

2002 Kananaskis Interim Compliance Report Environment – Sustainable Agriculture

Commitment:

Supporting the development and the responsible use of tried and tested new technology, including biotechnology, in a safe manner and adapted to the African context, to increase crop production while protecting the environment through decreased usage of fragile land, water and agricultural chemicals; (116: Africa Action Plan)

Background:

At the 2002 G8 Summit in Kananaskis, objectives aimed at initiatives for Africa were embodied in the Africa Action Plan in which several environmental concerns were addressed. There is an obvious need to improve agricultural techniques in order to secure adequate crops, without harming vital natural resources. The G8 leaders have recognized the need for leadership to ensure future sustainability and to aid in areas where immediate action is required.

Assessment:

| Score | Lack of Compliance -1 | Work in Progress 0 | Full Compliance +1 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Country | | | |
| <i>Canada</i> | | 0 | |
| <i>France</i> | | 0 | |
| <i>Germany</i> | | 0 | |
| <i>Italy</i> | | 0 | |
| <i>Japan</i> | | 0 | |
| <i>Russia</i> | | N/A | |
| <i>United Kingdom</i> | | 0 | |
| <i>United States</i> | | 0 | |
| | | | |
| Overall | | | 0.00 |

Individual Country Compliance Breakdown:

1. Canada: 0

Working partly through the International Development Research Centre, Canada has tried to create awareness and strengthen technologies in Africa. In 1995, the African Highlands Ecoregional Program was launched to improve food security and to manage

natural resources in sustainable manner.¹⁵⁴

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has devoted CDN\$2 million to the Pan-African Bean Research Alliance, a project which runs from 2000-03. The project focuses on reducing iron deficiency anemia. The Bean Program has investigated genetic variability that allows bean breeder to improve iron content by up to 80 percent while maintaining high yield and drought tolerance. The program aims to provide micronutrients to women and children in Africa through bean production while improving community decision-making skills of local farming communities.¹⁵⁵

On 24 September 2002 the Minister for International Cooperation, Susan Whelan, issued a policy statement with a significant portion focussed on agricultural and rural development strategies. The document notes that “agriculture is heavily based on natural resources [hence the] development of the sector is inextricably linked to other global issues such as water and land degradation”; and that as “agriculture responds to the pressing need to achieve food security and eradicate poverty, interventions must be guided by careful assessments of the impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems and the environment as a whole”.¹⁵⁶ The document emphasizes that CIDA must strive to reverse a recent decline in investments in agriculture (from more than 11 percent of annual bilateral funding in the early 1990s to less than 5 percent in 2001/2002). CIDA expects that as early as April 2003 enough countries will have ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, an agreement that addresses the transboundary movement, transit, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs), and that this will have implications throughout Canada’s and other G8 members’ development agencies. The document outlines proposed programming areas including: the strengthening of human capital base; improve the knowledge base of the agricultural sector; striking the appropriate balance between renewable and non-renewable resources in agricultural production; balanced approach to the uses of new science in areas of genomics and biotechnology; removing market constraints; and promoting intra- and inter-regional programming synergies.¹⁵⁷

2. France: 0

In a document presented to the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002 France outlined a Green Revolution that promotes ecosystemic approaches to agriculture. The document notes that the world’s poorest people may benefit most since “[e]xperiments now under way show that it is possible to produce more and better with much less input and

¹⁵⁴ Government of Canada, “Sustainable Development Efforts in Africa,” 16 August 2002, <http://www.canada2002earthsummit.gc.ca/sd_action/stories/sus_dev_africa_e.cfm>.

¹⁵⁵ Canadian International Development Agency, “Pan-African Bean Research Alliance,” <<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/webcountry.nsf/vall/05609B249D7210B585256BE30056B146?OpenDocument#9>>.

¹⁵⁶ Susan Whelan, Minister for International Cooperation, Canada, “Message from the Minister,” 16 December 2002, <<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/agricultureconsultation>>.

