

**SUB SAHARAN AFRICA CHALLENGE PROGRAMME (SSA CP)  
Kano-Katsina-Maradi Pilot Learning Site  
(KKM-PLS)**

**Quarterly Technical Report of the Implementation Phase  
July 1<sup>st</sup> 2008– September 30<sup>th</sup> 2008**

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**Tahirou ABDOULAYE  
KKM PLS Coordinator**



**International Institute of Tropical Agriculture  
PMB 3112, Kano, Nigeria**

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## **ACRONYMS**

<b>FARA</b>	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
<b>IAR4D</b>	Integrated Agricultural Research for Development
<b>IFDC</b>	International Centre for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development
<b>IITA</b>	International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
<b>IP</b>	Innovation Platform
<b>KKM PLS</b>	Kano-Katsina-Maradi Pilot Learning Site
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Area
<b>NGS</b>	Northern Guinean Savannah
<b>PCU</b>	Programme Coordination Unit
<b>SS</b>	Sudan Savannah
<b>SSA CP</b>	Sub Saharan Africa Challenge Programme
<b>TF</b>	Task Force

## **Quarterly Technical Report for the implementation phase, July 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

### **SUMMARY**

This report contains a description of activities planned and executed in the period of July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> 2008. It also discusses some challenges faced during this period and a summary of activities planned for next quarter. During this quarter coordination activities focused mainly on monitoring taskforce field activities, LI functions handover to CORAF and backstopping of taskforces on baseline and community analysis surveys completion. In the next quarter, the LI coordination will focus ensuring completion of IP set up and description in all taskforces. In addition, the LI will work on achieving the milestones of the functions handover action plan developed with CORAF and making sure there is continuity of activities.

#### **I. Activities planned and results expected at the end of the reporting period**

This section describes the expected results for the KKM/PLS Lead Institution (LI) based on the LI work plan submitted and approved by the SSA CP PCU. The initial one year agreement between FARA and IITA on one hand and IITA and TF lead institution (INRAN and IFDC) on the other hand ended on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2008. Therefore, a contract extension had to be negotiated and signed by all parties. Following the signature of the IITA FARA contract extension agreement to December 2008, the LI has also negotiated and signed similar agreements with the taskforce lead institutions.

From the previous report, there were three main activities planned for this period. The activities planned at PLS level, for this quarter in the KKM PLS include capacity building, completion of the baseline survey and coordination hand over to CORAF. In addition, the KKM PLS coordinator visited all Taskforces

for monitoring of field activities. The capacity building activities at PLS level did not take place during this quarter due to scheduling problems and are postponed to next quarter.

## **II. Research and project management activities carried out during the reporting period**

The Coordinator has worked with the Contracts and Grants Office of IITA to get the task force lead institutions to sign the contract agreement extensions. All contact extension agreements were signed in July 2008. Also to date (September 2008) all KKM taskforces have received the first two installments of US\$ 12 5000 each for the year 2008. The third installments are also available and will be sent to task forces in October 2008. The field activities of all task forces have started with the beginning of the baseline survey. Field experiments have started in the groundnut IP and soil fertility IPs of Sahel (Appendix 3), in the all IPs of SS (Appendix 2) and in the rice and cereal legume IP of NGS (Appendix 1). In both Sahel and NGS, vegetable and livestock IPs are yet to start field activities, even though community analysis has already been conducted in the IAR4D villages of those IPs. For the vegetable IPs in both Sahel and NGS, the next quarter will coincide with the beginning of vegetable production activities which will be the correct timing to engage farmers on vegetable related actions. Livestock activities are also planned to start in the next quarter.

### *Monitoring of taskforce field activities:*

In the three KKM taskforces field activity monitoring has been limited to those IPs where on farm trials have started. The coordinator has visited some of these trials and discussed with farmers and IP members. During this visit to the Sahel taskforces, the administrative assistant of KKM PLS travelled along to work with INRAN accountants on FARA required format for financial reports.

#### *Completion of baseline study*

The KKM baseline survey includes three main levels that are village, household and IP level questionnaires. In the KKM PLS, the village and household levels data collection is complete. The IP level baseline surveys will be conducted in all KKM taskforces during the next quarter. The LI will continue to advise TFs on this to get all taskforces to have official establishment of their four IPs and then administer the common agreed IP description questionnaire.

#### *Coordination hand over to CORAF*

This process has started with the setting up of a time line and will continue with more emphasis in the next quarter. The KKM PLS coordinator along with IITA management representative attended a meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Dakar, Senegal with CORAF and FARA to discuss hand over of the PLS coordination to CORAF. A road map for the hand over was developed at that meeting and is included in this report in the results section.

### **III. Results achieved during the reporting period**

#### *Monitoring of taskforce field activities*

During the field visit the coordinator discussed and emphasised to all taskforces the need to show that our IAR4D activities are not "business as usual". All TFs had very well established participatory trials and farmers have understood and can explain the objectives and design of the trials. However, the need to get marketing activities started was noted. When farmers use better production techniques (varieties, other inputs, agronomic practices etc...) agricultural output will increase and prices collapse. IAR4D approach should anticipate such things and incorporate them in the planning of production increasing activities.

#### *Completion of baseline study*

The KKM taskforces have all agreed to complete the baseline survey work by completing the IP description in all IP sites before the end of November.

Therefore, all IPs of the PLS will be officially set UP at LGA or department level before that date.

