

PD-ABJ-570

Best available copy -- page 3 missing

NATIONAL SISTER ASSOCIATION/AFFILIATE STATUS REPORT
(January 1991)

I. AFRICA

1. The Gambia

AER/Gambia was formally inaugurated on June 11, 1990 at a ceremony in Banjul with H.E. Omar A. Jallow presiding. The local AER is incorporated under the auspices of The National Investment Board headed by Abdoulie Touray. AER/Gambia is requesting 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.

2. Ghana

Ghana participated at 1989-90 events and has expressed official interest in the formation of an AER/Ghana. USAID is reported studying prospects for assisting local organizers.

3. Kenya

AER/Kenya formally inaugurated in May 1990. Reportedly, the leadership is now in transition and the board has yet to formally decide on accreditation link with parent AER (as previously agreed by organizers).

4. Tanzania

AER visited Dar es Salaam (November 1990) and initiated formation process with Tanzanian parastatal and National Assembly leader. Interest in local Tanzanian agro-enterprise sector appears strong and follow-up is underway.

5. Uganda

AER visited twice in 1990 -- and sparked further local progress in organizing the AER/Uganda which is already incorporated and building a broad membership. Local AER is chaired by Deputy Minister and is well-balanced between public and private sector -- and includes participation from McKerere University.

6. Nigeria

AER/Nigeria held a formation meeting on August 1, 1989 and sent a representative to the 10th Annual IAF, and two representatives to the June 1990 (ABC) conference in Washington. Communication difficulties and a reported leadership transition have obscured information on this group's progress. USAID in Lagos reports interest. UNDP reports interest.

7. Zimbabwe

AER visited in June 1989, participated in UNIDO African Ministers Conference, and met with local organizers. Follow-up interest is focused in University of Zimbabwe and several agro-enterprise companies. Zimbabwe was represented at the 10th IAF (Vienna).

II. ASIA/NEAR EAST

1. India

AER/India participated in 9th IAF (Geneva) in 1988, but USAID interest declined after Chuck Antholt's proposal for a mission agribusiness program was rejected. AER visited Delhi for workshop/talks with local organizers. Communication with AER/India indicates modest continuation.

2. Pakistan

Local organizers continue to express interest in forming AER/Pakistan; however, political turmoil over the past two years has negated efforts to mount a delegation to attend AER events. Exchange controls and government red-tape have also effectively suffocated Pakistani initiatives.

3. Sri Lanka

AER visited in July 1989 and country delegates participated with UNDP funding at both 1989/1990 activities. Agricultural Development Authority reports formation 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 appears bogged-down due to difficulties with leadership/balancing between private sector, parastatal and government components.

5. Philippines

AER conducted workshop with AERF in early 1989, following-up on strong regional conference. Proposed seminar series on bio-fuels did not materialize -- and limited funding support has prevented representatives of AERF from participating in annual AER events. USAID recently reported interest in providing assistance.

III. EASTERN EUROPE/USSR

1. Poland

Following-up on good Polish participation at 10th IAF (supported by USDA), AER visited Warsaw in March 1990, initiating discussions with Polish leaders interested in forming a local affiliate. Polish participation in the June 1990 ABC meeting in Washington triggered further progress, which resulted in a September 10 formation committee meeting in Warsaw for the emerging AER/Poland.

2. Hungary

AER visited Budapest with a trade mission after the October 1989 IAF conference, and followed-up in October 1990. Hungarian officials report growing interest and improved climate/receptivity for the AER concept.

8. 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.
9. 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 nearly 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. 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 U.S. 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 re-scheduled.
3. 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 Arabian and Kuwaiti 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.
4. 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.

VI. OTHER

The following countries have expressed official interest in creating an AER affiliate and have requested the packet of NSA development information:

Lesotho	Zambia	Cameroon	Senegal
Sudan	Uruguay	Cyprus	Turkey
Argentina	Taiwan	Peoples Republic of China	

In most instances, further progress will depend upon either (1) representatives attending an AER event, or (2) a visit by AER/W for in-country briefings.



**Agribusiness Council (ABC): Major State/Local
Agribusiness Organizations**

ABC maintains regular contact/communications with the following state/local agribusiness associations:

Alabama Agribusiness Council

Arizona Agribusiness Council*

Georgia Agribusiness Council

Gulf Coastal Agribusiness (Texas)

Florida International Agricultural Trade Council*

Agribusiness Institute of **Florida**

Tampa Agribusiness Council/Committee

North Carolina Agribusiness Council*

Ohio Agribusiness Association

Lincoln (Nebraska) Agribusiness Club

Central Mississippi Agribusiness Council

Minnesota Agri-Growth Association

Missouri Agro-Industries Council

Kansas City Agribusiness Club

Oregon Agribusiness Council

St. Louis Agribusiness Club

South Carolina Agribusiness Council

Texas Agricultural Forum

Vermont Farms, Inc.

Virginia Agribusiness Council*

Agricultural Council of **Washington**

Wisconsin Agribusiness Council*

(* denotes participation in ABC's coordination committee)

