

WEST AFRICAN FARMING SYSTEMS RESEARCH NETWORK  
(WAFSRN)

PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING:

JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS IN AFRICA  
AND WAFSRN BULLETIN

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WEST AFRICAN FARMING SYSTEMS RESEARCH NETWORK

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**Preamble**

The West African Farming Systems Research Network (WAFSRN) is a professional association of active West African Scientists interested in involving farmers themselves in the research for finding means to improve agricultural productivity. WAFSRN was created in 1982 as a response to the double concern of and at the initiative of donors and international centres namely the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the Institute for Tropical Agronomy and Food Crops Research (IRAT), the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and the Gesellschaft fuer Technishe Zusammenarbeit (GTZ).

During the 1986 Symposium held in Dakar, Senegal an arrangement was signed with the Scientific Technical and Research Commission of the Organization of African Unity (OAU/STRC) to give WAFSRN a legal status. Following the decisions of the said Dakar Symposium, a secretariat with OAU/SAFGRAD office in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso was established with a full-time coordinator. A two year work-plan and request for funding which were prepared by the Steering Committee were welcomed by several donors.

**Objectives**

The general objective of WAFSRN is to promote and facilitate cooperation among the national, international and external scientists, programmes and institutions working in West Africa in the area of farming systems research. This collaboration is meant to enhance support for scientists and strengthen national programmes through training, exchange of methodological experiences, comparison of results and better access to information.

**The specific objectives are:**

- To stimulate collaboration in the area of planning and evaluation of farming systems research (FSR) in West Africa.
- To improve methodological practices through the exchange of experiences particularly by organizing meetings, study tours for scientists and any other activities which would meet the needs of members.
- To organize, to assist in organizing and to institutionalize training activities on FSR approach for scientists and other

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Page 3 of 10

rural development officers.

- To collect, process and disseminate relevant FSR results and particularly to encourage scientists to publish their results so that they can be readily available to all interested parties: scientists, research institutions, extension workers and their leaders, agricultural producers and professional organizations responsible for agricultural policy.
- To assist on request, national scientists, programmes and institutions in planning, implementing and evaluating farming systems research and possibly preparing request for funds.

#### **Funding of the Network Work Plan**

The International Development Research Center (IDRC) of Canada approved two requests for funds. The first grant for a two-year period was for the support of WAFSRN's several bodies: secretariat, steering committee meetings, biennial symposium and farming systems research (FSR) training workshops. The second grant also had a two year duration. It was for the support of a scientific and technical information system: salary of the documentalist, documentation products and equipments for data processing and reproduction.

The French Ministry of Cooperation granted some funds for technical activities: meeting of national FSR leaders, FSR training workshop, editing of documents and supplement for the steering committee meetings.

The Ford Foundation provided a 233,000 US dollars grant for a duration of two years to support the operation of the secretariat (secretary, renting and maintenance of offices) and the establishment of a scientific journal. The GTZ, Dutch Ministry of Cooperation and IITA also contributed to the symposium held in 1989 September in Accra, Ghana.

In order to minimize operating and overhead costs, when the full-time coordinator departed for an international job in 1991, it was decided that a part-time coordinator would henceforth be used. A part-time coordinator was therefore earmarked from one of the participating institutions and since it was much cheaper to operate there the secretariat was moved to the Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR), Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in Nigeria. Due to the substantial savings by these and other decisions, the Ford Foundation and IDRC grants had been extended to 1993 and 1994 April respectively.

#### **The Journal**

With the grant from the Ford Foundation the publication of the journal entitled "Agricultural Systems in Africa" has become a reality. Volume 1, no 1, and 2; Volume 2, no 1, and 2, and Volume 3, no 1, and 2 have been published. Articles are published either

in French or English in their language of origin. Annex 1 contains the table of contents of previous issues copies of which are hereby attached to this proposal. The quality of the journal has been acclaimed by many international bodies and individuals across the globe.

The journal is a peer-reviewed professional publication that is distributed to all individuals and institutional members of the network. Peer-reviewed papers that emphasize FSR concepts, methods and results of the FSR activities in the participating countries are published in the journal. It aims at diffusing FSR results to researchers, development agents, policy makers and other interested people in the subregion and elsewhere. It facilitates exchanges of different approaches and methodologies in FSR as they are practised in countries having different languages and research experiences.

#### **The WAFSRN Bulletin**

The Bulletin is published twice a year to provide regular information to all members about the activities of the network and the collaborative research groups. The bulletin serves as the main channel for exchange of information between members of the networks who are spread over 17 different countries in the sub-region. The bulletin is published in both English and French languages.

