



Project for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions

Report on the Second Meeting of the Adelboden Group (FAO Headquarters, Rome, 4-5 October 2004)

1. Background

The International Conference for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions held in Adelboden, Switzerland, in 2002 established the Adelboden Group as *“a platform for discussion of policies and policy instruments, exchange of experience and preparation of initiatives”*. The first Meeting of the Adelboden Group took place at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, on 11-12 September 2003 to advise on the formulation of the SARD in Mountain Regions (SARD-M) Project Document.

The second Meeting of the Adelboden Group was held at FAO Headquarters on 4-5 October 2004, to put the final touches to the project for its launch in early 2005.

This report presents the main results of the meeting, generated through reflection, an open debate and consensus-building by all the participants.

2. Objectives and process of the meeting

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- prioritize the first project activities to be implemented in 2005;
- finalize the identification of partnerships with the concerned participants;
- register or explore potential commitments by governments and other institutions represented to provide financial and/or in-kind support to the project;
- discuss project implementation and decision-making mechanisms, including the role of the Adelboden Group¹.

Overall, there were 83 participants² from 30 countries, representing different categories of stakeholders and diverse geographical regions: governments of developed (9) and developing (13) countries, civil society organizations (10) including representatives from four Major Groups (Farmers, NGOs, Women, Workers and Trade Unions) and international organizations (7) including FAO.

¹ As an immediate follow-up to the meeting, a specific discussion on the overall mandate and composition of the Adelboden Group, with special emphasis on its relationship with the SARD-M Project, was organized by the Swiss delegation in the afternoon of 5 October.

² See Annex I for the list of Participants.



Participants in the Second Meeting of the Adelboden Group, 4 October 2004

In accordance with the participatory, evolving and open-ended design of the multi-stakeholder SARD-M Project, a discussion note on proposed project activities and related implementation modalities, and a questionnaire on partners' interests, needs and priorities were prepared by the project team and circulated to invited participants prior to the meeting. The questionnaires completed by the participants were assessed by the SARD-M Project Team and a summary of their comments and recommendations was presented during the meeting³.

The meeting was co-chaired by Ms Jeannette Gurung, Director of Women Organising for Change in Agriculture, an NGO which is the focal point for the Major Group on Women, and Mr Miguel Palomino de la Gala, Director of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peru. The discussion was divided into the following sessions⁴:

- a) **Opening session:** included a review of the bridging role of the SARD-M Project between Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 on Sustainable Mountain Development and Chapter 14 on SARD and a specific presentation on the interest, commitment and expectations of the Swiss Government;
- b) **Presentation and discussion in plenary on:**
 - governments' and other represented institutions' mobilization and commitments;
 - project's decision-making process;
 - proposed criteria for prioritizing project activities;
 - preparatory activities in 2004 (October to December);
 - proposed priority activities in 2005;
 - implementation mechanisms;
- c) **Working groups:** the priority activities for 2005 were examined and the potential commitments of the participants were identified. Four working groups were organized on a geographical basis with a balanced stakeholder

³ See Annex II for the questionnaire, list of participants who filled it and summary of main comments and recommendations.

⁴ See Annex III for the agenda of the Meeting.

representation. The working groups' outcomes were then discussed in plenary in order to build consensus⁵.

- d) **Closing session**: included the recommendations of the chairpersons for immediate implementation.

The main results and outcomes of the meeting are organized in this report by thematic areas.

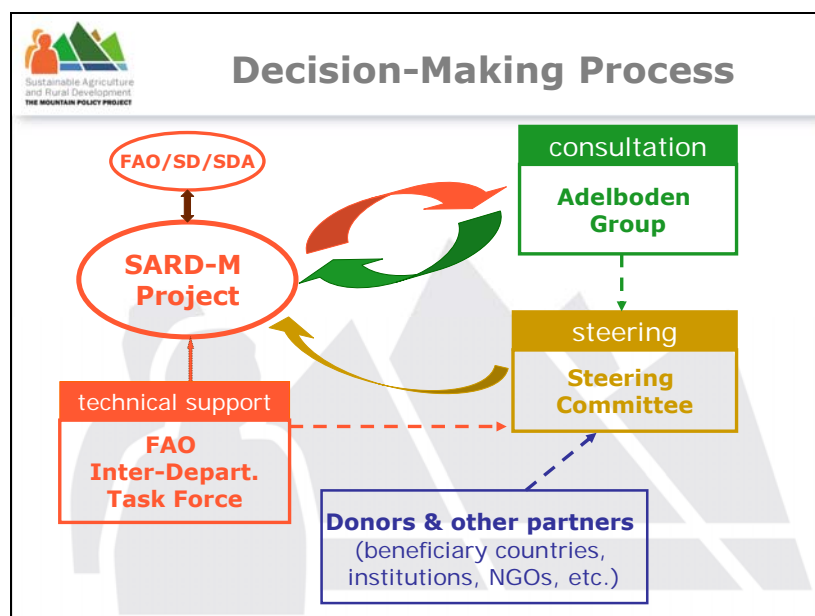
3. Operational elements for the implementation of the SARD-M Project

3.1. Decision-making process

A note on the decision-making process of the SARD-M Project and the role of the Adelboden Group was distributed to the participants⁶. The proposed mechanism for the project's decision-making process includes:

- the **Adelboden Group**, with a **consultative** role, to advise on the project⁷;
- the **Project Steering Committee**, with a **decision-making** role, to guide and steer the project; and
- the **FAO Interdepartmental Task Force**, with a **consultative** role, to provide technical support to the project team.

The proposed decision-making mechanism was endorsed by the participants, with the recommendation to highlight the direct links between the Project Steering Committee and the Adelboden Group (two members of the Group are expected to participate as observers in the Steering Committee).



Most participants requested that the project's beneficiary countries be included in the Steering Committee with decision-making powers similar to those of the donor

⁵ The most significant outcomes of each working group in terms of selection of priority activities for 2005 and general recommendations are presented in Annex IV.

⁶ See Annex V for the text of the note dated 1 October 2004.

⁷ The discussion on the precise organization, functions and membership of the Adelboden Group took place during the *ad hoc* event organized by the Swiss government in the afternoon of 5 October.

countries and institutions that will be members of the Steering Committee. A few participants requested as well that the same decision-making power be granted to the two representatives of the Adelboden Group. Others suggested that the Regional Focal Points participate in the Steering Committee. In addition, the Mediterranean Basin working group proposed that preliminary meetings be held at regional level prior to the next meeting of the Adelboden Group.

3.2. Criteria for prioritizing activities

Five criteria for prioritizing activities to be implemented during the life of the project were proposed in plenary:

1. focus on coordinated action(s) on SARD-oriented policy advice;
2. sectoral and rural development policy interaction, in both upland and lowland areas taking into account the relationship between these areas;
3. potential for dialogue among stakeholders;
4. awareness of and support to SARD;
5. potential for the dissemination and application of policies at country level.

