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C S T R / O U A - SECRETARIAT
P. M. B. 2359
LAGOS, NIGERIA.

SEMI-ARID FOOD GRAIN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SAFGRAD)

JOINT PROJECT N° 31.

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE

DAU/STRC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CC)

HELD IN OUAGADOUGOU ON 14-15 OCTOBER 1981.

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Introduction.

The main objective of the Joint Project N° 31 SAFGRAD on Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development (SAFGRAD), a regional project that groups together 25 African countries, is to develop improved varieties of millet, sorghum, cowpea, maize and groundnut, as well as improved cultural practices adapted to small farming systems in semi-arid Africa and promote their adoption by farmers.

The first meeting of the Consultative Committee, which is the main decision making organ, and has general control of planning and implementation policies of JP 31 SAFGRAD, was held in Ouagadougou on 14 and 15 October 1981 and attended by members of the Technical Advisory Committee, national directors of agronomic research, ACPs, researchers at the regional stations of the project, representatives of donor organizations especially USAID and FAC, Cooperating Institutions and African as well as American Universities.

The objective of this meeting was to analyse and adopt recommendations made by the 2nd meeting of the TAC held on 12 and 13 October 1981 with a view to their application.

After the introductory address by the International Coordinator of the Project (Mr. Akadiri-Soumaïla K.O.) and the Assistant Executive Secretary in Charge of OAU/STRC (Mr. A.H.A. Razik), His Excellency the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Republic of Upper Volta (Mr. Sib Sié Faustin) delivered the official opening address (see appendices).

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The following officers were elected to direct the proceedings of the meeting:

Chairman: Mr. Albert DJIGMA (Upper Volta)

Vice Chairman: Mr. Papa THIONGANE (Senegal)

1st Rapporteur: Mr. M.S. SUMPO-CEESAY (Gambia)

2nd Rapporteur: Mr. PANGANIGNOU Dolo (Mali).

In their opening addresses, the International Coordinator of the Project and the Officer in charge of OAU/STRC emphasized the importance of the application of the OAU Lagos Plan of Action adopted by African Heads of States and Government in April 1980, especially the food and agricultural sector, with a view to achieving self-sufficiency in food on the continent. They equally emphasized the important role of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Consultative Committee (CC) in analyzing current activities, in programming, and in adopting appropriate policies for the Joint Project 31 SAFGRAD.

The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Upper Volta welcomed all participants to Upper Volta and was pleased that his country had been chosen to host the headquarters of JP 31 SAFGRAD. He was also pleased with research results obtained so by the project in so short a time.

The recommendations of TAC were reviewed, amended and adopted as follows:

...../....

RECOMMENDATIONS.

General.

1. To improve its impact, SAFGRAD, as far as possible, should concentrate on problems of a regional/sub regional character common to its member states, thus complementing national programmes for the solution of country-specific problems. In this regard, national institutions require strengthening in order to integrate their activities with those of SAFGRAD.
2. Among the crops of interest to SAFGRAD, research on maize is the most advanced. Consequently, in addition to ongoing maize research the project should now allocate more resources to sorghum, cowpea and millet in view of the relatively greater importance of these crops in semi-arid areas.
3. The current SAFGRAD activities should be expanded to become fully operational programmes in Central, Eastern and Southern Africa.
4. To increase its effectiveness as an advisory body, TAC should have during its future annual meetings, detailed information on on-going programmes and results obtained from them as well as details of concrete projects planned for the following year. This information could come from the suggested new annual programme review meetings involving national and SAFGRAD research workers.
5. Soil analyses and rainfall data of trials sites, together with relevant agronomic details, should be given, wherever possible to help interpret the results obtained.

.../...

CROP IMPROVEMENT.

The Committee recommends that:

6. Crop improvement programmes should fully exploit the adaptability and other potentially valuable characteristics of traditional or local varieties especially cowpea, millet and sorghum which exhibit high specific adaptation. The project should promote the collection, conservation, evaluation and utilization of local crop germplasm in collaboration with IBPGR, International Research Centres, IRAT, ORSTOM and similar research organizations.

7. Plant breeding objectives, apart from high yield potential, resistance/tolerance to pests and diseases, and adverse soil and weather conditions, should include:

- a) - nutritional quality
- b) - consumer acceptance
- c) - advantageous post-harvest characters to reduce post-production food losses.

SOIL MANAGEMENT.

