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FROM: AFR/Wisney

SUBJECT: Sahel Water Data and Management and
GIBS Flood Crop Protection Program

REFERENCE:

1. In the attached pages is an unofficial translation of a Memorandum of Understanding reached by the technical directors of the Sahel Water Data and Management project (628-0017) and the GIBS Integrated Flood Crop Protection program, which consists of a group of projects funded by various donors including USAID. The memorandum between representatives of the two programs is the first step in assuring effective linkages between the two programs. USAID is interested in developing similar linkages with other regional projects and over the last several months has pursued this objective. GIBS supports this initiative and hopes to study the development of such linkages in the current evaluation of Sahel Water Management project.
2. The Sahel Water Data project has as primary objective the timely and accurate collection and analysis of meteorological and surface water data. The Flood Crop Protection program is designed to establish an integrated pest management capability for the protection of crops in the GIBS area, the same geographical entity served by the Sahel Water Data project. Personnel at the Wisney meeting discussed that methodologies for both projects must be carefully developed, tested, and coordinated.

Attachment: Memorandum of Understanding

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:

1. General Considerations on integrated crop pest control within the context of food crop protection in the Sahelo-Sudanic region of West Africa

Combating crop pests requires the harmonious integration of all means of food crop protection in order to preserve a natural balance without seriously disturbing the environment. Crop protection does not call for the total elimination of crop pests but rather of keeping these pests below an injurious threshold.

Crop protection technologies to be utilized include the following:

- a. Development, multiplication and/or maintenance of natural predators of crop pests. In certain cases, biological control may be possible: for example, the use of date palm cochineal in Mauritania.
- b. Research of well-adapted farming methods and practices (for example, tillage practices, crop rotation, respecting certain planting dates, etc.).
- c. The rational use of various pesticides (insecticides, fungicides, etc.).

The attainment of the project goal requires the fulfilling of several intermediate steps such as:

- a. A series of studies providing a complete inventory of crop pests and their natural predators and then, an evaluation of the damage caused by each of such pests.
- b. A multi-disciplinary study of the present agricultural/ ecological system and the probable impact on this system of proposed interventions and activities.

To date, the research which has been undertaken, though timely, tends to be fragmented because various projects carry out detailed studies of aspects pertaining to their limited course of action and, unfortunately, do not produce holistic studies. This manner of conducting research wastes considerable financing and effort.

To remedy this situation, it is necessary to have multifaceted, integrated projects. This conceptual approach makes use of sectoral studies by integrating them into a global approach to problems common to all crop pests in one given ecological unit which is often chosen

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because of its relative economic importance. In all cases, the environment and crop pests must be studied simultaneously. Crop specific pests must be studied as well as wide spectrum pests affecting rainfed or irrigated agriculture.

The fact that the desired multi-disciplinary research will be conducted in a single geographical unit (West Africa) will allow a single but detailed environmental study because the physical resources deployed for the research will not be too widely dispersed. The observations and data collected will be shared by the researchers who have participated in defining data requirements.

These integrated research projects, ^{analyzing} ~~analyzing~~ various facets of the problem as well as its totality will investigate plant protection in a larger context related to the various ecological and farming systems as well as in the more limited sense of plant protection research.

In this context, it is evident that meteorological and climatological studies will have an important role in the overall plant protection program.

2. The AGHYMIS project (Nahel Water Data and Management 625-0917)

This regional project, financed and implemented by CILSS, USAID, USAID and UNDP, began in 1975. The project contributes actively to the agricultural development of the Sahel by utilizing hydrological and meteorological information. The three main project components are as follows:

- a. Training: The training of different levels of Sahelian technicians. Senior level technicians and engineers are trained at the project headquarters in Niamey while meteorological observers and agronomists are to be trained in each of the participating Sahelian states.
- b. Information systems: The project is responsible for the collection, analysis and diffusion of climatological and meteorological data. The rapid processing of this information and its transmission to users by telecommunications will greatly assist agriculturalists and researchers from numerous disciplines.

- c. Research: Applied meteorological and climatological research will contribute to a better understanding of the ecology of the entire Sahel.

3. Cooperation between the AGRHY 21 project and the Integrated Food Crop Protection Program

Two components are planned in the research phase of the integrated protection program, namely:

- a. A national component covering each Sahelian country of West Africa, and
- b. A sub-regional component covering each of the three major ecological units: The Senegal River Valley, the River Niger Basin and the Lake Chad Basin.

The program developed for each entity in either of the two component types mentioned above contains the following three subdivisions of activities to be undertaken:

- a. Intensive research on principal crop pests. These studies will be conducted from the principal stations of the observation network and will be determined in such a fashion to have a complete ecological study of the region.
 - b. Research supervision will initially be carried out from observation posts which have been established for the purposes of this research. Every observation post will provide daily weather data and general information concerning crop development and the presence of crop pests. According to the size and importance of the observation post, one or two observers will be assigned to each post. The data collected from these observation posts will be used for two purposes: first by the project researchers in their study programs and secondly, by the plant protection agencies for the surveillance and control of crop pests. The integration of this information should form a forecasting and early warning system.
 - c. Testing and the application of research results will be done using the methods utilized in the agricultural studies.
4. In conclusion, both the AGRHY 21 and the Crop Protection project have a regional impact, both operate in a common geographical area, and both have similar objectives. Therefore it is desirable to develop close cooperation between them. This cooperation should especially

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concern the following aspects of each of the two projects.

- a. Training of observers. Observers will receive on-the-job training in meteorology, climatology, plant protection and agronomy. This training will be effected using expertise assigned to both projects.
- b. Establishing a methodology for use by the observers.
- c. Selection of observation posts of the information network in order to avoid duplication.
- d. Equipping and installation of the observation posts in order to have a standardization of equipment and materials.
- e. Supervision and maintenance of information network.
- f. Participation in collecting and transmitting data from the observation posts to the National and Regional Centers.
- g. The assignment of capable supplemental observers who can ensure the continuity of the observations.
- h. Routine data analysis and developing new analysis when required by the researchers.
- i. Coding and standardization of data.
- j. Distributions of data.

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