



Sustainable Agriculture
and Rural Development
MOUNTAIN POLICY PROJECT

Project for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions (GCP/GLO/136/MUL)

"Strengthening mountain populations' livelihoods with improved policies for sustainable agriculture and rural development"

Work plan for 2006

Introduction

The first Steering Committee meeting of the SARD-M Project, which took place in Rome on 22 February 2005, gave the green light for the project start-up by approving the project work plan and budget for 2005 which took into account most of the recommendations given in October 2004 by the Adelboden Group.

Thanks to the resources made available by Switzerland, which allocated US\$ 350,000 for 2005, France and Japan, which respectively seconded the Project Coordinator and an Associate Professional Officer, the SARD-M project has implemented in 2005 a limited number of action-oriented activities in different mountain ranges and countries, involving stakeholders at various levels and representing diverse institutions.

In line with its objective of ***"strengthening mountain populations' livelihoods with improved policies for sustainable agriculture and rural development"***, the project work plan for 2005 focused on the following three priorities:

- P.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;
- P.2** Strengthen local institutions, by developing training materials and sessions, in close collaboration with NGOs, producers' associations, cooperatives, etc;
- P.3** Analyze positive and negative externalities of mountain regions through a comparative review of existing methods and tools.

The **building of synergies** among ongoing programmes and initiatives, and **co-funding** of field activities with the aim of reinforcing project partnerships have indeed been a driving force of the SARD-M Project, which operates at global, regional, national and local levels.

Activities have involved **many different partners** (i.e. governments, civil society, governmental and non-governmental international organisations) and been **articulated at various levels** (i.e. local, country, regional or sub-regional and global levels) so as to facilitate exchanges and interactions among different stakeholders.

1. Review of 2005 activities: summary table

Activities	Implemented by	Output
Establishment of Regional Focal Points, project pivotal partners		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CIHEAM in collaboration with Plan bleu ▪ ICIMOD ▪ Euromontana ▪ PASOLAC ▪ CIP/GMP/CONDESAN 	SARD-M Project Team	Facilitation of sharing of information, communication, and coordination and networking with other partners
Meeting of the Regional Focal Points	SARD-M Project Team	Ownership and a common understanding of the project priorities and work plan; comparable implementations of activities; improvement of methodological guidelines
Priority 1: Analysis of strengths / weaknesses of existing mountain policies		
Collection of documentation related to SARD-M policies	SARD-M Project Team	Database launched in April; 115 documents included
Methodological framework for policy assessments	SARD-M Project Team	Document in English, French and Spanish
Country assessments in 5 regions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in Europe, Carpathians ▪ in Central America ▪ in Hindu Kush Himalaya ▪ in the Mediterranean region ▪ in the Andes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNEP ▪ PASOLAC ▪ ICIMOD ▪ CIHEAM/ Bari ▪ CIP/GMP/ CONDESAN 	Country reports on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Romania, Slovak Republic, Ukraine ▪ El Salvador, Nicaragua ▪ Bhutan, China, India, Nepal ▪ Lebanon, Morocco ▪ Colombia, Peru
Case study at the national level: PNTD approach in Huancavelica, Peru	▪ CEPES	Report including methodological issues
Regional workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in the Carpathians ▪ in Central America 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNEP and Euromontana ▪ PASOLAC 	Reports
Priority 2: Strengthening of local institutions		
CIHEAM-IAM Bari ImpleMed Project	SARD-M Project Team	Further refinement of the Project document and methodology
Priority 3: Analysis of mountain positive and negative externalities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Euromontana Seminar (9 – 11 Nov.) ▪ Limited review during PASOLAC's regional seminar ▪ Stock-taking of surveys and case studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Euromontana ▪ PASOLAC ▪ SARD-M Project Team & volunteer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report on Euromontana website ▪ Included in regional workshop report ▪ Report available on website
Other activity		
Support to Mountain Quality Products Project	Secretariat of the Mountain Partnership	
Generic support activities		
Maintenance of database on SARD-M organisations, programme and projects	SARD-M Project Team	100 organisations included; access on the project website
Communication	SARD-M Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ updates of the website ▪ electronic mailing list ▪ project brochure, folder ▪ 7 information sheets

