



منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة

联合国粮食及农业组织

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Organisation des Nations Unies
pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture

Organización de las Naciones Unidas
para la Agricultura y la Alimentación

برنامج التعاون الفني

技术合作计划

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME DE COOPÉRATION TECHNIQUE

PROGRAMA DE COOPERACION TECNICA



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Countries

Members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO): Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Project Title:

Strengthening seed supply in the ECO region, with specific emphasis on Central Asia

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TCP/INT/3102 (C)

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Completion Date:

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Government Counterpart Institution responsible for project implementation:

Economic Cooperation Organization, Tehran, Iran

Implementing agency:

CGIAR-Project Facilitating Unit (PFU), Tashkent, Uzbekistan

FAO contribution:

US\$365 000

Signed:

Askhat Orazbay
Secretary General
(On behalf of ECO)

Signed:

Jacques Diouf
Director-General
(On behalf of FAO)

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ABBREVIATIONS

AGPS	Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Service (FAO)
AGSF	Agricultural Management, Marketing and Finance Service (FAO)
AVRDC	Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre
CAC	Central Asia and the Caucasus
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIMMYT	International Wheat and Maize Improvement Center
CIP	International Potato Centre
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross domestic product
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IOC	International Organizing Committee
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
ISNAR	International Service for National Agricultural Research
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
LOA	Letter of Agreement
NARS	National Agricultural Research Systems
PFU	Programme Facilitation Unit
PMT	Project Management Team
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SPCRI	Seed and Plant Certification and Registration Institute (Iran)
TCP	Technical Cooperation Project
WG	Working Group

I. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

1.1 Introduction

Only a very small proportion of the area covered by countries that are members of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is arable land. The environment is characterized by low, variable rainfall and extremes of temperature with the landscape being a mixture of mountain, desert and steppe. Several of the countries are in transition from a centrally-organized towards a market-driven economy. These changes have, in many cases, brought with them a decline in living standards with a substantial proportion of the population now living on less than US\$2/day.

Agriculture is an important source of employment and contributes significantly to GDP. However, agriculture faces several constraints. In particular, after independence, those countries which were part of the Soviet Union have had to develop a “stand-alone” economy, a process that has required enormous changes at policy and economic levels. This, combined with a harsh and variable climate, a short growing season, changes in irrigation and farm infrastructures, disruption of input supplies (seeds, fertilizers, machinery), and poor skills of many new landowners has led to a decline in agricultural productivity.

1.2 Major challenges facing the seed systems in Central Asian countries

Any effort to restore agricultural productivity will need to address the issues of seed¹ as a basic input. However, conclusions from several FAO and ICARDA consultations with stakeholders in Central Asia² suggest that, although a range of suitable varieties are available, only a limited proportion of land is planted with quality seed of improved varieties and several factors limit farmers’³ access to better seed. Governments continue to control the seed industry, even though public seed production and distribution has usually proven to be an ineffective system of seed supply. Often, the national legislation is a major constraint that limits entry of improved varieties, impedes competition, restricts international involvement in the region’s seed systems, and inhibits development of domestic seed companies. Contacts with seed programmes and organizations outside the region, and participation in international seed schemes, are still limited.

1.3 Requirements to crop diversification and seed marketing

Several ECO countries are currently forced to pursue crop diversification, and increased domestic seed supply is therefore required for crops such as wheat, potato, legumes, oil crops, sugar beet, forages and vegetables⁴.

ECO countries also need to introduce and disseminate new varieties that will result in better quality of the end product – such as wheat with better baking qualities and

1 Seed will be taken to include true botanical seed and vegetative-planting materials such as potato. Tree seed will not be included.

2 (i) FAO Regional Technical Meeting on Seed Policy and Programmes for the Central and Eastern European Countries, Commonwealth of Independent States and other Countries in Transition, Budapest, Hungary, 6-10 March 2001; (ii) The Sixth ICARDA-CAC Regional Coordination Meeting, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 23-25 September 2002; (iii) ICARDA Regional Workshop for Review of National Seed Programs and Regulations in Central and West Asia Region, Teheran, Iran, 2-3 November 2002.

3 In the context of the project, farmers include women, men and children who may share, complement, or differ in their needs of planting material and/or improved technologies.

4 For example, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were not major wheat producers in the past since wheat was supplied from mainly Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan was focusing on animal production whereas Uzbekistan and Tajikistan were predominantly growing irrigated cotton. These three countries have therefore been forced to expand wheat production in rain fed areas at a rapid rate.

cotton with better lint quality – or early maturing varieties that would allow for a second crop.

Many stakeholders identify “marketing” of the seed as a serious problem. Marketing efforts in the form of active promotion by seed entrepreneurs of their seed products was in most countries not necessary in the past and does not yet seem to have been introduced. Furthermore, effective extension does not exist in several agriculture ministries of the ECO countries.

In most ECO countries, only a few seed entrepreneurs are active in respect of variety trials combined with field days for farmers and policy makers, participation in meetings and courses, advertising, and branding. The use by seed producers of a network of retail shops does not seem widespread. These factors contribute to a situation where many farming families are not aware of the availability and attributes of new varieties, or of the merits of quality seed.

1.4 The urgent need for regional and international collaboration

Seed systems in several ECO countries are still largely characterized by standards and procedures inherited from the former Soviet Union. However, as those countries now seek to develop their own national systems, collaboration between the countries has become more difficult. There is also a need to secure an efficient flow into the countries of information about international regulations, and about arrangements in more developed countries to stimulate the flow of new technology from research to farming families.

Stakeholders in many ECO countries confirm that essential precursors of stronger seed systems are (i) more consultation and collaboration about seed sector development issues - not only between member countries but also with specialists from developed seed systems outside the Organization and from international regulatory bodies; and (ii) a more efficient presence/visibility in the countries of international technology and know-how. Also, the need for training in various aspects of seed technology, seed marketing, seed programme management, and other aspects of institution strengthening and capacity building, is being highlighted by several stakeholders.

1.5 The justification for FAO TCP support

During the visit of a FAO/ICARDA Team to Central Asian countries in January-February 2003⁵ senior seed sector stakeholders emphasized the need for immediate FAO assistance to (i) organize the necessary regional and international consultations concerning the future development of and collaboration between national seed systems, (ii) stimulate private sector activity, (iii) address issues of seed marketing and harmonization of regulations, and (iv) connect seed sectors in the countries with international seed systems and regulations.

