



Integrated Support to Sustainable Development and Food Security Programme in FAO

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What's NEW at the IP?

No.7/May 2004 UPDATE

Content: This issue of the IP-Newsletter provides a 4-pages summary of the main activities carried out by FAO's Integrated Support to Sustainable Development and Food Security Programme (IP) in the period from April 2002 to date.

- 1. Stakeholder workshops at national, district and community level
- 2. Research to identify impacts of HIV/AIDS
- 3. Capacity building and regional exchange
- 4. Developing and testing responses to HIV/AIDS on a pilot basis
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1. Stakeholder workshops at national, district and community level

- National stakeholder workshops were held in Uganda, Namibia and Zambia in **March and April 2002** to discuss the focus of Phase-II. The participants came primarily from ministries, extension and research institutions, NGOs and farmers unions.
- In **February and March 2003** national stakeholder workshops reviewed the results of the IP baseline surveys that had been carried out the previous six to eight months. Based on these insights the participants identified a range of cross-sectoral responses and strategies to mitigate the impacts of HIV/AIDS on agricultural production, food security and rural livelihoods.
- In **May and June 2003** the IP reported back on the results from the surveys and the recommendations from the national workshops to the communities involved in the surveys and stakeholders at district level involving local government, civil society organizations, traditional leaders, faith-based organisations and extension workers. The main aim of these meetings was to validate the survey findings, elicit their recommendations, and prioritize a number of promising mitigating strategies for testing. The district-level meetings established local IP support groups and identified where the IP intersected with their ongoing activities and

programmes.

2. Research to identify impacts of HIV/AIDS

- Research was preceded by a **desk study** in each of the three countries and compiled into comprehensive **annotated bibliographies** in June and July 2002.
- **From August to December 2002 the IP conducted interdisciplinary and participatory research involving 1,889** rural households in northern Namibia, southern Zambia and around Lake Victoria in Uganda. The research explored the relationships between HIV/AIDS, gender, agricultural production, food security and rural livelihoods, with the goal of identifying possible response strategies for the agricultural sector. The research demonstrated that the HIV/AIDS pandemic has serious implications for rural agricultural production and household food security, gender concerns and the policy environment. The studies emphasize that, under conditions of increasing AIDS-induced poverty, the decreased access to productive resources for rural men and women - and increasingly children - becomes particularly important.
- **National research reports** were compiled and finalised by mid-2003.
- A **summary report** of the three national research findings were compiled and launched on the World AIDS Day in 2003. Through case studies, this report illustrates how different aspects of the epidemic affect rural livelihoods, and explores the implications for the policy environment.

3. Capacity building and regional exchange

- Given that the IP partner countries are all addressing one common problem area, the IP has been promoting exchange of people, information and knowledge among the countries.
- IP and the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) organized a two-week regional workshop in Uganda on Gender-disaggregated Data and social research methods in the context of HIV/AIDS from 3-14 November 2003.
- A joint practical working session about data management and analysis took place in Namibia in June 2003.

4. Developing and testing responses to HIV/AIDS

on a pilot basis

The IP-stakeholders in the three partner countries all identified a wider range of responses and possible interventions. Due to limited time and resources, only a few small-scale projects were selected to be implemented in each country from July 2003. These activities are listed below. Some of the activities are still ongoing.

In addition the IP partners are networking, building capacity, raising awareness and actively contributing to the on-going national HIV/AIDS processes and policy making.

Uganda

In Uganda, the IP is implementing two key interventions in Masaka, Iganga and Luweero districts. The aim is to strengthen the abilities of extension workers, community based organizations, and female and male farmers to understand the impacts of HIV/AIDS and to promote relevant mitigation responses in the agricultural sector.

- Development of an HIV/AIDS resource guide for extension workers to be published by mid-2004; and
- A participatory multimedia communication campaign on HIV/AIDS and agriculture using radio, drama and written material, to be finalised by September 2004.

Key partner: National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS)

Zambia

In Zambia the IP-partners have piloted two projects in Monze, Choma and Sinazongwe districts in the Southern Province.

- Information dissemination through community radio programmes, drama performances, posters and other written material in local languages;
- Nutritional awareness and promotional campaign. Activity finalised.

Key partner: the Zambia Farming Systems Association (FASAZ)

Namibia

In Namibia the IP-partners have piloted several projects as a response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ohangwena Region in the Northern Province.

- Prevention of property grabbing through training and sensitization workshops. Follow-up of this activity involve a Seminar on Property, Inheritance Rights, Gender, and Livelihood Strategies in Namibia in the Context of the HIV/AIDS Pandemic to be organized from **9 to 11 June 2004 in Northern Namibia.**

- Youth mobilization and capacity building. All training was concluded in 2003.
- Home-based care volunteers were sensitized and trained on the use of materials and information on nutrition and food for PLWHA in 2003.
- Socio-economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) training was conducted in September 2003 for key IP stakeholders and extension workers involved in the IP.

Key partners: Africa Institutional Management Services (AIMS) and MultiPurpose Consultancy, cc. (MPC)

The key collaborating partners at national level in all three countries are: FAO Representatives in Namibia, Zambia and Uganda, Ministries of Agriculture, Ministries of Health, Ministries of Gender/Women, National HIV/AIDS Commission, Local Governments, agricultural research institutions/universities and selected NGOs.

5. Activities at FAO-Headquarters

- In Phase-II, the **Programme Implementation Task Force (PITF)** has been enlarged and is composed of technical staff from 10 services from the Sustainable Development Department, Agriculture Department, and Economic and Social Department of FAO.
- During Phase-II, the **PITF has had seven meetings** to discuss various aspects of the IP's implementation.
- Several **technical meetings** with PITF members and others have taken place on an ad hoc basis to discuss specific project activities, the research framework, and linkages to other ongoing activities in FAO.
- The IP is **collaborating with ongoing programmes within various services**, such as the Socioeconomic and Gender Analysis Programme (SEAGA), the Youth Programme, Linking gender, biodiversity and local knowledge systems (LinKS), the HIV/AIDS and Food Security Programme, Gender-Disaggregated Data (GDD) in agriculture and rural development, as well as the FAO Focal Point on HIV/AIDS.
- The IP programme established an **informal Uganda working group** at FAO-Headquarters to strengthen in-house collaboration and co-ordination. The working group consists of people from FAO that have programme activities in Uganda, and information is shared with partners in Uganda.
- Several PITF officers have been **travelling** to the countries to provide technical advice during the research process, and in planning and implementing the pilot activities.

- The **overall coordination** of the programme is done by the Gender and Population Division (SDW) in FAO. Staff at Headquarters include a Senior Officer, an Associate Professional Officer (APO), an APO (based in SDRN until November 2002), and a full-time secretarial assistant. They are responsible for the day-to-day management and collaboration with all stakeholders involved. As needed, consultants are contracted to assist in the training, research, and pilot project activities at Headquarters and at national level.

6. Information and communication activities

- The brochure "**HIV/AIDS impacts and strategies for action**" (May 2003), the national impact survey reports (2003) and the summary report (December 2003) have been disseminated widely at national level, as well as through e-mail, the IP-website and Newsletter, the websites of SD-dimensions, the FAO HIV/AIDS and Gender Newsletter, and at several national, regional and international/UN conferences.
- Large **media coverage** was received by the IP during the World Aids Day on 01 December 2003 when FAO's News Room published the Web story Mapping the march of HIV/AIDS in rural Africa: Study examines complex impact of the deadly disease based on the IP survey findings (see: <http://www.fao.org/english/newsroom/news/2003/25359-en.html>). The News Room article was picked up by media all over the world, such as MSNBC News, 1010 wins (US), The Globe and Mail (Canada), UN News Centre, News 24 (South Africa), South Africa's Sunday Times, and the Italian agencies ANSA, AGI and E-bis news.
- The IP had the opportunity to **present some of its research findings in other fora**, such as: i) Roundtable organized by UNIFEM on "Economics and Rights: Interconnections in the context of HIV/AIDS and Feminized Poverty", New York, April 2003; ii) Roundtable workshop on "Mitigation of HIV/AIDS-impacts through agriculture and rural development" organized by FAOSAF, OXFAM-GB and GTZ-SNRD, Pretoria, South Africa, May 2003, iii) Roundtable organized by UNAIDS on HIV/AIDS and rural communities during ECOSOC in Geneva, July 2003; and iv) International workshop on "Agricultural Policy and HIV/AIDS: Addressing the Linkages" organized by FAO, Maputo, November 2003.
- The IP partners at country level also carry out a variety of information and communication activities, including obtaining **local press coverage of the IP work**.

For more information about the IP:

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