



First Semi Annual Report

Reporting Period - June 1999 – February 2000

Foodnet is an ASARECA Network funded by USAID

Foodnet Semi-Annual Report Year 1, Timeframe - June 1999 – February 2000.

This document is an overview of the development and progress of the FOODNET project since its inception. This includes the design phase 1997-99, the first bridging year of 1998 – 1999 and the first six months of activities since the project was officially approved and funded by USAID – REDSO in June 1999.

Development of the project

The Foodnet project was started in 1997, with discussions between the executive secretary of ASARECA, IITA, CIP and CIAT. The proposal started as a food security project, which combined postharvest and on-farm participatory research. This concept rapidly changed as greater emphasis was placed on developing a programme to support the postharvest aspects of the root crop networks in Eastern Africa, namely EARRNET and PRAPACE.

In 1998, after the first ASARECA / USAID strategy meeting, held in Entebbe February 1998, ASARECA made the request that FOODNET broadened its commodity horizons to include all the major food crops and revise the proposal into a regional postharvest network.

In June 1998, ASARECA assisted the development of the network proposal by supporting a regional team of scientists to meet in Entebbe, to develop the proposal. At this meeting the guiding principles of FOODNET were developed with a focus on market research and postharvest processing. The Network was reduced to working on two themes, (i) market analysis and (ii) enterprise development. At this time, IITA was also provided with bridging funds from USAID-REDSO to assist in the regional development of the programme.

In 1998, IITA was also awarded a grant, from the IDRC's small grants initiative, and these funds were used in conjunction with the bridging funds to start the work on market analysis. The IDRC funds were received to conduct a survey on the market opportunities for cassava flour and starch in Uganda. This work was completed in May 1999. In 1998, IITA also developed a pilot scheme for collecting market information for cassava in Uganda and this was submitted to USAID / ACDI Uganda.

In February 1999, the FOODNET proposal was presented to and accepted by the European Union within the A category. Full funding was anticipated to be available by the end of 1999. However, USAID-REDSO, made a decision to fund FOODNET alongside their commodity networks in June 1999. Although contracts were signed in June, the funding came on stream in September 1999 and hence this report represents the activities from September 1999 – until February 2000.

In September 1999, the establishment of FOODNET was enhanced with two buy-in projects including the ACDI funded, Market Information Service in Uganda and a smaller CTA project which aimed to design a service to provide market information to farmers and smaller traders.

Progress in the Foodnet project is provided in **Tables 1, 2 and 3**. **Table 1** provides the highlights in the past 6 months, such as the first steering committee meeting, the marketing training course, the development of the Ugandan marketing service and the Website. The information in **Tables 2 and 3** provide details on the plan of action laid out in the FOODNET proposal chronogram and logframe against the actual activities.

Table 1. Highlights of progress of activities within Foodnet during first 6 month period

Activity	Dates	Donor	Partners	Action	Location of outputs
Bridging funds to IITA coordination unit	1998	USAID	IITA	Bridging funds received, REDSO	Enabled the design from a project into a network
Market opportunities survey for cassava flour and starch in Uganda	May 1998 – May 1999	USAID / IDRC small grants initiative	NARO, CIP, Matilong, VNCP, Uni NBO	Project completed, report available	Foodnet office, two reports available 1. Short version for donor and 2. Detailed version
Full funding of the project	June, 1999	USAID	IITA / ASARECA	REDSO proposed to fund FOODNET project alongside existing projects, start date June 1999.	
IITA-FOODNET becomes member of PhAction / inter-centre postharvest working group	June 1999	IITA	FAO, CIRAD, NRI, ACIAR, GTZ, CIAT, CIP, IRRI, IITA	New global postharvest forum established which aims to promote postharvest research from a number of research organisations	Forum established in June 1999
Linkages with InPh0	June 1999	IITA - FAO		FOODNET will serve as a regional node for INPHO and will seek to disseminate information to regional partners	INPHO is the FAO, website for postharvest technology. See www.fao.org/inpho
Marketing study for cassava in Uganda	Start Sept 99 End April 00	USAID, DFID, NRI, NARO	NARO, NRInternational, NRI, EARRNET	Project survey work completed, report in draft form to be completed in March 2000	Project complete, report in draft form, to be put on website in April
Marketing information service in Uganda	Start Sept 99	USAID via ACDI Kampala	FEWS, NARO, ADC, Min Fin, Min of Industry Trade & Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ MIS project funded for 2.5 years. Aim to establish a national price information system to collect daily and weekly prices. ◆ Data collection is ongoing made available to policy groups and traders or farmers via Radio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ All price data now on the Foodnet website. Information is also broadcast on national and local radio stations on a daily and weekly basis. Summary data for Kampala reported in the East African Newspaper.