#### **Need for Continuation of the Journal and Bulletin**

The Steering Committee conducted a survey in 1991 among the network members to find out the relative usefulness or otherwise of WAFSRN's activities. Information exchange through the publication of the journal and bulletin was judged to be the most desired activity. Members wanted these two publications continue even if all other activities cease.

New articles are currently being received weekly from members as more scientists become aware of the journal. As the name suggests, the journal embraces all aspects of agriculture: crops, livestock, fisheries, and agro-forestry systems consistent with the improvement of the environment and natural resources preservation without neglecting gender issues not only from West Africa but the whole of the African continent.

Members of the network are continuously being exposed to emerging concepts and methodologies that bear relevance to sustainable agriculture, environmental degradation, crop/livestock/agro-forestry integrated systems, use of indigenous knowledge systems and participatory rural appraisal. As exemplified in Volume 3 No. 1 issue of the journal, results of the application of these emerging concepts would need to be published and exchanged among the network members through the journal and the bulletin.

Since the inception of WAFSRN many changes have taken place in the various member countries. Structural adjustments are going on

in some countries e.g. Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Gambia and Senegal while others are going through more democratic processes eg. Togo, Benin Republic and Mali. The countries are facing more and more deficit balance of trade. Regional integrations are taking place all over the world and similar trend is becoming a reality among ECOWAS countries. In order to face these new challenges the network will continue to publish articles on policy related issues particularly those that link agriculture and industry at the small-scale level. This is to encourage the network members not only to generate sustainable production systems and ensure their adoption at farmers' level but to address both micro and macro policy dimensions hitherto missing.

### **Governance**

The affairs of the network will continue to be directed by a Steering Committee made up of a chairman, coordinator (part-time), representatives of the international research centres operating in the region, representatives of the collaborative research groups under the umbrella of WAFSRN and OAU/SAFGRAD.

The committee meets twice a year. Its membership is renewed at the General Assembly held once in three years while maintaining about half of old members for the sake of continuity.

### **The Budget**

The network hereby seeks for financial support from IDRC for the publication and distribution of both the journal and the bulletin for a three-year period. The justification for the budget items are as follows:

- 01 The Coordinator will be working on part-time basis at the WAFSRN secretariat now housed at his home institution at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. The Assistant Coordinator is on fixed salary contract appointment on Beninois local salary scale. He is housed at Direction de la Recherche Agronomique (DRA) Cotonou, Republic of Benin. We request a topping-up allowance for the coordinators for carrying out the duties of reviewing, editing, printing and distribution of the bulletin and journal issues. The Assistant Coordinator will also assist in sensitizing francophone members of the network to submit articles for publication.
- 02 The Assistant Coordinator will from time to time travel to Zaria to work with the Coordinator. Both Coordinators need some local and international travel allowances to facilitate their movement.
- 03 This budget item will be used to maintain a secretary, a typist and any other necessary complementary staff at Nigerian local salary scale. The secretarial staff will assist the coordinators in getting the journal articles and bulletin

into camera-ready forms by using already available desk-top publishing facilities. Since the coordinator is on part-time the idea is to surround him with enough staff to facilitate his work at the low local Nigerian salary scale.

- 04 The office expenses will be met by this budget line to maintain the offices, computers, photocopier equipments and provide stationeries.
- 05 Scientific Committee meets twice a year to review the progress of work and approve work-plan for the new year. This will cover their travel expenses, accommodation and per diems.
- 06 Printing (of Journal and Bulletin) is currently and will continue to be done in Nigeria because it is cheaper than in any other West African country. The distribution is also done in Zaria for members in Nigeria and through Cotonou to the Francophone member countries.
- 07 A 10% contingency budget line is added to meet unforeseen expenses, inflation and possible fluctuations in exchange rates.
- 08 This budget amount is to cover the administrative support and services provided by SAFGRAD and IAR.

The total of US \$90,750 is requested per year and a total of \$272,250 for the period of three years beginning 1994 or 1995. The details are specified in Table 1.

Table 1: Budget items per year

	<u>Year 1</u> (1994)	<u>Year 2</u> (1995)	<u>Year 3</u> (1996)
01 Coordinators' Topping-Up allowances	15,000	15,000	15,000
02 Coordinators' Travels	3,500	3,500	3,500
03 Secretarial Assistance	6,500	6,500	6,500
04 Office Expenses & Equipment Maintenance	5,000	5,000	5,000
05 Scientific Committee Meeting	20,000	20,000	20,000
06 Printing & Distribution			
(a) Journal*	20,000	20,000	20,000
(b) Bulletin*	5,000	5,000	5,000
	-----	-----	-----
Total	75,000	75,000	75,000
07 Contingencies	7,500	7,500	7,500
	-----	-----	-----
	82,500	82,500	82,500
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08 Administrative support and services (10%)	8250	8250	8250
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	90,750	90,750	90,750

Grand Total US \$272,250.00  
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\* Two issues/yr

1 US dollar = N22

## ANNEX 1

## JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

Vol 1, No 1, 1991

**Bede N. Okigbo**

The Challenge of Farming Systems Research in Tropical Africa.