¹⁵⁷ Canadian International Development Agency, “Sustainable Rural Development: The Role of Agriculture in Canada’s International Assistance Program,” October 2002, <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cida_ind.nsf/vall/ECE27220C9FA44AF85256C4D006A0B4D?OpenDocument>.

without deep tillage.”¹⁵⁸ The French estimate that 50% of production increases in agriculture come from the exploitation of wild genetic heritage. The document urges the need to strike a balance between wild and safely genetically modified agriculture. The piece emphasizes that 2002 will be a crucial year for the concrete implementation of site management through the Natura 2000 initiative. As the document recognizes, “Natura 2000, with its considerable financial resources, should assert itself as a real tool for the development of regions, guaranteeing the conservation of flora, fauna and natural habitats.”¹⁵⁹

A French Government partnership proposal outlines the DURAS Project, which is geared towards promoting sustainable development in Southern agricultural research systems. Four project areas are outlined: agricultural practices compatible with environmental conservation; incorporating local knowledge in ecosystem management; promoting agriculture in rural areas through the emergence of market-led opportunities and SME networks; and, selecting varieties suited to addressing the priorities of food security and poverty. The program proper is set to begin at the beginning of 2003 and last for 4 years. Proposed funding for the project is estimated to reach €5 million.¹⁶⁰

3. Germany: 0

Within the framework of bilateral cooperation, which is co-ordinated by the BMZ, with developing countries, Germany makes available approx. €75 to 100 million per annum for projects promoting the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity.¹⁶¹

Germany has committed itself to initiatives that promote the expansion of conversion to organic farming and expanding agri-environmental support for multiple crop rotation.¹⁶²

A report released by the German Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), a government owned corporation for international cooperation, in June 2002 outlines initiatives for rural sustainable development. The report emphasizes food security for all,

¹⁵⁸ Government of France, “Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002: What is at Stake? What Contribution Will Scientists Make?”
<http://www.france.diplomatie.fr/culture/livre_et_ecrit/vitrine/johburg/pdf/johburg_gb.pdf>.

¹⁵⁹ Government of France, “Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002: What is at Stake? What Contribution Will Scientists Make?”
<http://www.france.diplomatie.fr/culture/livre_et_ecrit/vitrine/johburg/pdf/johburg_gb.pdf>.

¹⁶⁰ Government of France, “The DURAS Project: Promoting Sustainable Development in Southern Agricultural Research Systems,”
<http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/sustainable_dev/p2_managing_resources/2508_promote_sd_south_agric.pdf>.

¹⁶¹ Government of Germany, “Johannesburg Summit 2002: Germany Country Profile,”
<<http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/wssd/germany.pdf>>.

¹⁶² Government of Germany, “Johannesburg Summit 2002: Germany Country Profile,”
<<http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/wssd/germany.pdf>>.

including access to markets and sufficient purchasing power with a focus on supporting research needed to boost food production in an environmentally sound manner and safeguarding essential genetic resources. The report also promotes regionalization by dismantling development barriers through regional planning, decentralizing policies and economic development.¹⁶³

4. Italy: 0

The Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare (IAO) is pursuing a number of projects throughout Africa with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For example the AFRICOVER project aims to set up a digital database on land cover of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in order to improve the knowledge of the DRC and to strengthen national capacities for the use of data for natural resources management.¹⁶⁴

A document prepared for the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development (August/September 2002) entitled "Italian Cooperation and Sustainable Development: Case-studies 2000-2002" includes projects directly related to the commitment taken at Kananaskis. One initiative, known as the Early Warning and Agricultural Production Forecast Project [AP3A], that takes place in the Sahel region of Africa begun in 1995 and came to an end in 2002 with approximately 4.5 million euros being committed. The project has produced early warning products/systems for the region by taking into account the level of structural vulnerability at both national and supra-national levels. A database now provides cross-cultural technical services, the possibility of monitoring crops and pastures based on satellite data, and vulnerability analysis. As the report notes, "one of the most important aspects lies in the role technological innovation can play in supporting capacity building for regional development. On the basis of this lesson, the Project has resolutely undertaken a multi-sided transfer to the Sahelian countries."¹⁶⁵

5. Japan: 0

Although Japan has set out an impressive programme of specific goals to meet its environmental commitments, it has yet to produce concrete steps towards improvements in crop production and sustainability in Africa, a major G8 commitment, and it also has yet to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. For these reasons it is to be considered a 'work in progress' and has been given a 0.

The Koizumi Initiative concerning "Concrete Actions of the Japanese Government to be taken for Sustainable Development – Towards Global Sharing" that was publicized on 21 August 2002 emphasized two initiatives to contribute to improving food security through

¹⁶³ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, "Index of Publications," <<http://www.gtz.de/publikationen/english/publications/index.asp>>.

¹⁶⁴ Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "AFRICOVER/Democratic Republic of Congo," <<http://www.iao.florence.it/coop/dgcsprojects/projectpage.php?key=22>>.

¹⁶⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy, "Italian Cooperation and Sustainable Development: Case Studies 2000-2002," <<http://www.esteri.it/eng/foreignpol/coop/index.htm>>.

