2002, was the publication of a variety of regular newsletters, bulletins and specialized research reports and features. These publications served the very useful purpose of providing CILSS donors, development partners and other collaborators with essential information about progress in project implementation as well as the achievements accomplished during the year.

Samples of the major publications are illustrated in the picture montage while a complete list, compiled according to program responsible for the publication, is given as follows:

Milk production and distribution in Niger

Financial Outlook

January-December 2002

Introduction

The overall financial position of CILSS during the reporting year is presented in Tables 5, 6 and 7. The Council of Ministers of CILSS member states approved a budget of FCFA 7,854,200,444 for all operations (Table 5). Total funds received through annual contributions from member states, contributions from international donors, and internally generated income amounted to FCFA 6,337,208,763 (see Table 6).

Table 5. Approved CILSS budget for the year 2002.

Source of Funds	Amount in FCFA
Contributions from Member States	350,339,010
Income Generated	8,900,000
Sub Total	**369,239,010**
Donors	
USA	3,477,466,706
France	879,089,333
Italy	462,910,998
European Union	525,368,984
Canada	277,000,000
Denmark	614,107,000
The Netherlands	222,252,700
Belgium	17,800,000
Switzerland	2,000,000
Germany	350,000,000
FNUAP	66,040,000
ROSELT	79,732,000
INTERCRSP	33,355,400
SARA	160,821,201
Others	317,017,112
Sub Total	**7,484,961,434**
Grand Total	**7,854,200,444**

IGO	Inter-Governmental Organization
IITA	International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
INSAH	Sahel Institute, Bamako, Mali
IREMLCD	Regional Initiative on Global Environment and Desertification Control in Sahelian Africa
LAN	Local Area Network
LUF	Luxemburg University Foundation
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MPI	Major Program on Information
NAP-CD	National Action Plan for Desertification Control
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPMC	National Pesticides Management Committee
NRE	New and Renewable Energies
OCLALAV	*Organisation Commune de Lutte Anti-acridienne et de Lutte Anti-aviaire*/Common Organisation Against Locusts and Bird Parasites
OPRAF	Observatory on Unfair Trading Practices
PMP/NRM	Major Policy Program on Natural Resources Management
PREDAS	Regional Programme on Household and Alternative Energy Sources
PROCELOS	Project for the Promotion of Local Cereals
PRRD	Revival and Sustainable Recovery Plan of CILSS
RECTAS	Regional Center for Training in Remote Sensing, Nigeria
RESADOC	Sahelian Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation Network
ROSELT	*Réseau d'Observatoires de Surveillance Ecologique à Long Terme*
RPMC	Regional Programming and Management Committee
RSP	Regional Solar Programme

RTU	Regional Technical Unit of the IREMLCD
SADAOC	Foundation for Food Security for West and Central Africa
SARA	Support for Analysis and Research in Africa
SIAC	Applied Statistics for Agricultural Climatology
SOGEMAF	Frontier Market Management Company, Mali
SRAP-DC	Sub-Regional Action Plan-Desertification Control
SRAP-WA	Sub-regional Action Plan-Desertification Control in West Africa
TMG	The Mitchell Group Inc.
TPN	Thematic Partnership Network
UEMOA	*Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine*/Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP/UNSO	United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Sahelian Office
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Populations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