The Committee recommends that:

8. The present limited research on soil and water management should be expanded with the aim of achieving long term maintenance and improvement of soil fertility. Investigations under the programme should include organic fertilizers, rational use of inorganic fertilizers, biological nitrogen fixation, erosion control, micronutrient requirements, the long term effects of mechanical land clearing and tillage etc...

FARMING SYSTEMS.

9. The committee highly commends the Farming Systems component of the SAFGRAD programme which identifies constraints (socio-economic, technical, the human factor) at the farm level and studies on existing traditional farming systems as a basis for developing improved agricultural systems to be tested, modified and adapted at the farmer level. The committee stresses that apart from the collection of agricultural statistics and the desirable economic evaluation of innovations, Farming Systems Research should be characterised by interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary work to improve agricultural productivity and farm incomes.

10. Considering the importance of maize, sorghum, millet and cowpea in SAFGRAD, research on mixed cropping involving sorghum and millet with cowpea should be intensified in addition to the ongoing research on maize/cowpea intercropping.

11. Packages of crop management practices should be developed for improved cultivars before they are released for commercial production, supported by seed multiplication programmes.

12. Production technologies should be developed to suit the realistic levels of input availability, environmental conditions and management capacity of the farmer.

13. The farming systems approach is recommended to Member States of SAFGRAD and collaboration between the project's FSU on the one hand and ACPOs and National extension services on the other should be developed. This implies the extension of technical assistance by SAFGRAD's FSU to countries besides Upper Volta.

POST-HARVEST CROP LOSSES.

14. The Committee, taking note of the report of the first TAC meeting recommends continued research, training and development activities aimed at reducing post-harvest crop losses so as to stabilize food crop reserves.

ACTIVITIES OF ACCELERATED CROP PRODUCTION OFFICERS (ACPOs).

The Committee,

15. Conscious of the importance of the role of workshops organised by the Coordination Office of JP 31 SAFGRAD as a forum for the exchange of experiences and viewpoints among researchers,

Considering that these workshops cannot in a concrete manner change the operations of ACPOs in the field;

recommends:

1) that urgent steps be taken to assign ACPO's to those SAFGRAD countries which require them.

11) that ACPO's should participate in the meetings of the National Programme Committee of Member States.

TRAINING OF AFRICAN SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL.

16. The Committee,

- Considering that training is an imperative priority for Africa in terms of the exploitation of national resources in general and that of agriculture in particular,

- Considering the need to progressively Africanize the projects scientific personnel,

- Conscious of the existence in Africa of training structure at the university level as well as at the level of appropriate research institutes, launches a pressing appeal that donor funds allocated for training be increased to make it possible for the specialization of a greater number of African researchers and technicians,

- that member states take steps as soon as possible to present candidates for long or short term training at African University institutions as well as at regional or national agricultural research establishments,

- that SAFGRAD employ personnel trained under this project for at least 5 years.

WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIUM:

17. The Committee,

- considering the need to reduce the frequency and number of SAFGRAD workshops in view of the inadequacy of financial means allocated to the convening of these workshops:

- considering the importance of the annual evaluation of the research activities carried out in member countries,

- considering that participation of Member States in SAFGRAD meetings implies that designated representatives have a good knowledge of the SAFGRAD programme,

recommends:

- that a global SAFGRAD symposium be held every two years on the entire millet, sorghum, maize, cowpea and farming systems programme.

- that TAC composed of highly qualified scientific personalities make an exhaustive annual evaluation of the SAFGRAD programme elaborated by national and project researchers for the attention of CC.

- that the SAFGRAD project nominates the researchers to be invited for participation in SAFGRAD meetings.

EXTENSION OF THE PROJECT.

18. Considering the resolution of the Council of Ministers on JP 31 Number 839 (XXXVI) which calls for extension,

- considering that the principal criteria of the choice of States that should be covered by the project are:

- the existence in these States of a considerable semi-arid zone,

- the importance of basic crops such as millet, sorghum, maize, cowpea or groundnut in these countries,

- the existence of background information and studies on the important crop made by ICRISAT in response to a request to the Heads of States of the South Africa Development Coordinating Committee (SADCC) Countries listed as likely to join SAFGRAD,

The Committee recommends:

- that the extension of the project to the remaining states be considered in the next meeting of TAC.

SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL PROGRAMMES.