Green Technology Innovation. The first being the promotion of the development and dissemination of New Rice for Africa (NERICA)¹⁶⁶, a hybrid combining the benefits of African and Asian rice that can be cultivated with less fertilizer and chemicals, and without irrigation systems. The second is the extending of approximately US\$30 million of aid to tackle the food crisis in southern Africa.¹⁶⁷

A speech by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Yoriko Kawaguchi at the “NERICA” Side Event, on 31 August 2002, notes that 2003 will be defined as “the year leading up to TICAD III....a ‘leap year’ for cooperation with Africa”.¹⁶⁸

6. Russia: N/A

On 29 November 2002 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation released a summary of meetings of the Intergovernmental Russian-Ethiopian Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation and Trade Commission Meeting which reaffirmed joint work on “concrete promising projects of cooperation in the industrial, agricultural, geological prospecting, electricity generation and other fields.”¹⁶⁹

An official spokesman of Russia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Alexander Yakovenko, noted that questions of raising the productivity of agriculture in Africa were discussed at the G8 Personal Representatives for Africa meeting in Accra on 7-8 December 2002.¹⁷⁰

7. United Kingdom: 0

A report released by the Department for International Development (DfID) entitled “Better livelihoods for poor people: The role of Agriculture” outlines efforts to reduce poverty through agriculture. At the regional and country level, DfID plans to support the refinement of poverty analysis, diagnosis and monitoring by taking into account rural, peri-urban and urban contexts. DfID also aims to support the establishment of alternative models for rural services such as technology, knowledge, finance, insurance, and rural infrastructure using affordable client driven methods with private and civil society involvement. Moreover, DfID strives to create proper conditions and incentives to increase

¹⁶⁶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, “Dissemination of the NERICA Rice,” <<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/environment/wssd/2002/type2/2-3-1.html>>.

¹⁶⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, “Koizumi Initiative—Ownership and Solidarity,” <http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/environment/wssd/2002/kinitiative.html#2_2>.

¹⁶⁸ Yoriko Kawaguchi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan, “Speech at the NERICA Side Event,” 31 August 2002, <<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/environment/wssd/2002/event31-5.html>>.

¹⁶⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, “Intergovernmental Russian-Ethiopian Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation and Trade Commission Meeting Held,” 02 December 2002, <<http://www.in.mid.ru/Bl.nsf/arh/6E6F31D6FA6C458543256C83003898CC?OpenDocument>>.

¹⁷⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, “Alexander Yakovenko, the Official Spokesman of Russia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Answers a Russian Media Question About the Outcome of the Meeting of the G8 Personal Representatives for Africa in Accra,” 15 December 2002, <<http://www.in.mid.ru/Bl.nsf/arh/74B7F5DD7435E71F43256C90003606FC?OpenDocument>>.

access by poor people to new technologies and approaches to sustainable management of natural resources, “with greater emphasis on participatory or demand led technology development and involvement of the private sector”, and investing in the “generation and dissemination of agricultural technology through the [Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research] CGIAR and other parts of the global research system”.¹⁷¹

8. United States: 0

African countries raised concerns over accepting genetically modified corn obtained through US food aid in August 2002.¹⁷² The US urged that the food is approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency and is eaten by Americans every day.¹⁷³

The USAID Office of Sustainable Development outlines five elements for the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA). These include the reduction of hunger, an agricultural action plan to rapidly and sustainably increase agricultural growth and rural incomes in sub-Saharan Africa, a focus on three subregional areas and investment, and the development of a framework to guide USAID agricultural growth investments in Africa. The fifth element includes initiatives to harness new technology and global markets to raise the productivity of food and export products, to increase the stability and volume of supplies, to improve product quality, relieve pressure on natural resources, reduce post-harvest losses, help producers respond to markets, help entrepreneurs develop profitable enterprises, and raise farm incomes and lower the price of food to consumers.¹⁷⁴

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¹⁷¹ Department for International Development, “Better Livelihoods for Poor People: The Role of Agriculture,” 23 August 2002, <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/agri_livelihoods.pdf>.

¹⁷² Agence France-Presse, “US Rejects Concerns About Biotech Food Aid for Africa, Wants EU Help,” 21 August 2002, <<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/9ca65951ee22658ec125663300408599/1dfaf44dbd6f4ad385256c1c0074a3e5?OpenDocument>>.

¹⁷³ BBC News, “Should Southern Africa Accept GM Food Aid?” 30 July 2002, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking_point/2149638.stm>.

¹⁷⁴ United States Agency for International Development, “USAID Managed Administration Initiative to End Hunger in Africa,” <<http://www.afr-sd.org/Agriculture/AgInitiative.htm>>.