

## **ASFA Trust Fund Proposal (by FAO)**

**Title: Staff Support to ASFA Secretariat (for January - December 2006)**

*This is an ongoing Trust Fund proposal which requires, each year, the approval of the ASFA Board. This Trust Fund Proposal refers to the year 2006 .*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Most of the activities carried out by the FAO ASFA Secretariat regarding ASFA are for the collective or entire benefit of the ASFA Partnership/database (e.g. preparation of ASFA input, including from countries where no ASFA Partners are present (language permitting), recruitment of new Partners, training, quality control of new Partner's input, software testing and development, writing/publishing of manuals, ASFA Trust Fund administration, organization of Board Meetings, increasing the distribution of ASFA products, etc.).

The following proposal, for the Board's approval, would authorize the FAO ASFA Secretariat to use the ASFA Trust Fund (up to \$40,000) in support of its ASFA related the activities.

This "ongoing" Trust Fund proposal would require approval, each year, by the ASFA Board before renewal.

### **2. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION**

Since 1971, the beginning of ASFA, the funding for the ASFA activities mentioned above in section-1 have been borne, for the most part, by FAO through the full time availability of now four (previously seven) full time staff as well as a significant level of part time staff support and operating budgets. Since 1998, FAO has been requesting the ASFA Board to approve FAO Trust Fund proposals which reflect work done for the collective benefit of the ASFA Partnership. This is as a consequence of the considerable budget reductions faced by the Organization, the large increase in the number of ASFA Partners, and also because the ASFA Trust Fund has now accumulated sufficient funds.

### **3. ACTIVITIES**

Terms of Reference for use of the ASFA Trust Fund in 2006\* include::

1. Assistance in the preparation of FAO's ASFA input and that originating in countries where there is not an ASFA participating centre (language permitting),
2. Recruitment and training of new ASFA Partners,
3. Increasing the distribution of ASFA information products to developing countries
4. Assistance in carrying out other ASFA related activities which would otherwise subtract time from the ASFA Secretariat's efforts to develop and maintain the ASFA system and Partnership.
5. Participation in activities/meetings aimed at increasing the Secretariat's expertise and/or experience in areas/issues related to ASFA maintenance and development.

*\*(these Terms of Reference would also apply to any unspent funds allocated under previous years to this same proposal)*

**4. BUDGET** US\$40,000 (January 2006 - December 2006)