Some ECO countries have only recently become members of FAO and consider the UN-agency as being the only one with the experience, organization and authority

5 FAO/ICARDA Mission to Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan to assess the efficiency of the prevailing seed supply, distribution and marketing systems and suggest an action plan for the improvement of seed trade between CAC countries. 21 January – 16 February 2003. The Visiting team included: Samuel Kugbei (ICARDA Seed Economist) and Mogens Lemonius (FAO Consultant/Team Leader).

required to facilitate the necessary collaboration between the countries and to connect the countries in the region with outside, more developed seed systems.

1.6 The potential for catalytic effect and sustainability

Experience from other developing regions i.e. Asia and Pacific, Africa, and Eastern Europe suggest that a recurrent regional seed conference not only provides an efficient forum for consultation and seed trade but also offers the potential to become self-sustainable (for information on seed networks bordering Central Asia and their funding, see Annex 11).

It is therefore also expected that a well-organized conference activity within the ECO will generate sufficient resources to allow for the conference to be repeated in the future without continued external development support. Furthermore, during the visit of the FAO/ICARDA mission, and during subsequent consultations in the Region⁶, seed development projects and international research centres confirmed the need for a regional seed organization and their interest in supporting a regional seed conference.

The impact of a conference activity will be further reinforced through the documentation and presentation to the conference of new and detailed analysis of critical issues faced by the national seed and farming systems and by introducing tested solutions from more developed regions. Review of such material is expected not only to stimulate consultations about collaboration across borders and modern approaches to seed marketing but also to attract conference participation by seed and equipment suppliers from Asia, Europe and United States, which in turn will contribute to conference sustainability.

The establishment of a recurrent regional conference for exchange of information and experience, possibly underpinned by a regional seed association for Central Asia, will furthermore provide for better opportunities to exploit the results of national seed projects and activities in several countries through networking at the regional level. Access to a well organized regional meeting also offers excellent opportunities for the many emerging private seed enterprises in Central Asia to access new PGR, trade seed products, and thus to expand and consolidate their businesses. This kind of development will eventually benefit farmers who need seed.

Recent international/regional seed conferences organized by various projects and organizations in Turkey (the WANA International Seed Trade Conference by ICARDA and the Turkish Seed Industry Association, November 2005) and in Kyrgyzstan (by the Kyrgyz Ministry of Agriculture, the seed industry and various development projects, December 2004, including four countries, and to be repeated in November 2005) and the commitment by ECO of a cash contribution to support preparations for the TCP project clearly indicate that ECO member countries see a need for and will support institutionalized, regular consultations on regional seed issues.

However, in order to initiate the process of ongoing and regular consultation and collaboration described above, there is a need for external expertise and initial

⁶ Such as the regional seed conference organized in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, December 2004 by Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Processing Industry, Seed Production Association, Association of Agri-businessmen "Jer Azygy", SIDA project "Support for development of seed production sector in Kyrgyzstan, and IFDC-USAID project on "Supply and development of agribusiness in Kyrgyzstan".

financial support, which the countries lack. For this reason, FAO's assistance is sought in the form of a TCP to facilitate the process of preparation and support for the organization of the first ECO regional seed conference and the establishment of a permanent regional forum for consultation.

1.7 Institutional arrangements

Collaboration in project execution is being sought with the Economic Cooperation Organization through its headquarters in Teheran, Iran. ECO and FAO already collaborate to promote the development of regional cooperation, the attainment of food security for all within the framework of sustainable agriculture development, and the struggle against hunger and malnutrition. The two organizations have decided, through their competent organs or appropriate channels, to conclude special agreements or arrangements for joint action with the aim of attaining objectives of mutual interest⁷. During 2003-2005 FAO and ECO collaborated to improve food security through the project "Support to Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) for the preparation of a Regional Programme for Food Security" (TCP/INT/2902(F)).

In ECO member countries FAO is also collaborating with several CGIAR centres. The international centres provide support to the majority of ECO countries through the CGIAR Collaborative Research Programme for Sustainable Agricultural Development in Central Asia and the Caucasus (CAC) which was established in 1998. Programme partners include a consortium of ten centres⁸ that are committed to collaborative research with colleagues in the eight CAC countries of which six are ECO members. The Programme is managed by a Steering Committee (PSC) which also includes major supporting donors.

The objectives of CGIAR CAC are, based on NARS priorities, to assist countries to achieve sustainable increases in the productivity of crop and livestock systems through the adaptation and transfer of production technologies, natural resource management, and conservation strategies. This is done by strengthening agricultural research, and by fostering cooperation among the countries and between them and international research organizations.

A Program Facilitation Unit (PFU), consisting of a Unit Head and support staff, supports the PSC and assists with the organization of meetings and workshops, language translation, and information sharing. The CGIAR PFU also serves as liaison office for research proposals, organizes initial technical proposal appraisals, and is responsible for establishing programme linkages with other international agencies operating in the Region. The PFU is hosted by ICARDA's Regional Office in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and the ICARDA Regional Coordinator serves as Head of the PFU.

An expected output of the CGIAR CAC Programme is strengthened national seed production programs and recent activities/achievements include workshops on research and seed production needs, and technical assistance for seed production in several countries. Significant support to the Programme's seed work is provided by

7 Memorandum of Understanding between the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization, 8 December, 1997.

8 AVRDC, CIMMYT, CIP, ICARDA, ICRISAT, IFPRI, ILRI, IPGRI, IRRI, ISNAR and IWMI.

ICARDA's Seed Unit in Aleppo, Syria. However, also other Consortium members support seed activities in collaboration with FAO and other partners.

To secure coordination with the CGIAR Consortium assistance is therefore being sought from the CGIAR-PFU to the implementation of selected project activities.

Collaboration will also be sought with the new Seed and Plant Certification and Registration Institute (SPCRI) in Teheran which is expected to be completed during 2005. The SPCRI constitutes the contribution by Iran's Government to the completion of two successive FAO TCP projects in Iran on "Strengthening Seed and Plant Health Control Capabilities" (TCP/IRA/0169(A) and TCP/IRA/3001). The new Institute will host among others a plant variety registration office, a seed health testing laboratory, and a seed testing laboratory and is located close to training and hostel facilities.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSISTANCE

2.1 Overall objective

The overall objective of the assistance is more efficient seed production, distribution and marketing systems developed in ECO member countries and in other countries of the Central Asian region.

2.2 Immediate objectives

In contributing to this, the project will meet the following immediate objectives (IO):

IO 1: Organization, capacity and current developments of seed systems in the countries analysed.

IO 2: Twenty seed entrepreneurs trained as trainers in modern seed marketing and promotion activities for future in-country training in the ECO region.

IO 3: Public and private seed sector stakeholders introduced to international technology, standards and regulations - and a process of regional consultation initiated to harmonize trade-impeding seed regulations.

IO 4: The potential analysed for a recurrent regional seed conference, possibly supported by a regional seed association for Central Asia, which will stimulate exchange of genetic resources, seed, technology and know-how.

III. PROJECT RESULTS

To achieve the objectives the project will support activities, which will produce the following results (outputs):

Immediate Objective 1: Organization, capacity and current developments of seed systems analysed

Results:

1. A regional status and opportunity document, which provides a comparable analysis of national seed systems in six countries, highlighting in particular regular, institutional and supply issues.
2. A report analysing the status and deficiencies of equipment for seed production, processing and quality control in two countries.
3. A report analysing status and trends in private sector development and commercial seed marketing in three countries.
4. Two substantial papers prepared on crop production opportunities in ECO countries for presentation to the Conference described under Item 5.

Selection of countries for the development of results 1, 2 and 3 above will be made by the Project Management Team (see Section 4). For further background concerning selection of countries see Annex 12.

Immediate Objective 2: 20 seed entrepreneurs trained as trainers in modern seed marketing and promotion activities for future in-country training in the ECO Region

Result:

5. Twenty senior seed entrepreneurs trained in modern seed marketing and promotion activities, and able to train others.

The trainees for this one-week training activity will be selected bearing in mind that they will subsequently be able to train others. It is also essential that a majority of the trainees speak Russian. Provided the SPCRI has been fully organized and is operational, the Project Management Team may decide to organize this course in the Teheran Seed Institute.

Immediate Objective 3: Public and private seed sector stakeholders introduced to international technology, standards and regulations - and a process of regional consultation initiated to harmonize trade-impeding seed regulations

Results:

6. The first regional seed conference in Central Asia organized, bringing together seed sector stakeholders in the Region and international specialists in seed regulations, programme management, and seed supply.
7. Information on seed legislative framework of ECO member countries collected and analyzed for future review and upgrading to facilitate compliance with international norms and improve the flow of improved seed/seed technologies into ECO member countries.

8. A programme of workshops implemented which will lead to the harmonization of trade impeding seed regulations.

Immediate Objective 4: The potential analysed for a recurrent regional seed conference, possibly supported by a regional seed association for Central Asia, which will stimulate exchange of genetic resources, seed technology and know-how

Results:

9. An analysis prepared concerning the possible organization and funding arrangements for a recurrent (each or every second year) Central Asian seed conference which will stimulate seed trade and exchange of technology within ECO and other countries in the region, and between the countries and international seed sectors.
10. Recommendations developed concerning the objectives, organization, and sustainability of a regional seed association for ECO and Central Asian countries.

IV. ACTIVITIES AND WORK PLAN

The assistance will be implemented in a flexible manner. Various activities can only be precisely defined/elaborated as the project evolves. Eventually, countries⁹ other than those referred to in this document may join some of the activities.

It is expected that a Project Management Team (PMT) will be organized consisting of a Project Coordinator designated by the PFU, a Deputy Coordinator designated by ECO, and the FAO Networking Specialist. The PMT will be supported by staff from FAO's Technical Divisions in Rome, namely the Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Service (AGPS) as the Lead Technical Unit, Agricultural Management, Marketing and Finance Service (AGSF) and Development Law Service (LEGN).

By relying on PFU's operational and technical expertise in the implementation of selected TCP project activities, the project will immediately be linked to and benefit from the experience and contacts related to CGIAR efforts to promote PGR and seed activities in Central Asia, and efficient coordination with national seed projects will be secured. It is envisaged that the PFU, in consultation with the PMT, will contract the delivery of various project support and inputs with other institutions/organizations in the region and thereby contribute to a more cost-effective implementation than would be offered by FAO organization with international consultants.

A detailed Work Plan is presented in Annex 2 and is further elaborated below. Activities will be focused around a regional seed conference, which will be organized in November 2006. Participants in the Conference will be international specialists concerned with research and seed regulations, representatives from plant breeders, seed producers and companies supplying equipment and materials to the seed sector, and donors and development agencies. A tentative conference programme is suggested in Annex 4.

⁹ In particular Armenia and Georgia

The Conference will in particular address technical and regulatory issues relevant for ECO countries and other countries in Central Asia, and will facilitate business relating to seed and planting material of agricultural and horticultural crops.

In preparation for the conference the seed review questionnaire drafted by ICARDA during its Regional Seed Systems Review Workshop in Karaj, Iran, 2-3 November 2002 and later distributed to ICARDA focal points in the CAC region will be completed, compiled and analysed. Based on questionnaire information and other available documentation PFU in consultation with the PMT will facilitate the drafting of a Regional Status and Opportunity Report providing comparable analysis of selected national seed systems and an overview of seed sector development issues with particular emphasis on Central Asia. The Report will identify critical constraints and highlight opportunities for strengthening the systems and increase regional and international collaboration. Following inclusion of comments by AGPS, the Report is translated into Russian and copies made available for the countries.

During the second half of 2006, PFU in consultation with PMT, will field national seed equipment specialists in two Central Asian countries (see Annex 12) to review status, identify and quantify deficiencies, and prepare national reports which will examine the condition of seed production, processing and quality control equipment in the two countries. PFU will subsequently arrange translation of the reports into English and their consolidation into one document.

At the same time AGPS with support from the PFU will field an international Seed Industry Specialist in three Central Asian countries. The Consultant will assess status and trends in private sector development and commercial seed marketing activities, focusing in particular on smaller and medium-sized enterprises. The assessment will include national, regional and international activities. The report is prepared in English and Russian, and made available to the countries.

For selection of countries for the above mentioned reports see Annex 12.

Well before the conference, the PFU in consultation with the PMT and with support from AGPS and AGSF will organize a one-week training course in seed promotion and marketing for 20 future senior trainers in seed marketing and entrepreneurship. Participants in the course will also be invited to contribute views on and recommendations concerning trade impeding seed regulations. A report from the Course on this topic will be available at the conference.

To secure efficient organization of the conference the following initiatives will be taken in the beginning of 2006: FAO in consultation with the Project Management Team will establish an International Organizing Committee (IOC) including country representatives, CGIAR and development agencies concerned with seed, and other relevant institutions working with seed supply issues in Central Asia. The IOC will finalize the conference programme, determine the location of the conference, identify international and regional speakers to present the topics indicated in the conference programme (Annex 4), and facilitate preparation and translation of papers. The IOC will also secure that the conference is effectively promoted among international development agencies, plant breeders, seed companies and other agricultural input suppliers as appropriate.

The suggested conference activity should be coordinated with other seed conferences in or near the Region such as the EESNET and APSA conferences (see Annex 11).

The conference will establish a Working Group (WG), under the guidance of FAO/ECO/PFU, which will consider opportunities for seed regulations' harmonization in the region. The WG will assemble in a one-day meeting immediately after the conference to determine which regulations (and possibly which crops) should be given priority and which countries should be involved. In doing so, the WG will consider the Report from the training course on seed marketing. Over the next 12 months the WG will hold two meetings with international regulations' specialists to draft proposals for action. These proposals will be presented at the next regional conference and/or to the ECO for further action.

Immediately after the conference, the IOC will meet with FAO and PFU to review conference results and experiences and consider the options for organization of the next conference and the need for a regional seed association. It is expected that the interest and momentum gained during the first conference, together with the registration fees and other income generated, will allow for a second conference to be organized within one or two years.

V. CAPACITY BUILDING

With initial technical and financial support from the TCP Project and subsequently funded through registration fees, advertising, and other promotional activities/services a permanent Conference Secretariat may be organized by the ECO to serve seed sector stakeholders in the region and their future collaborators outside the region. The secretariat should be small, (initially) including only one or two persons employed under local contracts and possibly placed in the ECO Secretariat.

The Secretariat will not only organize and promote the recurrent regional conferences but also serve as a state-of-the-art information centre on seed issues and may eventually perform as secretariat for a regional seed association. The long-term principal source of fees to fund the Secretariat will be government agencies and commercial enterprises in the Region, and their potential partners in the Middle East, Europe, Asia and the United States who are interested in doing business in the Region.

A well-functioning secretariat may also be able to attract supplementary funding from various other sources to support subject specific activities (data compilation and dissemination, meetings and courses, etc.).

VI. INPUTS TO BE PROVIDED BY FAO

1. Personnel services

International consultants (Consultants – Retired Experts)

FAO will fund the employment of the following specialists:

- An experienced seed networking specialist will be employed for a period of four months to assist FAO and ECO with the facilitation of project activities. He/she is

expected to visit the Region three to four times under Terms of Reference as set out in Annex 8.

- A seed sector privatization specialist will be employed for a period of two months (May-June 2006) and will visit the region twice under TOR as in Annex 6.
- A seed marketing specialist will be employed for a period of one month (September 2006) to perform as course director under TOR as in Annex 7.

Local consultants (Consultants – National)

In consultation with ECO, FAO will recruit two national staff for a period not exceeding a total of 15 months (Aug 2006 – Apr 2007). The two persons will staff a small conference secretariat under TOR as outlined in Annex 9.

Technical Support Services from AGPS (43 days) LEGN (14 days) and AGSF (ten days); TOR in Annex 10.

2. Contracts

Funds will be made available for the following contracts:

- Part of CGIAR-PFU contribution to the project will be reimbursed by FAO through a Letter of Agreement (LOA) which includes delivery of several important outputs foreseen under the project, including management, and administrative and logistic support in connection with seed marketing and regulations' harmonization workshops. A summary of the assistance to be delivered under the LOA together with a budget of up to US\$160 600 is in Annex 3 and is further explained in Section 4. This budget cannot be exceeded.
- Additional funds will be available for the preparation of conference and working group papers, US\$5 000.

3. Duty travel

This budget will cover the international and regional travel of the Seed Networking Specialist, The Seed Sector Privatization Specialist, the Seed Marketing Specialist, and FAO Technical Officers who will provide support services.

4. Training and meetings

- To allow for PMT members from PFU and ECO to engage in conference preparation two trips have been budgeted, total US\$2 100.
- The project also provides funding for the participation in the conference of one delegate from each of ten countries in the region, US\$12 000.

5. Equipment

US\$8 000 will be made available to supply the conference secretariat with one computer, one printer, a photocopier, and communication facilities.

6. General operating expenses

These have been calculated at a level of US\$500 for each of 22 months of project operation, US\$11 000.

VII. OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUPPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

1. Contributions from ECO

ECO through its secretariat in Teheran will assist with project implementation and in particular with: (i) Designation of a Deputy Project Coordinator, (ii) the establishment and management of an account in Teheran to handle project funds; (iii) identification of participants and provision of logistic support to the implementation of the seed marketing course and the three seed regulations' harmonization workshops; (iv) participation in the IOC; (v) advertising of the Regional Conference; (vi) assistance to Conference organization including official opening, documents, logistics etc. and (vii) staffing, in consultation with FAO, and operation of a small conference secretariat.

In connection with its request for TCP assistance ECO has committed cash support to the organization of preparatory activities as may be required to secure an early and efficient start of project activities.

2. CGIAR-PFU support

The CGIAR-PFU will provide the Project Regional Coordinator at no cost for FAO, and will thus take leadership in the implementation of project activities. Project activities will benefit from the Unit's key position vis-à-vis operations of the CGIAR Consortium. Therefore the CGIAR-PFU will commit itself to providing to the project all means at its disposal that will be required to warrant sound implementation, as well as establishing an efficient relationship with CGIAR-coordinated seed activities in the region, in particular in areas of networking, analysis of issues and seed regulations' harmonization.

Part of CGIAR-PFU support to the project will be reimbursed by FAO through a Letter of Agreement (LOA) (see above, paragraph 6.2 and Annex 3).

3. Contributions from governments

Governments of ECO member countries and of other countries participating in Project activities are expected to assist in ensuring effective participation in the Conference and other meetings by concerned seed sector stakeholders and in making seed sector information available as required for project implementation. Member countries will designate a senior level focal point to assist regional and national consultants with the preparation of studies on mechanization and privatisation issues. Authorities in the country, which will be selected to host the Conference, will collaborate with the IOC and PFU as required to facilitate Conference preparation and implementation.

Iran's Government is invited to commit the SPCRI in Teheran for training and meeting activities.

4. Contributions from projects and CGIAR centres

As indicated by officials consulted during the FAO/ICARDA mission in 2003 it is also expected that the donors and CG centers present in the region will fund delegates and/or contribute other support to Conference implementation.

5. Income and other support generated by project activities

It is suggested that conference fees are being charged, initially at a level of US\$150/200 per delegate. Assuming that 100-150 participants will be paying fees the income would be US\$15 000-30 000. Such fees should be deposited and managed by

the ECO to set up and support a small conference secretariat, which will facilitate preparation and implementation of future international seed conferences in the region.

An analysis of the income generating potential of regional seed networking and conference activity is in Annex 11.

VIII. REPORTING

As soon as TCP support is secured, FAO staff will visit the region to consult with ECO and PFU on establishment of the International Organizing Committee and finalization of the project work programme. The traveller submits a brief trip report to FAO and to the two organizations outlining composition of the IOC, its tasks, and location of the November 2006 conference.

At the end of the first regional conference AGPS in consultation with the PMT will prepare two documents: (i) conference proceedings and (ii) a brief conference Performance Report summarizing experiences with conference implementation and assessing the opportunities for a 2nd conference. This report will also outline the composition and work of the Working Group on Regional Harmonization and Collaboration.

Staff from ECO, AGPS and selected suitable organizations/institutions, will participate in Working Group meetings and facilitate preparation of Working Group Reports including recommendations concerning harmonization of seed rules and regulations.

At the end of the project, AGPS will prepare a Terminal Report in line with FAO requirements. The Report will also analyse the potential for a continued conference program in the region.

The above listed reports will be prepared in English and Russian.

Annex 1. Project Budget in US\$

Project Symbol and Title			
TCP/INT/3102 (C)			
Strengthening seed supply in the ECO region			
Comp.	Component Description	Sub Comps.	Main Comp.
5013	Consultants		52,500
5542	Consultants - International	-	
5543	Consultants - National	25,200	
5544	Consultants - TCDC/TCCT	-	
5545	Consultants - Retired Experts	27,300	
5014	Contracts		165,600
5650	Contracts Budget	165,600	
5021	Travel		70,550
5661	Duty travel others	-	
5684	Consultants - International	-	
5685	Consultants - National	-	
5686	Consultants - TCDC/TCCT	-	
5687	Consultants - Retired Experts	43,500	
5694	Travel - Training	14,100	
5692	Travel TSS	17,900	
5025	Non Expendable Equipment		8,000
6100	Non Expendable Equipment Budget	8,000	
5027	Technical Support Services		29,260
6111	Report Costs	1,850	
6116	Evaluation	1,000	
6120	Honorarium TSS	26,410	
5028	General Operating Expenses		10,262
6300	General Operating Expenses Budget	10,262	
5029	Support Cost		23,879
6118	Direct Operating Costs	23,879	
	Grand Total		365,000

Annex 2. Work plan

Activities		Action	2006												2007											
			jan	feb	mar	apr	may	jun	jul	aug	sep	oct	nov	dec	jan	feb	mar	apr	may	jun	jul	aug	sep	oct	nov	dec
1	Review questionnaires completed and collected	PFU/PMT	■	■	■	■																				
2	Regional Status Report completed	PFU/PMT/FAO					■																			
3	Seed Equipment Review, country 1	PFU					■																			
4	Seed Equipment Review, country 2	PFU						■																		
5	Seed Equipment Report synthesized	PFU							■	■	■															
6	Private Sector Development Assessment, 3 countries	PFU/PMT/FAO																								
7	Training course for trainers on Seed Marketing and Promotion	PFU/ECO/PMT											■													
8	International Organizing Committee (IOC) formed	ECO/PFU/PMT					■	■																		
9	conference programme completed and endorsed	IOC					■	■																		
10	conference speakers identified and committed	IOC						■	■																	
11	conference advertising and invitations	IOC						■	■	■	■	■	■													
12	Preparation and translation of documents	IOC								■	■	■	■													
13	Regional conference implementation	IOC												■												
14	Review of conference arrangements and results	IOC												■												
15	Conference Proceedings completed	IOC																								
16	Start-up Regional Regulations Harmonization Workshop	ECO/FAO/PFU													■											
18	Regional Regulations Harmonization Workshops	ECO/FAO/PFU																					■			
20	Harmonization proposals completed	ECO/FAO/PFU																							■	
21	Establishment and operation of conference Secretariat	ECO								■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
22	Terminal Statement	FAO																							■	

Annex 3. Outputs to be supplied under the CGIAR-PFU LOA and tentative budget

Under the direct supervision of FAO/AGPS, the lead technical unit (LTU, the CGIAR-PFU will perform as Project Implementing Agency and assist within the framework of a Letter of Agreement. In consultation with the PMT the PFU will mobilize its own resources (staff time and office facilities) or contract delivery of assistance with other institutions/organizations in the Region. The PFU will provide the Project Coordinator and in particular assist with the:

1. Participation in and assistance as required to the International Conference Organizing Committee.
2. Preparation of a regional status and opportunity document, which provides a comparable analysis of national seed systems in six countries, highlighting in particular regular, institutional and supply issues, and emphasizing potential for regional collaboration. The Report will be about 30 pages including Annexes.
3. Preparation of a report analysing the status and deficiencies of equipment for seed production, processing and quality control in 2 countries (Annex 5). The Report will be about 30 pages including Annexes.
4. Preparation of a report analysing status and trends in private sector development and commercial seed marketing in three countries (an international consultant will be provided by AGPS but will need PFU support in the Region, see Annex 6). The Report will be about 30 pages including Annexes.
5. Development of two papers, each of 5 000-5 500 words prepared and presented to the first Regional Seed Conference on: (i) Crop Diversification and Variety Replacement: Needs and Potential, and (ii) Developments in production of industrial crops.
6. Travel, per diem and other requirements for the organization of a seed marketing and promotion course (the Course Director to be provided by AGSF) which will allow for the training of 20 senior seed entrepreneurs as trainers in modern seed marketing and promotion activities.
7. Travel, per diem and other requirements for the organization of three regional seed regulations' harmonization workshops (the workshop directors will be provided by ECO and AGPS) with 20 participants in each workshop. The first workshop will held at the same time as the regional conference.
8. Translation of conference and workshop documents as required between English and Russian.

Annex 3. (Continued)

Budget details, CGIAR-PFU Letter of Agreement:

Particulars	Unit	qty.	US\$/unit	subtotal	Total
<u>Review of seed systems, emphasis on regular, institutional and seed supply issues:</u>					
Contracts	contract	6	1,500	9,000	
Travel	ticket	2	1,000	2,000	
Preparation and presentation of report	m/m	0.5	8,000	4,000	15,000
<u>Analysis of the development in seed farm privatisation:</u>					
Employment of Seed Industry Specialist				(AGPS)	
Travel	ticket	3	800	2,400	
Preparation and presentation of report	m/m	0.5	8,000	4,000	6,400
<u>Analysis of status and trends in seed production, processing and quality control equipment:</u>					
Preparation of outline				(AGPS)	
Hire national consultants	contract	2	5,000	10,000	
Travel	ticket	2	500	1,000	
Preparation of consolidated report	m/m	0.5	8,000	4,000	15,000
<u>Implementation of seed marketing course:</u>					
Employment of course director				(AGSF)	
Trainees' travel	ticket	20	600	12,000	
Trainees per diem (20 persons in 10 days)	days	200	80	16,000	
Local transport	unit	1	1,000	1,000	
Renting office equipment	unit	1	1,000	1,000	
Miscellaneous	unit	1	1,000	1,000	31,000
<u>Implementation of 3 regulations' harmonization workshops:</u>					
Per workshop:					
Workshop management				(ECO/FAO)	
20 participants travel	ticket	20	900	18,000	
Per diem (20 persons in 4 days)	days	80	80	6,400	
Local transport	unit	1	1,000	1,000	
Renting office equipment	unit	1	1,000	1,000	
Miscellaneous	unit	1	1,000	1,000	
			One workshop total:	27,400	3 workshops: 82,200
<u>Implementation of regional conference:</u>					
Conference management				(ECO/FAO)	
Preparation and presentation of conference papers:					
Crop diversification and variety replacement: Needs and potential				500	
Developments in production of industrial crops				500	
Translation of conference and workshop papers:	pages	2000	5	10,000	11,000
Funding CGIAR-PFU LOA, Grand Total					160,600

Note: It is envisaged that the PFU in consultation with the PMT will contract the delivery of various project input and support with other suitable institutions/organizations as appropriate

Annex 4. Regional Seed Conference, November 2006, tentative programme

Day 1: Arrival and registration

Day 2:

09.00-10.00 Official Opening

10.00-10.30 Tea break

Regional issues (pre-conference studies):

10.30-11.15 Status of the region's seed systems and regulations

11.15-12.00 Seed farm mechanization and equipment (Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan)

12.00-13.30 Lunch break

13.30-14.15 The privatisation process - approach, progress and issues

14.15-15.00 Discussion

15.00-15.30 Tea break

International regulations:

15.30-17.00 UPOV: (i) Objectives and progress in Central Asian countries, (ii) Experiences from Kyrgyzstan - discussion

Day 2:

09.00-10.00 The OECD Scheme for seed moving in international trade, progress in Central Asian countries – discussion

10.00-10.30 Tea break

10.30-11.30 The ISTA rules and laboratory accreditation strategies, progress in Central Asian countries – discussion

Examples of organization and funding of advanced seed systems:

11.30-12.30 Case 1 (example: the French wheat seed industry) – lessons for Central Asian countries and discussion

12.30-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-15.00 Case 2 (example: The Turkish maize seed industry) – lessons for Central Asian countries and discussion

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

Opportunities in the Central Asian region:

15.30-16.15 Agricultural crop diversification and variety replacement: Needs and potential

16.15-17.00 Developments in production of industrial crops

Moving on:

Day 3:

09.00-09.30 FAO and the Central Asian Region

09.30-10.00 CGIAR-CAC and the Central Asian Region

10.00-10.30 Establishment of Working Group on regional collaboration to enhance seed trade

10.30-11.00 Tea break

11.00-12.00 Individual consultations

12.00-13.30 Lunch Break

13.30- Meeting of the organizing committees, review of conference performance and planning of seed conference in 2006

Departure/field trip

Annex 5. Reviewing status of seed sector equipment

Assessment: Status of seed sector equipment in two Central Asian countries

Terms of Reference for local consultants under contractual arrangements with the PFU

Based on a questionnaire to be developed by the Project Management Team national consultants under contract with the PFU will prepare an assessment of the seed production, processing and quality control equipment on seed farms in two Central Asian countries (for selection of countries see Annex 12). The seed farms will include those that are registered for production of Super Elite and Elite Seed. The consultants will in particular:

- Prepare a list of the Super Elite and Elite Seed Farms concerned including name and address of the farms, and indication for each farm if it is a private or a state seed farm.
- Distribute the questionnaires.
- Collect the completed questionnaires.
- Through random visits to 10-20 percent of the farms verify that correct information is submitted.

Based on questionnaire information the consultants will each prepare a summary report as per attached outline. The individual questionnaires will be attached to the Report where after the Report is submitted to FAO.

Annex 6. Reviewing status of seed farm privatisation

Mission conducted by Seed Sector Privatisation Specialist to three Central Asian countries

Terms of Reference (FAO Retiree)

Two p/m

Under the overall operational and technical supervision of the Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Service (AGPS), the Consultant will conduct two missions, one of seven weeks and one of one week.

During the first mission of seven weeks the Consultant, with support as required from the PFU, will visit the three countries to analyse the progress of privatisation of Seed Farms and the development in the farms' commercial activities (for selection of countries see Annex 12). He/she will in particular:

- Analyse the status of the privatisation process and the kinds of private enterprises that result from the process.
- Describe the government support to seed farm privatisation and operation.
- Describe the commercial seed activities of various categories of Seed Farms, calculate the quantities of seed being produced of different crops/varieties, and assess the impact of privatisation on the level of seed activities.
- Analyse and describe the interaction between the Seed Farms and domestic and international suppliers of varieties, and examine the sales of seed by the Seed Farms to domestic and other markets.
- Identify any constraints to the privatisation process and subsequent operation of private seed farms.

Later, under separate Terms of Reference, the Consultant will be employed for one week to present the Report at the Central Asian Regional Seed conference in November 2006.

Annex 7. Seed Marketing Specialist

Terms of Reference (FAO Retiree)

One p/m

Under the overall operational and technical supervision of the Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Service (AGPS) and the Agricultural Management, Marketing and Finance Service (AGSF), the Seed Marketing Specialist will be employed for one month to assist with the implementation of a one-week seed marketing and promotion workshop for 15-20 seed entrepreneurs from Central Asian countries. The trainees will later be able to train seed entrepreneurs in their home countries

The Consultant will in particular:

- Design a course programme that includes but not necessarily is limited to topics such as: Market research, forecasting techniques, seed product portfolio, development of a marketing plan, pricing policies, management of sales, promotion etc.
- Prepare a comprehensive set of course notes based on the FAO Agricultural Services Bulletin 114 and other relevant documentation.
- Perform as course director and lecturer.
- Based on interviews of course participants prepare a report that analyses regulations and other factors impeding national and regional seed trade.

