

Planning the Future of the MPTS Research Network

*Report of a meeting of the
Steering Committee, held
March 20-22, 1989 in
Bangkok, Thailand*

Forestry/Fuelwood Research and Development (F/FRED) Project



The Forestry/Fuelwood Research and Development (F/FRED) Project is designed to help scientists address the needs of small-scale farmers in the developing world for fuelwood and other tree products. Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the project provides a network through which scientists exchange research plans, methods, and results. Research and development activities center on the production and use of trees that meet the several household needs of small farmers.

F/FRED is implemented by the Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, a private, non-profit U.S. organization working in agricultural development around the world. It was established in 1985 through the merging of the Agricultural Development Council, the International Agricultural Development Service, and the Winrock International Livestock Research and Training Center. Winrock's mission is to reduce hunger and poverty in the world through sustainable agricultural and rural development. Winrock helps people of developing areas to strengthen their agricultural research and extension systems, develop their human resources, institute appropriate food and agricultural policies, manage their renewable resources, and improve their agricultural production systems.

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Compiled by David A. Taylor

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Executive Summary

Background

In October 1988, the U.S. Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) evaluated its Forestry/Fuelwood Research and Development (F/FRED) Project, for which Winrock International is the prime contractor. The evaluation report provides a third-year assessment of what is planned as a ten-year project. The report assesses the Project's progress in establishing a network of scientists and institutions focused on common problems involving research on multipurpose tree species (MPTS) and their production and use on small farms in Asia. Related to this prime objective, the evaluation also assesses the Project's efforts to enhance Asian national institutions' capacities for conducting MPTS-related research, and to develop a system for systematizing and managing this research information worldwide.

Since its beginning at a workshop in Bangkok, Thailand in 1986, the MPTS Research Network has fostered closer relationships among MPTS researchers through theme meetings on issues of shared concern, and has enhanced the effectiveness of national programs through cooperative research and training. Network members in 10 countries are conducting multilocation experiments to study species and management practices under a range of conditions. Social scientists have conducted case studies on farmers' preferences for priority tree species, and a regional comparative study on farmers' use of trees is in progress. The F/FRED Coordinating Unit in Bangkok organizes network meetings to review the status of MPTS research, plan network research, and provide regional coordination and support for research.

In its support of the Network, the F/FRED Project sponsors long- and short-term training, including Ph.D. study in fields related to agroforestry and social forestry, and short courses held at the national and regional levels. With the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), F/FRED organized a workshop on integrating the social sciences into Asian forestry curricula. The Project co-sponsors courses with other organizations, including the International Development Research Centre

(Canada) and FAO. (For more information on the Network's activities, see the progress reports of the F/FRED Project.)

To improve the exchange of MPTS research information, the Project is developing an MPTS Information and Decision Support System (IADSS). IADSS is a computer software package for recording, managing, analyzing, and exchanging experimental data. Scientists conducting the 1987 field trials in the humid and sub-humid tropics have been trained in the use of the system's experiment database and analysis package.

The evaluation report concludes that the F/FRED Project is an important, innovative project, and that A.I.D. should provide the support needed for a second phase. The report stressed the need for a long-range strategy to help management realize progress toward network objectives. At the same time, the report said, the Project must retain flexibility to allow for new initiatives. The report made recommendations on all aspects of the Project. Appendix 1 lists these recommendations, with the contractor's responses.

At the Bangkok Meeting

The evaluation offers a useful basis for planning the second five-year phase of the F/FRED Project. A primary aim of the March meeting of the Steering Committee was to review the major findings of the Project evaluation report and, with that background, to assess the Network's objectives and formulate strategies for the future.

With a view to strengthening collaboration with related efforts by other organizations, the Steering Committee invited international donor agencies and research institutions to participate in the meeting. Representatives of seven international organizations attended and were invited to present their activities to the meeting.

Following a report of current activities and a brief review of the evaluation report, which each member of the Committee had received before the meeting, the discussion turned to strategies for the future of the Network. Members of the

F/FRED Project staff suggested elements of an agenda for the second phase of the Project. These suggestions included

- continued refinement of standard research methods for field experiments, including multidisciplinary, on-farm experiments
- more short-term training for national and regional audiences
- further multidisciplinary meetings at the national and regional levels to develop a research approach that better integrates biological studies and applied social sciences
- greater emphasis on marketing and economic assessment

The Committee approved the suggestion that the program gradually evolve from a species orientation to a problem-oriented framework, in which the search for solutions to common problems, such as fodder and fuelwood production, would guide the Network's research. The Committee also strongly supported the view that the Network should strengthen the link between research and extension through on-farm experiments and research on improved extension methods. Appendix 3 briefly presents the Project staff's suggestions for the various Phase 2 components.

The Committee voiced the concern that adequate resources should be found for added network activities, including the start-up of network research in the mountain environmental zone. It recommended that USAID missions and other donors be given greater opportunities to 'buy-in' to the Network's activities.

The Committee unanimously concurred that for Phase 2, the Network should do the following:

- prepare a strategic long-term plan for a program of network research and training based on the Committee's decisions
- continue to encourage collaboration with other donor and international organizations on areas of common interest
- focus network research to produce timely results applicable to the field

- conduct a survey of MPTS utilization patterns for use in planning a program of utilization and marketing research

- continue to make IADSS useful globally, coordinating with other database developers

- continue support for graduate degree training, including M.S. studies

- continue support for activities to enhance the quality of forestry curricula in the region

- increase the staffing level of the Coordinating Unit for greater network support

- pursue the issue of proprietary rights in network research

- refrain from further research in biotechnology methods such as tissue culture

- continue to expand Asian involvement in appropriate consultancies and subcontracts

- appoint an international task force, facilitated by the F/FRED contractor, to propose alternatives for network sustainability after the completion of the Project

Section 2 presents the Committee's decisions in full.

Participants at the meeting noted that the MPTS Research Network has already made important gains toward regular interdisciplinary exchanges of views and information on MPTS at the national level. Scientists in Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand have taken steps to create self-sustaining forums for strengthening MPTS research in their countries. Benchmark indicators are needed to measure this process.

The Steering Committee and guest representatives showed commitment to the goal of applicable MPTS research for rural development, as well as a willingness to coordinate their efforts. In the words of one participant, the MPTS Research Network is fostering a "climate of opinion" for addressing small farmers' needs for tree products. The meeting demonstrated how groups can work together substantively to guide research on this topic of regional and global importance.

Recommendations of the Steering Committee for Phase 2

The Committee views the MPTS Research Network's activities as providing a perspective for meeting human needs in a forum that allows change to take place -- change and improvement in the way that research is conducted, and in how policy decisions are made. Such change is gradual, however. The network is a means to an end, a channel and forum for the exchange of information

The Committee reviewed at length the progress of the Project, and discussed the evaluation team's recommendations. Based upon these discussions and the minutes of the Kuching Steering Committee meeting of 1988, the Committee came to the following consensus with regard to Phase 2.