Activity	Dates	Donor	Partners	Action	Location of outputs
Development of a Marketing Information Service (MIS) for producers and traders in Uganda	Start Oct 99	CTA, USAID	CMIS, FEWS, ADC, Radio Uganda, Min Fin, IFCD, World Food Programme, DANIDA, National Farmers	Project to disseminate market information to target groups of farmers and traders has been designed and proposal will be submitted to CTA in April 00	Two reports on Marketing information for farmers and traders on the FOODNET website 1. Preliminary study 2. Project design document
Supply of root crops processing equipment	From Sept 99	IITA / CIP	EARRNET, PRAPACE, SARRNET	Equipment being sold in Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Angola and Malawi. New orders for Zimbabwe and Swaziland	Equipment is place with NARS, NGOs and farmers groups
Crop quality analysis for cassava	Ongoing	USAID / IITA	EARRNET	Ongoing activity in collaboration with EARRNET regional trials	Serere and Namulonge stations, Uganda
Postharvest Newsletter	October 1999	IITA / GTZ	PhAction members	First PhAction newsletter published	See FOODNET website
FOODNET Marketing course	22-27 Nov 1999	IARCs Networks	Resources people from CIAT, CIP.	Held at ICRAF, Nariobi	Participants from Foodnet, ECABREN, EARRNET, SARRNET,
FOODNET Website	1-5 Dec	Africa-link / IITA	IITA / FAO	Designed and developed website	Foodnet website online from Dec 10 th 1999. www.cgiar.org/foodnet
Evaluation and improvement of processing equipment	Nov 18 – Dec 20	FOODNET, FAO, USAID/ACDI	IITA / FAO	Evaluation and improvement of the most promising cassava processing technologies. Also, engineering work from IITA-Nigeria, will be combined with IITA-Uganda and placed onto the FOODNET website.	Report being compiled by FAO, this information will be available on the website when completed. This will include 2 reports. 1.Improving the cassava processing equipment. Website brochure of equip, providing data on performance, cost and purpose.
Establishment of Monitoring framework	Feb – March 00	USAID	USAID-Africa Bureaux	To be done in March	Information available through USAID

Table 2. Progress of Foodnet activities against the FOODNET chronograph.

Activity	Dates	Progress	Reportage
Establish co-ordination office	Sept 1999	Established offices in the IITA-ESARC Kampala office. 7 Bandali Rise, Kampala, Uganda. P.O. Box 7878.	Tel 000256-41-220217 Mobile 77-221163 Fax 000256-41-223459 Foodnet@imul.com sferris@imul.com
Planning for and holding of first stakeholders / interim steering committee meeting	Nov 8-10, 99	Meeting held in ILRI campus, attended by 33 people, from 7 Networks, Universities, NGOs and International Centres.	The meeting was a broadened version of the steering committee. Details of this meeting are available in the FOODNET interim steering committee meeting.
Construct website for information system	Nov 99	Consultant hired for one week to assist in setting up the website, this activity was funded by Africa-link	On – line www.cgiar.org/foodnet
Call for project proposals	Dec 99	The announcement for the proposals was made in December via email, letter, newspapers and on the Foodnet website	Full details of the grants guidelines available on the website. Proposals to be received by 20 March.
Website maintenance	Ongoing	Website maintained by staff at Foodnet office Website now has 4 main areas:- 1. About the project 2. Market analysis 3. Enterprise development 4. Information and training	Change from monthly update to daily. Most emphasis at present is on market price information. Future information will broaden to processing equipment, reports, recipes, products
Set-up Market information system	Oct 99	MIS established in two phases. 1. Policy level MIS 2. Traders and farmers levels	Phase 1 funded and ongoing. This aspect of the project is aiming to go regional as partners develop linkages. Phase 2. has been designed and a proposal will be submitted to CTA in April 2000.
Newsletter publications	Oct 99	First newsletter published under PhAction banner.	Done, published, mailed and online
Regional enterprise meeting		Dependent upon grants	Not done, enterprise development training planned for Oct 00
Set up Market analysis projects		Projects on cassava and cassava starch have been completed in Uganda. Now in process of negotiating with other networks to set up further market studies.	Related to Competitive grants
In-country meetings with enterprise groups		Enterprise activities will be dependent upon approved grants	Not done
In-country training with enterprise groups		Enterprise activities will be dependent upon approved grants	Delayed until October 2000
Set up Enterprise projects		Enterprise activities will be dependent upon approved grants	Related to Competitive grants
Link Foodnet with Global postharvest forum		Meeting in May 99, developed the new global forum which will be represented by IITA through FOODNET.	Done

Activity	Dates	Progress	Reportage
Assess needs of other networks / linkage	Ongoing		Ongoing activity. Plans for co-ordinators meeting
Document project progress at 6 months			This report
Regional training course	22-27 Nov 99	<p>Marketing training course attended by 25 people sponsored by EARRNET, SARRNET, ECABREN, FOODNET, BARNESA, A-NET, ECAMAW and AFRENA</p> <p>Plan for regional training in</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. fabrication of processing equipment 2. Enterprise development 	Burundi (2), Cameroon (1), DRC (1), Ethiopia (1) Kenya (5) Madagascar (1) Malawi (2) Rwanda (1) Sudan (1) Tanzania (5) Uganda (5)
Investigate donor links	Ongoing	Support funding from DFID, CTA, ACIDI, Africa-Link.	All reports from these sub-projects are available on the website.