Coordination and networking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provision of assistance for the establishment/consolidation of coordination mechanisms on SARD within FAO and with other partners networking 	SARD-M Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links established or strengthened with the Mountain Forum, the Mountain Partnership Supported the SARD Coordination Mechanism and consolidated coordination with other SARD projects/partners
Organisation of the Meeting of the Interim Bureau of the Adelboden Group	SARD-M Project Team	Recommendations of the Interim Bureau on the implementation of project activities, 2006 possible work plan and project future



The Country Assessments



General comments of the Interim Bureau of the Adelboden Group¹:

- “The Bureau thanks the SARD-M Project team for its comprehensive presentations and the excellent work undertaken in 2005 together with its partners, notably the regional focal points in Central America (PASOLAC), South America (GMP/CIP), Europe (EUROMONTANA), Mediterranean Basin (CIHEAM-IAM Bari) and Asia - Hindu Kush-Himalaya (ICIMOD).
- It was underlined that the three activities are closely interlinked. In particular, the activity on “institutions” is linked to the activity on “policy” as policy elaboration and policy implementation are very much dependent on the institutional framework.
- In the project a good balance between the three dimensions of sustainability should be achieved. So far, the social and cultural dimension seems to have been addressed mainly in the third priority. The Interim Bureau therefore invites the project team to make sure that the social and cultural dimension is given due consideration in the other parts of the project as well.”

¹ Meeting held in FAO Headquarters on 12 – 14 December 2005.

2. Work Plan for 2006

Much work still needs to be done on the three priority areas selected by the Project Steering Committee in 2005, both in the five first selected regions and in other additional regions to fulfil a global perspective. The 2006 work plan would be thus considered as **a second and complementary year of implementation of these priorities.**

A limited number of activities are proposed for the basic work plan of 2006. The proposal takes into account **recommendations of the Interim Bureau of the Adalboden Group** (see box below)² as well as **financial support** and potential co-funding.

Synergies and co-funding with SARD or mountain-related projects and programmes will still be a driving force. Activities will involve **many different partners** (i.e. governments, civil society, governmental and non-governmental international organisations) and be **articulated at various levels** (i.e. local, country, regional or sub-regional and global levels).

Activities will remain open to possible adjustment.

Recommendations of the Interim Bureau of the Adalboden Group:

- *“Of key importance are the focal points and especially their meeting in the spring of 2006.*
- *The P1 activities have first priority. The current assessments have to evolve and result in analyses which then can be translated into action. The regional workshops play a key role, together with appropriate follow-up activities.*
- *P2, given the current constraints, is not a major priority. Some institutional aspects can be covered in the policy work (P1). Where possible, linkages should be created with other projects in the fields of “capacity building” and “governance”.*
- *The work on P3 presents an opportunity to cover also social and cultural aspects. Further work along the lines of the proposals in the report “valorisation of positive externalities within the framework of the SARD-M project” should be considered. The continuation and strengthening of linkages with related on-going activities is important (EUROMONTANA, FAO ROA Project). The international conference to be held in the autumn of 2006 to mark the end of the second phase of the FAO Project “Roles of Agriculture” (ROA) will provide an opportunity to present more information on externalities provided by agriculture, in particular in relation to environmental services and to some social aspects. Cooperation between ROA and SARD-M will therefore be important in 2006.*
- *The work in the SARD-M Project for the years 2006 and 2007 should focus on P1 and P3 (policies and externalities). The scope of the project needs nevertheless to be global. Therefore an activity in Central Asia, together with ICARDA and in line with the SARD-M Project common framework and approach should be considered in 2006.*
- *A question mark remains as regards a potential activity in Africa. Linkages with other projects need to be explored.*
- *An opportunity to create additional visibility for the SARD-M Project will be the ICARRD (International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development) which will take place in Porto Alegre, Brazil, 7 – 10 March 2006.*
- *The AG should meet again before the SARD-M Project comes to an end to draw general conclusions. The Bureau should meet again in the second half of 2006 to take stock and prepare the 2007 AG meeting, the precise schedule depending on staff availability.”*

² Meeting held in FAO Headquarters on 12 – 14 December 2005.