19. The Committee

- considering that the Accelerated Crop Production Officers (ACPOs) are working in close collaboration with national researchers under the SAFGRAD programme,

- considering the existence of material and financial means for national researchers working within the framework of the SAFGRAD project,

recommends:

- that substantial support be given by the project to the national programmes associated with regional trials both materially and financially (manpower, secretariat, scientific equipment etc..) in addition to the budget of the ACPO.

COORDINATION BETWEEN RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND JP 31 SAFGRAD.

20. The Committee,

- considering the multiplicity of research organizations on the continent,

- considering the risks of duplication of research programmes carried out in the field, and the soliciting of funds from the same donors for similar operations as well as the resultant waste of funds and energy,

- draws the attention of OAU/STRC and that of Member States of the project to such inconveniences,

- recommends that annual consultative meetings between the research institutes participating in JP 31 SAFGRAD, the organizations concerned and the project be held.

INFORMATION.

21. The Committee,

- considering that information is unfortunately often lacking between researchers and officials of JP 31 SAFGRAD on the one hand and those of regional and national organizations on the other,

- concious of the existence since 1979 of the JP 31 SAFGRAD Newsletter,

recommends:

- that the current general information type of Newsletter published be strengthened by scientific articles from the following regional representatives:

- West Africa: Dr. Thiongane of Senegal
Prof. Agboola of Nigeria
- Central Africa: Dr. N'Gatchou of Cameroon
- East Africa: Dr. Gebrikedan of Ethiopia.

FINANCING.

22. The Committee,

- considering that the main constraints of SAFGRAD are financial and personnel,

- considering the increasing role that the project is expected to play within the framework of the OAU Plan of Action to achieve self-sufficiency in food by the 2000,

- considering the necessity to evaluate and elaborate as soon as possible a technical and financial short medium and long term programme for the project,

recommends:

- that an ad hoc committee of eight high-level experts be set up including especially:

- Professor ADJANOHOUN
- Mr DJIGMA Albert of Upper Volta
- Professor AGBOOLA of Nigeria
- Dr Brhane GEBRIKEDAN of Ethiopia and four others from IRAI, ICRISAT, USAID and IITA.

- proposes the following time table for the preparation and presentation of the document on project evaluation and programming:

1st half of January 1982: meeting of the ad hoc committee

1st half of March 1982: submission of document to TAC subject to the Consultative Committee (CC)'s approval. CC has given its approval in principle.

1st half of April 1982: document is presented to the STRC for onward transmission to the OAU Council of Ministers.

It was also decided that the Coordination Office should make available to the ad hoc committee members all relevant documents pertaining to JP 31 SAFGRAD prior to their departure so as to ensure that the proposed timetable is adhered to.

EVALUATION REPORT ON SAFGRAD.

23. TAC was informed that the evaluation report is in draft form to be finalized after the comments/reactions being sought from various quarters including SAFGRAD have been received by USAID.

Some TAC members drew attention to incorrect factual statements contained in the recommendations. The committee recommends that the AID representative attending the TAC meeting and SAFGRAD Secretariat should make known to USAID these comments and any other subsequent criticisms before the report is finalized and distributed.

STRENGTHENING OF SAFGRAD HEADQUARTERS.

24. In view of the understaffing at the professional level and increasing workload at the Coordination Office, the committee recommends the filling of the posts of Accountant and Director of Research as soon as possible.

The committee further recommends flexibility in the allocation of funds and the modalities relating to the disbursement of such funds by the Coordination Office of JP 31 SAFGRAD.

VOTE OF THANKS TO HOST GOVERNMENT.

The participants in the First OAU/STRC Consultative Committee meeting held in Ouagadougou, Upper Volta, from 14-15 October 1981 wish to express their gratitude to His Excellency Col. Saye ZERBO Chairman of the Military Relief Committee for National Progress and Head of State, to the Government and the entire Voltaïc people for their hospitality and the excellent facilities put at their disposal for the success of the meeting.

VOTE OF THANKS TO DONOR AGENCIES.

The committee also wishes to express its gratitude to all the donor agencies who have been supporting SAFGRAD especially the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) the French Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC) and the Rockefeller Foundation.

It requests the Secretary General of OAU to solicit other donors to join the present ones in giving support to the current and subsequent phases on the project.

VOTE OF THANKS TO COLLABORATORS.