The participants recommended that the criteria be simplified and their number reduced to three, focusing on sustainability, an integrated ecosystem approach, and the pertinence/participatory dimension. In this respect, the following three criteria proposed by the Latin America Working Group appeared highly relevant:

“Project activities should have a

- ✓ participatory dimension (potential for dialogue, demand driven);
- ✓ territorial and multisectoral dimension (concentration on policy actions in SARD and on synergies between highlands and lowlands, and rural and urban areas);
- ✓ concrete approach and be applicable and replicable, and should include agriculture, rural development, environmental and sustainability components.”

It was also recommended that:

- the potential for multi-stakeholder dialogue and consequent dissemination of project outcomes should always be taken into account;
- the areas for field-level action should be selected among those showing promising experiences that can be capitalized on, paying special attention to various types of links between upland and lowland areas, and migratory movements and remittances, the last two being of particular relevance to mountain regions;
- as a priority, consideration should be given to the potential impact of project activities on marginalized mountain populations;
- high flexibility should be maintained throughout the project’s life cycle.

3.3. Partnership modalities including establishment of Regional Focal Points

Five main recommendations were made by the participants:

- Each partner should define the modalities and content of its participation in and collaboration with the project team and other possible concerned partners. This participation can be to: foster exchange of information and networking; produce manuals or case-studies; organize workshops or training sessions; act as

regional focal point; provide staff resources; contribute financially to the project; others.

- The project should build on existing structures, networks and on-going programmes/projects, such as the national committees and focal points established during the IYM-2002 which are now collaborating with the Mountain Partnership or the institutions or focal points involved in the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in SARD-related projects or programmes.
- Focal points should be identified and established at regional level. The tentative list presented in the meeting (i.e. in sub-Saharan Africa ICRAF, Kenya; in Asia ICIMOD, Nepal; in Europe EUROMONTANA, Belgium; in Latin America CONDESAN/CIP, Peru; in Central America PASOLAC/Nicaragua; in the Near East ICARDA, Syria; and in the Mediterranean region CIHEAM, France and sub-regional centres) should be reviewed taking into account the involvement of civil society in focal point institutions, the experience of these institutions on SARD issues. The possible contributions of Plan Bleu and ICARDA were mentioned by the Mediterranean Basin Focal Point. It was also proposed to identify a second East Asia Regional Focal Point to complete the Hindu Kush - Himalaya focus of ICIMOD.

The Regional Focal Points will facilitate the sharing of information, communication, coordination and networking with other partners, while supporting the design and implementation of project activities, by allocating *ad hoc* expertise, staff and/or technical support. The focal points should:

- ✓ Advocate for the project among potential partners;
- ✓ Identify and network with relevant entities;
- ✓ Contribute to the implementation of the project's annual action plan;
- ✓ Produce, adapt and disseminate awareness-raising, communication and training materials; and
- ✓ Promote the concrete application of SARD mountain policies, taking advantage of the project's material, methods and tools, in coordination with national partners.

Contributions to the implementation of 2005 activities should also be specified.

- In countries where the project will be promoting and/or directly implementing activities, a national focal point should also be identified and established.
- In order to allow one partner in each region to perform the role of Regional Focal Point, the project will assist in the establishment of *ad hoc* partnership agreements (Letters of Agreement - LoA - or Memorandum of Understanding) with each partner. The Terms of Reference (TORs) of the Regional Focal Points will be reviewed by the Project Team taking into consideration suggestions made during the meeting both on operational aspects and budgetary responsibilities. In any case, the TORs should remain flexible and demand-driven and follow an overall common strategy. To facilitate Regional Focal Point coordination, if funds permit the project will organize and fund periodic exchange visits and yearly meetings, where possible in connection with other events.

4. Activities

Global comments or recommendations

- The representatives of various partner countries underlined that projects often have little or no impact at field level in the medium/long term and agreed that the SARD-M project should not limit its action only to evaluating policies and on-going field projects, but should also contribute to the design of an analytical policy framework for mountain regions, the preparation of guidelines to enhance the effectiveness of national policies and ongoing development efforts at various levels for the immediate benefit of mountain communities. This suggestion was well received and agreed upon by the participants.
- The group confirmed the need for the project to focus action on mountain agriculture and rural development **policy issues**, and on providing support, at various levels (national or regional e.g. Carpathian Convention countries), in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of new **policy packages** for SARD in mountain regions taking account of upland/lowland integration, as well as in low density areas in Nordic countries.

The SARD-M Project should promote a better understanding of both SARD and sectoral policies affecting mountain areas and identify clearer operational links between SARD policy orientation and poverty eradication. Worldwide, there is a rich experience of innovative policies for poverty eradication which, with some adaptations, could be useful in mountain areas.

- The SARD-M Project should basically be seen as a multi-stakeholder mechanism for assisting donors and governments in better coordinating their actions at national, sub-national and local level. In this framework, the three pillars are:
 - ✓ policy analysis and advice;
 - ✓ the know-how and skills of academic institutions and centres of excellence; and
 - ✓ the real life experiences developed at local level.
- Most participants stressed the need to keep the project on a demand-driven path, focusing on coordination efforts and the promotion of SARD-oriented policies aimed at poverty reduction in mountain areas.
- The meeting confirmed that the SARD-M Project should be seen as a specific project under the overall umbrella of SARD, with direct links to other SARD and mountain-related initiatives and programmes, such as the Mountain Partnership.

4.1. Preparatory activities in 2004

The activities foreseen up to the end of 2004 were presented in plenary and endorsed by the participants:

- a) Initial design of a communication strategy;
- b) Initial production of awareness-raising and information materials;
- c) Establishment of coordination mechanisms, including a contribution to FAO's report to COAG and support to the FAO SARD Coordination Mechanism;
- d) Data collection with a view to analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of existing mountain policies: development of one or two examples/mini case-studies;
- e) Promotion of quality mountain products.

Preparatory activities in 2004 will strengthen the collaboration already established with the Mountain Partnership, mainly related to activities on mountain quality products and the Initiative on SARD in Mountains in which the SARD-M Project is expected to play a leading role.

Regarding communication activities, the work carried out by the project has involved the design of a communication strategy and the preparation of a first set of communication tools, i.e.:

- design of a visual identity and logo for the project, as well as exhibition materials;
- creation of a project website;
- updating and improvement of a brochure on the project in different languages;
- establishment of a SARD-M e-mail list.

The participants were asked to provide comments on the proposed visual identity and website through a questionnaire.

4.2. Proposed activities in 2005

The activities foreseen will strengthen the collaboration already established with other partners and FAO-executed projects. Several of these projects were presented: the Roles of Agriculture (ROA) Project; the SARD-Farming Systems Evolution (SARD-FSE) Project; the Participatory Negotiated Territorial Development (PNTD) approach and the Mountain Partnership (MP).

