



# IMPACTS

FIELD MISSIONS AND AFR/SD WORKING TOGETHER

## WEST AFRICAN COCOA: SOLVING THE CHILD LABOR RIDDLE

West African agricultural products have become a focus for growing concern over exploitive child labor. Promises of good pay and education have enticed youngsters from their villages to work on large farms growing cacao, coffee or other crops. Often they find low wages, poor food and few prospects for developing knowledge and skills for a better future.



Drying the beans is one of many steps in the work of cocoa production.

photo: © Conservation International

While it's a misnomer to call this slavery, it is a social injustice that the U.S. Congress has directed the chocolate industry, in particular, to confront. Promoting new standards – and the information systems to implement them – is an important step.

### What's Really Going On?

If cocoa products can be told apart in terms of the labor practices used in growing and harvesting them, then the United States and other countries can import only those that don't involve this form of exploitation. Unfortunately, systems

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## A HIGH-LEVEL DRIVE EMERGES TO CUT AFRICAN HUNGER

The Partnership to Cut Hunger in Africa works to plan U.S. efforts to help African partners cut hunger significantly by 2015. An independent initiative by leaders from U.S. and African public- and private-sector

institutions and international humanitarian groups, it is co-chaired by Malian President Alpha Oumar Konaré, Michigan State University President Peter McPherson, Senator Robert Dole and former U.S. Representative Lee Hamilton. Several other African presidents and many other distinguished leaders and scholars have also taken part, including former USAID/AFR/SD chief Jerry Wolgin.

photo credit: USAID/Ron Sibley



Mother and child at a supplemental feeding center in Ethiopia.

### The Partnership seeks to:

- Raise public awareness that cutting hunger in Africa is an important U.S. strategic priority.
- Show why agricultural development in Africa must be a leading part of a long-term, multisector development program (not mere crisis aid), complementing economic, health, educational and peace efforts.
- Leverage recent advances in technology, trade, global financial markets and democratization/liberalization.
- Advance African ownership of the process.

Significant technical and other support from ANRE has been crucial in getting the Partnership off the ground.

### How Does It Work?

Beginning in 2000, the Partnership undertook a wide-ranging synthesis of past consultations and assessments in Africa, working closely with its dozens of member organizations. These consensus-building efforts culminated at a national conference of African and U.S. stakeholders held in Washington, D.C., in June 2001.

The final strategy, reflecting conference deliberations, will be delivered to leaders of both the U.S. Administration and Congress in early 2002. The Partnership's work will continue through collaborative efforts of member organizations, coordinated through an interagency working group. For more information, please contact ANRE head Dennis Weller ([dweller@usaid.gov](mailto:dweller@usaid.gov)) or visit the Partnership's Web site at <http://www.africanhunger.org>.

## ANRE Impacts

*ANRE Impacts* is a publication of the Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Enterprise team of the Office of Sustainable Development, which is part of USAID's Bureau for Africa.

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aren't yet widely available for tracing cocoa products to origin. And even before that step, it must be determined to what extent there is a problem on cocoa farms: existing data are extremely shaky.

ANRE's Sustainable Tree Crops Program (STCP) is tackling these issues through new research and interventions in West Africa. Initial studies over a six-month period (Phase I) are developing the knowledge base needed to design substantive community-level activities (Phase II) in early 2002.

### Phase I

These pilot studies combine a baseline survey of tree crop systems with an examination of labor practices through the tree crop supply chain and in the agricultural sector in general. Also included are research and analysis to define standards of sustainability (including labor) that can be promoted and monitored.

### Phase II

Phase II will involve at least one pilot activity per STCP country (*see box*), each including 100 communities. Activities will strengthen community-based groups' ability to provide services, as well as build integrated information systems that can trace products and preserve identity.

Such systems will allow people to document key aspects of cocoa production, including quality standards, sustainable farming methods and socially responsible production systems. Stakeholders can then monitor tree crops' benefits while bringing rural communities into the global market.

