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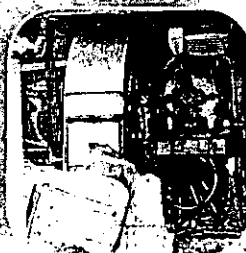
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23489

COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES
Project CFC/FIGHF/07

Product and market development of sisal and henequen



Review of past research results and current production practices

Project completion report/Addendum A.1

Kenya-Tanzania, January 1997-December 2002



COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES

Product and market development of sisal and henequen

Project completion report, Addendum A.1

Review of past research results and current production practices

Kenya–Tanzania
January 1997–December 2002



UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
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Project completion report

Sub-component A.1 “Review of past research results and current production practices”

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AOS	Administrative and Operational Services
ARI	Agricultural Research Institution
CFC	Common Fund for Commodities
NTO	National Technical Officer
PCC	Project Coordinating Committee
PEA	Project Executing Agency
R&D	Research and Development
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization

I. Project sub-component summary

1. Title: Review of past research results and current production practices
2. Location: Tanzania and Kenya
3. Starting Date: January 1997
4. Completion Date: December 2002
5. Sub-component external financing – excluding counterpart:

Total sub-component cost: US\$ 62,721

Of which:

CFC financing: US\$ 52,425

Co-financing by other donors: US\$ 10,296

II. Background and context in which the sub-component was conceived

Sisal production has steadily declined over the past decades because the advent of synthetic fibres led to decreasing demand for its traditional products. The decline was expected to continue until a major change occurred in the traditional markets with the introduction of stringent ecological legislation. If, therefore, sisal and henequen were to have a promising future, efforts would have to be focused on the introduction of new products. The strategy to broaden the sisal market identified in the Appraisal Report is as follows: (i) research and development to produce improved varieties for pulp and cordage (ii) refinement of known technologies for producing pulpable fiber; (iii) production and management improvements to reduce raw fiber costs to competitive levels (this would include efficient production of sisal leaves, utilization of boles and poles, valorization of wastes and efficient processing); and (iv) performance of a market study and of market trials in close collaboration with a selected group of major pulp/paper producers.

In order to implement the recommended strategy the need for a review of the past research results and of current production practices was recognized during the design and preparation of the Appraisal Report. The sub-component A.1 was conceived to address this issue.

The expected outputs of the sub-component were: (i) two country situation reports (Kenya and Tanzania); (ii) summary report including refined program of research and development (R&D); and (iii) recommended improved cultivation, harvesting and production practices. The target beneficiaries were the sisal producers including estates and small holders.

III. Implementation and results achieved

III.1 Implementation

The implementation of A.1 started in 1997. Two teams of national experts, one in Tanzania and one in Kenya were recruited; each team included an expert in sisal decortication, a planter and an agronomist. The experts were proposed by the national counterparts and selected by UNIDO. The activities included a review of the literature in past agricultural research, which was carried out by the Agricultural Research Institution (ARI), Mlingano, and a review of available information on pulping of sisal fiber, which was done by the National Technical Officer (NTO) in Tanzania. The national counterparts in Kenya and Tanzania supervised and managed the national expert.

An international consultant reviewed the reports prepared by the national teams and produced recommendations and a summary of the main points covered. This summary was distributed to all participants in a review workshop held in Tanga on 22 - 24 April 1998. During the workshop presentations were given by national teams and by international consultants covering all issues raised in the project appraisal report. Furthermore, five discussion groups were formed to review specific topics and to formulate a number of recommendations and propose activities to be undertaken by the project.

In order to disseminate the results and the proceedings of the workshop as widely as possible, the Project Coordinating Committee (PCC) recommended that a report summarizing these results and proceedings be published as a Technical Paper.

An outline of the publication was proposed by the international consultant and adopted by the PCC, and a consultant from Kenya was contracted to compile the various reports and proceedings accordingly. The international consultant reviewed and edited the material and the resulting work was published as CFC-UNIDO Technical Paper No.8 "*Sisal. Past Research Results and Present Production Practices in East Africa. Present Status, Problems, Opportunities and Future Prospects*".

III.2 Results achieved

Planned Activities	Target set	Completion Status
1. Comprehensive past research literature review	1. Kenya 2. Tanzania	1. Report prepared by National team of experts. 2. Report on agricultural research prepared by ARI, Mlingano and on sisal pulping by NTO, Tanzania.
2. Review of current production practices in Kenya and Tanzania	1. Kenya 2. Tanzania	1. Report prepared by national team of experts. 2. Report prepared by national team of experts.
3. Joint review of the reports	1. Prepare a concise summary report including findings, conclusions and recommendations	1. The reports were revised during the review workshop in April 1998 and an international consultant prepared a concise summary report.
4. Preparation of a refined research and development program	1. Refined program and recommendations for research areas to be covered by the project	1. The recommendations for research and development areas to be covered by the project were prepared by the five discussion groups formed during the review workshop. These recommendations formed the basis of the refined program.
5. Preparation of a publication including the studies performed and the proceedings of the review workshop	1. Contract national and international consultants to prepare and edit the publication in cooperation with the national counterparts 2. Publish a technical paper	1. National and international consultants contracted. 2. CFC Technical Paper No.8 published in 2001.

III.3 Dissemination of results

The results of his subcomponent were disseminated through:

- A review workshop, attended by 64 participants, held in Tanga, in April 1998;
- The publication of a Technical Paper (2001);
- A Dissemination Workshop held in Tanga in February 2003. At the Workshop the national and the international experts gave presentations and the Technical Paper was distributed to the participants;
- An International Dissemination Workshop held in Tanga in November 2004. At the Workshop, the national and the international experts gave presentations.

IV. Lessons learned

IV.1 Development lessons

The design of the sub-component as reflected in the activities included in the Appraisal Report did not foresee the publication of the results of the study undertaken by the national teams of experts. Nevertheless, the publication turned out to be very important to orient the activities and the programs to be undertaken as part of the other project subcomponents as well as to disseminate information to sisal stakeholders from an early stage of the project.

The fact, however, that the publication was not explicitly included in the Appraisal Report contributed to the delay in publication as a proposal had to be submitted and approved by the PCC. The design and formulation of future projects should always include funds to consolidate the review of literature and current practices in one document. This will facilitate the decision-making and the implementation process.

IV.2 Operational lessons

The implementation arrangements and the subcomponent management did not generate any major difficulty. Delays in the publication of the Technical Report were caused by the fact that the publication was not included in the Appraisal Report and by disruptions caused by change of project manager in the PEA.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

The objective of sub-component A.1 was fully achieved, despite some delays in implementation, and the outputs were produced as originally envisaged in the Appraisal Report.

Beside the planned outputs, an additional output, the Technical Paper, was also produced and it is an important means of disseminating project results and a good source of information for future research and development activities at the scientific, technological and industrial levels.

The funds allocated to A.1 in the Appraisal Report were appropriate for implementation of the original activities and covered also the production and dissemination of the Technical Paper. The design and formulation of future projects in which literature and current practice reviews are included, should allocate funds to publish the results of the reviews.

Annex 1

Project No.	Kenya	Tanzania	Total
FC/RAF/96/001 and FC/RAF/04/001	10,874	41,551	52,425
US/RAF/96/060	5,441	4,855	10,296
Total	16,315	46,406	62,721



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