Summary table: activities to be implemented in 2006

Proposed activities	Implemented by	Output
Establishment of Regional Focal Points, project pivotal partners		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CIHEAM in collaboration with Plan bleu ▪ CIP/GMP/CONDESAN ▪ ICIMOD ▪ Euromontana ▪ PASOLAC 	SARD-M Project Team	Facilitation of sharing of information, communication, and coordination and networking with other partners
Meeting of the Regional Focal Points (April)	SARD-M Project Team	Ownership and a common understanding of the project priorities and work plan; comparable implementations of activities; improvement of methodological guidelines
Priority 1: Analysis of strengths / weaknesses of existing mountain policies		
Finalisation of 2005 activities not completed	SARD-M Project Team and Focal Points	See 2005 work plan table
Collection of documentation related to SARD-M policies	SARD-M Project Team	Database updated
Methodological framework for policy assessments	SARD-M Project Team	Revised document in English, French and Spanish
Country assessments in 5 regions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in the Andes (2nd part) ▪ in Europe, Balkans (tentative depending on request from the related countries) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CIP/GMP/CONDESAN ▪ UNEP 	Country reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecuador ▪ Countries to be determined
Case study at the national level: PNTD approach in Tanzania or Burundi	▪ To be identified	Report including methodological issues
Regional workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in the Andes (by October) ▪ in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya (by May) ▪ in the Mediterranean Basin (by mid September) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CIP/GMP/CONDESAN ▪ ICIMOD ▪ IAM Bari 	Reports expected by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ end 2006 ▪ autumn ▪ end 2006
Follow-up activities to 2005 policy assessments (to be determined) notably: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in the Carpathians ▪ in Central America 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNEP ▪ PASOLAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional country assessments in the Carpathians
Preparation of an interregional Conference (i.e. 3 rd meeting of the Adelboden Group): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2nd Meeting of the Interim Bureau of the Adelboden Group ▪ eConference 	SARD-M Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organisation of the interregional Conference ▪ Discussion recommendations and proposals at regional level based on project outputs ▪ Recommendations of the Interim Bureau on the implementation of project activities, 2007 possible work plan
Priority 2: Strengthening of local institutions		
CIHEAM-IAM Bari ImpleMed Project	SARD-M Project Team	Depending on funding availability
Priority 3: Analysis of mountain positive and negative externalities		
▪ Follow-up activities to Euromontana Seminar	▪ Euromontana	▪ Presentation of 2005 outputs to EC, OECD...
Other activity		
Support to Mountain Quality Products Project	Secretariat of the Mountain Partnership	Exchange of information, participation in meetings, e.g. the SARD-M Project workshop to be held in the Mediterranean basin

Generic support activities		
Maintenance of database on SARD-M organisations, programme and projects	SARD-M Project Team	Database updated
Strengthening collaboration with and between local authorities from developed and developing countries on sustainable development in mountain regions (meeting by mid July)	Secretariat of the Mountain Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exchange information ▪ Identification of fields of potential collaboration
Communication	SARD-M Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 updates of the website ▪ electronic mailing list: 6 messages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ poster paper ▪ information sheets ▪ Participation in ICARRD
Coordination and networking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provision of assistance for the establishment/consolidation of coordination mechanisms on SARD within FAO and with other institutions ▪ networking 	SARD-M Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Links established or strengthened with the Mountain Forum, the Mountain Partnership ▪ Supported the SARD Coordination Mechanism and consolidated coordination with other SARD projects/partners

2.1 Criteria for prioritising activities to be implemented

The list of criteria for selecting priority activities established in 2005 has demonstrated relevance and remains identical.

Project activities should:

- have a participatory dimension (potential for dialogue and be demand-driven);
- have a territorial and multisectoral dimension (concentration on policy actions in SARD and on synergies between highlands and lowlands, and rural and urban areas);
- be concrete, applicable and replicable, and must include sustainability components.

Countries will be proposed both in terms of priority and interest shown by national and/or local institutions. There is also an important synergy to be developed with ongoing FAO and partner activities in mountain areas of these countries.

2.2 Maintenance of existing Regional Focal Points

Regional focal points will facilitate sharing of information, communication, and coordination and networking with other partners, while supporting the design and implementation of priority activities.

The following **five regional focal points selected in 2005**, which all demonstrated their relevance, efficiency and commitment, will be extended in 2006 to ensure continuity in SARD-M project implementation and finalise the implementation of the cycle of activities launched in 2005, notably the organisation of regional workshops, and contribute to or support the implementation of the follow-up activities identified in the "policy assessments": CIHEAM – IAM Bari in collaboration with Plan Bleu for the Mediterranean region; CIP in collaboration with Global Mountain Programme and CONDESAN for South America; EUROMONTANA for Europe; ICIMOD for Hindu Kush-Himalaya/Asia; and PASOLAC for Central America.