### Collaboration With Other Groups

STCP has created a special Working Group on Labor Practices to coordinate with other stakeholders, including USAID, the U.S. Department of Labor, international NGOs, UNICEF and various West African governments and NGOs. Close collaboration and input will also be needed from groups delivering goods and services on the ground, such as international and local research groups, NGOs, trade and industry groups, policymakers and producer organizations. For more information, contact Jeff Hill at [jhill@usaid.gov](mailto:jhill@usaid.gov).



*Many West African adolescents may forego school for promised good wages working on farms far from home.*

## ABOUT THE STCP

The STCP, operating since 1999, works to benefit small-holder farmers through activities in grower and business support, research, information systems and policy.

Crosscutting efforts include baseline farm and household surveys and developing national networks in its five participating West African countries – Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria. The STCP's 15-member steering committee represents farmer organizations, the cocoa industry (manufacturers and traders), research institutes, NGOs and policymakers.

A Web site will soon be launched at this URL: [www.treecrops.org/](http://www.treecrops.org/)

## NRM COMES TO LIFE

Since 1993, USAID's Living In a Fixed Environment (LIFE) program has helped low-income (<\$100 per year) Namibians learn to manage natural resources so as to raise income while actually expanding the resource base. Ground-breaking national legislation in 1996 authorized communities to start conservancies for wildlife and tourism management. Fourteen conservancies have been recognized (up from the original goal of seven), with interest in dozens more.

- Present conservancies cover 5.7 million hectares (nearly 32,550 people).
- Average per capita yearly income from conservancies has risen to \$115.
- Wildlife populations in Namibia's northwest have recovered dramatically.
- Communities are expanding NRM into range (livestock) and forest management.

LIFE has assisted via both research (market, ecological, socioeconomic) and skills development (in community organization, NRM, business management, crafts and alternative agriculture). If all emerging conservancies are formally recognized:

- Over 100,000 rural Namibians may benefit.
- Estimated market potential is \$300 million annually.

## HOPE AND NEW TOOLS IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

photo credit: C. Culler



LIFE Conservancy management committee members discuss activities.

A wide-ranging review of USAID's community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) programs in Africa reveals both hopeful trends and the great urgency of USAID's efforts.

The report summarizes findings of the Working Group on CBNRM in Africa, convened by AFR/SD. It is based on numerous studies, including nearly 100 case studies found in the NRM Tracker database sponsored by SD. Analyzing Tracker's case studies has allowed the group to isolate the most indispensable factors for a successful CBNRM project, including flexible/ "permissive" political/legal institutions, local social cohesion, local control over valued resources, and community access to information and capital.

### An Idea Gains Power

Africa-wide, the report notes, people are reacting to the fact that environmental degradation and other stresses are placing crushing pressure on their resources. As a result:

- More and more rural communities are willing to sacrifice short-term gains to invest in the future.
- Many CBNRM businesses are generating profits for communities and other legitimate stakeholders.
- Local actors are gaining more influence over national policy issues as the number of CBNRM activities nears critical mass.

### High-Stakes Issues

The review highlights some major challenges that must be faced for the movement to spread and gain momentum:

- Land tenure issues need resolving. After long decades when central governments controlled natural resources, traditional ownership by the community – including its rights to benefit from a laborious CBNRM process – is often in a legal no-man's-land.
- Promoters of CBNRM need to do a better job calculating and publicizing the monetary value ("price tag") of communal resources like fisheries, forests and rangelands. People tend not to wake up to a resource's true value until it's been eaten away by overexploitation.
- It's critical to develop people's business skills, including skills like negotiation that they can also use in governance.
- Successful CBNRM needs buy-in at many levels and commitment of resources over a long time – a decade or more. (Example: the LIFE project in Namibia – see left sidebar.) One challenge is to marry the inevitable short-term projects with the needed long-term overall effort.

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# HOPE

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The stakes are high. Startlingly, a simple Excel analysis highlighted in the report shows that the efficiency of natural resource use has to rise 100% over a few years – and persist in the long term – just to maintain a given level of per capita income.

New analytic tools such as NetWeaver (see right sidebar) can “democratize” the assessment of local situations. The more stakeholders get involved in seeing what’s going on, the better the chances of preserving local resources for their children and grandchildren.

To access this report, go to [www.frameweb.org](http://www.frameweb.org) and click on Technical Information, CBNRM, CBNRM Synthesis, or contact Henri Josserand ([hjosserand@ardinc.com](mailto:hjosserand@ardinc.com)). To learn more about the NRM Tracker database, see [www.nrmtracker.org](http://www.nrmtracker.org) or contact Mike McGahuey at [mmcgahuey@usaid.gov](mailto:mmcgahuey@usaid.gov). For a full copy of the database, fill out the online form at the Tracker site.

## NETWEAVER

NetWeaver© is an interactive computerized management tool for people who must make decisions about environmental programs. It opens up new ways to put a number on relationships (such as causes and effects) and degrees of truth, even when data are problematic or highly complex.

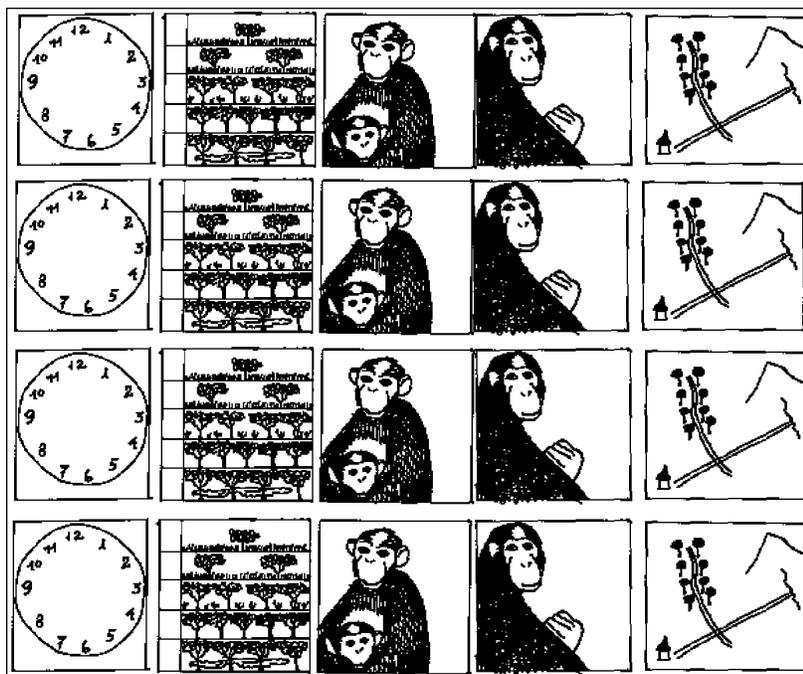
### USAID staff and partners can use NetWeaver to:

- quickly fine-tune activities in the field
- adjust management decisions
- change resource allocations at any level
- terminate unproductive lines of work

NetWeaver has been successfully used both regionally and to help assess mission programs in Zambia and Madagascar. For more information, contact Paul Bartel at:

[pbartel@usaid.gov](mailto:pbartel@usaid.gov)

### CHIMPANZEE MONITORING SHEET



Natural resource management works to find a balance of rights and responsibilities between the state and the local population surrounding the resource. For example, as part of the USAID/Guinea National Forest Management Activity, subsistence hunter-farmers monitor the activities of a threatened species of chimpanzees, recording their observations on these simple pictorial sheets. Along with their pay, the hunters gain an awareness of the forest as a resource both to use and to preserve for their children and grandchildren.

## U.S. GIS EXPERTS FOCUS ON AFRICA IN COUNTDOWN TO RIO + 10 SUMMIT

Geographic information systems (GIS) experts from U.S. government agencies have launched special projects involving four areas of Africa where USAID missions and SD programs have been strongly involved. This effort will help the development community gear up for the “Rio + 10” global summit planned for Johannesburg, South Africa, next year. USAID is among the seven agencies spearheading the work.

Scheduled for August 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) will be the first such meeting in 10 years. Africa was chosen as the site of the WSSD’s four GIS projects not only because it’s the host continent, but because its rising population and unique ecosystems are threatened by multiple, diverse crises.

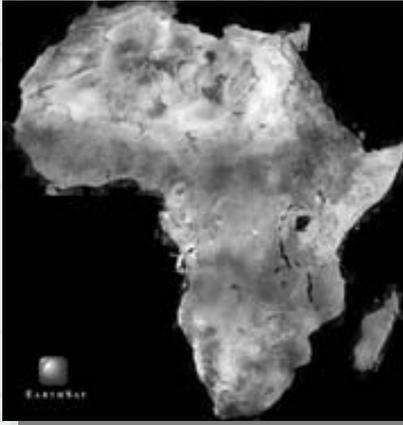
### Model Projects Target Varied Water Problems

These projects will focus on the theme of water. Water management problems wear many faces – floods, drought, pollution – and are becoming increasingly acute, in Africa and worldwide. The projects highlight both predicaments and solutions:

- In the desertification-threatened Upper Niger River basin, successful projects, many supported by USAID, have helped not only to improve livelihoods but also to stem soil degradation (*see article, p. 7*). Case studies in Mali and Burkina Faso will examine trends permitting higher farm production, healthier land cover and, potentially, better disaster preparedness.
- Flowing through several nations, Southern Africa’s Limpopo River system has seen devastating floods over the past two years. The project may highlight both community-based and transboundary natural resources management (NRM) approaches, along with work in disease and conflict prevention.
- In the Tanzania-Kenya coastal zone, rapid development and poor land-use practices endanger economic growth and vital coral reefs and fish-breeding grounds. Two projects in this area will focus on capacity-building: Tanzania’s ongoing integrated coastal management activity and a “ridge to reef” project in Kenya. The latter project will work with high-resolution datasets from the Mount Kilimanjaro region to address issues affecting the Tsavo River watershed (*see sidebar, p. 7*).
- Lake Victoria and other bodies of water in Africa’s highly biodiverse Great Lakes region are battered by invasive species (e.g., water hyacinth) and other contamination, especially from hillside erosion. The situation threatens at least half a dozen countries with disease, economic damage and land use/ethnic conflicts. For the WSSD, current USAID programs offer testbeds for capacity.

In particular, USAID will highlight the usefulness of GIS to ongoing sustainable development programs in Africa. For each area, key organizations and existing partners have already been pinpointed that are

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Landsat™ mosaic courtesy EarthSat Corp.

established locally, have solid track records with international and local African scientists and decision-makers, and are willing and able to work with new earth-observation data sets and tools. They're also willing to expand their use of these tools to inspire others in the region to adopt them. For more information on these projects, contact Paul Bartel at [pbartel@usaid.gov](mailto:pbartel@usaid.gov).

## SATELLITE SCANS SHOW PROJECTS COMBAT LAND DEGRADATION

Workers in African development are discovering that satellite data can now help them answer the perennial question: is all this work making a difference? Last year, ANRE's environment team engaged the U.S. Geological Survey to compare newly released satellite data from the 1960s with more recent Landsat data. The aim: to detect land-cover changes induced by USAID/Mali's multisector development program in the Upper Niger River Valley.

While the mission and partners have produced reliable reports on social and economic improvements, tracking biophysical changes was trickier. "We knew that farmers were investing in more productive, more environmentally sound practices," noted Mike McGahuey, ANRE's advisor for sustainable agriculture and NRM. "But we couldn't say, except anecdotally, that degradation rates were going down. Now, using the high-resolution Corona data, we've been able to push our baseline back to the 1960s and show that for communities in the project zone, the area in natural vegetation has stabilized over the last 10 years, even as the population and production levels have increased."

Mike has been working with the mission since 1987 to track results of its investments in the Upper Valley Zone. He says that there are now plans to extend the use of Corona and Landsat data to broaden the sample of communities. Besides getting more reliable data about project communities, the team wants to study differences in ground-cover quality between communities inside and outside the project area. Reinforced by aerial photos and ground truthing, the satellite images showing land-cover improvements can be used in discussions with Malian decision-makers. The goal is to help extend the policies that have supported the changes. Especially important are economic liberalization and grassroots training, both highly useful to farmers and farmer organizations. To learn more, contact Mike at [mmcgahuey@usaid.gov](mailto:mmcgahuey@usaid.gov).



Evidence of a dramatic difference: the farmer on the right is standing on the original land surface abutting a field in Mali. The one on the left is standing on the good-quality topsoil of the field itself, created over a decade of soil conservation measures.

## BUTTERFLIES, BEES AND TOURISTS ARE AMONG MONEymAKERS FOR KENYA-COAST CBNRM PROJECT

photo credit: the Kipepeo Project



On Kenya's Indian Ocean frontier, USAID and partners are using an innovative, multifaceted

"ridge to reef" approach to combat environmental degradation of the coastal watershed, which affects ecosystems ranging from highland forests to coral reefs and mangrove swamps. This work is an example of the kinds of projects to be examined in the WSSD GIS-based study of Tanzania-Kenya coastal zone programs (see story p. 6).

Ongoing projects in the Malindi area of Kenya emphasize community income generation from ecotourism, beekeeping, harvesting butterfly pupae for hobbyists, and forest/marine park management. These sustainable resource uses help to stem damage from rapid development in the Tsavo River watershed area. Community income from the butterfly project, which was funded by SD's Biodiversity Support Program, has grown more than tenfold since 1994.

## NET GAINS: AFRICALINK HELPS RESEARCH NETWORKS CONNECT

In Africa, it has often been difficult to get news about research projects and findings across national boundaries because of underfunded libraries, slow and expensive postal systems, and poor telecommunications. The Internet, however, offers African scientists and policy-makers new opportunities to exchange ideas and data efficiently. Through the AfricaLink activity, AFR/SD helps regional research networks in agriculture and the environment connect via Internet technology.

AfricaLink facilitates sustainable Net access through local Internet service providers (ISPs), typically in the private sector. It also finds local African consultants to furnish technical support and training wherever possible, to promote accessible, sustainable tech support relationships. Finally, it guides local providers of Web design and hosting in working out effective information management strategies.

### As a result of AfricaLink's work:

- New Internet connections allow researchers to both communicate with partners and tap the wealth of resources on the Internet.
- New Web pages and Web sites allow additional exchange of research information.
- Electronic conferencing tools allow remote collaboration. Using the Net, several far-flung groups of researchers can now work simultaneously on experiments.

### Recent Projects

In 2000, AfricaLink worked with 11 African research networks on improving their Web sites and connectivity to the world. In Uganda, a wireless Internet connection was pioneered for the national agricultural research organization (NARO) in rural Namulonge.

This past year AfricaLink has worked with wildlife units in several Southern African countries on connectivity, transboundary natural resource management (NRM), and using the Net to find environmental/NRM information. In October, with its implementing partner ASARECA (Association for Strengthening Agricultural and Environmental Research Networks) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, AfricaLink hosted a workshop to help African NAROs with creating Web sites and connecting to their partners.

AfricaLink is building capacity in Southern African regional organizations working on trade issues such as transportation and telecommunications, as well as in the Sustainable Tree Crops Program network linking West and East African countries. Several country missions have also received technical support in the last two years, including those in South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda.

For more information, contact Chris Light at [clight@ afr-sd.org](mailto:clight@ afr-sd.org). General infrastructure development is addressed by other USAID programs, especially SD's Leland Initiative. For Leland information, contact Lane Smith at [lsmith@ usaid.gov](mailto:lsmith@ usaid.gov) or visit the Web site: <http://www.usaid.gov/leland/>

photo credit: FAO photo/A. Conni



AfricaLink helps African research networks in agriculture and the environment use the Internet to trade ideas and data.

# AGRICULTURE: BRIDGING THE INPUTS GAP

## The Supply Systems Quandary

**A**cross Africa, the supply systems for farm inputs are in trouble. As part of liberalization, many countries have dismantled inefficient government systems. But the private sector has been slow to take over, leaving small farmers with little access to desperately needed fertilizer, improved seeds and crop protection chemicals. “Band-aid” development programs have ensured inputs temporarily without building a sustainable supply system.

Three years ago, several experts on African agriculture addressed this dilemma. With financing from AFR/SD, a multidisciplinary team led by the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) reviewed the literature, surveyed about 400 individuals in 30 countries, assessed unpublished efforts, and examined accounts of “best practices” in Africa. What emerged was a framework of basic guidance that can be adapted to individual countries.

## Progress in Malawi and Bangladesh

During the past year, this framework has been used by missions in Malawi and Nigeria to develop action plans. In Malawi, for example, it supported a complete review of the existing system and the creation of a carefully thought-out multiyear plan to scale up input supply and use. All stakeholders took part in forming the plan, which recommends concurrent attention in six areas. Besides the supply system itself, these include policy reform capacity, the regulatory system, market transparency, donor programs and regional trade barriers.

In other countries, experience with the framework suggests that results may be dramatic. In Bangladesh, for instance, IFDC guided reforms in the fertilizer supply system, contributing to better services for farmers, major savings for the government (by ending subsidies), and a rise in fertilizer use that helped Bangladesh become self-sufficient in rice.

Other countries in Africa are following Malawi’s example. Nigeria has already completed its plan and is ready to implement; Ghana’s planning is underway. Uganda has also expressed interest in the framework, which was validated during a meeting of African stakeholders last year. For more information, contact George Gardner at [ggardner@usaid.gov](mailto:ggardner@usaid.gov).



photo credit: USAID

Good inputs are needed for farmers to raise production by farming intensively, rather than extending their fields onto new, often marginal terrain.

## (NEW ANRE PUBLICATIONS ON THE WEB)

The AFR/SD agriculture team has recently added several useful publications in PDF form to the Web. They include:

■ **Agricultural Biotechnology: A Review of Contemporary Issues**

(A. Johanson and C. Ives)  
<http://www.afr-sd.org/Agriculture/AgBiotechIssues.pdf>

■ **An Inventory of Agricultural Biotechnology for the Eastern and Central Africa Region**

(A. Johanson and C. Ives)  
<http://www.afr-sd.org/Agriculture/AgBiotechEcafrica.pdf>

■ **Proceedings of the Investment Opportunities Workshop for U.S. and African Manufacturers and Traders in Wood/Wood Products: The Case of Ghana**

(E. Acquah and C. Whyte)  
<http://www.afr-sd.org/publications/113ghana.pdf>

Also useful is this addition to the main AFR/SD publications page:

■ **Private Foundations and Corporate Grantmakers in Africa**  
(the Africa Bureau Information Center and AFR/SD)  
<http://www.afr-sd.org/Publications/privatefoundationsgrantmakers.pdf>

To get these or other SD publications as hard copy, contact:

Publications Specialist  
The Mitchell Group  
1325 G Street, NW , #400  
Washington, DC 20005  
e-mail [pubs@afr-sd](mailto:pubs@afr-sd)

# Pesticide Information Resources

Much pesticide information is available, both online and otherwise, and one great site for investigating the spectrum of resources is the Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Pesticide Management Resource Guide ([www.epa.gov/oppfead1/pmreg](http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/pmreg))

A unique and invaluable CD-ROM and Web-based resource that no agricultural program manager should be without is the CABI Crop Protection Compendium (CPC), a global compilation of recommendations about pest management options that also contains detailed information about pesticide characteristics – available for \$100 from CABI ([www.cabi.org](http://www.cabi.org)).

Finally, the first place to go to find pesticide registration status and characteristics is the Pesticide Action Network's Pesticide Database ([www.pesticideinfo.org](http://www.pesticideinfo.org)), a free Web site that combines and interprets information from USEPA and many other sources.

## PESTICIDES AND USAID AFRICA PROGRAMS: MANAGING THE RISKS

Pesticides can be a risky resource – in fact, some estimates claim that 25 million acute pesticide poisonings occur worldwide every year, most in developing countries. Yet improving food supply and reducing disease in Africa are such important goals that pesticides need to remain among USAID's available tools.

**Risk Reduction Principles** Using pesticides means accepting some degree of risk, but risks should be reduced as much as possible. USAID's policy is to use pesticides only within the framework of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program, defined as "a sustainable approach...combining biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health and environmental risks."

Careful environmental review of pesticide programs before they begin allows program managers to maximize pesticides' benefits while keeping hazards to the lowest possible level. The Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) looks for reviews to show that USAID programs are taking these three measures:

1. Avoid use of pesticides except when benefits are clear and outweigh the risks.
2. Reduce the toxicity of the products used.
3. Reduce exposures, for users and the environment, as much as possible.

**Recent Reviews** Environmental reviews come in a variety of formats. Recently, for example, an ambitious assessment by Investments in Developing Export Agriculture (IDEA), a project supported by USAID/Uganda, analyzed 42 pesticides chosen from a list of 200 possibilities. Two teams examined the pesticides for hazards, alternatives, non-chemical methods of control, availability of the pesticides and alternatives, and registration status in Uganda and USEPA. The resulting tool should help all of USAID/ Uganda's rural enterprise program partners choose effective yet relatively low-risk products.

AFR/SD recently completed a draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) on the use of insecticide-treated bednets (ITNs) in USAID Africa programs. This PEA helps to resolve long-standing concerns that the hazards be carefully analyzed before USAID launches into large-scale support of ITNs. The PEA identified a set of best practices that country programs should follow to reduce risks from this life-saving technology.

Also recently available is an update and supplement to the 1989 PEA for locust and grasshopper (l/g) control in Africa and Asia. It was completed by AFR/SD's Africa Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Assistance (AELGA) Project, together with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The revision reflects the current best and

photo credit: Walter Krausenberger



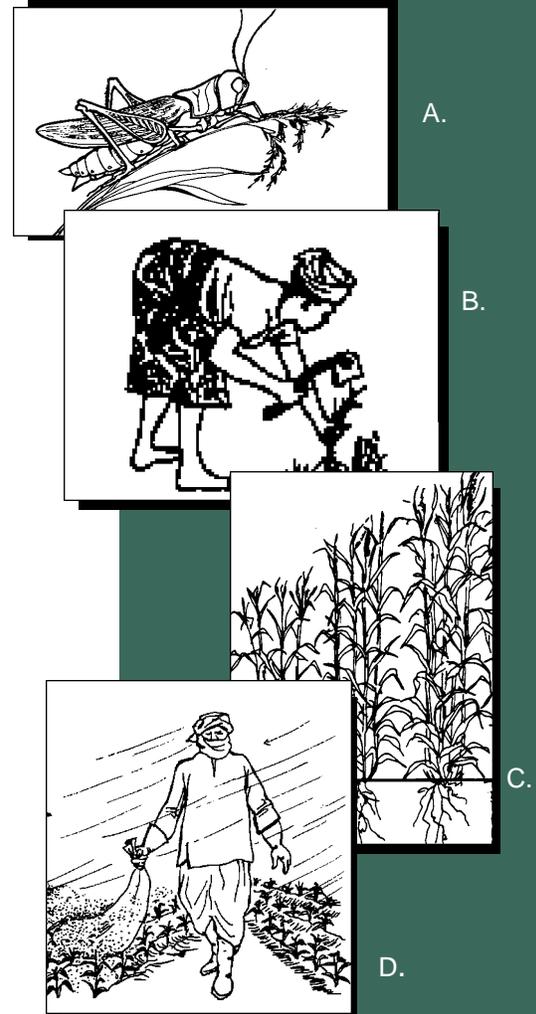
Eribean participants in AFR/SD's environmental assessment course work on a water use case study.

## COOL NEW LINKS ON THE AFR/SD WEB SITE

**E**nvironmental Assessment Capacity-Building (ENCAP) Web site ([www.afr-sd.org/encap/](http://www.afr-sd.org/encap/)): ENCAP, a joint program of AFR/SD and REDSO/ESA, launched its new site last summer to archive knowledge, aid future training and improve environmental reviews in the region. It houses:

- The *Environmental Guidelines for Small-Scale Activities in Africa* and other environmental guidelines
- Complete materials for the five-day ENCAP courses
- AFR environmental examinations from 1996 on in a searchable archive
- A list of courses conducted and planned
- A database of participants trained
- Extensive references to materials by USAID and others on environmentally sound program design

**Crop Protection Clip Art collection** ([www.afr-sd.org/publications/cpclipart/](http://www.afr-sd.org/publications/cpclipart/)): First assembled in hard-copy form in 1990, several hundred black-and-white images depict insects, people spraying fields, farm equipment, etc. Some are Sahel-specific and some more generic. Each image can be easily cut and pasted into Word documents, making this collection useful for ag-related presentations and training materials.



## PESTICIDES continued from page 9

safest practices for l/g control, and a supplement includes analysis and guidance for two other emergency transboundary pests – armyworms and rodents.

Several country programs lately prepared a Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) for their pesticide programs. This document is designed to thoroughly, but concisely, meet the Agency's environmental review requirements for pesticides. PERSUAPs were prepared this year for agricultural programs in Kenya and Zambia, ITN programs in Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Rwanda, and integrated vector management programs in Mozambique.

**Getting Help** Guidance on conducting environmental reviews, and examples of PERSUAPs and other environmental assessments, are available from Carl Gallegos, BEO ([cgallegos@usaid.gov](mailto:cgallegos@usaid.gov)), Brian Hirsch, Environmental Advisor ([bhirsch@af-r-sd.org](mailto:bhirsch@af-r-sd.org)) and Walter Knausenberger, Regional Environmental Officer for East and Southern Africa ([wknausenberger@usaid.gov](mailto:wknausenberger@usaid.gov)). See also the BEO Actions Tracker ([www.afr-sd.org/iee/](http://www.afr-sd.org/iee/)), a Web-based archive of environmental reviews in Africa.

These are samples from the extensive clip art collection now available on the AFR/SD Web Site (see story, above left):

- A. a grasshopper feeding
- B. a farmer weeding her crop
- C. stages of m illet growth
- D. a farmer applying pesticide

## ENVIRONMENT TEAM LEADS MULTI-SECTOR RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a wide-ranging crisis requiring action from all sectors and professions. To help address it, AFR/SD natural resources management (NRM) staff have been active in the Africa Bureau's multi-sector task force planning an integrated response to HIV/AIDS in Africa.

More recently, ANRE has spearheaded a multi-sector HIV/AIDS and NRM Working Group. This group combines AFR/SD researchers with experts from several NGOs (e.g., Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group) and private-sector groups (e.g., DAI, IRG). Jon Anderson of the ANRE environmental team is the group's interim head, assisted by Nithya Mani of AFR/SD's HIV/AIDS team.

The group aims to blunt HIV/AIDS' impact on Africa's environment using a two-pronged approach:

- Integrate HIV/AIDS concerns into the USAID environmental impact assessment process (Regulation 216); and
- Use multidisciplinary activities in community-based natural resources management (CBNRM) as a way to aid people affected by HIV/AIDS—for example, by helping them get better access to food, water, fuelwood, and land tenure.

The NRM team is already helping USAID missions integrate the HIV/AIDS effort into their strategic plans, NRM activities and performance monitoring plans. For example, HIV/AIDS concerns were integrated into the Kenya mission's strategic plan last spring. ANRE has also developed HIV/AIDS/NRM indicators, briefs and toolkits for USAID's NRM and health field staff.

In addition, ANRE has engaged a geographer to enter HIV/AIDS data into an existing NRM geographical information system. This will reveal where successful CBNRM activities overlap with HIV/AIDS-vulnerable populations so planners can target interventions to those areas. ANRE will also assist CBNRM field staff in finding ways to help women cope with loss of their husbands (e.g., via technical assistance in land tenure or agriculture).

For further information about this group, please contact Nithya Mani at [nmani@ afr-sd.gov](mailto:nmani@ afr-sd.gov). To learn more about the HIV/AIDS multisector task force, contact Ishrat Husain at [ihusain@ afr-sd.org](mailto:ihusain@ afr-sd.org).



One goal of ANRE's HIV/AIDS activity is to help see that vulnerable populations still have access to natural resources, including land, fuelwood and water.

### Some proposed indicators for HIV/AIDS and the environment:

- HIV/AIDS-vulnerable populations have access to critical resources (e.g., water, fuelwood, food) as well as technical assistance to sustain income.
- Women and children living in HIV/AIDS-vulnerable areas have access to land and tree tenure.
- Institutions have access to information/education on HIV/AIDS.
- Biological diversity is maintained in areas (protected and non-protected) with HIV/AIDS populations.
- Reg. 16 evaluations integrate HIV/AIDS issues and opportunities into environmental mitigation.