### *Coordination hand over to CORAF*

The LI coordinator participated in a meeting with CORAF and FARA on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Dakar, Senegal. The meeting objectives were:

- To review the PLI Lead Institution (LI) functions and increase CORAF WECARD's appreciation of KKM's LI functions and requirements for undertaking them
- To discuss the challenges encountered by IITA in carrying out the KKM LI functions and suggest ways to overcome them
- To review CORAF WECARD's capacity needs to undertake KKM LI functions and agree how identified capacity gaps will be addressed
- To draw up a roadmap (action plan) for the transfer of KKM LI functions from IITA to CORAF WECARD

The meeting was attended by the following individuals representing CORAF, IITA and FARA (Table 1).

Table 1: List of participants to handover meeting.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position and Organization</b>
1. Dr Paco Sereme	Executive Director, CORAF/WECARD
2. Dr Marcel Nwalozie	Director of Programmes, CORAF/WECARD
3. Mr Jean-Rostand Kamga	Director of Administration and Finance, CORAF/WECARD
4. Dr Ernest Asiedu	Staple Crops Programme Manager, CORAF/WECARD
5. Dr Tahirou Abdoulaye	Coordinator, KKM/PLS, IITA
6. Mrs Hilde Koper	Project Administrator, IITA
7. Dr Wale Adekunle	SSA CP Coordinator, FARA

Two main presentations were made at the meeting. The first one by Prof Adekunle Wale, the SSA CP coordinator who gave the audience an update on the programme in general. The second presentation by Dr T Abdoulaye, the KKM PLS coordinator discussed the role and responsibilities of the LI coordination unit and the status of the implementation at KKM level. Following the two days of discussions, the meeting drafted an action plan showing a timeline of activities to be implemented up to the actual official handover (Table 2).

**Table 2:** Action plan for the handing over of the SSA CP KKM PLS to CORAF WECARD

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1.	Identify a Coordinator	31/10/08	CORAF ECARD
2.	Obtain agreements		
	FARA CORAF Agreements	31/10/08	FARA
	Hosting Agreement	01/12/08	CORAF/WECARD
	CORAF WECARD Task Force agreements	30/11/08	CORAF
3.	Get support staff		
	Purchase a vehicle and get a driver	01/12/08	CORAF
	Acquire One Research Assistants	01/12/08	CORAF
4.	Obtain notes from IITA		
	Survey and other reports, templates, work plans and Budgets, financial	30/09/08	IITA
	Inventory	01/12/08	IITA
5.	Oriente relevant staff (Coordinator, Administrator, Finance)	12/12/08	IITA FARA CORAF
6.	Provide new work plans and budgets for next year (January – December)	15/10/08	Coordinator and TF
7.	Hand over officially	15/12/08	IITA CORAF FARA

#### **IV. Challenges and lessons learned during the reporting period and risks that may affect future implementation of the project**

Challenges this quarter remain related to slow procurement procedures in two of the taskforces that lead to slow fund utilisation. This gave the wrong impression that the taskforces had too much money. Another challenge related to personnel turnover in taskforces (especially NARS partners), this affects the progress in the work because the new participants have to be brought up to speed. Such time could have been used to make progress on activities. Another challenge this quarter was how to integrate the new M&E post doc into taskforce activities.

#### **V. Actions taken or to be taken to resolve the challenges and risks**

The LI coordination unit has engaged the taskforce lead institutions over the slowness in procurement and have received assurance that the process will be speed up. Special cars will be available to all taskforces before the end of the next quarter. Regarding the staff turnover, the recruitment of NRS and the help of the post doc will help bridge the gaps in some cases. Regarding the new post doc, with the help of the SSA CP PCU, all TF leaders were informed of his recruitment and he has started participating in some taskforce field activities.

#### **VI. Resources used during the period of reporting**

See financial reports.



## **VII. Activities planned for the next quarter**

In the next quarter, the KKM PLS coordinator will focus on capacity building and backstopping of taskforces, monitoring of taskforce activities and coordination handover process.

### *7.1: Capacity building*

In the coming quarter the LI will work with the CRST member in charge of data management to organise a course for all KKM TFs on data management. This would involve entering their baseline data in the SSA CP database format. The LI coordinator will also backstop all TFs on baseline report writing. It is expected that all TFs will work together to agree on a format for the baseline reports, so that the information will be packaged in the format for PLS.

### *7.2: Monitoring of TF activities*

The activity here will involve continuous working with taskforces and making sure that they are working toward achieving their output targets. The LI coordinator will visit each Taskforce base and ensure that critical actions needed for proof of concept are being taken by all.

### *7.3: Coordination hand over to CORAF*

This is a process that has started in the last quarter and will continue. In the next quarter, CORAF will be more involved in the communications with taskforces in order to ensure smooth transition. Also, based on the handover process action plan, the LI will start sharing information with CORAF and sending all TF work plans and other documents to CORAF in the next quarter.

## **VIII. Acknowledgement of SSA CP donors and FARA**

The contributions of FARA and its donors including the EU, DFID, the Italian government, and Norway are acknowledged here.

## **APPENDICES**

Attached sent as separate files.

**Appendix 1: Northern Guinea Savannah taskforce quarterly report (July 1st – September 30th, 2008)**

**Appendix 2: Sudan Savannah taskforce quarterly report (July 1st – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008)**

**Appendix 3: Sahel taskforce quarterly report (July 1st – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008)**