General Statements

1. The Committee endorses the findings and recommendations of the mid-term evaluation team and the responses of the Contractor, except where noted in the following paragraphs. The Committee thanks the evaluation team for the many constructive comments and recommendations, which will form much of the foundation for the second phase of the Project.
2. The Committee endorses the development of a strategic long-term plan as an aid in guiding Project activities, with the understanding that such a plan should not restrict the flexibility of response that has enabled the network to grow to this point. The network system requires flexibility to ensure its sustained growth.
3. The Committee strongly endorses the observation of the evaluation report that A.I.D. should continue, and to the degree possible expand, funding support for Phase 2.
4. The Committee congratulates the F/FRED Coordinating Unit on its efforts to date; they provide a sound base for Phase 2 activities.
5. In response to the question of whether there should be a shift in emphasis between the two environmental zones in which the network is now active, the Committee feels that such a decision should depend on the responsiveness of scientists in each zone to participate in network activities.
6. The Committee congratulates the Contractor on its production of publications, and unanimously approves the proposed phased shift of publication activity to Asia in Phase 2.
7. The Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, expresses the University's satisfaction with its role as host to the Coordinating Unit, and looks forward to continuing that role with greater activity in Phase 2. The Chairman thanks Kasetsart University for its service as host to the Coordinating Unit.
8. The Committee expresses the desire that, to the degree feasible, activities of the MPTS Research Network should involve Asian institutions in subcontracts, consultancies, and other activities. Notwithstanding this, the Committee recognizes the value in linkages with institutions from developed countries.
9. The Committee, while supporting the need to look beyond 1995 and ensure sustainability of the network's program, is also concerned that ongoing research be focussed to produce timely results for application in the field.
10. The Committee endorses increased participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in network activities, recognizing the commitment and effectiveness of many of them, and their role in the long-term sustainability of the MPTS Research Network.
11. Representatives of other donor and research organizations participating in the meeting (including Swiss

Development Cooperation, the International Development Research Centre, U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization, the International Board for Soils Research and Management, the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre in Bangkok, the Finnish International Development Agency, and World Resources Institute) express interest in greater linkages with the activities of the MPTS Research Network.

Specific Recommendations

1. The Committee appreciates the need to increase the field-staffing level in the second phase, together with added activities as recommended by the evaluation report. The Committee suggests that if funding levels are not expanded, possible reallocation and redistribution of funds should be examined to enable these additional appointments and activities.
2. The Committee fully supports the plan to promote buy-ins from bilateral aid projects, and feels that in the future, the network's links to bilateral USAID programs in each country should be improved. A.I.D. is requested to examine the mechanism to enable this to be effected.

Research

3. In the program areas of research (MPTS, social science, and economics/marketing), the Committee approves the ideas for development in Phase 2 as presented by the Coordinating Unit (see appendix 2). The evolutionary shift to a problem-oriented approach, and the inclusion of MPTS utilization research, are endorsed. The Project should gauge its resources and balance its plan for new, innovative programs with the necessary, continued support for existing network activities that already offer promise for success.
4. The Committee approves exploration of such areas as on-farm trials using an adaptation of farming systems research methods, and extension research and

development as means for research to forge closer links with extension.

5. The Committee observes that beyond the limited exploration already done in Phase 1, the network should not involve itself with biotechnology research such as tissue culture, as MPT species are generally fast-seeders and tissue culture is considered of limited potential in this field at this time.
6. The Coordinating Unit must continue to address the issue of proprietary rights in network research, especially in contract work with private institutions. The free sharing of research data from participating researchers is also an area of concern to be looked into by the Coordinating Unit.
7. Regarding proposed activities for network social science research, on-farm activities allow scope for useful integration of disciplines in looking at farms within a systems framework. An important contribution of the network would be to develop effective methods for multidisciplinary on-farm research of MPTS.
8. In planning MPTS marketing research, a survey of utilization patterns should be included.
9. Addressing the Global Research Unit's plans for Phase 2, the Committee feels that coordination with other related database efforts should continue, and that the transfer of those activities to Asia should take place during Phase 2.

Training

10. The Committee strongly supports the continuation and expansion of Ph.D. training and the inclusion of M.Sc. training as part of the development of local research capacity. Taking advantage of the university programs in the region could result in cost-savings in this area.
11. Thesis support could be obtained through the small research grants

program, and should not duplicate that mechanism.

12. In integrating social sciences into forestry curricula, it should be recognized that simply adding social science course offerings is not a solution; courses must be relevant and focused on the problems of the farmer. Further research is necessary.

Network Development

13. The Committee recommends that for Phase 2, the current management system for the network, including the National MPTS Research Meeting process and the roles of the Research and Steering committees, be reviewed to allow greater effectiveness.
14. The Committee recognizes the need for the Project to initiate activities in the Mountain zone, although it may be limited by resources. Therefore, the Committee approves efforts to

coordinate with other funding sources -- such as the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), and other donors -- as well as with agencies like ICIMOD, to develop MPTS research activity in this environmental zone.

15. Noting the evaluation report's comment that more social science institutions should be brought into the network, the Committee suggests that it is perhaps more important to ensure that concern for social sciences and human needs is better integrated into the forestry institutions already belonging to the network.
16. The Committee recommends that in Phase 2, a small international task force should be appointed to propose alternatives regarding the network's sustainability after 1995.

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Opening

The Chairman, Dr. Salleh Mohd. Nor, called the meeting to order and welcomed the committee members and guests (see Appendix 4 for list). He expressed appreciation to the Coordinating Unit and to Dr. Sathit Wacharakitti for the meeting's preparations.

Other voting members present were: Dr. Y.S. Rao, Dr. Sathit Wacharakitti, Dr. K.M. Siddiqui (Secretary), Dr. Suree Bhumibhamon, Dr. Cerenilla Cruz, and Dr. Kailash Pyakuryal.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman called upon the Committee to look beyond the present status of affairs and make plans for Phase 2 of the Project, scheduled to start in April of 1990. The evaluation report could act as a useful foundation, but it should not be expected to serve as a definitive text. Looking even further into the future, the Committee must also envision the MPTS Research Network after 1995.

Sathit welcomed the Committee and guests to Bangkok, and to Kasetsart University.

Mr. Thomas Niblock noted that the progress of the MPTS Research Network in its first few years had persuaded many initial skeptics of its value. This was due in good measure to the hard work of the F/FRED Coordinating Unit, the strong support of Kasetsart University, and the active guidance of the Steering Committee.

2. Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Secretary led the review of the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, held in April 1988 in Kuching, Malaysia. These were approved by the Committee. The Secretary concluded his review by adding his pleasure at the progress experienced since his initial involvement with the F/FRED Project in 1986. The emerging network covers a vast, diverse region, and had few guidelines from the 1984 IUFRO meeting held in Kandy, Sri Lanka. The present meeting presents a good opportunity to appraise what the network can do in the future.

The Chairman noted the relevance of paragraphs 16 and 17 of the minutes to the current discussion of the network's future. Suree noted the follow-up activity that had taken place on the Research Committee's recommendations from the previous meeting: the 21 small research grants awarded, the first twinning arrangement negotiated between Kasetsart University and the Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, and the successful field trials tour conducted in October 1988. He added that the next Research Committee meeting would take place July 3 - 6, 1989, in Los Baños, Philippines.