Table 3***Details of Progress against the plan of operation as presented in the FOODNET proposal*****FOODNET - Activities in Year 1 against milestones, time targets**

Activity	Milestone	Completion date	Action / Outcome	Achievements	Outputs
Set up of co-ordination office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office functional FOODNET proposal available with TORs 	June – August 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rent office and establish workplace Hire staff & order office facilities Install communications Set SC / Co-ordinators TOR Invite stakeholders to regional meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done Support staff not hired as yet, facilities including communications in place Dates set Meeting held 22-27 Nov, 1999 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make arrangements with IITA accounts Sign contracts 1st SC meeting held
Regional stakeholders meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FOODNET proposal reviewed by regional Stakeholders for discussion and endorsement. Steering committee approved at Stakeholders meeting 	January 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FOODNET reviewed by regional stakeholders Feed back from the various partners on proposed activities and areas for collaboration Review and list existing / ongoing activities among partners Prioritise activities on a commodity and regional basis Gather information on baseline data, particularly market information Identify areas where survey information is required Identify areas where training is needed Identify key technologies that are “ready to go” and those which are at test phase Initiate dialogue with local private sector agents Establishment of steering committee Hold first short steering committee meeting Elect a chairman Delegate responsibilities for 2 month action plan Call for project proposals to be reviewed at SC meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish office Write up report from stakeholders meeting for circulation amongst partners, donors and network co-ordinators Catalogue partners Catalogue on-going postharvest activities Establish a draft action plan highlighting areas of comparative advantage and project areas for first year funding Highlight strengths and weaknesses in the regional plan and action points for discussion at the SC meeting Confirm regional support for priority areas of intervention Set up structures for private sector linkages Develop draft calendar for annual events Devise the plan for open tender for project proposals to be discussed at the first steering committee meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done In Progress, waiting for key note speeches Directory on website Not done Subject to proposals In SC report At second SC Not done On website Done grants guidelines on website

Details of Progress against the plan of operation as presented in the FOODNET proposal

FOODNET - Activities in Year 1 against milestones, time targets

Activity	Milestone	Completion date	Action / Outcome	Follow-up
Develop website capacity to initiate the information systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website constructed and linked with partners 	February 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract IITA webmaster to construct website with hotlinks to partners Set up email listservers In-house website training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Negotiating with Chris Light
Establish a catalogue of events and calendar from and for all partners Link FOODNET with other Network steering committee meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver 1st year calendar to partners 	February 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners updated with events Feed back on Changes made and redistributed Confirm activity list is accurate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All these types of information will be available via the website.
Set-up marketing information section of website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update price / market information 	March 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collate price data in collaboration with regional partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listing of prices and market news made available on website
Finalise plans for steering committee meeting Ensure that partners have details for preparation of project outlines for presentation and evaluation at steering committee meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protocols for steering committee developed Projects prepared with partners 	March 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final preparations for steering committee meeting complete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All partners informed of their SC input Details in SC report
Outline marketing methods and demand studies and linkages with partners for information gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish marketing protocols 	March 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss plan with partners Draft marketing plan prepared for discussion at SC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linkage made with partners Linkage made with ECAPAPA Linkages made with Agribusiness centres / private sector partners
Set up partners database with biodata on activities and progress Set up market information system initiated Continued analysis of available data for market information for priority crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate at lease two databases in 1st year 	March 1999 – ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collate information and set up framework for partner information Linkages established with market information services System discussed with partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment and maintenance Set up protocols with FEWS Set up protocols with Mins of stats Link data with FAO WAICENT

Details of Progress against the plan of operation as presented in the FOODNET proposal

FOODNET - Activities in Year 1 against milestones, time targets

Activity	Milestone	Completion date	Action / Outcome	Follow-up
Hold first steering committee meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering committee functional in first quarter of project establishment 	Nov 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out agenda Discuss and approve minutes from Stakeholders meeting Present progress report from the co-ordination office Discuss outstanding issues and agree on TOR for SC and Co-ordinator Present and review project proposals Collate all activities within a strategic logframe for FOODNET Discuss priority areas for funding and projects that will be funded in 1st year Design market survey programme Design training programme Confirm technical reporting schedule Arrange protocols for grants, payments and financial controls Outline visits during year Programme linkages with other Networks Make arrangements for funding to partners Collect partner details for database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders meeting reported First year activities in place within a logical framework of activities Done, this report Inform partners regarding financial and technical reporting protocols Proposals received 20 March 2000 Not done, shift to results framework Funding of projects to be done / verified with related Network co-ordinators Initiating a market survey plan with other networks To be done at second SC To be done at second SC In progress Ongoing Directory complete to date and on website
Produce first Newsletter in 1999 Update website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 1 Newsletter produced every 4 months 	Oct 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Newsletter published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First newsletter done, second in preparation.