

**NATIONAL COUNTERPART ASSOCIATION STATUS REPORT**  
**(APRIL 1992)**

**I. AFRICA**

**1. Botswana**

AER visited Gaborone in December 1991 and initiated meetings with senior government and private sector leaders. Feedback interest in forming on AER/Botswana from private agribusinesses is strong and AER Director Ahmed Diraige is organizing a committee to explore options for establishing a local organization.

Profile: Cattle ranchers, parastatal food marketing, tracking/distribution and wildlife game ranching.

**2. Ethiopia**

Interest in forming local AER was sparked as government nominated several public and private leaders to participate in AER/UGANDA conference last November. Despite funding constraints which ultimately prevented Ethiopian delegates from travelling to Kampala, the "core group" is gathering cohesion.

Profile: General agro-industry, honey processing, animal research.

**3. Gambia**

AER/Gambia was formally inaugurated on June 11, 1990 at a ceremony in Banjul with H.E. Omar A. Jallow, Minister for Agriculture, presiding. The local AER is incorporated under the auspices of the National Investment Board headed by Abdoulie Touray. AER/Gambia has requested technical assistance from AER as further steps are underway to design an independent association. Gambia has been represented at all AER international activities since 1986.

Profile: Fish farming, processing, eco-tourism (program is designed to supplement investment promotion in agriculture).

**4. Ghana**

Ghana participated in recent AER events, expressed official interest in the formation of an AER/Ghana and several donors have expressed interest in assisting if a viable private sector group/organizer emerges.



5. Kenya

AER/Kenya, formally inaugurated in May 1990, has languished as donor-funded studies to consultants have undermined positive program action and member interest. AER/K's leadership is currently in transition.

Profile: High level government officials and agro-industry leaders have teamed up giving the AER/K considerable potential. General membership is fairly limited due to consultant-oriented secretariat which has not attempted to build the organization. Patronage provided by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Permanent Secretary.

6. Nigeria

AER/Nigeria has held a number of organizational meetings since its formation in August 1989 and has participated in AER and ABC conferences. Communication and financial constraints have obscured information on the group's progress. UNDP reports interest and AER/Nigeria is cooperating with the Indian Institute of Management study on small-scale agro-enterprise in Africa.

Profile: Primarily service industry core group of accountants, bankers, lawyers and consultants. Patronage may be provided by Ibru Group. (Felix Ibru)

7. Swaziland

AER visited Mbabane briefly in December 1991 and sparked interest with government officials in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Ministry of Agriculture and selected donors. Follow-up correspondence may generate a core group which could link with the AER network.

Profile: Ranch and agro-processing/farm managers and agriculture training outreach. Monarch is reported interested in accelerating privatization and assisting agro-industry.

8. Tanzania

AER visited Dar es Salaam (November 1990) and initiated formation process which has progressed steadily. Organizers report more than 100 founding members. AER/T core group is cooperating with Indian Institute of Management study. Patronage is provided by National Assembly leader.



**9. Uganda**

AER/Uganda has become the most advanced AER agro-industry model in Africa, having held a dynamic inaugural conference in November 1991 (Vice President Samson Kisekka presiding). AER/U is building a membership of ranchers, agro-processors, producers, and other agro-allied industries. AER/U is chaired by H.E. Minister of Women's Affairs Dr. S. Wandira-Kazibwe, and includes participation from Makerere University. AER/U reports organizing subcommittees and is planning a regular publication. Special areas of interest include animal/livestock health, energy, and eco-tourism.

**10. Zambia**

AER met briefly with newly elected Zambian President Frederick J.T. Chiluba and Minister of Industry and Commerce Ronald Penza in February 1992. Interest in forming a Zambian AER core group is strong among local agro-industry elements, particularly ranchers and agro-finance executives. AER may visit Zambia in 1992 for further talks.

**11. Zimbabwe**

AER visited Harare in June 1989, participated in UNIDO African Minister's Conference and met with local organizers. Follow-up is focused on linking private agro-industry with interested parties at the university of Zimbabwe to assist in food relief efforts in drought-stricken areas.

Profile: Growers and agro-food processors with long-standing holdings in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe Leaf has provided early patronage and support.

**II. ASIA/NEAR EAST**

**1. India**

AER/India participated in the 9th IAF (Geneva 1988), but interest has declined after association's proposal for an agribusiness mission was turned down by donors. Strong potential for revival exists through Indian Institute of Management (IIM) project aimed at Africa. AER is cooperating with IIM to encourage indigenous African AER programmes to participate in survey program. AER/India may branch out to other cities outside Bombay.

Profile: Agricultural equipment traders, university, some fertilizer/ag.chem.



**2. Pakistan**

Local organizers continue to express interest in forming AER/Pakistan. However, political turmoil over the past few years has undermined efforts to mobilize a core group and participate in AER events. Exchange controls have effectively suffocated Pakistani initiatives.

**3. Sri Lanka**

AER visited Sri Lanka in July 1989 and country delegates participated with UNDP funding at both 1989/1990 activities. Agricultural Development Authority reports formation process underway for local AER.

**4. Indonesia**

AER visited in February 1989, sparking considerable local interest in establishing AER/Indonesia. Local organizers were represented at Vienna conference, however the process now appears bogged down due to difficulties with leadership/balancing between private sector, parastatal, and governmental elements interested in the concept.

Profile: Agro-finance, aquaculture/fish farming.

**5. Philippines**

AER conducted a strong ASEAN regional conference in Manila (May 1987) which led to the formation of AER/Filipinas as AER provided organizers with local currency raised at conference. AER conducted a follow-up workshop with AER/F on land reform which generated considerable media in February 1989. Limited financing prevented more active Filipino participation in AER/ABC events - and leadership transition is reported underway, which should lead to a more dynamic local program.