3. Committee Structure: Overlapping Functions

Recalling the potential for overlapping functions of the Research and Steering committees noted at the previous meeting, the Chairman called on Suree to report on his findings. Suree noted that while the 'umbrella functions' of the two committees may indeed overlap, it is too early to properly assess exactly what changes are needed. The Chairman concurred that at present no serious overlap in function currently constrains the two committees, that the overlap is principally in membership. Mr. Kenneth G. MacDicken agreed that it is too early to revise the committee's structures, and that in the evolution of the network any necessary changes would manifest themselves more clearly.

4. MPTS Scientific Achievement Award

The Committee deliberated at length on the proposal, first suggested by the Chairman at the previous meeting, that an MPTS Scientific Award be established. Such an award should recognize outstanding achievement rather than provide incentive for scientists. Points discussed included minimum requirements for award recipients, the nature of the award, and whether it should go to individual scientists or to institutions. The Committee decided that the award should recognize outstanding contributions by individual Asian scientists to the improvement of the quality of life of the rural poor through MPTS research. A cash award of \$1,000 will be given, with a grant for research of up to \$10,000, based on a proposal submitted by the recipient. Awards will be given to

scientists in both the social and biological sciences (one each). (See Appendix 2.)

5. Progress Report of the Coordinating Unit

The Chairman called on the Coordinating Unit to review the progress of network activities since April 1988.

A. Network Trials

MacDicken listed the four sets of network field trial experiments now underway and commented briefly on each. These include the 1987 humid/subhumid zone species trials, the international provenance trials of *Acacia auriculiformis*, the arid and semi-arid field trials now getting underway, and the tissue culture outplanting experiments coordinated by Plantek International.

B. Field Trials Tour

Suree described the travelling seminar and field trials tour that took place during October 1988. The tour, which included scientists participating in the 1987 network trials and members of the Project staff, visited sites in four countries and received presentations of sites in two other countries. He added that the next phase of the Project should begin to address the requirements for extension. Siddiqui noted the importance of standard methods.

C. Network Trials in the Arid and Semi-arid Zone

Dr. E. Lee Medema explained progress of the arid and semi-arid field trials, from the design developed in Kathmandu, March 1988, to the procurement of germplasm, production of a research manual, and training of participating scientists in standard methods. Follow-up training to the courses conducted by Dr. C.B. Briscoe from January to February is scheduled for the Fall, 1989.

Dr. Cherla Sastry noted that the Evaluation report's comment that the Project provided insufficient support for network trials was unjustified.

Medema added that, subject to finalization of the Project's memorandum of understanding with the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), greater participation by that country's

scientists is expected. In reply to Siddiqui's question of how late-starting Indian experiments would be reconciled with the others in the network, MacDicken stated that the date of planting would not be as critical as the recorded growth from date of planting.

D. Tree Improvement

In the field of tree improvement, MacDicken recounted the Project's support for seed collections: in 1987 for *A. auriculiformis* and *Leucaena leucocephala*, in 1988 for *A. mangium* and *Melia azedarach*, with *A. nilotica*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, and *Prosopis sp.* scheduled for 1989. The purpose of the network's program is to identify new provenances not tested by FAO provenance experiments. (Since this presentation, F/FRED has obtained more information on provenance studies on *A. nilotica* and *Prosopis sp.* by FAO and DANIDA, and has agreed to coordinate with these organizations on follow-up activities.) The experiments employ the Information and Decision Support System (IADSS) for data exchange.

The Chairman noted the importance of field trials to the network's program of activities.

E. Exchange of Data

Noting the Project evaluation report's recommendation that the issue of data-sharing be more fully addressed by the Research Committee, the Steering Committee called on the Coordinating Unit to review the issue further with the Research Committee.

F. Social Science Research

Dr. C.B. Mehl described the progress of the network study on farmers' use of trees and tree products. Scientists conducting the regional study met in Bangkok at the end of February for instruction in the standard methods to be used. In addition to gathering data for the regional comparative analysis, scientists will undertake case studies on subjects of their choice. Researchers will complete data collection late in 1989; national and regional analysis will be performed after that time.

Another regional interdisciplinary study will seek to determine farmers' preferences for various tree characteristics. This study aims to provide

tree-breeders with informed objectives for their work with MPTS for small farms.

G. Psyllid Research

MacDicken announced that four agreements for research on the *Leucaena* psyllid pest had been negotiated and that F/FRED-sponsored work was now underway in Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, and Thailand. The recent meeting in Bogor, Indonesia presented the state of the art, reviewed coordination activities with other donors, and recommended further research on biological control and tree improvement for psyllid resistance. Recommendations included a caution to scientists in Africa that the psyllid will likely soon spread there. Proceedings will be published.

H. Small Research Grants

Twenty-one small research grants were awarded in September 1988 to scientists in the region. Proposals were screened by the Coordinating Unit, then submitted for expert review before final determination of recipients.

I. Global Research and IADSS

Briscoe reported for the Global Research Unit (GRU) on its recent activities. In 1988, a first version of the Information and Decision Support System (IADSS) was issued to scientists conducting the 1987 humid/sub-humid zone trials. With feedback from these system users obtained during the in-country training courses, the GRU revised the system. The system's soils database and statistical analysis package have been developed. In 1988, the GRU worked with the Project Editor, Norma Adams, to produce a state-of-the-art volume on predictive modeling of MPT species. Currently, GRU staff are distributing version 1.2 of the experiment database to those scientists participating in the 1987 trials, and providing further training in six countries. The one-year data has been collected from all cooperators for data compilation and analysis.

J. Compendium of Forestry Research

Dr. Celso B. Lantican reported on plans for compiling a compendium of forestry research in Asia. Through the national MPTS research meeting process, individuals in each participating country have been contacted to list

forestry research activities in their country in a standard format. The resulting compilation should be useful in establishing a baseline of research, and for identifying research gaps and areas of overlap.

K. Training

Lantican reviewed training courses held since his posting as Training Officer in June 1988. These include the complementary courses on forestry for social scientists and social science methods for foresters held at Los Baños in July 1988, a course on Problem-Solving in Agroforestry Research held at Kasetsart University in August 1988, and a course on Design and Analysis of Agroforestry Experiments, held in January 1989. In addition to these regional courses, training has also been offered to scientists at national institutions on a 'roving' basis.

The six Ph.D. fellowship recipients selected in 1988 began their studies at Michigan State University in September and are performing well in their courses. They will return to their home countries for dissertation research and write-up in mid-1990.

The Chairman thanked the Project staff for their presentations.

6. Research Committee Composition

The Committee endorsed the proposal that, for greater continuity and interdisciplinarity, the Research Committee composition be amended to include one social scientist from each participating country each year, rather than on the previous alternating basis. This is to ensure continuity of leadership and encouragement of social science participation in the Network.

7. Plans for Project Progress Reporting

Niblock suggested that future written reports of the activities of the Network and the F/FRED Project should be written for a general audience, with separate reports regarding program administration and accounting to be submitted to A.I.D. The Committee approved this suggestion. The Chairman commented that the cumulative progress reports served as useful references to the Network's activities.

8. Next Steering Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will take place November 24, 1989 in Jakarta, Indonesia, following the network theme meeting on Orienting MPTS Research to the Small Farmer.

9. F/FRED Project Mid-term Evaluation

The Chairman remarked that the Project evaluation report, completed in December 1988, would be useful in the discussions of the Phase 2 program. The Evaluation, he said, cited the Project's good performance to date. (See Appendix 1 for the report's recommendations and the Contractor's responses.)