The proposed activities to be implemented in 2005 were in general endorsed by the participants:

Finalization of partnership building and agreements

- a) Establishment of regional focal points

Communication

- b) Production of awareness-raising/information materials

Coordination

- c) Contribution to the establishment/consolidation of coordination mechanisms on SARD within FAO and with other partners

Networking

- d) Organization of the 3rd Meeting of the Adelboden Group towards the end of 2005

Capitalizing on and building methods and tools

- e) Capitalization on methods and tools to analyze positive and negative mountain externalities
- f) Analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of existing mountain policies
- g) Implementation of case studies based on the Participatory and Negotiated Territorial Development (PNTD) methodology
- h) Strengthening of local institutions to promote SARD
- i) Assistance in the promotion of mountain quality products

Based on the working groups'⁸ proposals, the participants endorsed the following priority activities:

1. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of mountain policies, including social, economic, institutional and environmental aspects, in relation to Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development principles. This analysis will capitalize on the existing literature, and partners' experiences and case-studies, initially possibly in Latin America and the Mediterranean region.
2. Strengthen local institutions to promote SARD, by developing training materials and sessions, in close collaboration with NGOs, producers' associations, cooperatives, etc.
3. Analyze the positive and negative externalities of mountain regions through a comparative review of existing information including the different methods and tools to obtain this, with a focus on water, biodiversity, agricultural heritage, indigenous knowledge, demographic trends, tourism, livelihoods diversification, and social and environmental services.

The following operational recommendations were agreed on by the participants:

- Even where policy and legal measures officially exist to promote SARD in mountain regions, attention should be paid to their real implementation and impact at the household, community, sub-national and national levels.
- Particular attention should be given to making maximum use of existing materials and documentation such as case studies already produced or under production by the FAO SARD-FSE Project (Honduras), the FAO ROA Project (11 country case studies) and other FAO projects, as well as by Governments (Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Kenya, Morocco,...) and international organisations (ICARDA, ICIMOD, IFAD, Plan Bleu,...).
- Several other participating countries and organizations could provide specific concrete indications on potential case studies of possible interest to the project and in which they could contribute in one way or another.
- Other geographical areas that were not represented in the Adelboden Group meeting but which have special characteristics – such as Central Asia – should be included in the future.
- Monitoring and evaluation of project activities should be included.
- A continuous effort should be deployed to promote new and effective coordination and networking mechanisms with all partners and at all levels, including the utilization of modern communication systems such as e-conferences.

5. Project support: donors' mobilization and commitments

Participants were reminded that the total budget of the full-fledged project is US\$ 6.285 million and that the critical budget of the project, which would allow it to operate at a minimum level for two years, is about US\$ 2.5 million.

⁸ The most significant outcomes of each working group are presented in Annex IV.

The representative of the Swiss Government confirmed his Government's commitment, expressed in the donors' and partners' meeting held on 30 April 2004, to financially support the project with an allocation of US\$ 1.0 million over 4 years. The representative of France announced the 2-year secondment of a professional officer as project coordinator (indicative funding of about US\$ 350,000). The participants were informed that Japan is funding an Associate Professional Officer to assist in project implementation during at least two years starting on 4 October 2004.

Several governments from developed and developing countries and other partners indicated their commitment to collaborate with the project by providing expertise and documentation as well as staff resources, in-kind contributions, logistics and networking support to activities implemented at regional, national and local level.

The representative of France informed the participants that France is presently funding a consultant to carry out a study on FAO's work on Sustainable Development and quality issues especially in mountain regions and is particularly interested in the Mediterranean basin and the Middle East region.

Finland reiterated its interest in taking part in the project, especially in activities involving other less favoured areas such as the Nordic low-density regions, and stated that they could contribute human resources for activities related to the externalities of agriculture.

Special attention was paid to the potential for establishing connections and collaboration with a number of on-going projects and programmes focusing on the direct links that exist between SARD-oriented mountain policies, the fight against environmental degradation and rural poverty alleviation.

Various participants recalled the need for reinforcing collaborative mechanisms with other FAO departments and decentralized offices, the Mountain Partnership and other partners capable of offering support in-kind. It was observed that important international agencies – such as IFAD and GEF – are funding development initiatives in upland areas and in most cases they need to bring in a policy dimension to their action. IFAD mentioned that the majority of projects operated by its Asia Division are in upland areas and could be associated with the SARD-M Project, and stated that they are ready to support the project. The EC representative highlighted possible funding opportunities under the call for proposals related to "Global change and ecosystems" of the Directorate-General for Research.

The participants agreed that further discussion and action for resource mobilization (e.g. EU, GEF, IFAD and World Bank) were required in order to reach the critical minimum budget of US\$ 2.5 million required for the smooth start-up of the project. Efficient coordination of support provided in-kind was also strongly recommended. Switzerland, followed by other participants, indicated the need to consider a possible downsizing of project activities and areas of action until adequate funding could be mobilized.

6. Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting

The final conclusions and recommendations of the meeting presented by the two co-chairpersons focused on the following considerations:

- there is widespread support for the priority activities related to policy analysis and strengthening of local institutions, with the understanding that these activities will be carried out with the broad participation and active engagement

of civil society members, thus in keeping with the Adelboden spirit of working in alliances;

- the project should have a clear focus on poverty alleviation, based on the commonalities existing among mountain communities and reflected in global agendas;
- regional focal points should be established as soon as possible and the contribution of Major Groups clarified;
- the project team and all partners should proceed with the priority activities in early 2005, but there is a strong need to obtain further resources in cash for innovative pilot activities and case studies;
- the Project Steering Committee should be formed at the start-up of the project;
- the criteria for the selection of priority activities should remain flexible, allowing for learning opportunities and demand-led approaches.

Participants agreed with the conclusions and recommendations of the two co-chairpersons.

Project for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions

**Second Meeting of the Adelboden Group, Rome, 4-5 October 2004
FAO Headquarters (German Room C269)**

List of Participants

Governments:

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|-----|--------------------|---|
| 1. | Algeria | Mr Mohammedi Salah, Ministry of Agriculture |
| 2. | Argentina | Mr Carlos Cattaneo, Ministry of Agriculture |
| 3. | Austria | Ms Natalie Feistritzer, Permanent Representative to FAO |
| 4. | Bolivia | Ms Moira Paz Estenssoro, Permanent Representative to FAO
Mr Eduardo Alfaro Ross, Bolivian Ministry of Sustainable Development |
| 5. | China | Mr GUO Handi, Permanent Representation to FAO
Mr LU Liqun, Permanent Representation to FAO |
| 6. | Colombia | Ms Paula Tolosa, Permanent Representation to FAO |
| 7. | European Community | Ms Maryse Coutsouradis, Delegation of the European Commission
Mr Daniel Deybe, European Commission |
| 8. | Finland | Mr Jarmo Salonen, Ministry of Agriculture
Ms Kaisa Karttunen, Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO |
| 9. | France | Ms Claire Gaudot, Permanent Representation to FAO |
| 10. | Germany | Mr Heiner Thofern, Permanent Representation to FAO |
| 11. | Iran | Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini, Permanent Representative to FAO
Mr Farhad Kheiri Sanami, Permanent Representation to FAO |
| 12. | Italy | Ms Vincenza Russo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Michele Di Cosmo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Paolo Vicentini, Ministry of Agriculture |
| 13. | Japan | Mr Yoshihiro Kuraya, Permanent Representation to FAO |
| 14. | Kenya | Mr Kenneth Ayuko, Deputy Director, Ministry of Agriculture
Mr Joseph Mburu, Permanent Representation to FAO |
| 15. | Mexico | Ms Luz Estela Santos, Permanent Representation to FAO |
| 16. | Morocco | Mr Mohamed Benzyane, High Commissariat for Forest |
| 17. | Norway | Mr Daniel van Gilst, Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO |
| 18. | Peru | Mr Miguel Palomino de la Gala, Director of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs |

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| | Mr Roberto Seminario, Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO |
| | Mr Oswaldo del Aguila, Permanent Representation to FAO |
| 19. Slovenia | Ms Bojana Hocevar, Permanent Representative to FAO |
| 20. Switzerland | Mr Manfred Bötsch, Director, Federal Office of Agriculture |
| | Mr Eduard Hofer, Assistant Director, Federal Office of Agriculture |
| | Mr Hans-Jörg Lehmann, Chief, Ecology Department, Federal Office of Agriculture |
| | Mr Lothar Caviezel, Permanent Representative to FAO |
| | Mr Hubert Poffet, Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO |
| | Mr Gérard Viatte, Advisor for the SARD-M Project |
| 21. Tunisia | Mr Mouldi Ben Said, Ministry of Agriculture |
| 22. Turkey | Mr Mr Mehmet Uyanik, Permanent Representation to FAO |

Civil Society:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 23. Euromontana | Mr Frank Gaskell, President |
| | Ms Kristiina Urpalainen, Assistant President |
| 24. Irealp ⁹ | Mr Paolo Zaggia, Programme Coordinator |
| 25. Major Group Farmers | Mr Domenico Mastrogiovanni, International Federation of Agricultural Producers |
| 26. Major Group NGOs | Mr Eliud Ngunjiri, Executive Director, Resources Oriented Development Initiatives |
| 27. Major Group NGOs | Ms Linda Elswick, Co-Director, International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture |
| 28. Major Group Women | Ms Jeannette Gurung, Director, Women Organising for Change in Agriculture |
| 29. Major Group Workers & Trade Unions | Mr Omara Amuko, International Union of Food, Agricultural Hotel, Restaurant, Catering and Allied Workers Associations |
| 30. PASOLAC ¹⁰ | Mr Carlos Pérez, Regional Coordinator for Central America |
| 31. Plan Bleu | Mr Luc Dassonville, Project Coordinator |
| 32. Rotary/Italy | Mr Marco Randone, Representative to FAO |

International Organizations:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 33. CIHEAM ¹¹ | Mr Lamberto Lamberti, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari |
| 34. CIP ¹² | Mr Peter Trutmann, Global Mountain Program Coordinator |
| 35. ICARDA ¹³ | Mr Adel Aboul Naga, Senior Advisor |
| 36. ICIMOD ¹⁴ | Mr Kamal Banskota, Programme Manager |

⁹ *“Istituto di Ricerca per l’Ecologia e l’Economia Applicate alle Aree Alpine”*

¹⁰ *“Programa para la Agricultura Sostenible en Laderas de América Central”*

¹¹ International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies

¹² *“Centro Internacional de la Papa”*

¹³ International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas

¹⁴ International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

37. IFAD Ms Atsuko Toda, Country Portfolio Manager, Asia Division
Mr Naoufel Telahig, Technical Advisory Division

38. UNEP/Carpathian Convention Mr Harald Egerer, Programme Officer

Food and Agriculture Organization:

39. Agriculture Department Ms Caterina Batello (AGP)

40. Economic and Social Department Mr Fabrizio Bresciani (ESA); Mr Takumi Sakuyama (ESA);
Ms Florence Egal (ESN)

41. Forestry Department Mr Jean Prosper Koyo (FOR); Mr Douglas Mc Guire (FOR); Mr Peter De Brine (FOR); Ms Rosa Laura Romeo (FOR); Ms Alexia Baldascini (FOR)

42. Legal Office Ms Cristina Leria (LEG); Mr Stefano Burchi (LEG)

43. Sustainable Development Department Mr John Monyo (SDD); Ms Jennie Dey De Pryck (SDA); Mr Stéphane Jost (UN System Network on Rural Development and Food Security); Mr Marcelino Avila (SDA); Ms Dominique Legros (SDA); Ms Catia Santonico (SDA); Mr Alemneh Dejene (SDR); Mr Dominique Lantieri (SDR); Mr Luca Fè d'Ostiani, Mr Massimo Diomedi, Mr Takashi Takahatake, Ms Carine Rouah, Mr Guillaume Huet (SARD-M Project)

44. Technical Cooperation Department Mr Bart Van Ommen (TCA); Ms Dominique Di Biase (TCA); Mr Eckhard Hein (TCD); Ms Aude Perrin Mac Gaw (TCD); Ms Paola Castelgrande (TCD)

Project for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions (SARD-M)

Second Meeting of the Adelboden Group, 4-5 October 2004

Questionnaire on partners' interests, needs and priorities

In accordance with the participatory and open-ended design of the multi-stakeholders SARD-M Project, the following questionnaire aims at gathering information on your country's or institution's interests, needs and priorities in the project, in particular for 2005 activities, and learning what your country or institution can bring to the project itself in terms of ideas, skills, capacity, on-going/planned activities or financial support.

This information will be used to prepare the Second Meeting of the Adelboden Group and facilitate its discussions. A summary of the questionnaires will be presented during the meeting.

The SARD-M Project Team would be very grateful if your country or institution could kindly complete this questionnaire and return it via e-mail to SARD-M@fao.org by **10 September 2004** at the latest.

Could you kindly indicate your country or institution:

1. Proposed criteria for prioritising activities to be implemented

- ▶ Do you agree with the proposed criteria - both content-related and of a more operational nature or would you **modify** them and / or **add** others?

- ▶ Which are the **most important** criteria in relation to the overall objectives of the Project?

2. Preparatory steps and proposed implementation mechanisms

- ▶ What are your comments on the proposed **Terms of Reference for the Regional Focal Points** (Annex 3)?

- ▶ What type, content and **modalities for operational interaction** among regional focal points do you foresee? And with the SARD-M Project team?

3. Proposed preparatory actions for the remaining period of the complementary phase (October - December 2004)

- ▶ What arrangements, organizational solutions, networking mechanisms and specific links would you suggest for inclusion when establishing the **Project website**; avoiding duplications and optimizing the capitalization process of existing databases, resource facilities, information systems and documentation centres?
- ▶ Can you suggest any **interesting examples**, available in the form of case studies, which analyze existing mountain policies?