Profile: Filipino and foreign-controlled agro-industry, agro-chemical sectors, bankers and lawyers. (No government involvement or patronage.)

**6. People's Republic of China (PRC)**

AER's international trade mission to Henan in 1984 and PRC's subsequent participation in AER international activities has not yet sparked the formation of a counterpart organization in PRC. However, AER has received recent communications from PRC-based agro-industry associations seeking renewed linkage/cooperation and participation in AER/ABC events.



### III. Eastern Europe and Former Soviet Republics (Commonwealth of Independent States)

#### 1. Poland

Following up on active Polish participation at 10th IAF; AER visited Warsaw in March 1990 with a seven member mission, opening discussions on potential formation of Polish AER. This led to a workshop in Warsaw (September 30) at which an informal organizing effort began to gel. Continuing economic and political uncertainty have combined to slow this process - and AER will return to Poland in May 1992 to determine if the local organizers can follow through.

Profile: Still in formation

#### 2. Hungary

AER visited Budapest with a trade mission after the October 1989 IAF conference, and followed up in October 1990. Hungarian officials and analysts at Academy of Agricultural Services report considerable interest and growing receptivity for the AER concept. AER will visit Budapest this spring seeking leadership for an organizing effort.

Profile: US seed company may provide assistance to convene local organizers.

#### 3. Bulgaria

AER will visit Bulgaria and coordinate with academics, private sector and governmental entities interested in exploring the potential for establishing an AER/Bulgaria. Interest centers at University of Plovdiv and University of Sofia.

#### 4. Russia

Although no Russian participation has ever registered at either ABC or AER events, AER's visit to Moscow in last September 1990, featuring a briefing workshop for representatives of six independent republics has sparked considerable interest in the AER model. AER has been invited to visit Georgia, Ukraine and the Baltic republics. AER was represented at an Estonian conference (June 1991) on privatization and AER/ABC hosted a Russian agro-industry delegation in Washington (November 1991). Prospects for advancing the formation of indigenous agro-industry associations in Russian and other C.I.S. states appears dependent upon securing financial support.



Profile: Coordination with Russian Entrepreneurial Committee and other newly established Russian associations lacks focus to communication difficulties.

#### **IV. Latin America/Caribbean**

##### **1. Costa Rica**

Strong interest registered after GOCR official attended 10th IAF in Vienna. AER visited San Jose in July 1991 and sparked further interest which is expected to lead toward the early establishment of a formation committee this Spring. AER will conduct a workshop briefing for interested agro-industry leaders in San Jose (May 4).

Profile: Leading non-traditional agricultural and finance; little government involvement.

##### **2. Colombia**

Local FAO representative has indicated willingness to arrange formation group meeting for AER if a visit can be set up.

##### **3. Ecuador**

Local organizers visited ABC in 1988, but funding problems precluded follow-up participation at Vienna and Washington conferences - which has led to an apparent decline in interest. AER needs to visit Ecuador to revive interest.

##### **4. Jamaica**

AER visited Kingston twice in 1991-92 and revived interest in local formation process which had flagged since 1989. A workshop with local organizers, in conjunction with the Jamaican Agriculture Development Foundation (JADF) is expected to lead to the early inauguration of the AER/Jamaica in 1992.

Profile: Leading agro-industries, research and agro-environmental concerns; government participation is minimal, though there exists involvement of marketing and finance parastatal organizations.

##### **5. Trinidad and Tobago**

Early interest and participation by parastatal of GOTT has produced positive climate for the eventual formation of an AER affiliated association in Port-of-Spain.



6. Venezuela

AER senior director and vice chairman reports considerable interest which could be converted into formation group provided staff visit is scheduled with Spanish speaker and translated materials.

7. Mexico

Mexican participation at early AER events, and more recently at ABC (June 1990), suggests strong potential exists with Mexico for AER affiliate. Approach would be similar to Venezuela.

8. Brazil

AER local organizers reported considerable progress in 1988, but apparently a change in leadership has slowed momentum considerably. It is unclear whether the AER/Brazil is actually incorporated.

V. Near East/North Africa

1. Egypt

AER conducted a special workshop in Cairo on May 24, 1989 attended by thirty Egyptian agro-industry executives, government officials and international agency staff. Considerable interest in forming program is divided between public and private sectors. USAID has not provided travel support to enable Egyptian government officials to participate in AER, but private agribusiness has attended on its own resources.

2. Israel

AER interest in Israel was sparked through local research/academic organizations, who had participated in earlier AER/ABC events, through a letter exchange in 1991. Follow-up reflects growing indigenous interest which could lead to an AER visit to brief potential organizers later in 1992.

3. Yemen

USAID/Yemen expressed considerable interest in AER following two successive GOY high-level participations at AER conferences. Unfortunately, AER's planned visit to San'a was suspended when US consultant contractor complained the AER action plan might confuse local Yemenis before the firm's study on private sector strategies was completed. USAID



would not concur with AID/W request to send AER for initial formation. This has not been rescheduled.

4. Gulf Region

During AER's February 1989 regional conference in UAE, the proposal for creating an AER affiliate in either Dubai or Bahrain received considerable support. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait delegates appeared most willing to consider funding the regional office. AER director Banerjee reported in 1990 that lack of follow-up and divided interests over venue for office would require a more active AER/W leadership to maintain project momentum. Ironically, the Gulf War has renewed interest in the proposal.

5. Tunisia

AER local organizer has indicated considerable interest; however, this cannot be translated into action until AER/W can arrange to visit. USAID/Tunisia is reportedly developing an agribusiness program which might assist local AER.