10. Ideas on Networks

A. Dr. Grayzel commented that underlying the Evaluation were important concerns about what a network actually is, and how the MPTS Research Network could be sustained. He described two alternative concepts for a network. The first is an interconnected line of communication over which information passes between members. The second is that of a net: "lines or strings woven together to capture something." For the second kind of network, how tightly or loosely the net is woven is important in determining the problems that it will address. Some at A.I.D. maintain that the MPTS Research Network should evolve from the first type of network to the second, that it should become a network that acts as a structure for focusing development research on the critical issues, in addition to its role as a conduit for exchange of research.

B. In this regard, he said that there was now the need for a clearer charter for making network decisions according to strategy and not just common interest. The Steering Committee would be called upon to take a greater role in this strategic planning.

C. The social sciences could play a greater role in this strategic decision process in that they can often identify gaps in the effort to focus MPTS research on human needs. Human dynamics can wreck the best technical plans. There is the common responsibility on both social and biological scientists for creating such a network.

D. Mr. Karim Oka suggested that rather than a fishnet, a network should be likened to a transportation system, linking villages and their production potentials together for them to use. It is also important to coordinate with other donors' network efforts; these should be exploited for better use of resources.

E. Pyakuryal gave an example from Nepal of how the MPTS Research Network is already working at the national level. The Network had bridged the traditional dispute in Nepal between forestry and agriculture.

Cruz concurred that the current strategy of bringing together scientists from different disciplines to prioritize MPTS research was working at the national level.

F. Rao asserted that the F/FRED approach to developing the MPTS Research Network was working satisfactorily. The expectation that it should cause radical change in field activities, however, is probably inflated. Through the field tour and other network meetings, the Network is creating a "climate of opinion" for improved and relevant MPTS research, and this has an effect on field operations and planting, but it is gradual. Perhaps there should be a greater focus on promoting informed decision-making.

G. Suree said that the concepts of networking should be included in lectures and training. The Network's sustainability is evident in the way that it has been institutionalized at the national level in Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

H. Siddiqui related that the concept of MPTS was introduced in Pakistan in 1984 with the IUFRO Kandy meeting. Since then, F/FRED has provided an opportunity for that concept to grow. Now Pakistan, with Asia as a whole, is experiencing many changes. Some of these changes are aided by foreign donors. This year, forestry education in Pakistan became open to women as well as men. Now there is much talk of the importance of the social sciences, but this has taken place only recently and must be evolutionary. The network system requires flexibility to ensure that this change or progress is sustained. If the Network's aim is to benefit poor farmers, the system requires more social science input.

product of the MPTS Research Network must be made available to farmers. Publications and extension efforts will help bring the Network's results to the small farmer.

J. The Chairman remarked on the many images of networking that were presented, and added that a network must not be a mosquito net that keeps things away -- it must invite members in. IUFRO is encouraged by the progress of the MPTS Research Network and is proud of its role in the Network's early development. IUFRO endorses A.I.D.'s role in this through the F/FRED Project. The Chairman noted that IUFRO should share its expertise to advance the F/FRED effort.

11. Measuring Sustainability

A. Dr. J. Kathy Parker remarked that A.I.D. would like the Committee's feedback to clarify plans for Phase 2. In particular, the Committee was requested to comment on:

- sustainability -- how to measure the progress of the Network toward sustainability?
- social science integration -- what role should it play in the network? How should it be integrated into IADSS?
- strategic planning -- how should the process of network development proceed, and how should it be measured?

B. Oka asked the question, Is it more important to gauge the sustainability of the structure or the lines of communication that the structure creates? These communication lines may continue to serve without structural support, once the need for them has been established.

C. Regarding the question of sustainability, Fyakuryal noted that there is greater maturity now among scientists and advisors. MPTS research provides a perspective of addressing needs, a perspective that may become embedded in the plans and decision-making processes of policymakers. If so, the objective of sustainability has been achieved. Involving farmers in on-farm trials and research and assessment activities will sustain this perspective also.

D. Cruz noted that the recent decision by the Philippines to establish a national MPTS research network organization is one indicator of sustainability at the national level. Suree shared this observation, and noted that the formation of an MPTS committee in Thailand and a national MPTS research network in Malaysia were other indicators of this. These institutions are building an interaction between the forest and human resource establishments. We should not forget non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the development of the network -- many are committed and effective.

E. The Chairman noted that the question of sustainability links to the development of local expertise. External stimuli are important, but ultimately the capability, awareness, and commitment of Asian scientists are more important. The importance of the Network lies in fostering these qualities and characteristics.

12. Planning Phase 2: A Long-term Strategic Plan

The Committee endorsed the recommendation for a long-term strategic plan to help in assessing goals and how activities fit with those goals. The Chairman expressed the concern that such a plan be balanced with flexibility.

In the discussion of formulating the plan, the needs to consider available resources and use them most effectively were cited. Grayzel observed that the inclusion of 'buy-ins' in the contract for Phase 2 would allow a greater link with USAID missions and better use of limited resources. The Chairman approved the proposed plan for 'buy-in' arrangements.

13. Suggestions for Phase 2, Presented by the Coordinating Unit

The Chairman called on the Coordinating Unit staff to present their suggestions for Phase 2 activities. MacDicken presented ideas on MPTS research, Mehl discussed social science research, and Medema proposed suggestions for economics and marketing activities. Lantican offered ideas on the future of the training program. Representing the Global Research Unit, Briscoe outlined prospects for that office's activity in Phase 2. (See appendix 1 for these presentations.)

The Committee endorsed the issues as discussed (See Section 2 of this report.)

14. Mountain Zone Activity

NiBlock explained that due to limited funds, the Project staff have not approached ICIMOD about implementation of the Mountain Zone. The Committee expressed great interest in the development of activities in this environmental zone, and agreed that it would be worthwhile to explore an agreement with ICIMOD, perhaps with support from other donors. The Committee agreed to try to incorporate the interests of network members in the Mountain Zone as noted.

15. Increase in Maximum Small Grant Amount

The Committee concurred that, with the desire to encourage multidisciplinary studies, the maximum award for small research grants should be increased to US\$10,000. As in the first series of grants, the proposals must be focused and show a clear need for the funds requested. Multidisciplinary studies will receive priority consideration for the maximum award.

16. Publications

The Committee congratulated the F/FRED Project staff on its performance in producing publications, and looks forward to more of these activities being done in Asia during Phase 2.

17. Host Institution

On behalf of Kasetsart University, Sathit expressed pleasure with its role as host to the F/FRED Coordinating Unit, and added that the University would be pleased to continue in that role as F/FRED enters Phase 2, recognizing that the program may expand. The Committee thanked the University for its service as host.

18. Presentations of Other Programs

The Chairman repeated his welcome to guest representatives from other organizations, and invited them to describe their activities and potential areas for collaboration with the MPTS Research Network.

U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Rao announced that the FAO is compiling a list of international-assisted forestry projects in Asia, including titles, outputs, and amounts of funds. In this effort FAO is aided by its work with the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. Under the TFAP, countries are helped to develop long-range plans for forest research and management. Many of these exercises are related to the drafting of master plans for each country. Action plans have been completed for Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia. Others are now being developed in Laos, Vietnam, Pakistan, Thailand, and Papua New Guinea.