4. Proposed priority activities for 2005

- ▶ At which level – global, regional, national, sub-national – is your country or institution ready to **participate in the project and provide support** in terms of logistics, human and/or financial contributions?
- ▶ What are your comments on the proposed **communication activities**? Which would your country or institution like to participate in and how?
- ▶ What are your comments on the proposed **networking/coordination activities**? Which would your country or institution participate in and how?
- ▶ What are your comments on the proposed **capitalizing on and building methods and tools** activities, in particular the positive and negative externalities of mountain regions and the quality products issues? Which activities would your country or institution participate in and how?
- ▶ Which **two** of the **activities** listed do you consider to have **priority** for implementation?
- ▶ Do you have any comments on how, where and which partner(s) could be directly involved in the production and future utilisation of **training materials** addressed to local stakeholders such as NGOs, producers associations, cooperatives, etc.?
- ▶ Do you have any general suggestions/recommendations for **establishing solid, operational links between selected project activity outcomes**; in terms of communication and training materials, case studies, etc; policy advisory services on mountain-specific SARD policies and their effective implementation through appropriate institutions?

Questionnaires received

Governments:

- Argentina Mr Carlos Cattaneo, Ministry of Agriculture
- Finland Mr Jarmo Salonen, Ministry of Agriculture
- Peru Mr Miguel Palomino de la Gala, Director of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Civil Society:

- Euromontana Mr Frank Gaskell, President
- Major Group NGOs Mr Eliud Ngunjiri, Executive Director, Resources Oriented Development Initiatives
- Major Group Workers & Trade Unions Mr Omara Amuko, International Union of Food, Agricultural Hotel, Restaurant, Catering and Allied Workers Associations
- PASOLAC¹⁵ Mr Carlos Pérez, Regional Coordinator for Central America
- Plan Bleu Mr Luc Dasonville, Project Coordinator

International Organizations:

- CIHEAM¹⁶/IAMB Institute of Bari Mr Lamberto Lamberti, Mediterranean Agronomic
- CIP¹⁷/CONDESAN Coordinator Mr Peter Trutmann, Global Mountain Program
- ICARDA¹⁸ Mr Adel Aboul Naga, Senior Advisor

Main orientations and commonalities

1. In general, the replies appear to be the result of a serious process of reflection and are clearly and constructively formulated.
2. Among the most relevant commonalities and shared recommendations are:
 - attention should be given to the production of **concrete, operationally significant, applicable and replicable results of project** activities and, as a necessary complement, the need to establish **direct links with the field**, both in terms of decentralized authorities, NGOs and grassroots organizations. This is clearly reflected in the selection by almost all 11 questionnaires of priority criterion (e) 'potential for dissemination and application of policies at country level', with the additional requirement of analyzing their real impact on the various categories of stakeholders;
 - this goes together with the general insistence on the **need to capitalize and build on existing experiences, institutions and networks** (a very clear

¹⁵ "Programa para la Agricultura Sostenible en Laderas de América Central"

¹⁶ International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies

¹⁷ "Centro Internacional de la Papa"

¹⁸ International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas

example refers to the proposed project webpage: although appreciated, it was strongly indicated that the website should mainly act as a 'broker among other existing websites' or '*aide à la navigation*', in order to avoid the risk of creating a fully independent and stand alone website for the project itself);

- in general, it is **felt or expected that the project should be a kind of facilitator in an arena already full of active and sectorally competent actors**, where its flexible and open nature will assist in finding appropriate ways to promote local synergies and autonomous management of actions at various levels;

- still, there is a need for more detailed information in a number of fields, such as the TORs of the Regional Focal Points and a clearer strategy or Action Plan for the communication component (e.g. what are the targets?; how to produce information on and evidence of the impact of communication activities on decision-makers?);

- another important general comment concerned the need to provide more precise details on the amount and possible origin of the budgetary resources required to carry out the proposed activities (this refers for instance to the role to be played by the regional – and national – focal points and related costs, as well as to the costs involved in organizing future meetings of both the regional focal points and the Adelboden Group or to preparing an inventory of existing institutions working on SARD policies);

- finally, the attitude and expectations towards the project are generally positive and constructive. Each respondent tried spontaneously to identify possible forms of support and collaboration with the project team and all other partners, in an effort which is strongly felt as a joint responsibility.

Project for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions (SARD-M)

**Second Meeting of the Adelboden Group,
Rome, 4-5 October 2004
FAO Headquarters, German Room (C 269)**

Co-chaired by:

***Ms Jeannette Gurung, Women Organising for Change in Agriculture
Mr Miguel Palomino de la Gala, Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs***

AGENDA

Monday, 4 October

9.00 - 10.00 **Opening session**

- Welcome to participants and opening remarks by:
 - *Mr John Monyo, Assistant Director-General, Sustainable Development Department, and Mr Jean Prosper Koyo, Chief, Forestry Department, FAO*
 - *Mr Manfred Bötsch, Director-General, Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture*
- Presentation of the participants
- Presentation of the agenda and objectives of the meeting, *by the Chairpersons*

10.00 - 10.20 *Coffee break*

10.20 - 10.50 **Donors mobilization and commitments**

- Presentation on donors' mobilization and commitments, *by Mr Bart Van Ommen, Senior Programme Officer, Field Programme Development Service, FAO*
- Questions and answers

10.50 - 11.30 **Project decision-making process, including the role of the Adelboden Group**

- Presentation on the project decision-making process, including the role of the Adelboden Group and the FAO Interdepartmental Task Force, *by Ms Jennie Dey De Pryck, Chief, Rural Institutions and Participation Service, FAO*
- Questions and answers

11.30 - 12.00 **Proposed criteria for prioritising project activities**

- Presentation of criteria, *by Mr Luca Fè d'Ostiani, Rural Institutions and Participation Service, FAO*
- Questions and answers

12.00 - 12.30 **Preparatory activities in 2004**

- Presentation of preparatory activities in 2004, *by Mr Stéphane Jost, Rural Institutions and Participation Service, FAO*
- Questions and answers

- 12.30 - 14.00 *Lunch*
- 14.00 - 15.00 **Proposed priority activities in 2005 and potential commitments**
- Presentation of proposed priority activities in 2005, *by Ms Dominique Legros, Rural Institutions and Participation Service, with contributions from other FAO Departments*
 - Introduction to the discussion in working groups on priority activities and potential commitments of participants
- 15.00 - 17.30 **Working groups**
- Discussion in working groups on priority activities and potential commitments of participants facilitated by officers: Fabrizio Bresciani from Economic and Social (ES), Peter De Brine from Forestry (FO),) Dominique Lantieri from Sustainable Development (SD) and Eckhard Hein from Technical Cooperation (TC) Departments
- 18.00 - 19.30 *Drink on FAO terrace*

Tuesday, 5 October

- 9.00 - 9.15 **Opening session**
- Presentation of the agenda of the day, *by the Chairpersons*
- 9.15 - 11.00 **Summary of previous day outcome and commitments by participants**
- Reports on working groups outcomes (5 minutes per group)
 - Synthesis of working groups outcomes, *by Mr Gérard Viatte, Advisor for the SARD-M Project*
 - Discussion towards consensus building on project priority activities in 2005
 - Commitments by participants on contributions and support to implementation of activities
- 11.00 - 11.20 *Coffee break*
- 11.20 - 12.15 **Implementation mechanisms**
- Presentation on implementation mechanisms and preparatory steps for their setting up, *by Ms Dominique Legros, Rural Institutions and Participation Service, FAO*
 - *Partnership agreements*
 - *Regional focal points and their terms of reference*
 - Questions and answers
- 12.15 - 13.00 **Closing Session**
- Recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Adelboden Group, *by the chairpersons*
 - Closing remarks by:
 - *Mr John Monyo, Assistant Director-General, Sustainable Development Department, and Mr Jean Prosper Koyo, Chief, Forestry Department, FAO*
 - *Mr Manfred Bötsch, Director-General, Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture*
- 13.00 - 14.30 *Lunch*
- *****
- 14.30 - 17.00 **Session organized by the Government of Switzerland on the mandate and composition of the Adelboden Group (German Room)**