The committee wishes to congratulate and thank most sincerely the collaborating organizations namely IITA, ICRISAT, Purdue University, and IRAT as well as the various National Institutions and Universities for the impressive results so far achieved through their cooperation in achieving the major objectives of JP 31 SAFGRAD.

.../...

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR AND HIS ADMINISTRATIVE
AND RESEARCH STAFF.

The Committee commends the excellent performance of the International Coordinator and his staff for the very effective management of the project and calls on the General Secretariat of the OAU to give all possible assistance for the strengthening of the Coordination Office.

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A N N E X E S

AGENDA.

Wednesday, 14 October 1981.

- 07H00-08H00 Registration
- 08H00-09H00 - Introduction by the International Coordinator of OAU/STRC
for JP 31 SAFGRAD
- Address by the Assistant Executive Secretary and Officer-
in-Charge of OAU/STRC
- Opening Address by His Excellency the Minister of Higher
Education and Scientific Research of Upper Volta.
- 09H00-09H30 - Break
- 09H30-11H30 -- Review of all recommendations made by the Technical Advisory
Committee (TAC) with a view to their application
- 11H30-12H00 - Plenary Session
1. Review of management, organization or technical problems
and formulation of recommendations to donors, executing
agencies, participating and cooperating countries and
international institutions to follow in seeking solutions
to these problems.
2. Extension and financing
3. Review of the role of the Consultative Committee (CC)
as an agency to receive and analyse questions or suggestions
from participating or cooperating organizations.
- 12H00-14H00 - Lunch
- 14H00-19H00 - Continuation of proceedings

Thursday, 15 October 1981.

- 08H00-12H00 - Visit to the Kamboinse and Saria Research Stations and Loumbila.
- 12H00-15H00 - Lunch
- 15H00-18H00 - Discussion and adoption of recommendations
- 18H00 - Closing.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR K.O. AKADIRI-SOUMAILA
INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR OF OAU/STRC JP 31 SAFGRAD
AT THE OPENING OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE OAU/STRC
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR JP 31 SAFGRAD.

Honourable Members of the Military Government
for National Progress,

Honourable Minister of Higher Education and
Scientific Research,

Excellencies,

Assistant Executive Secretary of OAU/STRC,

Representatives of International Organizations,

Representatives of Donor Countries and Organizations,

Representatives of International Research Institutes,

Four years ago, here in Ouagadougou, a few patriotic Africans acting out of a desire to render service to a free Africa - free from hunger and malnutrition - launched a research project on the main food crops in Africa.

The Joint Project n° 31 "Semi-Arid Food Grains Research and Development" is a joint effort of the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission of the Organization of African Unity (OAU/STRC) and donor agencies such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the French Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC).

In a relatively short time, JP 31 SAFGRAD has succeeded in commanding attention and awareness in the 25 OAU Member States who are participating in the project.

.../...

At a time when the world suffers from war, famine and agonies of all kinds, JP 31 SAFGRAD stands out as a project whose mandate is to fight hunger in semi-arid Africa. The fact that 25 African countries are covered by the Project emphasizes how important food crop research and development is to the countries located in the semi-arid zone which are subjected to uncontrollable climatic stresses. It is equally indicative of the considerable financial technical and political effort being made by these countries and the international community.

In this regard, I am pleased to note that this meeting is being held on the eve of the World Food Day - a day meant to make the public aware of the food and agricultural research problems. We are pleased that the world over, people are awakening to the problems of the underprivileged and are looking for appropriate solutions. Unfortunately a single day is not enough and it is likely ... that people will too easily forget the permanent nature of these food problems. Agricultural research organizations, researchers and all who are engaged in the fight against famine and under-development know all too well that these efforts must be sustained and that the complex nature of the objectives of self-sufficiency in food require constant political, scientific and material determination to be achieved.

It is clear that much remains to be done and it is within this framework that the two meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Consultative Committee are being held. It is in fact these two committees that should take stock of research activities and adopt adequate orientations and policies for JP 31 SAFGRAD.

As indicated on the agenda, the Consultative Committee will be reviewing the recommendations made by the Technical Advisory Committee with a view to their application. These recommendations will derive from the following domains:

.../...

Firstly : Review of management, organization or technical problems and make recommendations for donors, executing agencies, participating and cooperating countries and international institutions to follow in seeking solutions to these problems.

Secondly : Extension and financing of JP 31 SAFGRAD.