**J.O. Olukosi, K.A. Elemo, V. Kumar and A.O. Ogungbile**

Farming Systems Research and the Development of Improved Crop Mixtures Technologies in the Nigeria Savanna.

**Ray P.A. Unamma**

Moving Improved Cassava:Maize Production Technology from Research to Farmers Fields : The Case of the Nigerian Farming Systems Research and Extension Network.

**Humphrey C. Ezumah**

On-Farm Technology Testing : For Whom? What? and How?.

**Doyle Baker**

Economic Research in Farming Systems Research : Steps in Methodology.

**Roberto Arias**

Effective Orientation of On-Station Research Through an Operational Integration with On-Farm Research.

**G. Serpantie, L. Tezenas du Montcel**

Dialogue scientifique interdisciplinaire et Recherche/Développement : Résultats d'une Approche par "Portes d'Entrée".

**S.W. Eremie and H.R. Chedda**

Technology Generation and Transfer in Nigeria : The Farming Systems Research Network and the Agricultural Development Projects Interface.



Vol 1, No 2, 1991

**Dunstan C.S. Spencer**

A Farming Systems Research Strategy for the Development of Inland Valleys for Increased Food Production in West Africa.

**B. Osseni**

Les Systèmes de Cultures à base d'Ananas et de Cultures vivrières dans la Zone forestière du Sud de la Côte d'Ivoire.

**Obouayeba S.**

Cultures vivrières intercalaires des jeunes hévéas en milieu villageois du Sud-Est de la Côte d'Ivoire.

**Dugue P.**

Les Innovations techniques et leur Adoption dans les Exploitations agricoles : le Cas du Yatenga au Burkina Faso.

**T. Woldetatos et al.**

Adaptive Research on Improved Maize Varieties to the Diversified Agro-ecological Zones of South West Province, Cameroon.

**T.M. Masajo and R.J. Carsky**

Selecting and Developing Rice and Upland Crop Varieties for Inland Valley Swamps with Minimum or Partial Water Control.

**Marc Samatana, Dermot McHugh, François Meppe**

Use of Minikits to Supplement On-farm Maize Variety Verification Trials in Cameroon.

**Mark N. Versteeg et Valentin Koudokpon**

Les Pratiques actuelles des Paysans et les Innovations au niveau du facteur Fertilité au Sud du Bénin.

**Onu, Donatus Orji**

Communication and Adoption of Improved Soil Conservation Technologies by Small Scale Farmers in Imo State of Nigeria.

**Owusu-Bennoah E.**

Soil Fertility Constraints in Relation to Farming Systems in Northern Ghana.

**Bradford Mills and Tom Senghore**

The Coast Effectiveness of Fertilizer on Manured and Non Manured Fields in the Gambia.

**Bationo A., B.C. Christianson and A.U. Mokwunye**

Organic Recycling of Crop Residue and Fertilizer Use of Pearl Millet Production on the Sandy Soils of Niger.

Vol 2, No 1, 1992

- H.C. Ezumah, T.L. Lawson, W.T. Federer, and N.E. Awa**  
Importance and Sustainability of Root Crops-based systems in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- A. Charry, A.G. Daramola, and J.L. Dillon**  
Application of Mathematical Programming in Farming Systems Research and Extension: A Methodological Outline.
- J.Z. Keli, S. Obouayeba, B. Zehi**  
Influence de quelques Systèmes Vivriers Sur le Comportement de Jeunes Hévéas en Basse Côte d'Ivoire (Partie I).
- L. Nounamo and A. Fouaguegue**  
Timing of Fertilizer Application on Maize (*Zea mays* L.) grown in Association with Cassava An On-farm Evaluation.
- A.O. Ogungbile and J.O. Olukosi**  
The Feasibility of Hybrid Maize Production Technology for Small-Scale Farmers in Northern Nigeria.
- Keffing Sissoko et Siegried Debrah**  
Le Rôle de l'Élevage dans les Petites Exploitations Mixtes en Zone Semi-Aride du Mali: Etude de Cas.
- F. Donhauser and T. Kipo**  
Socio-economic Constraints to the Adoption of Recommended Cowpea Production Practices by Farmers in the Sawla Area in Northern Ghana.
- K.A. Elemo and S.A. Shoyinka**  
Reaction of Cowpea Cultivars to Major Cowpea Diseases under Sole and Mixed Cropping Systems.
- Akrofi Dzieror**  
Variability, Yield and Weed-control Performance of some *Citrulus Lanatus* Var. Neri (Thumb) Nakai and Mats Collections from Northern Ghana.