Terms of Reference for the Working Groups

When	Monday 4th October 15:00 – 17:30
Location	Africa and Asia Group / Ethiopia Room - C 285 Europe Group / Queen Juliana Room – B 324 Latin America & Caribbean Group / German Room – C 269 Mediterranean Basin Group / SD Room - B 503
Participants	Working groups will be composed of the participants listed below. The participant list should be updated, if relevant, during the working group.
Facilitator	Africa and Asia Group: Fabrizio Brasciani – ESAC Europe Group: Eckhard Hein - TCDS Latin America & Caribbean Group: Peter De Brine - FORC Mediterranean Basin Group: Dominique Lantieri - SDRN
Rapporteur	Africa and Asia Group: ICIMOD Europe Group: EUROMONTANA Latin America & Caribbean Group: CIP/PASOLAC Mediterranean Basin Group: ICARDA/CIHEAM
	Rapporteurs should meet with the SARD-M Team in the German Room at 17h30 for sharing results of the working groups in order to facilitate the Tuesday reports on and synthesis of these sessions.
Ground rules and Format Reporting	Participants should briefly set out some 'ground rules' for the discussion and agree on how to organize their time. Each group is expected to report back to the plenary (Power Points) on Tuesday 5 th morning at 9am (5 minutes per group).
Background document	Discussion note on proposed project activities and related implementation modalities, notably the initial priority activities for implementation at the start-up of the Project at the beginning of 2005 and during its first year of full implementation (p. 11–15).
Tools	FAO Facilitation Pack (contains Flipcharts, pens, cards etc) and a computer per group in Ethiopia Room for preparation of working group report (Power Point).

General considerations for all working groups:

While each group focuses on a specific region to facilitate future networking, partnership building and identification of common concerns, each group should keep in mind the linkages that exist with the other four regions and explore interregional/global activities and partnerships.

General guidelines for all working groups:

The Group should discuss on 2005 proposed priority activities presented in the previous plenary session and agree on:

- activities to be suppressed considered non relevant or postponed
- refinements of proposed activities
- complementary activities to be proposed responding to selected criteria
- the three main priority activities to be first implemented **(around 1h)**.

*Tool: proposals to be submitted by each participant on **cards**, sorted and reviewed according to selected criteria, and **5 points** to be distributed by each participant among refined list of activities for the prioritization exercise.*

Each Group Member should express his potential commitments to the project as a whole (global funding or in-kind contribution...) or to a specific activity (funding, in-kind contribution, organisation of a workshop, implementation of a case study, participation to working groups,...). **(around 45 minutes)**.

Tool: roundtable.

The Group should have a final discussion and agree on its plenary report (around 15 minutes).

The rapporteur and a few members of the working group should prepare the Power Point report to be presented in plenary following the Annex 1 and 2 formats **(around 30 minutes)**.

List of Working Group Participants

Latin America & Caribbean	Europe	Africa and Asia	Mediterranean Basin
<i>German Room</i>	<i>Queen Juliana Room</i>	<i>Ethiopia Room</i>	<i>SD Room - B 503</i>
Mr Oswaldo del Aguila - Peru	Ms Paola Castelgrande - FAO/TCD	Mr Kenneth Ayuko - Kenya	Mr Hassane Abi Akar - Lebanon
Mr Marcelino Avila - FAO/SDA	Ms Maryse Coutsouradis - European Union	Mr Alemneh Dejene - FAO/SDR	Mr Mouldi Ben Said – Tunisia
Ms Caterina Batello - FAO/AGP	Ms Jenny Dey Depryck - FAO/SDA	Mr Daniel van Gilst - Norway	Mr Mohammed Benziand - Morocco
Mr Carlos Cattaneo - Argentina	Mr Jarmo Salonen - Finland	Ms Jeannette Gurung - Major Group	Mr Luc Dassonville - Plan Bleu
Ms Linda Elswick - Major Group	Mr Massimo Diomedi - FAO/SDA	Mr GUO Handi – China	Mr Daniel Deybe - European Union
Mr Luca Fè d'Ostiani - FAO/SDA	Mr Harald Egerer - UNEP/Carpathian Convention	Mr Stéphane Jost - FAO/SDA	Ms Claire Gaudot - France
Mr Miguel Palomino - Peru	Ms Natalie Feistritz - Austria	Mr Yoshihiro Kuraya - Japan	Mr Alfredo Guillet - Italy
Ms María del Rosario Guzmán - Colombia	Ms Bojana Hocevar - Slovenia	Mr LU Liqun - China	Ms Dominique Legros – FAO/SDA
Ms Luz Estela Santos - Mexico	Ms Kaisa Karttunen - Finland	Mr Douglas Mac Guire - FAO/FOR	Ms Aude Mac Gaw - FAO/TCD
Mr Roberto Seminario - Peru	Mr Domenico Mastrogiovanni - Major Group	Mr Eliud Ngunjiri - Major Group	Mr Marco Randone – Rotary
Mr Naoufel Telahig - IFAD	Mr Hubert Poffet - Switzerland	Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini - Iran	Ms Rosa Laura Romeo - FAO/FOR
Mr Heiner Thofern - Germany	Ms Vincenza Russo - Italy	Mr Jarno Salonen - Finland	Mr Mohammedi Salah - Algeria
Ms Paula Tolosa - Colombia	Mr Paolo Zaggia - IREALP	Mr Farhad Kheiri Sanami – Iran	Ms Kristiina Urpalainen - EUROMONTANA
Mr Peter De Brine - FAO/FOR (facilitator)	Mr Eckhard Hein - FAO/TCD (facilitator)	Mr Takeshi Takahatake - FAO/SDA	Mr Gérard Viatte – Switzerland
		Mr Fabrizio Bresciani - FAO/ESA (facilitator)	Mr Dominique Lantieri - FAO/SDR (facilitator)

Latin America & Caribbean <i>German Room</i>	Europe <i>Queen Juliana Room</i>	Africa and Asia <i>Ethiopia Room</i>	Mediterranean Basin <i>SD Room - B 503</i>
Mr Carlos Pérez - PASOLAC and Mr Peter Trutmann-CIP (rapporteurs)	Mr Frank Gaskell - EUROMONTANA (rapporteur)	Mr Kamal Banskota - ICIMOD (rapporteur)	Mr Lamberto Lamberti - CIHEAM and Mr Adel Aboul Naga – ICARDA (rapporteurs)