The FAO's regional projects include the Wood Energy Development Project and the Asia-Pacific Watershed Management Project, a new project based in Kathmandu. Other new FAO initiatives include a Regional Tree Improvement Project, an Agroforestry Research Project, and assistance to the Forest Research System in India. FAO will soon produce *Asian Abstracts of Forest Genetics* to provide background for the upcoming tree improvement project. FAO will host a regional research directors' meeting August 22-25, 1989, in Bangkok, for which a publication on the status of forestry research in Asia is being compiled.

Rao commented on the progress of the Forestry Educators Network and the Khon Kaen workshop on integrating the social sciences into forestry curricula. This workshop took place in November 1988, supported by F/FRED and co-presented by FAO and Yale University's Tropical Resources Institute. The network seeks to establish comparable standards for forestry education in the region. F/FRED support for this network will continue to be important, and the FAO is pleased with the important follow-up activities to the workshop taking place under the F/FRED subcontract to Yale. FAO plans to support meetings of the network every other year, with the next meeting scheduled for 1990.

Mr. Napoleon T. Vergara described the FAO's Agroforestry Extension Project, which is primarily concerned with providing technical assistance and education in agroforestry to farmers in Thailand. The Project uses research results from the MPTS Research Network and seeks to act as a conduit for the two-way flow of information between researchers and farmers.

Mr. R.S. Gujral described the goals of the Wood Energy Development Project and its regional network, similar to the MPTS Research Network but focused on utilization and extension augmentation. The Project supports diagnostic, action-oriented studies on socioeconomic interactions, such as the study of homestead forests in Bangladesh, co-sponsored with F/FRED. The Committee noted the potential for cooperation with the utilization research and gender issues studies anticipated in Phase 2 of F/FRED.

Finnish International Development Agency (FINNIDA). Mr. Raimo Anttola described FINNIDA's assistance to several countries in the preparation of their forestry master plans. These plans are broad-based efforts for conservation of ecosystems and improved production of fuelwood energy. In this planning process, institutional strengths and weaknesses are assessed, and long-term strategies are laid out based on filling existing gaps.

International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Sastry, from IDRC's Singapore office, described the organization's strategy of developing networks by supporting projects. At present, IDRC supports research networks on: 1) Bamboo and rattan, 2) *Leucaena psyllid* control, 3) wood energy, 4) palmwood, and 5) information exchange. Oka added remarks on IDRC's growing program in South Asia, with a project on *Paulownia* bringing together scientists from Pakistan and China, and increasing interest in on-farm research. Its Agroforestry pilot project in India, organized with ICRAF, is intended to create links among the many existing agroforestry research efforts in that country. This presents an opportunity for collaboration with the MPTS Research Network, in gaining wider use of network experiment designs and the IADSSystem, for example. The Watershed Management Network is multi-disciplinary and one with which the MPTS Research Network may want to establish links. One way to increase donor awareness of related activities would be to exchange pre-project papers. Oka offered to distribute IDRC's one-page forms.

International Board for Soils Research and Management (IBSRAM). Dr. Marc Latham explained that IBSRAM's mandate for improved soil management for sustainable production of food crops also includes agroforestry. IBSRAM

works through networks in different agro-ecological environments based on soil type. Their networks include those dedicated to: 1) management of sloping land, 2) management of acid soils, and in Africa 3) land development for sustainable agriculture, and 4) management of vertisols. Collaboration with activities of the MPTS Research Network could be based on the interface areas of rooting systems and tree/crop competition and complementarity.

The Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC). Located next to the F/FRED Coordinating Unit at the Kasetsart University's Faculty of Forestry, RECOFTC began in 1987 and has completed its first six-month training course. Dr. Somsak Sukwong, the director, explained that the center's course focuses on participatory forestry and developing the socioeconomic and communication skills of participants from Asia and Africa. RECOFTC also conducts seminars and workshops, and produces a newsletter. The center would like to continue its collaboration with the MPTS Research Network.

The Ford Foundation. Dr. David Thomas described Ford's expanding work in social forestry. Most of its programs have a national focus, with offices in Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand. Ford views itself as a consumer/conduit of research results from the MPTS Research Network, and a potential co-sponsor of research.

Winrock International. Mr. Gerard Rixhon and Dr. John Cool discussed Winrock's role as a channel for administering postgraduate fellowships that are designed to build the social science capability of the region. The program links with educational institutions in the Philippines, Thailand, Australia and other countries. The Natural Resource Management Project is designed to extend the relevance of applied social sciences in Thailand and Southeast Asia. The Project has started two networks in Thailand, TRIMNET and NORMNET.

World Resources Institute (WRI). Mr. David Richards described WRI's goal of contributing to informed policy decisions through efforts like the annual publication of *World Resources*. Forestry, land-use, and biodiversity comprise WRI's secondary focus. WRI has been active in the TFAP process described by Dr. Rao.

Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC).

Mr. Drake Hocking, with SDC in Nepal, related the growth of SDC programs in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, and Philippines. The organization is re-assessing its role in the development community and is developing a coherent strategy for activities in the forestry sector, with less emphasis on research and more focus on "action research" and pilot projects for networking. SDC recognizes that many of the limitations on developing the forestry sector are related to powerful social and legal issues. SDC is interested in co-financing projects with other donors, and in cooperating with institutions on all levels. The Chairman noted the potential for collaboration on work in the Mountain Zone.

International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO). The Chairman spoke on behalf of IUFRO. The organization now has 15,000 members at 600 institutions in 123 countries. IUFRO will celebrate its centenary in 1992. IUFRO is creating positions for regional coordinators; the coordinator for Africa is now in Nairobi. The mechanism for an Asian regional coordinator has not yet been worked out.

The Chairman regretted that representatives of Australian Council for International Agricultural Research, GTZ, Asian Development Bank, Danish International Development Agency, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, and the ASEAN Tree Seed Centre could not attend, but expressed the hope that the network's collaboration with these organizations would continue to increase.

19. Collaboration with International Agricultural Research Centers

It was agreed that the Network would continue to establish appropriate ties with the appropriate international agricultural centers to conduct MPTS and agroforestry research.

20. Report on Bellagio II

The Chairman reported on the December 1988 meeting in Surrey, England, where it was agreed that forestry research should be included in the mandate for the CGIAR system, and that a separate Technical Advisory Committee should be commissioned to oversee forestry research. Dr. John Spears of the World Bank is heading a committee to develop this mechanism.

21. Other Phase 2 Discussions

Grayzel offered several thoughts regarding the nature of collaboration. Mentioning the feelings of achievement and satisfaction with F/FRED expressed by the USAID missions, he said that implicit in the issue of sustainability is the understanding that the MPTS Research Network is more than a network, that it embodies a human element. In the current search to redefine relationships in the increasingly sophisticated development process, the Network should consider whether its activity will be to facilitate work of mutual interest to members, or, in addition, to help structure the agenda for that collaborative work.

Participation by Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs)

The Committee endorses increased participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in network activities. The Coordinating Unit will prepare a paper presenting alternative strategies for encouraging greater NGO involvement in network activities. The Steering Committee will consider this paper at its next meeting.

The Chairman thanked all the participants for their contributions. The meeting concluded at 5 p.m. on March 22, 1989.

Appendices

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Highlights and Recommendations from the Evaluation Report, and the Contractor's Responses

The F/FRED Project evaluation report presents findings, conclusions, and recommendations on the Project's stated goals, contractor performance, and overall project management. This summary focuses on the recommendations regarding project management and performance. For convenience, the recommendations are grouped according to the program areas of network development, regional research support, training, publications, global research, and project management.

Network Development

The evaluation team approved of the networking mechanisms used, including multidisciplinary, national MPTS organizing meetings and regional theme meetings, and recommended their continuation. The team noted that experience gained from the Network's coordination efforts should be shared widely. Communications channels should be used to even greater advantage, and the effectiveness of site visits should be capitalized on.

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Contractor Response</u>
3.2.1.1(1) Continue interdisciplinary national organizing meetings, with greater NGO participation.	The second set of country-level meetings is ongoing. These are expected to continue in Phase 2 on an annual basis.
3.2.2.3.1(1) Plan and conduct one theme meeting per year.	The next theme meeting will be in November 1989 in Indonesia. Further theme meetings are anticipated on a regular basis in Phase 2.
3.2.1.3(1) Share lessons learned in network-building.	This could be considered as a potential topic of a project progress report, and the subject of articles as appropriate. (For example, see MacDicken and Lantican 1988, in press).
3.2.2.1.1(1) Schedule a field tour of arid and semiarid trials in 1990, and when major farm management treatments begin.	Tours of each set of field trials is expected for Phase 2, following the example of the traveling seminar on the 1987 network trials, held in October 1988.
3.2.2.1.1(3) Include network trials information in <i>Farm Forestry News</i> .	Ongoing, with increasing Asia input expected. Regular pre-issue planning meetings have begun at the Coordinating Unit.
3.2.2.5(1) Staff each environmental zone with a network specialist.	Recommended staff increases for network development include an arid/semi-arid network specialist in Phase 2 and another specialist for the Mountain Zone, resources permitting.
3.2.2.5(2) Make efforts to include Asians on the project staff and in consultant selection.	The Project has made extensive use of Asian consultants in psyllid research and the social sciences. The increase in key staff positions filled by Asians would most likely continue in Phase 2.

<u>Recommendation</u>		<u>Contractor Response</u>
3.2.2.5(3)	Arrange with ICIMOD to implement Mountain zone activities.	ICIMOD is helping to administer the network social science study. This could establish contacts that would allow Phase 2 infrastructural support for Mountain Zone work.
3.2.2.2.1(1)	invite more social science institutions to join the network.	Ongoing; two such institutions recently signed agreements with F/FRED. A consultant has been contacted to conduct an inventory of social science research institutions and capabilities in Asia. This would serve to identify potentially valuable network contacts.
3.2.2.2.1(2)	Extend the Yale subcontract to strengthen Asian-U.S. forestry education links.	The Yale subcontract was extended for follow-up activities recommended at the Khon Kaen workshop.
3.3.4(1)	AID should arrange to develop a set of useful benchmark indicators of desirable change for use by network research managers and donors.	The compilation of a compendium of Asian forestry research, with standardized entries for each country, has been initiated. This should yield useful information for the selection of indicators.

Regional Research Support

In the F/FRED Project's program for network research, the Evaluation noted that the network had established important links between biophysical and socioeconomic researchers. Still, more integration of disciplines in network studies is needed. The network program of research should bring economic considerations into its mainstream. The team recommended that the network study of farm and village forestry, which was in an early stage at the time of evaluation, be scaled back until further, local socioeconomic research had established correlations between social and biological systems. The Project staff have worked with scientists in the region to revise the design of the study to allow for local case studies. However, the Contractor maintains that a regional comparison study is still justified by its utility in fostering a regional network and standard methods, and by the importance of at least a preliminary indication of trends.

Regarding the network field trials, the evaluation noted that the humid and sub-humid zone trials, begun in 1987, had been successfully established, and that network trials provide effective focus for training and research activities. The Project should arrange additional field trial tours for participating scientists, and should visit the trials sites at regular intervals to provide technical assistance as needed. Information gaps left by the experiments could be filled by appropriate use of the small research grants program and additional sets of trials.

Through the Regional Plan for controlling the *Leucaena psyllid*, F/FRED has demonstrated ability to identify, formulate and support critical regional research strategies on pest management and tree improvement.

The small research grants program strengthens the Network with a minimal investment. For greater integration of disciplines, emphasis should be placed on interdisciplinary proposals.

Recommendation

Contractor Response

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| 3.2.2.2(1) | Ensure social science input into the next set of network trials. | A consultant was commissioned to confer with Asian cooperators on the development of a standard methodology for on-farm network experiments in the summer of 1988. Following a follow-up study, a draft methodology will be reviewed in 1989. |
| 3.2.2.1.2(1) | Continue germplasm collections of Asian MPTS. | Currently a collection of <i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> is underway, and the Project is supporting work on <i>Acacia nilotica</i> by NFTA. F/FRED is coordinating with assessment efforts by FAO and DANIDA of Acacia and Prosopis species. |
| 3.2.2.3.4(3) | In Phase 2, provide cooperators with dedicated microcomputers. | Institutions in Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia have received microcomputers with the agreement that they would be used for network research. With adequate resources, more network equipment would be provided in Phase 2. |

Small Research Grants

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| 3.2.2.3.4(2) | Continue the small research grants program on an annual basis. | While funding constraints do not permit this for the fifth year of the Project, this would be planned for Phase 2. |
| 3.2.2.1.1(1) | Use small grants to 'capture' information on other experiments. | This suggestion should be included in future grants administration, along with plan to use training visits as an opportunity for the same purpose. |
| 3.2.2.1.2(2) | Provide small grants for interdisciplinary tree improvement studies. | This is the objective of at least one of the current small grants in Nepal, and will link with the current network tree-breeding objectives study (Task Order 49). |
| 3.2.2.1.3(1) | Focus more research on priority species and alternative management practices. | Several management practices were added as treatment factors following the October 1988 field trials tour and observation of actual farmer practices. Phase 2 research would increasingly focus on concerns and common problems like tree management. |
| 3.2.2.4.3(2) | Emphasize interdisciplinary studies in the award of small grants. | This is a good suggestion. The funding ceiling for the first series of grants limited the scope for multi-disciplinary proposals. A higher ceiling on individual proposals could improve this situation. |
| 3.2.2.4.8 | Consider gender issues studies where appropriate. | This topic is included as an analysis component of the network study on farm and village forestry. |
| 3.2.2.4.4(1) | Focus socioeconomic research on local, comparative research studies. | This has already occurred in the Project's support for a homestead forestry study and case studies associated with the 1987 field trials. A |

Recommendation

Contractor Response

case study component has been added to the network social science study. Still, a prime Project goal is the development of the MPTS Research Network and standard methods. These are better promoted through regional comparative studies.

- 3.2.3.4 (1-3) Biotechnology research under the Project should be restricted to field-usable techniques of vegetative propagation, mycorrhizae, and rhizobium.

The Contractor agrees. Proposals on these topics should be considered in small grants program.

Socioeconomic Research

- 3.2.2.4.3(3) Establish a relationship with the project of the Centre National Recherche Scientifique in Nepal.

CNRS has been contacted by the Coordinating Unit.

- 3.2.2.4.4(2) Draft and prioritize a social science research plan for consideration by the Research Committee.

A draft plan will be presented at the 1989 Research Committee meeting in July.

- 3.2.2.4.4(3) Provide methodology training, preferably in-country.

Instruction in methods to be used for the network study was provided in Bangkok in late February 1989. Methods such as rapid rural appraisal may be the subjects of 'roving' courses in Phase 2.

- 3.2.2.4.4(4) Prepare an assessment of socioeconomic training needs.

A consultant has been contacted for this purpose.

- 3.2.2.4.5(2) Consult the Human Relations Area Files and other on-the-shelf data.

The Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland is now conducting a computerized search in conjunction with course work. The Coordinating Unit is also working with Chulalongkorn University to review existing literature.

- 3.2.2.4.6(1) Bring economic studies into the mainstream of project activities.

F/FRED's Forest Economist is working with consultants and the Global Research staff; the addition of another network specialist would permit staff resources for economic activities.

- 3.2.2.4.6(2) Prepare guidelines for economic studies and economic contributions to database.

The Coordinating Unit has proposed that resources be reallocated to pursue this suggestion.

- 3.2.2.4.9 Increase the Coordinating Unit staff to allow the Forest Economist to focus on economics and marketing studies.

At least one additional network specialist (and possibly two) are recommended for Phase 2, depending on funding levels.

Training

The Project's training program has been appropriately targeted, according to the report. A long-term strategy for training is desirable and might be developed with other donors' contributions.

The team approved the plan for home-country dissertation research for the F/FRED Ph.D. fellows, but felt that Ph.D. candidates should be selected from network member institutions. While this would make the program's networking function plain, the Contractor maintains that the primary criterion should be the candidates' potential to contribute to the improvement of national MPTS research. The network strengthening function would follow from the candidates' association with the Ph.D. program.

	<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Contractor Response</u>
3.2.2.3.3(1)	Prepare a long-term plan for training.	The first long-term training plan was revised in June 1988, and will be presented to the Research Committee at its next meeting.
3.2.2.3.3(2)	Devote more resources to training.	The Project staff would like to plan more shortcourses and long-term training support for Phase 2; support from other donors could supplement this program.
3.2.2.3.3(3)	Repeat courses for audiences at various staff levels.	This suggestion does not appear to be the most efficient, as different staff levels would require different course foci.
3.2.2.3.3(4)	Future Ph.D. fellows should come from MOU institutions only to clarify the role in networking.	Long-term degree candidates were selected primarily by their qualifications; in this case the networking function is expected to follow rather than precede the activity. Support for future Ph.D. training would depend on the funding level for Phase 2.
3.2.2.1.3(2)	Use network trials as a focus for methodology training.	This is ongoing for most network experiments, although it could be heightened in future training courses.

Publications

In an appendix, the report noted the relevance and utility of many of the Project publications, such as the regional research plan for *Leucaena psyllid* control and manuals for network research. The report suggested several ways in which the Project's publications might be improved in clarity and cost-effectiveness.

	<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Contractor Response</u>
3.2.2.3.2(1)	Move the production of <i>Farm Forestry News</i> to Asia.	The Coordinating Unit now holds pre-issue planning meetings to ensure relevant technical and Asian input to the newsletter.
3.2.2.3.2(2)	Transfer publication activities to Asia.	When resources are available (perhaps early in 1990), the Project would place an information/publications staff position in Bangkok. This will provide improved linkage between Project offices and allow more publications to be handled in Asia.

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Contractor Response</u>
3.2.2.3.2(3) Provide more follow-up on core library shipments.	Ongoing; core libraries sent by surface take up to six months to deliver.
3.2.2.3.2(4) Prepare a publications policy.	The policy developed in Phase 1, outlining the types of publications and their intended audiences, should be formalized for Phase 2 planning.

Global Research

The evaluation comments that the Global Research Unit has made "considerable progress" in developing the Information and Decision Support System, and notes the ease with which a scientist may use the system. When fully developed, the system "could have utility and influence on a global scale." The Project should concentrate efforts to make IADSS applicable globally.

The evaluation recommended that commercial packages should replace the system's bibliographic database and analysis/graphics package. The Project staff has suggested that the bibliographic database merits further development because it provides abstracts and is focused on network priority species, and because users can add and delete records as they wish. The analysis package, F/MOD, is a customized version of a commercial statistical analysis program. Distributing commercial programs directly presents problems of proprietary rights and potential compatibility problems.

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Contractor Response</u>
3.2.3.3.1(1) Continue to develop IADSS for Asian and global audiences, coordinating with other major database developers.	In Phase 2, generalized versions of IADSS should be developed and issued for use in Africa and Latin America. In preparing manuals for data collection and input, the Project staff have solicited comments from prospective collaborators in these regions. Phase 2 could include inter-regional training on the methods and use of a global data management system, and greater coordination with other database initiatives.
3.2.3.3.2(1) The GRU should provide more training and develop improved manuals, along with demonstration disks and tutorials.	The development of demo disks is ongoing. Training materials for users continue to be upgraded on an iterative basis; the Contractor recognizes that this area should receive more effort. In-country training on use of IADSS has intensified in the past year and will continue to do so.
3.2.3.3.1(2) Discontinue development of the bibliographic database.	Development of this database is currently considered important due to its focus on network priority species, its provision of abstracts, its adaptability by users, and its ensured availability to cooperators.
3.2.3.3.2(2) Provide more user support.	It is planned that a computer specialist based in Asia will correspond with the GRU, as described above.

Recommendation

Contractor Response

3.2.3.3.3(1)	Clarify the relationship of the Project's Global Research Unit to network members.	The GRU's specific roles for limited network support should be clarified early in Phase 2; the GRU would concentrate on broadening IADSS's applicability, as recommended by the evaluation.
3.2.3.3.3(2)	Post a member of the Global Research staff in Asia.	Plans for a computer specialist to be based with the in Asia have been described above.
3.2.3.3.3(3)	Continue efforts in the area of global coordination.	Currently, F/FRED is pursuing joint development of a format for exchanging summary experiment data with organizations in Australia and Costa Rica. The GRU expects it would continue and expand this role in the second phase, and that it would attempt to formalize the coordinating relationships.
3.2.3.3.4	Set aside development of the system's analysis package, F/MOD, in favor of commercial packages.	This recommendation notwithstanding, the Contractor intends to continue F/MOD development due to network cooperators' estimation of its importance. It is, in fact, a customized version of an existing commercial package. By virtue of this, it 1) avoids problems of proprietary rights common with commercial package distribution, and 2) is more accessible to cooperators than many commercial packages.
3.2.3.3.3(2)	Consider moving the services of the Global Research Unit to Asia.	The computer specialist to be stationed in Asia for user support would represent a first step to this transition. The complete transfer should take place later in 1993-94, when a global system has been developed and tested.
3.2.3.3.5(1)	Prepare a paper on network data-sharing.	A paper was prepared and approved by the Research Committee in April 1988. However, the issue will be reviewed and further defined in upcoming meetings.
3.2.3.3.6(3)	Make arrangements for IADSS to be stored on a removable storage device.	Alternatives, such as nine-track tape, should be explored in greater detail as the system develops further in Phase 2.

Project Management

The prime recommendation by the evaluation regarding project management called for the preparation of a strategic long-term plan, prioritized and linked to project objectives. Such a plan would be useful in assessing direction and achievements, but should not be a straitjacket that would preclude initiatives in the evolution of the Network.

The report recommends that A.I.D. allocate additional resources necessary for greater program development. Allowing individual USAID missions and other donors to 'buy-in' to the Project could contribute additional needed resources.

	<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Contractor Response</u>
3.31	Prepare a strategic long-term plan, with an accompanying program budget.	A strategic plan would be a requirement for Phase 2.
3.3.2(4)	Increase Bangkok staff.	This is planned to take place as soon as resources permit.
3.3.3(1)	Include authority for buy-ins in Phase 2.	USAID missions in the region have been requested by A.I.D./Washington to outline areas of potential buy-ins for the second phase of the Project.
3.3.3(3)	Limit buy-ins to areas of clarity to the network.	In facilitating buy-ins in Phase 2, the Project would have to balance network objectives with contributing USAID and host-country priorities.
3.3.3(5), 3.4(2)	Consult with the Steering Committee on plans for network sustainability and buy-ins.	A meeting of the Steering Committee was called for March 20-22, 1989 to review proposals and suggestions for Phase 2.
3.3.3(4)	Allow buy-ins from other donors and institutions.	Other donor and research organizations were invited to join planning sessions at the March 1989 Steering Committee meeting to explore areas of common interest and prospects for greater co-sponsorship of activities.

Proposal for an MPTS Scientific Achievement Award

Name of the Award: The award shall be known as the MPTS Scientific Achievement Award.

Purpose: The award shall be given to honor Asian scientists who have made outstanding contributions to the improvement of the quality of life of the rural poor through MPTS research.

Categories: Awards shall be given in two areas of research: biophysical sciences (1) and social sciences (1)

Nature of the Award: The award shall consist of a plaque of recognition, a cash award of US\$1,000, and a research grant of up to US\$10,000.

Criteria for Selection of Awardee:

Relevance and applicability of research to rural development
Long-term socioeconomic significance
Scientific value
Quality of publications
Originality

Screening Committee: The committee will be composed of three members, to be selected by the Coordinating Unit. No member of the committee shall come from F/FRED nor any of the MOU/LOA institutions. Those selected by the Coordinating Unit will be officially requested to serve as members of the committee.

Minimum Requirements for Awardee:

The nominee should come from a country participating in the MPTS Research Network.

The nominee must have published at least two papers based on actual MPTS research.

All nominations shall be accompanied by copies of relevant publications of the nominees.

Selection Process and Presentation:

To be arranged by the Coordinating Unit.

Suggestions for Phase 2

Biological Research

Objectives

1. Continue and expand network evaluation of network priority species. This would include studies on species assessment, management, and improvement.
2. Strengthen regional tree improvement on priority species by building on germplasm collections conducted in Phase 1 and the output of the network's study of tree-breeding objectives.
3. Continue to develop standard methods for the evaluation of MPTS for small-farm use.
4. Gradually shift the network research orientation from a priority species focus to one that addresses common problems, such as fuelwood, fodder, and MPTS for agroforestry intercropping.

Strategies

1. Continue the network field trials begun in Phase 1 and plan additional experiments to fill research gaps for modeling and other purposes.
2. Cooperate with efforts by DANIDA, IDRC, CSIRO, FAO, and others on tree improvement. This work should include a coordinated effort in selection and breeding of priority species.
3. Further refine the standard methods developed for Phase 1 network trials, and adapt the farming systems research approach for on-farm testing of MPTS.
4. Determine the potential of selected MPTS (that are not currently network priority species) for supplying fuelwood, fodder, and other small-farm needs.

Applied Social Science Research

Objectives

1. Increase participation of social scientists in the activities of the MPTS Research Network.
2. Strengthen the capacity of Asian institutions to conduct and analyze applied social science research related to MPTS. This would be for institutions with adequate social science staff to perform research on farm and village forestry, and for forestry research institutions in general to be able to use and evaluate the results of social science research.

Strategies

1. Continue to focus on relevant social science research at theme meetings.
2. Encourage formal network involvement of social science research institutions.
3. Continue regional comparative studies using farm and village forestry minimum data set as a research and training tool.
4. Continue to assist in the development of Asian forestry curricula. This would

Objectives

3. Build a knowledge base on the major social factors affecting small-farm household production and use of trees.
4. Continue to direct MPTS research to the needs and conditions of the rural poor; assist social scientists to effectively communicate small-farm needs to forestry researchers.
5. Strengthen relationships with other networks and international organizations involved in research on farm and village forestry and natural resource issues.

Strategies

- take place through support for the FAO/RAPA network of forestry educators.
5. Conduct interdisciplinary, on-farm network trials.
 6. Formulate extension research and development methodologies.
 7. Support priority social and cultural research through small research grants.
 8. In conjunction with training, present short courses such as applied social science research methods and techniques (statistical and non-statistical) for comparative analysis.

Economics/Marketing

Objectives

1. Expand the implementation of economic, investment and marketing analyses of ongoing research network activities.
2. Strengthen the research capability of participating network scientists in economic, investment, and marketing analysis techniques.
3. Formulate a set of standard methodologies for performing economic, investment, and marketing analyses related to MPTS.

Strategies

1. Perform economics analyses of network experiments and studies.
2. Help the GRU to develop an economic analysis component of IADSS.
3. Identify and assess existing methods and analysis.
4. Generate an approach for standardizing methods for economic and marketing analysis. Since economic and marketing analyses tend to be site-specific, emphasis should be on training (for example, a course on marketing procedures for extension agents).
5. Develop mechanisms for reporting MPTS commodity prices.
6. Analyze farming systems and strategies for improvement.
7. Analyze national and regional trends in economic indicators.

Training

Objectives

1. Continue to enhance the capability of Asian institutions to design, establish, manage, and analyze MPTS experiments
2. Enhance the capability of Asian scientists to package and transfer technologies to improve MPTS-based small farming systems.
3. Encourage more 'twinning' arrangements among network institutions. This would both improve the network's information flow and would foster greater cooperation in training and research among network institutions.

Strategies

1. Conduct short-term training courses as planned in Phase 1.
2. Support long-term graduate training related to MPTS research.
3. Develop training materials and provide further library support to network institutions.
4. Act as a catalyst in the 'twinning' process between network institutions, and provide material support for collaborative training and research under twinning agreements. Initially, agreements between institutions of different countries should be the focus of this effort.

Global Research and Development

Objectives

1. Complete development of IADSS as an integrated system for informed decision-making.
2. Encourage adoption of a global information management system for exchange of MPTS information.
3. Support users of IADSS in the MPTS Research Network through training and appropriate user support.

Strategies

1. Refine existing analysis package for modeling, and complete the climate and species databases.
2. Develop, test, and integrate component packages for social and economic analyses.
3. Formalize a forum of major forestry database developers, with technical counsel from the various regions, to cooperatively develop a global information management system.
4. Develop software packages to support the Network's training and extension research objectives, such as interactive training modules and expert systems.
5. Conduct short-term training and workshops, both in-country and region-wide, in the use of IADSS in MPTS research.
6. Backstop the Coordinating Unit's IADSS user-support activities.

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