Thirdly : Review of the role of the Consultative Committee as an agency to receive and analyse questions or suggestions from participating of cooperating organizations.

We trust that the proceedings of this meeting will continue to be supported by the political will, financial and technical aid that the international community has been giving to those engaged in the fight against famine and under-development.

Honourable Minister,

We are indebted to you for conveying our sincere gratitude to His Excellency Colonel Saye ZERBO, Chairman of the Military Committee for National Reconstruction and Head of State of the Republic of Upper-Volta, to the Government and to the entire Voltaïc populace for having accepted to host the headquarters of our project and for the administrative facilities accorded us to carry out our mission successfully and especially to our researchers at the Kamboïnse Experimental Station. Our thanks also go to the Directorate of the Station, to its personnel as well as to all the national researchers who are collaborating closely and efficiently with us.

Members of the Consultative Committee, our entire confidence is in you. I am convinced that you are fully aware of the duty you are called upon to perform and that you will give the best of yourselves. May I simply say that you are at home on African soil in Upper-Volta. Once again you are welcome.

Thank you.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR A.H.A. RAZIK ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY AND OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF OAU/STRC AT THE OPENING
OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE OAU/STRC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CC)
FOR JP 31 SAFGRAD 14-15 OCTOBER 1981 OUAGADOUGOU UPPER VOLTA.

Honourable Minister,

Members of the Military Relief Committee for National Progress,
Distinguished Members of the SAFGRAD Consultative Committee,

Eminent Representatives of International Organizations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am particularly happy to be able to participate in this 1st meeting of the OAU/STRC Consultative Committee for JP 31 SAFGRAD. The Secretary-General of the OAU, Mr Edem KODJO is extremely grateful that you have accepted to attend this meeting. Although he himself is unfortunately absent because of commitments elsewhere, he has asked me to convey to you his gratitude and best wishes.

The SAFGRAD International Coordinator has already given you a brief resume of the background of the project as well as the current state of affairs. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which met on Monday and Tuesday has produced specific recommendations on the project. As you can see from the Draft Agenda, you are expected to review these recommendations with a view to their application and to look into management and financial problems of the project. In this connection, I should like to ask you to seriously consider the findings and recommendations of the recent USAID SAFGRAD mid-project Evaluation Team annexed to the main working document on the long-term prospects of SAFGRAD.

.../...

As I stressed in my opening address at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on Monday, OAU is fully committed to raising food crop production in Africa. A testimony of this is the Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos which spells out specific actions to be taken by Member States to accelerate human development in Africa.

Honourable Minister,
Distinguished Members,

I am glad to note the presence of representatives of both current and potential donor and collaborating agencies of SAFGRAD. The OAU is highly appreciative of your collaborative efforts. We are aware that the right approach to continental-level problems is through multilateral cooperation. All of us here are equally aware that meaningful agronomic research is a long-term and costly activity requiring considerable financial resources and commitments beyond the capability of a single donor agency. That is why we at OAU believe that the best approach to food crop research in Africa would be for the interested donor agencies and research organizations to join forces with us and strengthen JP 31 SAFGRAD which is now fully operational.

SAFGRAD is truly a vital project for the whole of Africa. Its activities are addressed to key agricultural development issues and fall within the practical competence of the regional coordination agency, the OAU. Before launching the project, we took into careful consideration the relative costs of the various types of research, the availability of technical and administrative competence to implement programmes both at the national and regional levels, the practical possibilities that exist for catalyzing international cooperation as well as the scientific, technical and political aspects involved.

.../...

If we pool our resources together this way, we can then avoid over-dependence on just one or two financial bodies, knowing that the interruption of research programmes, however modest, often involves substantial waste of resources and serious set-backs in scientific terms. The situation therefore needs to be critically evaluated.

I renew once again our gratitude to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the French Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC) for their continued support. I am also appreciative of the technical assistance of the contracting agencies.

Honourable Minister,

May I now ask you to kindly convey to His Excellency Colonel Saye ZERBO, Head of State of the Republic of Upper Volta, the Government and the entire Voltaic populace our profound gratitude for accepting to host this major SAFGRAD policy meeting.

Long Live the Republic of Upper Volta

Long Live the Organization of African Unity

Long Live International Cooperation.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE MINISTER OF HIGHER
EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AT THE
OPENING OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE OF JP 31 SAFGRAD, 14 OCTOBER 1981
OUAGADOUGOU, UPPER VOLTA.