1. Mediterranean Basin working group report

Part 1

Proposed priority activities for 2005		
	Adjustments of proposed activities, additional proposals including details on implementation process and criteria...	Priority level
Communication		9
1. Produce awareness-raising information materials, participate in key events	Produce awareness raising & information materials, including website, on policies for sustainable agriculture and rural development Target local communities, national institutions, civil society groups Develop and disseminate information materials by the Project management and the regional and national focal points	9
Coordination		12
2. Assist in establishing/consolidating coordination mechanisms within FAO, with MP and other partners	Assist in establishing/consolidating existing international, regional, national, local and mountain range coordination mechanisms on sustainable development and environment including with civil society	12
Networking		5
3. Organize yearly meetings of the Adelboden Group	Organize yearly meetings of the Adelboden Group if needed	
	Regional preparatory meetings before the Adelboden Group Meeting	
Capitalizing on and building methods and tools		18
4. Comparative review of methods/tools for analysis of mountain externalities	Comparative review of methods/tools for analysis of positive & negative mountain externalities	4
5. Analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of existing mountain policies and their impact on SARD, case studies (i.e. SARD-FSE or PNTD)	Analysis of strengths and weaknesses of existing mountain policies and their impact on SARD, case studies (e.g. PNTD, SARD-FSE, etc.)	10
6. Produce/disseminate training materials to strengthen local institutions	Produce/disseminate training materials to strengthen local institutions, including e-learning	3
7. Assist in the promotion of mountain quality products	Assist in the promotion of mountain quality products	1

Sub-groups of selected priority activities for 2005: commitments by participants		
	Participants	Modalities, including funding
Global support	Gov. of France/ Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries, and Rural Affairs	Secondment
Regional focal points	Plan Bleu CIHEAM/MAIB	Participation in inter-institutional group (as regional focal point) for the Mediterranean region
	ICARDA	Regional focal point for North Africa, the Near East and Central Asia providing logistics, facilities and human resources
	Gov. of Morocco / <i>Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification</i>	Logistic support for regional meetings
National focal points	Gov. of Morocco / <i>Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification</i>	Part-time secondment of staff
	Gov. of Algeria (Ministry of Rural Development)	Host regional meetings, logistics...
	Gov. of Tunisia (Ministry of Agriculture)	
Communication		
Produce awareness-raising & information materials, including website, on policies for sustainable agriculture and rural development Target local communities, national institutions, civil society groups Develop and disseminate information materials by the Project management and the regional and national focal points	ICARDA	Produce awareness-raising & information materials
	Plan Bleu	Technical support/ Expertise: 60 working days
Coordination		
Assist in establishing/ consolidating existing international, regional, national, local and mountain range coordination mechanisms on sustainable development and environment		

Networking		
Organize yearly meetings of the Adelboden Group, if needed		
Regional preparatory meetings before the Adelboden Group meeting	ICARDA	Host regional meeting for North Africa, the Near East and Central Asia
	CIHEAM/MAIB	Contribute on land and water management on gender issue
Capitalizing on and building methods and tools		
	Gov. of Algeria (Ministry of Rural Development Minister Delegate)	National Strategy for Rural Development in all isolated areas (up-scaling and down-scaling)
4. Comparative review of methods/tools for analysis of mountain externalities		
5. Analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of existing mountain policies and their impact on SARD, case studies (i.e. SARD-FSE or PNTD)	Plan Bleu	Case studies
	ICARDA	Make available existing and proposed case studies
	CIHEAM/MAIB	Develop a case study in synergy with different parts of Lebanon
	Gov. of Morocco/ <i>Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte contre la Désertification</i>	Host a case study/Part-time secondment (<i>mise à disposition de personnel</i>)
	Tunisia	Host a case study
6. Produce/disseminate training materials for strengthening local institutions	Plan Bleu	Provide existing and develop training materials
	ICARDA	Organize/host training courses and producing training materials
	CIHEAM/MAIB	Provide facilities, organization (logistics), personnel, training of trainers, in coordination with other partners
7. Assist in the promotion of mountain quality products	Gov. of France	Provide results of on-going study

2. Latin American working group report

SELECTION CRITERIA

Decided to reduce the criteria to three:

Project activities should have a:

1. PARTICIPATORY dimension: Potential for dialogue – must be demand driven.
2. TERRITORIAL AND MULTISECTORAL dimension and must satisfy the elements below:
 - a) Concentration on policy actions in sustainable agriculture and rural development, and
 - b) Policy work must emphasize synergies between the HIGHLANDS & LOWLANDS and RURAL & URBAN Areas)
3. CONCRETE APPROACH and be applicable and replicable, and should include agriculture, rural development, environmental and sustainability components.

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

1. ANALYSIS OF STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF EXISTING MOUNTAIN POLICIES:
What are the local/national/regional policies? Who is participating? How are they working? What are the experiences of other countries? Identification of partners with on-going activities, and analysis of the demand for policy design/support.
2. Coordination/Networking/Partnership and Communication
3. Capacity building: Institutional Strengthening.

NB: 1 and 2 are linked and must progress in parallel.

Other points

- Each activity should include monitoring and evaluation.
- As part of the stakeholder participation process, the Global Learning Conference could be used as an opportunity to bring in SARD - 12-16 Sep. 2005 (Linda, IPSA)
- The existing National Focal points should be fully mobilized.

3. Africa and Asia working group report

Establishment of Regional focal points

- Many already established during the International Year of the Mountains
- Some countries continue to have same focal point, others changed, others not clear
- What is meant by regional dimension (ecosystem, population density, etc. ?)
- Focus could be through Major Groups (youth, women, NGOs, trade unions, etc.)
- Mountain focal points become effective only after government blessing, i.e. their roles need to be formalized
- Need to refine and define focal points

Produce awareness raising/information materials

- Need various types of communication support (CD ROMs)
- Need clearing house for different communication materials
- Currently outlined method top-down approach (dissemination); need for bottom-up approach
- Materials: in which languages beyond FAO/UN official languages
- Content should be organized by specific topics/needs – not crowded with too many details

Analysis of strength/weaknesses of existing mountain policies

- Lot of existing work on mountain policies (e.g. by ICIMOD)
- Stock-taking of existing policies essential
- Identify gaps to better understand them and to indicate where we must go
- Synergy between information systems is weak due to poor compilation
- Need to focus more on poverty alleviation in mountain areas: help farmers raise their income

Strengthening local institutions

- Need to raise the awareness of policy-makers of the importance of mountains, lowlanders, etc. at various levels
- Need to include end-users (address traditional rights of indigenous people)
- Capacity should be built around ownership

Complementary activities

- Mountain policies should not be looked at in isolation
- Develop methodology to be used also for other marginalized areas (e.g. islands)

	Priorities					Points
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	
Establishment of Regional focal points	2		2	1	1	8
Produce awareness-raising/information materials		2	3	1	3	9
Analysis of strength/weaknesses of existing mountain policies	2	1	1	2	2	10
Strengthening local institutions	4	2	1			18.5
Complementary activities		3	2	2		5.1