Vol 2, No 2, 1992

**J.Z. Keli, S. Obouayeba, B. Zehi**

Influence de quelques systèmes vivriers sur le comportement de jeunes hévéas en basse Côte d'Ivoire Partie II.

**M. Besong, S.W. Almy and B. Bakia**

Labour management in land preparation by food crop farmers in South-Western Cameroon.

**T.K. Atala, T.D. Ajia and J.O. Olukosi**

Adoption of soyabean utilization innovations among women in Samaru village of Sabon-Gari Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

**C. Annor-Frempong**

Organizing agricultural research and extension for effective linkages: A functional perspective.

**M.B. Vabi, E.N. Tambi and D.K. Pone**

Linking animal research and extension through training for on-farm research in the North-West Province of Cameroon.

**J.K. Afun**

A note on the incidence and damage of the foliage thrip, *Calothrips impurus* (Preisner), in cowpea planted after rice.

**A.A. Ojo, B.A. Kalu and M.O. Adeyemo**

Effects of planting date on maize varieties in a Southern Savanna location, Nigeria.

**M. Camara, A. Yao-Kouamé and M. Diomandé**

Premiers enseignements tirés d'une expérience de stabilisation de l'agriculture dans l'Ouest de la Côte d'Ivoire.

**A. Udealor, R.P.A. Unamma and O. Wariboko**

Yam-miniset intercropping study under farmers' conditions in Southern-East Nigeria.

Vol 3, No 1, 1993.

**M. Kamuanga, J.L. Posner, et M.B. Diouf**

Zonage de la Basse Casamance (Sénégal): Un Outil pour la Recherche-Développement

**J. Smith, J.B. Woodworth and K.E. Dashiell**

Government policy and farm level technologies: The expansion of soyabean in Nigeria

**S.T. Titilola**

Indigenous knowledge systems and farming systems development: Some basic issues

**K.A. Elemo**

Farmer participation in technology testing: A case of agronomic evaluation of cowpea genotypes in the Nigerian Northern Guinea Savanna

**A. Udealor, R.P.A. Unamma, T.O. Ezulike and H.C. Ezumah**

On-farm evaluation of improved cassava varieties in the tropical rainforest zone of Nigeria

**J. Nyemba Ambela**

An assessment of farmers' perception of the fertilizer sub-sector reform programme at village level in west province of Cameroon

**A.D. Barau, J.O. Olukosi and Y.A. Amin**

Performance of the Nigerian seed cotton market under the deregulated marketing system

**E.N.O. Iwuafor and B.T. Kang**

Effect of tillage and crop residue management on maize grown on alfisol in savanna zone

**S. Ouédraogo**

Modes d'accès à la terre et efficacité des exploitations agricoles dans la zone Ouest du Burkina Faso

**F.M.A. Nyiam-Bisong and F.O. Anuebunwa**

Evaluation of the response of some yam cultivars (*Dioscorea* spp.) and planting methods to yam minisett technique in the sub-humid zone of Cross River State of Nigeria

Vol 3, No 2, 1993

**Keffing Sissoko**

Aspects Techniques et Socio-Economiques de L'Insertion de la Sole Fourragère dans les Systèmes de Culture Traditionnels: Cas Des Petits Exploitants de Banamba au Mali

**Ademola A. Ladele, Terry A. Olowu and Chris O. Igodan**

Socio-Economic Impact of Agricultural Cooperative Organizations on Farmers: Empirical Evidence from Nigeria

**A.K. Asante**

Use of Bast Fibre Plants as Staking Materials for Yam Production

**G. Ibro, J. Lowenberg-DeBoer, K.C. Reddy et S. Maiga**

Comparaison des Méthodes de Traitements Phytosanitaires du Niébé au Niger

**B.A. Kalu and J.T. Ortese**

Performance of White Guinea Yam (*Dioscorea Rotundata*) Minisetts in Intercrop with Main Yam in The Nigeria Guinea Savanna

**Gauthier Biaou**

Développement du Marché de la Terre sur le Plateau Adja (Bénin)

**E.C. Okorji, C.C. Eze and M.A. Ibedu**

Cost>Returns Analysis of Cocoyam Under Improved and Local production Technologies Adopted by Small-Holder Farmers in Imo State, Nigeria

**Omotayo, A.M., Chikwendu, D.O. Arokoyo, J.O. and Ajala, M.K.**

Role Perception and Job Performance of Village Extension Agents Under the Training and Visit Extension System: A Case Study of Kaduna Agricultural Development Project, Nigeria

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