Members of the Governing Body of the Military Relief Committee
for National Progress,
Members of the Military Relief Committee for National Progress,
Honourable Ministers,
Executive Secretary of the Scientific, Technical and Research
Commission of OAU,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Representatives of International Organizations,
Delegates from SAFGRAD member countries,
Delegates from SAFGRAD donor countries and agencies,
Directors and Heads of Services,
Honourable delegates,

On behalf of Colonel SAYE ZERBO, Chairman of the Military Relief
Committee for National Progress, and Head of State ;

On behalf of the Military Relief Committee for National Progress,
the Government and the Voltaic People ;

I welcome the delegates from the 25 member countries of SAFGRAD,
from the donor countries and agencies of the Joint Project N° 31 as well as
representatives of the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission of OAU
to Upper Volta.

.../...

The origin of the Joint Project N° 31 on Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development goes back to a conference held in Ouagadougou in January 1971 under the aegis of GAU/STRC.

The Organization of African Unity later honoured Upper Volta by choosing Ouagadougou as the place to install the Coordination Office of the project.

We are additionally pleased and proud to be able to host, the first meeting of the Consultative Committee of SAFGRAD. May I therefore express to OAU, to SAFGRAD member countries and to the donors, our gratitude for the confidence in us.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Self-sufficiency in food, an indispensable condition to all socio-economic development, is a top priority of the Military Relief Committee for National Progress and its Government. No stone will be left unturned to achieve this objectives within the shortest possible time.

It would be a truism to say that no one country can, all alone, win the gigantic fight for development. It is out of this conviction that Upper Volta has always militated in favour of international cooperation in general and regional or sub-regional cooperation in particular.

In our view, SAFGRAD, which is a mechanism for inter-African cooperation for agronomic research, is a typical example of this kind of cooperation because it establishes solidarity between our national scientific communities which form the basis of the agricultural development process.

.../...

This surge of solidarity has made it possible to obtain substantial results in Upper Volta thus strengthening our determination.

Since its creation in 1978, the SAFGRAD project has made varietal introductions and adaptative trials of maize, sorghum, cowpea and millet as well as demonstrations in farmer environments.

These trials have made it possible to identify certain promising varieties of maize which should undergo extension in the near future. These varieties Pool 16, BDIIII, IRAT 81 and TZPB.

As far as sorghum is concerned, the E 35-1 variety selected by ICRISAT, has been tested in 130 fields, and cropping conditions have been identified. Two cowpea varieties, KN-1 and Sorom local, have also been identified.

As for studies on farming systems, they should make it possible to have a thorough grasp of the handicaps in the flow of research results to extension in the farmer environments.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This first meeting of the Consultative Committee is no doubt of capital importance in as much as you are expected to take stock of five years of the project's existence and orientate future actions.

As the policy and management body, the Consultative Committee will be looking into problems relative to regional research, strengthening and utilization of national structures and the assignment of Accelerated Crop Production Officers.

.../...

In the same vein, and as the authority on project management, the Consultative Committee will be studying problems concerning project financment and a general strengthening of the Coordination Office.

I have no doubts that each of you will give the best of himself and make these two days of meeting fruitful.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, permit me to express our sincere gratitude to all the donor countries and agencies of SAFGRAD for efforts made on behalf of the project.

We hope to be able to count on them during the subsequent phases of our project. May I also avail myself of this occasion to call for solidarity on the part of all countries and organizations anxious for Africa's socio-economic future, to join forces with OAU/STRC's Joint Project N° 31 whose ultimate objective is self-sufficiency in food in semi-arid Africa.

Honourable delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish you success in your proceedings and have the honour to declare the first meeting of the Consultative Committee of SAFGRAD open.

Long Live Upper Volta
Long Live Inter-African and International Cooperation
Long Live the Organization of African Unity.

JOINT LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
2ND MEETING OF THE OAU/STAC TECHNICAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) AND 1ST MEETING OF THE
OAU/STAC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CC) FOR UP 31. SARAJEVO
12-15 OCTOBER 1981. COUCADOUGOU, UPPER VOLTA

LISTE COMMUNE DES PARTICIPANTS
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DE L'OUA/CSTAC ET A LA 1ERE REUNION DU COMITE CONSULTATIF (CC)
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12-15 OCTOBRE 1981 COUCADOUGOU, HAUTE VOLTA

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