Commitments

Govt. of Japan	APO, ROA Project
ICIMOD	Link existing studies/on-going activities
Major Groups	Capacity building of local institutions if funds available, identify civil society groups
SARD-Initiative	Raise awareness
Resources Oriented Dev. Initiative	Capacity building
Govt. of Kenya	Studies, links with on-going projects, host regional workshop with
Min. of Agriculture	ICRAF

4. European working group report

General recommendations

- Establish focal points as soon as possible, capitalizing on existing ones (Committees for IYM-2002, MP, etc.) and avoiding possible duplications
- Use as much as possible existing documentation and materials (case studies, information and training materials), institutional set-up and networks
- Identify policy/institutional gaps to be filled using an integrated approach

Priority activities for 2005

- 1) Analysis of strengths and weaknesses of existing mountain policies
- 2) Analysis of mountain externalities
- 3) Promotion of mountain quality labels

Commitments

- Despite the quality of the Project Document, a clear definition of possible financial support is extremely difficult in the present stage
- Several donor countries are definitely interested in the project and, for the time being, could start contributing in-kind (e.g. Finland)
- Good opportunities exist and should be better explored with a number of possible donors/partners (e.g. GEF, UNEP, EU, FAO decentralized cooperation)

Project for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions

1 October 2004

The decision-making process and the role of the Adelboden Group

Background

The participants in the **Adelboden International Conference** on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions (Adelboden, Switzerland, June 2002) jointly agreed to “**call on interested countries and other partners to establish an Adelboden Group** on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in the Mountain Regions...”.

According to the Declaration adopted by consensus at Adelboden, this Group is intended to be “**a platform for discussion of policies and policy instruments, exchange of experience, and preparation of initiatives**”.

In close conjunction with FAO, the Swiss Government responded to this appeal by initiating and financing the organisation of the first meeting of the Adelboden Group on 11 and 12 September 2003. The discussions and the proposals made by the Group were used as an input for formulating **a multi-donor and multi-stakeholder project** over four years on **sustainable agriculture and rural development in mountain regions** (SARD-M), and in particular for defining its objectives and sub-objectives, and the main expected outputs. All these proposals were taken up by FAO in the SARD-M project document.

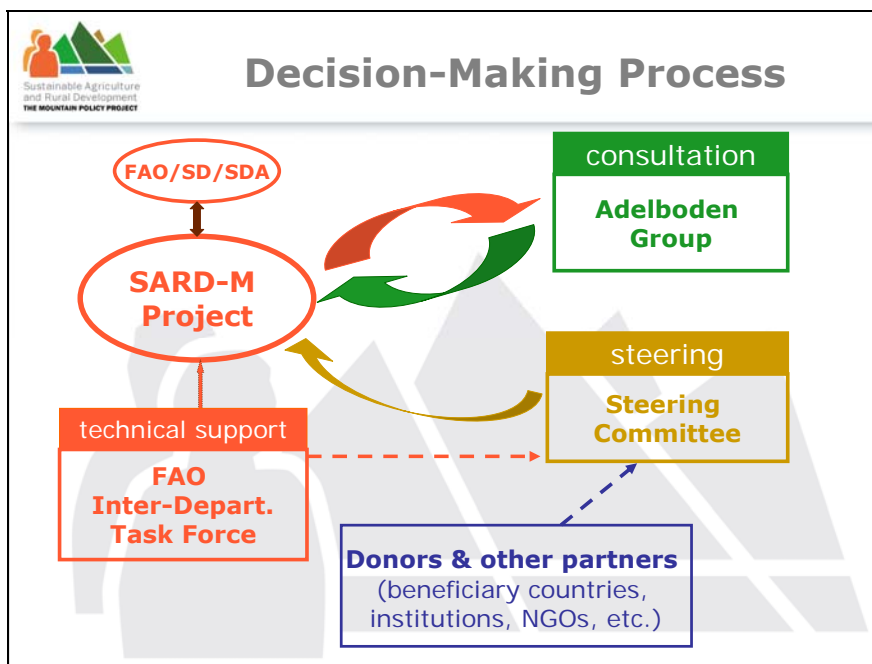
At the second meeting of the Adelboden Group on 4 and 5 October 2004, the Group's discussions will focus on **the implementation of the SARD-M project**, particularly on identifying the activities to which priority should be given during the second half of 2004 and in 2005, as well as the procedures for organising relations with the project partners, and particularly with the regional focal points.

The decision-making process: general overview

The following diagram shows the main parties involved in the decision-making process, indicating their respective roles.

In addition to the daily management of the project by the Rural Development Division of the Sustainable Development Department, three bodies will be required to play an essential role in this arrangement:

- the **Adelboden Group**, with a **consultative** role, to advise on the project,
- the **Project Steering Committee**, with a **decision-making** role, to guide and steer the project, and
- the **FAO Interdepartmental Working Group**, with a **consultative** role, to provide technical support to the project team.



The main functions

1. Advisory: the Adelboden Group

The Adelboden Group could be consulted by the SARD-M project team and the project Steering Committee on all technical issues and the substance of the project, and particularly:

- the priorities to be taken into consideration when drawing up its annual programme,
- priority issues identified in the framework of the project, with a view to formulating of proposals and, at the end of the project, its recommendations on SARD-related policies,
- the themes chosen by the regional seminars,
- methodological matters
- project outputs, before dissemination,
- the strategy for disseminating the outputs...

Priority will be given to the use of new communication technologies. The Group will nevertheless meet each year during the life of the project. The 2008 meeting scheduled to take place at the end of the project is conceived as an international seminar open to other participants.

The organization of and secretariat for these meetings will be under the responsibility of the SARD-M Project.

During the period 2005-2008 the consultations of the Group, in its advisory capacity to the SARD-M project (GCP/INT/ /MUL), will be funded out of the project budget, provided that all the necessary funding can be raised (US\$ 6.2 million) but without exceeding 5 per cent of the project budget.

2. Guidance and Steering: the project Steering Committee

The Steering Committee should approve the annual programme of project activities, which includes selecting the countries involved in the case studies, and any major changes in the commitments set out in the project document. It would be responsible for monitoring and examining the annual project outputs, where necessary redirecting its activities and supervising the budgetary allocations.

It would comprise:

- representatives of the FAO departments involved: the Sustainable Development, Technical Cooperation, Agriculture, Economic and Social, Forestry, General Affairs and Communications Departments;
- representatives of the donors (i.e. governments, international or civil society organisations);
- one representative, with observer status, of each country involved in a major project activity, and two members of the Adelboden Group appointed by the Group.

The Committee will be chaired by a Committee member, excluding the representatives of the FAO departments, elected when it first convenes. The chair could also rotate.

It would meet at least once a year and whenever necessary. The SARD-M project coordinator would take responsibility for the secretariat. Travelling costs to attend these meetings would be paid by the participants.

3. Technical support: the FAO interdepartmental working group

The interdepartmental working group will provide the project team with methodological and technical support.

It will include representatives of the FAO departments concerned: the Sustainable Development, Technical Cooperation, Agriculture, Economic and Social, Forestry, General Affairs and Communications Departments. Other units, programmes, projects or initiatives could be associated with its work according to the issues being addressed.

It will meet whenever necessary.