Not later than four weeks after the mission the Consultant will prepare and submit to FAO a brief mission report. The course notes and the analysis of trade impeding factors will be attached to the report.

Annex 8. Seed Networking Specialist

Terms of Reference (FAO Retiree)

Four p/m

Under the overall operational and technical supervision of the Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Service (AGPS), the International Seed Networking Specialist will be employed for a period not exceeding four months to assist with Project implementation.

The Seed Networking Specialist will travel four times to the Region where he/she will participate in the Project Management Team and in close consultation with the Project Coordinator, ECO secretariat and the International Organizing Committee will:

- Assist with design of the seed equipment questionnaire and review of the data.
- Provide support to the formation and operation of the International Committee organizing the regional Seed Conference including: Advertising of the conference, programming, identification of collaborators, and conference implementation.
- Provide support to organization and work of the Working Group preparing proposals to harmonize seed rules and regulations.
- Assist the conference secretariat as required.
- Facilitate contact to and collaboration with key stakeholders to be involved in project activities.
- Prepare or facilitate preparation of project reports.
- Perform other duties as may be required.

Annex 9. Staffing the Conference Secretariat

Terms of Reference (National Consultants)

15 p/m

To provide for the initial operation of a secretariat to support the organization of a regional seed conference in the Central Asian Region in July 2006, FAO in consultation with the ECO will employ two national consultants from May and July 2006 respectively under the following terms of reference:

Conference Secretariat Manager

From August 2006, nine p/m.

Under the overall operational and technical supervision of the Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Service (AGPS), the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator and in consultation with the International Organizing Committee, the Conference Secretariat Manager will be overall responsible for the day-to-day operation of a small secretariat to assist with preparations for the conference. His work will include but not necessarily be limited to:

- Organization, equipping and management of the secretariat.
- The setting up of an efficient filing system.
- Development of efficient mailing lists of seed sector stakeholders in Central Asian countries.
- Consultations with conference venue and other local providers of support to conference preparation and implementation.
- Translation of conference documentation.
- Other duties as may be required.

Conference Secretariat Deputy Manager

From November 2006, six p/m

Under the overall operational and technical supervision of AGPS, under the guidance and supervision of the Secretariat Manager, the deputy manager will assist with the daily management of the secretariat.

Implementation of the Conference is expected to generate sufficient funds to allow for the continued employment by ECO of the two staff.

Annex 10 a. AGPS backstopping

Terms of reference

3 x 7 = 21 days

In close collaboration with the Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and the TCP Project Coordinator, and in cooperation with the Project's consultants, the Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Service (AGPS) officer will carry out three missions of one week each as follows:

First mission at the beginning of the Project to assist with organization and formulation of the work programme for the IOC.

Second mission in November 2006 to assist with the preparation and implementation of the first Regional Seed conference for ECO and Central Asian Countries, and to assist with the organization of the first seed regulations' workshop

Third mission in Nov-Dec 2007 to help finalise the Terminal Report

Total Duration: 21 days (excluding travel time).

Duty Station: As required.

Annex 11 b. LEGN backstopping

Under the overall operational supervision of AGPS, the supervision of the Chief, LEGN, in consultation with the Technical Team Leader and in collaboration with the national counterparts, the Legal Officer will carry out the following tasks:

First Mission: five days at the location of the first regional workshop

- 1) Make a presentation on FAO's recommendations for a modern and updated seed legislative and regulatory framework.
- 2) Discuss and plan the legal inputs into the project with the project's technical experts and national counterparts.
- 3) Participate in any other meetings suggested by the project's technical experts.
- 4) Collect all legislation and regulations from national counterparts and instruct them on any further contributions to be submitted to FAO LEG Rome.

Second Mission: four days in Rome

- 1) Analyse the legislation and regulations provided by national counterparts at and after the regional workshop.
- 2) Identify strengths and weaknesses of the legislation provided.
- 3) Prepare an information brief on the seed legislative systems of the region, describing the present situation and outlining recommendations for future legislative work.

Third Mission: five days at the location of the second regional workshop

- 1) Make a presentation on FAO's analysis of the seed regulatory framework in the region and FAO's recommendations for legislative updating.
- 2) Participate in any other meetings suggested by the project's technical experts.
- 3) Identify areas for future legal work and discuss follow-up activities with project personnel and national counterparts.
- 4) Finalize the information brief based on inputs received at the workshop and submit it to AGPS for distribution as is or for consolidation into other project documentation as desired.

Annex 10.c AGSF Backstopping

Terms of Reference for AGSF's involvement will be elaborated during the course of project execution.

Annex 12. Seed networks and their funding

The Asia and Pacific Seed Association (APSA) was established in 1994 to provide a self sustained forum for consultation between the public and private seed sectors concerning the future seed supply in the Asia-Pacific Region, and for exchange of seed and information. APSA now (Sep 05) has 341 members in 37 countries and a very strong economy, organizes annual conferences, facilitates training, attracts external donor funding to specific activities, and engages in collaborative research and development with other organizations. Members pay annual fees, presently US\$800. Both members and non-members also pay conference fees. 504 delegates from 37 countries attended the Asian Seed 2004 congress 13-17 September in Seoul, South Korea. Fees for early registration were US\$400 for members and US\$1 000 for non-members. Registration fees for the Asian Seed 2005 conference 6-10 November in Shanghai, China, are the same as in 2004.

The African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA) was established in 2000 to promote the use of improved seed and to develop and exchange seed information. AFSTA now has 59 members in about 30 countries, is becoming self sustainable, organizes annual conferences, develops position papers, organizes training and attracts external funding to specific activities. 97 delegates from 35 countries attended the 5th AFSTA annual conference in Yaoundé 16-18 March 2005. This was a significant drop in attendance compared with March 2004 when 170 delegates from 38 countries met in Tunisia. In 2005, fees for early registration were US\$390 for members and US\$490 for non-members. AFSTA members also pay annual membership fees, presently US\$1 000 for private and public enterprises, and US\$1 500 for established seed associations.

The Eastern European Seed Network (EESNET) organized its first annual conference in 2001 with 250 delegates from 26 countries. The informal, self sustainable EESNET now includes 8 associations in as many countries and its main purpose is information exchange through the organization of annual meetings and dissemination of publications. EESNET's 4th. annual meeting 14-16 November 2004 in Poznan, Poland, attracted more than 240 delegates from 24 countries. Early registration fees for the 5th annual meeting 13-15 November 2005 in Sofia, Bulgaria is about US\$220. EESNET members do not pay annual membership fees.

The ICARDA coordinated Seed Network for West Asia and North Africa (WANA) differs from the three other organizations. It was established in 1992 and has now 19 member countries (of which three, viz. Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, are ECO members). The WANA seed network seeks to enhance cooperation and exchange of information and experiences, act as a catalyst for harmonization to promote regional seed trade, and improve contacts with international organizations. It does not include the private sector and does not generate its own funds but rely on support from ICARDA's Seed Unit and the time provided by officials in member countries.

Annex 13. Selection of countries for development of Conference reports

The particular problems which the first ECO seed conference will seek to address are mainly found in those member countries which belong to the CAC Region and until 1991 were part of the former Soviet Union. These countries are still in transition from a centrally organized economy towards market-driven national economies and their seed sectors are therefore facing particularly difficult development problems.

A preliminary selection of countries for the development of Project results 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 was made by the FAO/ICARDA Team visiting the Region in January-February 2003.

Result 1.1: Regional Status and Opportunity Report.

The 2003 FAO/ICARDA Mission in consultation with local officials suggested to include Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan for this analysis. Following the ECO request for TCP assistance, Iran was added. Besides analyzing critical constraints and opportunities for development of the national systems, an important purpose of the Report will be to form the basis for initial harmonization efforts. The six countries which are all ECO members share borders and constitute thus a natural geographic area with the Region's two largest countries included.

Result 1.2: Status and Deficiencies of Seed Equipment.

Examination of the situation in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan may be considered. An important purpose of the Report is to attract the attention of international equipment suppliers and development agencies to the problems and marketing opportunities related to equipment replacement issues in the region. That the status of seed (and grain) equipment is a particularly pressing issue in Kazakhstan was established during a World Bank mission to the country in 1999¹⁰ and was reconfirmed by the FAO/ICARDA Mission. During a meeting in Yerevan, Armenia, in September 2003 with FAO and ICARDA officials, local specialists suggested that also Turkmenistan should be included in this analysis.

Result 1.3: Private Sector Development and Commercial Seed Marketing.

It is suggested that Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are considered. Private sector promotion is being pursued in all ECO countries. Particularly interesting developments in this area were observed in Kazakhstan during the World Bank and the FAO/ICARDA missions. Kyrgyzstan, where most seed production is already done on private seed farms who are all member of the Seed Association of Kyrgyzstan, has particular experience in this area. By also including Azerbaijan all the ECO countries located in the CAC region will be examined for one or more of the reports scheduled above.

Final selection of countries for the three reports should be made by the Project Management Team.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

¹⁰ World Bank. April 1999. Revival of the Seed Sector in Kazakhstan.

1. The achievement of the objectives set by the project shall be the joint responsibility of the government and FAO.
2. As part of its contribution to the project, the government shall agree to make available the requisite number of qualified national personnel and the buildings, training facilities, equipment, transport and other local services necessary for the implementation of the project.
3. The government shall assign authority for the project within the country to a government agency, which shall constitute the focal point for cooperation with FAO in the execution of the project, and which shall exercise the government's responsibility in this regard.
4. Project equipment, materials and supplies provided out of Technical Cooperation Programme funds shall normally become the property of the government immediately upon their arrival in the country, unless otherwise specified in the agreement. The government shall ensure that such equipment, materials and supplies are at all times available for use of the project and that adequate provision is made for their safe custody, maintenance and insurance. Vehicles remain the property of FAO, unless otherwise specified in the agreement.
5. Subject to any security provisions in force, the government shall furnish to FAO and to its personnel on the project, if any, such relevant reports, tapes, records and other data as may be required for the execution of the project.
6. The selection of FAO project personnel, of other persons performing services on behalf of FAO in connection with the project, and of trainees, shall be undertaken by FAO, after consultation with the government. In the interest of rapid project implementation, the government shall undertake to expedite to the maximum degree possible its procedures for the clearance of FAO personnel and other persons performing services on behalf of AO and to dispense with, wherever possible, clearance for short-term FAO personnel.
7. The government shall apply to FAO, its property, funds and assets, and to its staff, the provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies. Except as otherwise agreed by the government and FAO in the Project Agreement, the government shall grant the same privileges and immunities contained in the Convention to all other persons performing services on behalf of FAO in connection with the execution of the project.
8. With a view to the rapid and efficient execution of the project, the government shall grant to FAO, its staff, and to all other persons performing services on behalf of FAO, the necessary facilities including:
 - i) the prompt issuance, free of charge, of any visas or permits required;
 - ii) any permits necessary for the importation and, where appropriate, the subsequent exportation, of equipment, materials and supplies required for use in connection with the project and exemption from the payment of all customs duties or other levies or charges relating to such important or exportation.
 - iii) Exemption from the payment of any sales or other tax on local purchases of equipment, materials and supplies for use in connection with the project;

- iv) Payment of transport costs within the country, including handling, storage, insurance and all other related costs, with respect to equipment, materials or supplies for use in connection with the project;
 - v) The most favourable legal rate of exchange;
 - vi) Assistance to FAO staff, to the extent possible, in obtaining suitable accommodation;
 - vii) Any permits necessary for the importation of property belonging to and intended for the personal use of FAO staff or of other persons performing services on behalf of FAO, and for the subsequent exportation of such property;
 - viii) Prompt customs clearance of the equipment, materials, supplies and property referred to in subparagraphs (ii) and (vii) above.
9. The Government shall appoint a National Project Coordinator (NPC), as envisaged in the Project Agreement, to carry out the functions and activities specified in the agreement. In some cases, it may be necessary for FAO to request, in writing, the NPC to incur specific commitments or obligations or to make specific payments on behalf of FAO. In such cases, the project may advance to the NPC project monies, up to the amounts allowed by and in accordance with current FAO rules and regulations. In this event the Government agrees to indemnify FAO and to make good to it, any losses that may arise from any irregularity in the maintenance of the advanced FAO's monies on the part of the NPC.
10. The government shall deal with any claim which may be brought by third parties against FAO or its staff, or against any person performing services on behalf of FAO, and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claim or liability arising in connection with the project, unless the government and FAO should agree that the claim or liability arises from gross negligence or wilful misconduct on the part of the individuals mentioned above.
11. The persons performing services on behalf of FAO, referred to in paragraphs 6 to 9, shall include any organization, firm or other entity, which FAO may designate to take part in the execution of the project.