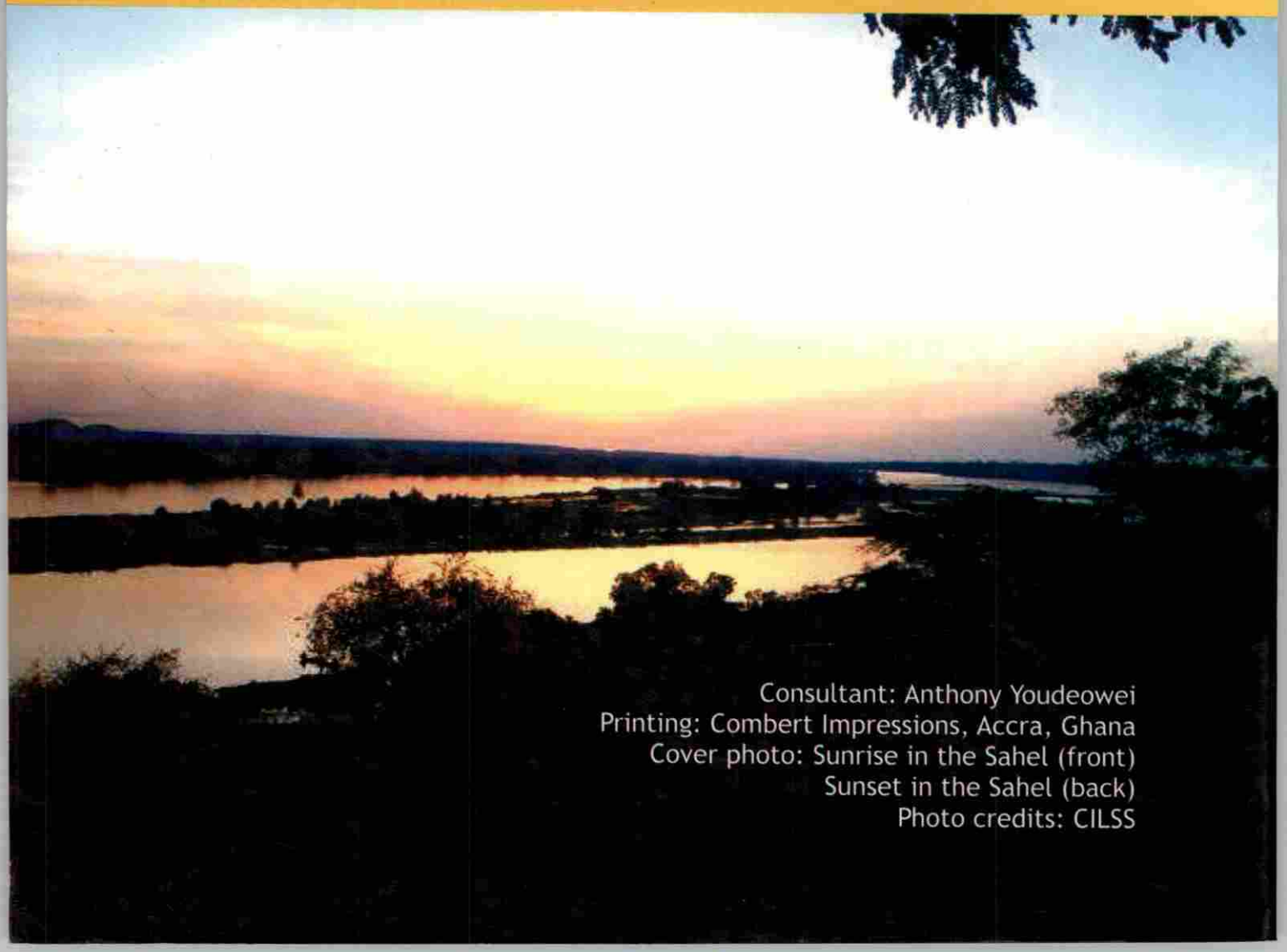
CILSS: Regional cooperation for sustainable development in the Sahel

The Permanent Inter-States Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, CILSS, was created in 1973 and comprises nine countries namely Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal. CILSS is supported at the highest level by two bodies, namely the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers. Both bodies provide policy guidance and decision making in accordance with the wishes of the member states.

The Executive Secretariat of CILSS is based at Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, while the two specialized institutions, namely AGRHYMET, the Regional Training and Application Center, in Agro-meteorology and Operational Hydrology, and INSAH the Sahel Institute, are based in Niamey, Niger and Bamako, Mali, respectively.

An active Network of national focal points and correspondents, known as CONACILSS, coordinates the work of CILSS with several development partners, rural communities and the civil society.

CILSS Mandate is to: ***To direct its efforts towards food security and combating the effects of drought and desertification for a new ecological balance.***



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Sunset in the Sahel (back)
Photo credits: CILSS