▪ Coordination and synergy-building among Regional Focal Points

Holding of a second meeting of the Regional Focal Points organised by the FAO SARD-M Team, scheduled for 19-21 April.

2.3 Priority 1: Analysis of strengths / weaknesses of existing mountain policies

The assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of existing policies for SARD in mountain regions will **remain the major area of work for 2006**. It will also **contribute considerably towards supplementing the two other project priorities** concerning the strengthening of institutional capacities and the issue of positive and negative externalities of mountain regions.

2.3.1 Collection of documentation and update of the database related to SARD-M policies

The collection of documentation will continue with the assistance of Regional Focal Points. The SARD-M Project Team will also collect documentation through contacts made at various meetings.

2.3.2 Review of the methodological framework

Building on the lessons learned from the 2005 policy assessments activities, the methodological framework **"Towards a methodological framework for a rapid assessment of policies for SARD in Mountain Regions"** will be reviewed in collaboration with the Regional Focal Points and the FAO SARD-M Interdepartmental Task Force.

2.3.3 Country assessments in two regions

The activities that will be implemented at the national level are the following:

- **South America:** second part of the assessment carried out by **GMP-CIP/CONDESAN** in the Andes, namely Ecuador.
- **Europe (to be confirmed, depending on request of related countries and funding)**
As a follow-up to the SARD-M Carpathians workshop and Euromontana's Conference, assessments could be carried out in Balkan countries by the **Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP)**.

2.3.4 Regional workshops in three regions

The three following workshops will be organised:

- in Hindu Kush-Himalaya by ICIMOD, to be held in May in Kathmandu;
- in the Mediterranean Region by the FAO Livelihood Support Programme and IAM Bari, to be held by mid September in Tunisia;
- in Latin America by GMP-CIP, to be held in autumn.

2.3.5 One case study at the national level: Participatory and Negotiated Territorial Development approach in a country/territory of Sub-Saharan Africa

One PNTD activity will be conducted in collaboration with FAO/Land Tenure Service (SDAA) in one country selected among governments and other organisations involved in the Adelboden Group meetings or having demonstrated interest in the project such as Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

2.3.6 Follow-up activities to 2005 policy assessments

Follow-up activities are not yet all identified. The possible activities could be:

▪ In the Carpathians:

- expansion of the policy assessment to the four other Carpathian countries, namely Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro ;
- an official contribution to the first Conference of the Parties of the Carpathian Convention to be held in early June 2006 through the output of the SARD-M policy assessment.

▪ **Preparation of submission to GEF**

As clarified with the DGEF/UNEP a Medium Size Project (MSP) should focus on the implementation in selected countries of follow-up activities and recommendations developed by the policy assessment activities of the SARD-M Project. It is thus suggested to **submit medium size projects at the regional levels to implement follow up activities related to biodiversity** identified in the country policy assessments and by participants of the **regional workshops**.

The SARD-M Project could contribute to the preparation of the concept paper by consultants experienced in GEF mobilisation.

2.3.7 Organisation of an interregional workshop, third meeting of the Adelboden Group

Approximately four years after the Adelboden Conference, the third meeting of the Adelboden Group will be convened in spring 2007 to:

- Share the results of the assessments conducted in Central America, Europe (Carpathians and possibly Balkans), Hindu Kush-Himalaya, the Mediterranean region, and Latin America;
- Exchange experiences in the analysis and formulation of policies;
- Discuss methodological issues for the analysis and formulation of policies for SARD;
- Derive the institutional needs for the strengthening of capacities for the formulation and design of policies for SARD in the region.

A meeting with the Interim Bureau of the Adelboden Group will thus be organised in autumn 2006 in order to prepare this interregional meeting. A preparatory e-Conference should also be implemented in late 2006 in collaboration with the Mountain Forum.

2.4 Priority 2: Strengthening of local institutions

Depending on the availability of funds, the ImpleMed Project could start in autumn 2006 or in early 2007. The SARD-M team would thus contribute to the preparation of this training course. SARD-M policy assessments implemented in 2005, the regional network launched in 2005 and the outputs of the 2006 regional workshop will contribute to identify potential participants and feed the training sessions.

2.5 Priority 3: Analysis of mountain positive and negative externalities

This priority will benefit from the two other project priorities concerning the assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of existing policies for SARD in mountain regions and, to a lesser extent, the strengthening of institutional capacities.

Activities in 2006 will focus on a contribution to the implementation of **follow-up activities to:**

- the **Euromontana Seminar** on mountain positive externalities: "Reaping the benefits of Europe's precious place - Policies releasing the potential of mountain and remoter rural areas", notably the presentation of the Seminar proposals to the European Commission and OECD;
- the **2005 stock-taking** of surveys and case studies on or related to mountain positive externalities and the analysis of the lessons learned from a policy and institutional viewpoint.

The project team should also contribute to and will participate in the international conference to be held in the autumn of 2006 to mark the end of the second phase of the FAO Project "Roles of Agriculture" (ROA). It will provide an opportunity to present more information on externalities provided by agriculture, in particular in relation to environmental services and to some social aspects.

2.6 Support in the promotion of mountain quality products

The new objective of the Mountain Quality Products project is to develop a web-based Mediterranean Resource Centre on Mountain Quality Products that will provide small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs living in North Africa and the Middle East with different types of information (e.g. Laws and Policies, Products, Stakeholders and projects, Publications, etc.) useful in preparing for the creation of a new EUROMED free trade area in 2010. The Resource Centre will initially include information on four pilot countries: Morocco, Algeria, Lebanon and Syria.

Collaboration between the SARD-M and "Quality Products" Projects could comprise exchange of information, participation in meetings, notably the SARD-M regional workshop to be held in the Mediterranean basin.

2.7 Generic support activities

2.7.1 Maintenance of the database on organisations, programmes and projects

The critical inventory of organisations, programmes and projects dealing with SARD inspired policies for mountain regions started launched in March 2005 will be regularly updated.

2.7.2 Strengthening collaboration with and between local authorities from developed and developing countries on sustainable development in mountain regions

Depending on interest expressed by local authorities, a meeting should be organised by the end of July 2006 to launch this collaborative process. The meeting would be **hosted by UNCEM** and **organised in the framework of the Mountain Partnership** in collaboration with all institutions³ involved in the process. It would aim to exchange information and identify fields of potential collaboration based on common interests, needs and priorities. The meeting should include the participation of representatives from developing countries.

2.7.3 Communication

The strategy adopted for 2005 communication was meant to be an evolving and bottom-up process, but still needs to be improved. This should be discussed with the Regional Focal Points, the Major Groups and other members of the Adelboden Group.

Communication activities will still target governments, international organizations, Major Groups of civil society and other key stakeholders involved in SARD-M policies. Special emphasis will be given to communication towards the private sector.

The existing materials will be mobilised, through maintenance and updating of the website (at least 5 updates), the electronic mailing list. Links and synergies will also be maintained with the overall SARD website launched in April 2005.

Information sheets in three languages will be produced on activities implemented in the different regions, **notably on the outputs of each country survey and on the regional**

³ Unione Nazionale Comuni Comunità Enti Montani (UNCEM), Euromontana, the Association Européenne des Elus de Montagne (AEM), FAO's SARD-M Project, the FAO Decentralized Cooperation Programme and UNEP's Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

synthesis/workshops, and be disseminated to potential donors and other partners. The SARD-M Project will also be involved in key meetings and conferences notably the ICARRD Conference. Country reports and regional workshop proceedings will be posted on the project website.

2.7.4 Coordination and Networking

a. Provision of assistance for the establishment/consolidation of coordination mechanisms on SARD within FAO and with other partners

The Project Team will continue to support the FAO SARD Coordination Mechanism and consolidate coordination with other SARD projects/partners at the national and international level (SARD-Initiative, etc.).

The same applies to other non FAO projects/partners at national and international levels, such as the SARD in Mountains Initiative of the Mountain Partnership and other activities developed with the Mountain Partnership Secretariat.

b. Networking

To complement the networking activities of Regional Focal Points, links established by the Project Team with the UN System Network on Rural Development and Food Security, the Mountain Partnership, the Mountain Forum and CSO/NGO networks, as well as with other institutions and networks will be pursued.

The Mountain Forum expressed interest in the activities of the SARD-M Project. One potential joint activity is the organization of an e-consultation in preparation for the Third Meeting of the Adelboden Group.

Close collaboration will be strengthened with Major Groups which have been engaged in the Adelboden process. Direct collaboration should also be established, as much as possible, with the activities of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS).