Evaluation

of

Improving Household Food Security and Nutrition in the Luapula Valley Project

(IHFSAN)

Report of the Evaluation Mission

November 2001

Preface

The following draft report represents the views of the independent evaluation mission on the performance and achievements of the IHFSAN (Improving Household Food Security and Nutrition in the Luapula Valley) project. The evaluation was initiated with a view to providing the donor, collaborating agencies and FAO with an independent and objective assessment of the current status of implementation of the project, including a review of problems faced. The mission started on 16 September 2001 and ended on 5 October 2001; nine communities involved in the IHFSAN project were visited and numerous collaborators at field, district and provincial level were met. In addition, the mission visited relevant offices in Lusaka.

The evaluation was a challenging task given the complex history of the project, the amount of reports, correspondence etc. produced, as well as the relative scarcity of information available on the project's outcomes and impact.

The evaluation mission is most appreciative of the efforts made by the staff and management of IHFSAN, the GRZ officers in the districts visited, and the FAO representation, as well as a range of other individuals who provided information and discussed issues in a frank and constructive manner. The community groups met provided valuable insights and always gave a warm welcome to the mission. In the districts, brainstorming sessions were organized with district officers and Community Support Staff (CSS), which produced sometimes surprising results. The draft report has also benefited from briefings and discussions with ESNP (nutrition), AGPC (crop production) and AGSM (marketing and rural finance) staff members at FAO headquarters in Rome.

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List of Acronyms

AGPC	Crop and Grassland Service (FAO)
AGSM	Marketing and Rural Finance Service (FAO)
ALF	Additional Logical Framework
APO	Associate Professional Officer (FAO)
ASIP	Agricultural Sector Investment Programme
BAS	Beneficiary Assessment Study (preceding present evaluation)
BESSIP	Basic Education Sub-Sector Investment Programme
BSF	Belgian Survival Fund
CAP	Community Action Plans
CBGMP	Community-Based Growth Monitoring and Promotion
CDC	Curriculum Development Centre
CDF	Community Development Fund
CDSS	Ministry of Community Development and Social Services
CEO	Camp Extension Officer
CG	Community Group
CHO	Crop Husbandry Officer
CMS	Credit Management Services
CNP	Community Nutrition Promoters
CO	Camp Officer
CSO	Central Statistical Office
CSS	Community Support Staff
CTA	Chief Technical Adviser
DACO	District Agricultural Coordinator
DDCC	District Development Coordination Committee
DHMT	District Health Management Team
DNC	District Nutrition Coordinator
DPC	District Project Coordinator
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EC	Executive Committee
ESNP	Nutrition Programmes Service
FAN	Food and Nutrition Team
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAOR	FAO Representative
FASAZ	Farming Systems Association of Zambia
FFS	Farmers Field School
FHANIS	Food Health and Nutrition Information System
FINNIDA	Finnish International Development Assistance
FSRT	Farming Systems Research Team
FTC	Farmers Training Centre
GAS	Group Association Support
GMP	Growth Monitoring and Promotion
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia
HMIS	Health Monitoring Information System
IHFSAN	Improving Household Food Security and Nutrition (Project Acronym)
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
KAPP	Knowledge, Attitudes, Perceptions and Practices
LLFSP	Luapula Livelihood and Food Security Programme (FINNIDA)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH	Ministry of Health
MTAS	Mansa Technology Assessment Site
NAC	National Advisory Committee

NAIS	National Agricultural Information Service
NCSR	National Council for Scientific Research
NFNC	National Food and Nutrition Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIRS	Nanga Irrigation Research Station
NPC	National Project Coordinator
NPD	National Programme Director
NPM	National Project Manager
ORS	Oral Rehydration Solution
PAM	Programme Against Malnutrition
PEM	Protein Energy Malnutrition
PM&E	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
PPAZ	Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PS	Permanent Secretary
PSC	Provincial Steering Committee
PTA	Parent-Teacher Association
RHC	Rural Health Centre
RIF	Rural Investment Fund
RRA	Rapid Rural Appraisal
SAFCO	Senior Agricultural Field Services Coordinator
SAO	Senior Agricultural Officer
SCCI	Seed Control and Certification Institute
SCRB	Soils and Crops Research Branch
SIWUP	Smallholder Irrigation Water Use Project
SM(P)	Seed Multiplication (Programme)
SNV	Netherlands Volunteer Organization
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme (FAO)
TDRI	Tropical Diseases Research Institute
TPR	Tri-partite Review
TSB	Technical Services Branch
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNZA	University of Zambia
WASHE	Water, Sanitation and Health Education (groups)
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIN	Women in Irrigation (project)
ZAMSIF	Zambia Social Investment Fund

Executive Summary

High rates of chronic and acute malnutrition in Luapula valley were the starting point for the IHFSAN project. Causes of malnutrition in Luapula valley were identified as: i) household food insecurity; ii) poor health, water and sanitation; iii) poor knowledge base; and iv) inadequate care for the nutritionally vulnerable. This analysis was confirmed by a participatory rural appraisal carried out by FAO in 1996 in preparation for the project. The project started operations of its present phase in 1997 and will conclude in December 2001. The original budget of US$ 3,314,000 was increased to US$ 3,651,035 following a tri-partite review in 1999; by mid-2001 US$ 3,037, 979 were spent.

The project is designed to contribute to long-term household food security and nutrition in the Luapula valley, including year-round access to a balanced diet, by following a participatory approach aimed at community empowerment.

Towards the attainment of this objective, important results have been achieved, including:

- the formation of community groups undertaking joint problem identification and action planning;
- increased awareness among villagers of issues relating to nutrition and health;
- the emergence of community facilitators active in agricultural activities as well as other fields such as growth monitoring and nutrition advice;
- the establishment of improved oil palms in farmers' fields, which will result in a better supply of palm oil and thus contribute to a reduction of vitamin A deficiencies;
- increased seed availability, leading to the uptake by farmers of improved varieties of certain important crops, such as cassava and groundnuts;
- a gender sensitive approach has been introduced in all activities, and is beginning to create changes in cultural attitudes and behaviour;
- the adoption by GRZ agencies at district, block and camp level of the inter-sectoral approach promoted by the project.

Furthermore, the project has initiated activities that could yield important results in the future, including:

- the implementation of a Knowledge, Attitudes, Perceptions and Practices (KAPP) study on nutrition and health issues that has laid the foundation for an expanded nutrition education and communication strategy;
- training of community groups as well as CSS on micro project planning, which could lead to an increased ability of communities to interact with government agencies and institutional funding providers, such as ZAMSIF and RIF.

At the same time, the mission noted weaknesses in the project, which have already adversely affected IHFSAN's performance and which, if not corrected, would jeopardize the follow-up to the project. These weaknesses include the fact that IHFSAN is based on planning documents which left open and confused crucial aspects of the project approach, an apparent uncertainty about the operational focus of the project, weak monitoring and evaluation arrangements, a complicated modus operandi with counterparts and collaborators, and not sufficiently systematic forward planning.

Despite these weaknesses, the participatory and empowerment concept of IHFSAN is widely appreciated by collaborators at all institutional levels as well as by the communities concerned. A more holistic approach to food, nutrition and health issues has been introduced to the relevant agencies, and the Community Action Plans have resulted - albeit to varying degrees – in an increased empowerment of communities. The mission views the current

phase as a pilot period for IHFSAN, where approaches have been tested, collaboration arrangements tried out, institutional links developed and the concept refined. The project still has to move to a stage where physical results become more widely visible. An eventual follow-up project should see the implementation of identified successful initiatives, as well as a move towards greater planning and disbursement authority by GRZ line agencies in project activities.

Major remaining tasks during the present phase are:

- the preparation of an extension plan for the expected hiatus between the scheduled ending date of the project and the beginning of a possible new project, including a provision for the completion of micro projects initiated together with communities;
- the documentation of major project activities, including an analysis of results achieved, to guide the formulation of a new project;
- even at this late stage, the introduction of a regular and systematic monitoring and evaluation routine, which would also be of help to GRZ in following up on the impact of project activities.

Other issues have to be tackled as well; these are addressed in a separate conclusions and recommendations section. The main body of the report presents additional views and amplifications. (A certain amount of overlap and repetition is intentional as some topics span across several headings.)

The mission acknowledges that there is a complex array of issues in Zambia and Luapula valley that affect the rapid attainment of results[1]. Generally, GRZ and FAO have the requisite capacity and expertise to foster activities leading to an improved nutritional status in Luapula valley. Important lessons have been learned, and IHFSAN must make full use of these lessons to enhance its activities. The mission feels that a more focused approach to IHFSAN operations, including a better synchronization of its planned activities, would benefit the project particularly where transparency of decision making for Community Support Staff and villagers is concerned.

The first phase of IHFSAN will end in December 2001; the approach which the project has taken needs to be continued. Careful preparation of a new project to follow up is required and will take much effort.

The preparations for the new project should start soonest. GRZ agencies involved in the project at provincial, district and block and camp level should be involved in the planning process as well as the communities concerned. Collaborators at the district level, should be the prime actors in the preparation and planning for a follow-up.

It is the view of the mission that the opportunity exists to turn IHFSAN into an outstanding success. Key success factors in the mission's opinion include, in addition to leadership and support provided by GRZ and FAO, the full involvement of collaborators and communities in all relevant aspects of IHFSAN, a systematic approach to planning, monitoring and evaluation, and a more transparent management set-up, including a clear definition of the roles and modus operandi of IHFSAN and its collaborators in the field.

[1] Among these, the incidence of HIV/AIDS should not be underestimated as a limiting factor that affects available staff resources as well as the coping mechanisms of communities. Also, although the GRZ counterpart budget contributions have increased towards the end of the project and most counterpart staff envisaged in the project document have been provided, there have been gaps in the fields of communication, nutrition/health, post-harvest technology that were not or only lately filled.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Government sphere

Government involvement

GRZ agencies at district, block and camp level have adopted the inter-sectoral approach promoted by the project – GRZ staff at the field level have been enabled to plan and operate together. However, the District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCC), which in principle (through dedicated sub-committees) would provide the institutional forum for inter-disciplinary planning, have yet to become fully operational in the districts in which the project is working. Moreover, the government continues to be handicapped by bureaucratic, financial and manpower constraints.

Government funding

The GRZ counterpart budget contributions have been initially erratic but increased towards the end of the project, from K 56 mill in 1997 to K 105 mill in 2001; this was in line with the provision in the project document that donor support for operational funds was to be scaled down during the project's life span. GRZ counterpart budget contributions have been scheduled through MAFF to the project account; no mechanism has been found for other ministries (such as CDSS, MOH) to budget their own financial contributions to collaborative activities with other line agencies and with IHFSAN. Most counterpart staff envisaged in the project document have been provided, although some positions have remained vacant for – at times - lengthy periods due to late nomination/arrival of staff, transfers and death.

Recommendation: In a future project, GRZ inputs should be allocated in the regular budgets of the line agencies, and be harmonized through joint planning and the nomination of a responsible budget holder at the district level.

Working arrangements

IHFSAN relies on Community Support Staff of the collaborating agencies for its contacts with communities. In brainstorming sessions by the mission, CSS complained, among others, about feeling left out of the planning and decision making process, lack of communication between higher levels and the field level, limited mobility, and erratic payments of allowances and other operational benefits.

Recommendation: For a new project, the decision-making process and allowance mechanisms, as well as the operational constraints at field level should be reviewed so as to ensure continued involvement and commitment of CSS.

Project sphere

Project documents

The original project document provided only few impact and process indicators, and left open crucial aspects of the project approach, especially regarding the design of the project's monitoring and evaluation system. An Additional Logical Framework was developed following the tri-partite review in 1999, which duplicated and overlapped with the project document, causing confusion rather than consolidation of the project approach.

Project supervisory arrangements

Project oversight was to be provided by the Provincial Steering Committee, while guidance was to come from the National Advisory Committee. However, the two bodies met less frequently than stipulated and thus missed to exercise their functions in 2000, when important changes in the project's set-up and endowment had taken place.

Recommendation: The mandate and composition of the project's oversight and management bodies, in the light of existing GRZ coordination structures, should be reviewed with respect to their effectiveness and efficiency.

Technical backstopping

There have been a large number of consultancies and backstopping visits of varying quality; sometimes not properly followed up by project management and technical units (e.g. AGPC on oil palms; AGSM on resource management). Technical differences have remained unresolved (e.g. dambo planting of oil palms opposed by AGPC) or have partly paralysed project operations (e.g. concerns about micro projects raised by AGSM were not satisfactorily addressed by the project).

Recommendation: A revival of regular technical task force meetings at FAO HQ, as well as stronger coordination and oversight at provincial and national level should contribute to consolidated technical backstopping. The technical backstopping needs in a new project should be reviewed with view to providing a balance between project staff and attached staff, as well as between national and international consultants. Backstopping arrangements e.g. through a Letter of Agreement with Zambian institutions might be preferable.

Operational backstopping

Operational backstopping has been characterized by complex, cumbersome and shifting operational backstopping arrangements, which have handicapped project management. There appears to have been some confusion regarding available budgets and budget expenditure, at least for project management and the FAO representation. The information flow as well as the reliability of financial information was disturbed, as evidenced in early 2001 when a budget cut was reported to be unavoidable due to the depreciation of the Belgian Franc against the US$. The project in anticipation of the budget cancelled some contracts and curbed funding of micro projects. However, a budget revision to reflect and formalize the new situation was not prepared, and it now appears that with the crediting of accrued interest to the project, the available budget will even be higher than planned.

Recommendation: Operational decisions should be based on full appreciation of facts. For the FAO Representative as budget holder, the information flow regarding financial data must be improved, preferably through on-line access to Oracle.

Reporting and M&E arrangements

IHFSAN implements numerous activities but is poorly developed and equipped with regard to monitoring and evaluation. The project also has no well-functioning Management Information System (MIS). Prior to 2001, the project has lacked well-elaborated work plans with planned targets and indicators. Progress reporting was done in different formats and focused on activities and outputs; monitoring did not capture well outcomes and impact of the project.

Recommendation: Even at this late stage, introduce a regular and systematic monitoring and evaluation routine, to ensure that there is a complete record of project-supported activities and to allow for institutionalization of experience and lessons learned. This would also be of help to GRZ in following up on the impact of project activities. The M&E approach should, however, not duplicate GRZ reporting formats and schedules, but complement existing ones and identify where additional coverage is needed for outcome and impact monitoring. The proposed formats by IHFSAN's M&E consultant should be reviewed for this purpose.

Project management

Project management has had to deal with a complex institutional set-up and a vast array of attached staff. The management approach appears based on control rather than delegation of authority, possibly caused by the absence of a reliable management information system. Perhaps owing to the confusing project documents, the project's operations appear unfocused, spread too thinly over too many activities. As a consequence, activities frequently were not synchronized (e.g. oil palm development and gardening not complemented by irrigation activities). Some crucial technical areas (e.g. communication, training, extension) have not been sufficiently covered by the project management team. In recognition of the increased responsibility acquired by districts (under GRZ decentralisation policy), project management has initiated steps to strengthen the planning processes at district level.

Recommendation: In a potential new project, a dual approach should be considered: the establishment of a functioning Management Information System, and the delegation of planning and disbursement authority to district levels. Project management's role should be primarily on conceptual guidance, specific technical inputs, and (together with an oversight body) general supervision.

Results sphere

The following section contains conclusions related to the IHFSAN objectives. Some recommendations following out of these conclusions are not listed separately, but are included in the follow-up recommendations at the end.

Community Action Plans

Community Action Planning is the cornerstone in the project's efforts to empower communities to plan and implement their own developmental activities. CAPs have been facilitated in all 120 communities of the project area, and have resulted – albeit to varying degrees – in an increased empowerment of community groups. Problems have been experienced, at least initially, with the CAP methodology, which was found to be overly complex and confusing for CGs and CSS, and with follow-up, as priority activities identified jointly between IHFSAN and the community groups have not been implemented or have not been completed.

Recommendation: The CAP approach, its successes and constraints should be reviewed. The review should take into account similar experiences among NGOs and GRZ agencies elsewhere in Zambia. This should lead to a consolidation of the methodology, and an identification of the conditions (training, resources) required for the CSS to continue facilitating the CAP in a sustainable manner. Based on this, the draft guidelines on the CAP methodology should be finalized, produced in a user-friendly format, and distributed.

Community Development Fund (CDF)

The project's CDF had a grant (initial capital US$ 75,000) and a loan component (initial capital US$ 150,000). The loan fund became inactive in 1999 and seems to be unable to recover most of its capital; only approximately K 12 million (~US$ 3,243) have remained in the account. The failure of the IHFSAN loan fund was precipitated by the collapse of the associated FINNIDA loan fund operating in Luapula province. It appears that the loan fund's oversight panel (including IHFSAN and FINNIDA representatives) was not able to exercise its function, while the company contracted to run the fund (CMS) failed to submit timely audited statements.

Recommendation: IHFSAN and FAO should decide on the course of action to be taken – whether to initiate loan recovery programme, and/or whether to attempt to get legal redress from CMS for alleged mismanagement. The negative experience should rule out direct support to loan operations for a future project to follow up on IHFSAN.

Micro projects

All 120 Community Groups have developed at least one micro-project proposal from the priority list identified during the CAP process. So far, 43 micro projects have been approved, but only 31 have been funded due to presumed funding constraints and long delays in the approval process owing to unclear identification of responsibilities between IHFSAN and technical backstoppers at FAO HQ. Several CGs have already provided their matching contribution (25% of project value) without receiving IHFSAN funding.

Some CGs have experienced technical problems in well projects, which gives rise to questions of technical appraisal. For example, the Water Affairs Department has advised that a rocky substratum exists in the geology of the valley. Therefore hand-dug shallow wells may not have been the most appropriate intervention at some sites. Many CGs have opened bank accounts (at some cost) to receive the financial contribution for the micro project. When IHFSAN switched to providing materials instead, this led to a sense of frustration and disempowerment among the CGs.

Recommendation: Micro projects where CGs have already provided their contribution should be completed. Responsibilities between IHFSAN and FAO HQ concerning the review and approval of micro project proposals should be clarified.The current financial ceiling for micro projects should be reviewed, and there should be a reassessment of the adequacy of the in-province technical appraisal process in the selection of projects and choice of technology for particular types of micro projects, e.g. water wells. If necessary, the option should be for use of advanced technology (borehole) rather than risking too high a failure rate.

Close collaboration with ZAMSIF, RIF and other funding agencies should be maintained, in order to standardize and streamline application forms and procedures as far as possible. IHFSAN should review and identify where it has a comparative advantage in providing grants to CGs.

Empowerment

The project has as an underlying principle the empowerment of community groups. However, the planning and monitoring capabilities as well as the abilities to interact with external institutions, differ among CGs.

Recommendation: Based on the intimate knowledge of the communities in the project area, the project should define in the context of Luapula valley, the characteristics and evolution of

a mature or empowered community group, and its relationship with the wider community. This will assist in the identification of successful empowerment approaches, and the future actions required to strengthen and extend the empowerment process.

Improved food production and availability

Seed multiplication programme

The seed multiplication programme has increased the availability of selected seeds and planting materials (in particular cassava and groundnuts) to CG members. The widespread adoption within CGs of the Bangweulu cassava variety has increased yields per hectare. Also other crops introduced only initially by IHFSAN, have contributed to diversity in relish foods and their preparation.

Generally, from the data generated by the project it is difficult to determine the extent to which seed availability has increased for the community as a whole. Even less is known about the specific availability e.g. to women in the wider community. Trends in some communities indicate that the proportion of area planted to reserved seed has increased, while that under seed supplied by the project has decreased. The ultimate objective of the seed multiplication effort should be to work together with CGs towards the development of sustainable sources of seed in communities, for sale and distribution. This development still has to happen on a wider scale in Luapula valley.

Recommendation: The project should be clear about the ultimate objective of the seed multiplication effort, which should be to establish sustainable sources of improved seed and planting materials at community level. Efforts to link communities in the project areas through exchange visits or field days should be pursued for the purpose of improving access to planting material that may not exist in other communities.

Dry season cultivation

Part of the project strategy was to promote dry season vegetable production in dambo areas so as to improve the availability of vegetables at the time when other sources of relish are low. However, the project has made limited progress in the promotion of dry season vegetable production in dambo areas, due to presumed funding constraints and also due to the lack of extension activities and cultural practice guidelines e.g. on Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Irrigation activities should have played an important role in IHFSAN, to support the establishment of oil palms as well as to facilitate dry season production of vegetables. However, the introduction of irrigation technologies in project communities seems to have been limited to a cursory demonstration of treadle pumps; it is not clear whether any real-life trials of treadle pumps have taken place. There is no established network that potential buyers of treadle pumps could turn to for maintenance and spare parts.

Recommendation: A new project should review strategies for promotion of dry season vegetable production.

Oil palm cultivation

Altogether, 40,000 *tenera* oil palm seedlings have been supplied to community nurseries, while 12,000 plantable seedlings have been directly distributed. The reported loss rate is relatively high (20%), as knowledge of oil palm management was low not only among the farmers but also among the staff meant to provide technical support. It appears that the messages received from the oil palm consultants and backstoppers have not been

consistent; some experts argued against planting of oil palms in dambos, whilst others expressly recommended it. The relatively high mortality rate might have contributed to low payment rate for trees obtained; a second factor may be the long-term nature of the investment – benefits to households accrue only after 4 years.

Crude estimates of the potential production in Luapula province indicate that by 2004, more than 200,000 litres of palm oil can be produced in the four districts. The introduction of improved palm oil processing equipment has to date been limited to trials with the spindle press, which is likely to shorten the extraction time. Groups or individuals with large number of oil palms in their plantations would require the spindle press or better equipment, but so far the spindle presses have remained demonstration items.

Recommendation: Distribution of the remaining oil palm seedlings should be continued. For the future, the project should establish an applied research component with regard to oil palm, and some seedlings should be reserved for this purpose. IHFSAN should link up with SCRB for local technical backstopping and establish observation plots in selected sites of the project area. The CSS should be advised to collect specific data that could inform the elaboration of local management guidelines for oil palms. There will also be an increased need for training in oil palm processing techniques as well as for the identification of potential markets.

Agricultural extension

IHFSAN has extended knowledge (on general crop husbandry, conservation farming, budding of fruit trees, etc) to communities through workshops, on-farm demonstrations, field days and regular extension visits. However, the extension training has largely followed a traditional top-down approach; the planned introduction of the Farmers Field School (FFS) approach has not taken place.

Recommendation: In line with GRZ policy of promoting community participation and participatory extension approaches in MAFF, a potential new project should make provision for the promotion of FFS.

Appropriate storage, processing, preservation and preparation techniques and practices

The project has been developing and testing a cassava drier; while it has been appreciated by CGs, the amount that can be dried is limited, and the availability and/or cost of some of the materials is beyond many households' means.

To date, there have in general not been sufficient demonstrations and testing of processing and storage technology, to encourage widespread adoption by CGs or households. In particular many CGs were concerned that they would not be able to take advantage of the oil palms that would soon be coming into production, due to inadequate knowledge or access to improved oil processing methods.

Recommendations: Concerning processing technology, such as cassava driers, vegetable/mango driers and oil processors, relevant district staff and CSS should make sure that they are fully aware of information concerning the social cost benefit analysis, cost of construction each type of equipment, and characteristics in terms of quantity produced, time taken, and implications for household division of labour.

A KAPP survey on post harvest activities should be carried out in the preparatory phase of any potential follow up project to act as a base for orientating future activities and provide baseline information.

Household-level knowledge and practices related to dietary intake and nutrition

Many community groups reported appreciation of the food legume and root and tuber utilization field days. In community groups, there is increased appreciation of the value of combining certain foods such as roasted cassava and groundnuts, pounded groundnuts and sweet potatoes, indigenous vegetable leaves with groundnuts, and other food legumes. There is also knowledge of improved weaning porridge mixes: adding soya flour, pounded groundnuts, other legumes and pounded dried or fresh vegetables to mealie meal or cassava flour. CGs reported that one of the benefits that they had gained through the assistance of the project was an improved diversity of relish dishes for adults and children. However, it is difficult to assess objectively whether actual practices have changed without direct observation over a period of time.

Recommendations: Activities which link production and consumption activities and highlight the nutritive value of different crops should continue to be a key activity of the project. These activities should also be closely linked with CBGMP. There remains considerable potential to develop linkages with the education system at different levels. This would reinforce messages, through complementary channels.

Nutrition education and communication strategy

The nutrition education and communication strategy developed by the project, with support from a consultant over 2000/2001 has an envisaged time frame of approximately six years. Prior to implementation a pilot phase is necessary to develop the material and test the proposed strategy. To date the budget required to implement the strategy has not been developed or financial resources identified.

Recommendation: The implementation capacity of the project to operationalize the Nutrition Education and Communication strategy should be reviewed. The option of signing a Letter of Agreement with a Zambian Institution to support implementation should be explored.

Vulnerable groups

Vulnerable communities and food insecure households as defined in the original project document (i.e. those that have poor access to natural resources; knowledge; income; labour; and households facing time constraints) are included as members of CGs.

Vulnerable individuals have been assisted through the free distribution of oil palms, and in some cases avocado saplings. As the oil palms require high management, in terms of location and watering, in some districts (Mwense) this resulted in poor condition and low survival rates of oil palms allocated for vulnerable individuals. In other districts (Kawambwa), management of the palms is being done by the CG on behalf of the vulnerable individuals. As no groups have reached the stage of harvesting and processing their oil palms, the mechanisms of how the benefits would then reach the vulnerable individuals have not been fully discussed within the groups. Equally uncertain are the ownership arrangements for the oil palms (individual, or held in trust by the CG), and what would happen to an oil palm on the death of a vulnerable individual.

Recommendation: Identify existing social support mechanisms and how CGs or families allocate part of their resources to orphans or other vulnerable individuals, in order to devise socially feasible strategies to ensure support of vulnerable individuals by CGs or families. All training activities should incorporate an awareness of the special needs of different types of vulnerable individuals and increase discussion on how those needs can best be met.

Gender sensitivity

All project staff have participated in gender awareness training, so that they can incorporate a gender sensitive approach in all their activities. Promoting discussion and change in cultural attitudes and behaviour is a long and gradual process. The mission noted several groups engage in lively repartee on gender issues, indicating that a subject that in the past was never discussed openly is now on the agenda. Training material produced by the project is also gender sensitive.

Better understanding by CSS of food security, nutrition and other issues

Training of trainers for CSS involved in the CAP process was carried out, which included a certain amount of awareness raising on food security and nutrition issues. Training of trainers on the utilization of food legumes, cassava, mango and vegetable drying and oil processing has been conducted. However, no overall training strategy for the project has been developed based on a needs assessment of the technical staff. There has been a dependence on workshops and consultants to provide training. This type of training is not recognized or accredited within GRZ career structures. In addition, this approach adds little to sustainability of training.

At district and community level there is a general unavailability of technical reference material, although individuals may have received handouts during workshops and the district nutritionists have received some material recently.

Recommendation: Links should be established with the officially recognized in-service training institutes for each participating ministry. Consultants if required, should work closely with those institutions in the development of appropriate materials, so that training capacity can be sustained beyond the life of the project. Information, training and reference materials should be produced in larger quantities and of higher quality.

Improved access to, and quality of, health care within the communities

Health and nutrition activities were introduced late in the project life. Few communities are already involved in community Community-Based Growth Monitoring Promotions (CBGMP) and health and nutrition education. The project has lost an opportunity to influence the knowledge, attitudes and practices of a wider range of people.

Malaria Agents have been trained in some communities to promote basic prevention measures and are responsible for the sale of impregnated bed nets. This has been in conjunction with UNICEF and the MOH. There have been some difficulties with standardization of prices and procedures, with respect to sale of nets and the commission which the anti malaria agents receive. Collaboration between the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health has been facilitated by the project through support for a de-worming campaign in schools – more than 20,000 children in two districts have been treated.

Recommendations: Training to allow expansion of CGs active in CBGMP should be continued. The Community Nutrition Promoters should receive training and recipes for improved weaning foods to use when counselling mothers. The cowpeas and other crops that were dropped after the mid-term review should be promoted again, as there is now a specific need to justify their cultivation by the communities.

The way forward

Consolidation of results and preparation of follow-up

A number of activities supported by the project were initiated only a relatively short time ago; many have not been brought to a logical conclusion (e.g. Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation, KAPP/Nutrition Education Strategy, the majority of micro projects). As the project will most likely not have exhausted its budget by December 2001, a budget-neutral consolidation and termination period of four to six months should be considered. The project and the FAOR, in consultation with the other parties to the project, should urgently prepare a workplan and a budget revision to address the following points:

- the completion of micro projects already initiated together with communities, including a review of how the technical appraisal process could be strengthened;
- increased demonstrations on improved palm oil extraction and processing (spindle presses);
- the documentation and analysis of major project activities, in particular the CAP process, for which the guidelines should be finalized;
- the introduction of a regular and systematic monitoring and evaluation routine, including a review of GRZ procedures in order to avoid overlap and duplication;
- the continuation of nutrition training (food legume utilization, weaning foods) in close association with CBGMP;
- a thorough evaluation of new technologies introduced under operational conditions (e.g. the pushcarts);
- a review of the seed multiplication programme, to assess its coverage and impact to date and appraise the potential need for promotion of additional crops such as cowpeas that are being used in the highly appreciated food legume utilization training courses.

The consolidation phase could be followed by assistance from FAO through a TCP project, to facilitate a participatory planning process for the design of a new project. As the project's impact still has to become more widely spread in Luapula, the focus of the participatory planning process should be on:

- the preparation of material and piloting of the nutrition education and communication strategy derived from the KAPP (nutrition and health) study;
- the implementation of a KAPP on post-harvest, processing and other technologies, to estimate potential adoption rates and design appropriate promotion strategies;
- a review of the functioning of the micro projects, to assess IHFSAN's comparative advantage as a fund provider, and an exploration of IHFSAN's role as a facilitator of contacts between communities and other funding sources (ZAMSIF, RIF, etc);
- the identification of possible approaches to facilitate a wider involvement of stakeholders in planning and appraisal processes, perhaps through a consortium-based approach to encompass communities, GRZ agencies, NGOs and the private sector;
- a review of other community-based development initiatives, in particular with a view to fostering the development of area-based associations;
- a training needs assessment of GRZ staff and CG members focusing on: household food security and nutrition theory and practice; facilitation skills, leadership and group dynamic skills; business and entrepreneurship skills
- with respect to promotion of dry season production, an analysis of the constraints experienced with the introduction of treadle pumps should be carried out;
- the inclusion of the Farmers Field School approach in the new project implementation strategy;

- beyond a nutrition and household food security orientation, also an identification of CG activities with a stronger business and income-generating potential;
- developing synergies and added value in relation to other existing and proposed development initiatives in Luapula province (e.g. PAM, FINNIDA, IFAD).

1. Introduction and Background

High rates of chronic and acute malnutrition in Luapula valley were the starting point for the IHFSAN project. Causes of malnutrition in Luapula valley were identified as: i) household food insecurity; ii) poor health, water and sanitation; iii) poor knowledge base; and iv) inadequate care for the nutritionally vulnerable. This analysis was confirmed by a participatory rural appraisal carried out by FAO in 1996 in preparation for the project. The project started operations of its present phase in 1997 and will conclude in December 2001. The original budget of US$ 3,314,000 was increased to US$ 3,651,035 following a tri-partite review in 1999; by mid-2001 US$ 3,037, 979 were spent.

The project operates in the valley area in the districts of Kawambwa, Mwense, Nchelenge and Chienge in Luapula province. The total population in the valley is approximately 207,000, representing 34 percent of the provincial population. Very high rates of chronic and acute malnutrition found in Luapula valley as well as a prevalence of micro-nutrient deficiencies provided the justification for the project.

2. Project Objectives and Design

The project is designed to contribute to long-term household food security and nutrition in the Luapula valley, including year-round access to a balanced diet, by following a participatory approach aimed at community empowerment.

Immediate objectives are: i) increased year-round food production of specific oil crops, staple crops, fruits and vegetables; ii) improved food availability and decreased seasonal variation through introduction of appropriate storage, processing, preservation and preparation techniques and practices; iii) communities empowered to ensure household food security and adequate nutrition for the most vulnerable; iv) the local knowledge base of communities, extension and other support services strengthened towards improved household food security and nutrition; and v) a system of sustainable participatory monitoring and evaluation established.

The intended project strategy was to tackle problems associated with staple food production and food security. The project document argued that “insufficient attention had been paid in the past to the development of food-based solutions towards combating vitamin A, iron and other micro-nutrient deficiencies”. The project thus intended to “improve nutrition through concrete activities in the areas of: i) household food security; ii) information, education and communication; and iii) community mobilization and participation”, including “efforts and investments to promote a sustained and effective dialogue at all levels between the various sectors involved in nutrition” (food, agriculture, health, water, sanitation, care and community development). Activities were aimed at “i) promoting and facilitating the establishment of community groups and self-help groups so as to improve access to resources and community services; ii) improving the access to financial resources, credit and technology through the establishment of a Community Development Fund for micro-projects; iii) improving skills and imparting knowledge required to make improvements at all stages of the food chain; and iv) improving the efficiency of community support services to provide advice and support to meet the specific needs of the vulnerable households in the target area.”

The planned project duration was divided into two phases: during phase one, “project management and implementation (would) be ensured through both international and national staff and advice (would) be provided through both national and international experts”. During phase two, “the project (would) be managed entirely by national staff, while technical advice (would) continue to be provided through both international and national experts”.

A mid-term evaluation was undertaken in 1999 with the aim of assessing project performance and appraising the benefits accruing from their participation in project activities. This mid-term evaluation prompted the development of an Additional Logical Framework (ALF) by the project, to guide the implementation of project activities in the remaining period (June 1999 – December 2001). However, the Additional Logical Framework largely duplicated and overlapped with the original project document. The only genuine newly introduced objectives related to health (malaria and de-worming) and nutrition activities (growth monitoring).

2.1 Indicators, assumptions and risks

The original project document provided only few impact and process indicators, and left open some aspects of the project approach, especially regarding the design of the project's monitoring and evaluation system. The project document gave two kinds of indicators: impact, and process indicators. The former related to the results expected under the immediate objectives, while the latter were linked to the planned activities. The impact indicators did not refer to any quantitative targets, while process indicators occasionally provided quantification. The ALF prepared after the TPR in June 1999 did not improve upon this situation by introducing 12 immediate objectives and again leaving indicators undefined.

The project contained a number of assumptions related to institutional capacity. The Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (ASIP – then in its initial phase) was supposed to provide the policy framework, as well as to put in place the mechanisms and resources needed for improved farmer support services. It was furthermore expected that staff of other government agencies would be available and able to participate in project activities at the various administrative levels.

Risks mentioned in the project document related to the assumptions above, i.e. inavailability of collaborating staff from National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) and other agencies. Furthermore, unspecified delays in the delivery of equipment, seed material, and other materials and supplies were listed, as well as a (classified as small) risk that "in certain communities there might be a lack of genuine interest and commitment".

2.2 Beneficiaries

Particularly mentioned as beneficiaries were vulnerable groups in the target communities: children - from new-born infants to adolescent girls, women of child-bearing age, and elderly people.

2.3 Institutional arrangements

Regarding institutional arrangements, the project document envisaged the establishment of various tiers of administrative, management and advisory structures. With MAFF as lead implementing agency, other collaborating agencies (at all administrative levels) foreseen were the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (CDSS), Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Health (MOH) and the NFNC. The overall coordination of the project was to be provided through the office of the Permanent Secretary, Luapula Province.

At camp and district level, the project aimed to establish Food and Nutrition (FAN) teams, comprising MAFF, MOH, CDSS, MOE, and representatives of other agencies, as well as community representatives, to develop a causal analysis of household food insecurity and nutrition (in the communities or district), review project progress, and review proposals for micro-projects. District Project Coordinators were to be drawn from NFNC staff. As this arrangement proved not feasible due to absence of NFNC staff at district level, and the introduction of alternative coordination arrangements under ASIP (the District Development Coordination

Committees), the project changed its approach, de-emphasized the FAN teams and re-designated the DPCs to District Nutrition Coordinators. (The DNCs, however, have remained on the Provincial Steering Committee rather than the DACOs who *de facto* provided coordination for the bulk of activities implemented under IHFSAN.) A National Project Director in the Provincial Planning Unit was identified to provide for coordination with GRZ line agencies[2].

Advice was to come from a Provincial Project Steering Committee (chaired by the Permanent Secretary, Luapula Province; to meet quarterly – in reality, six meetings have been held since project inception) and a Project National Advisory Committee (chaired by the PS, MAFF; to meet annually – a target not achieved in 2000). The Provincial Project Steering Committee comprises all government agencies involved in the project, representatives of the communities, the District Coordinators, project management, and a representative of the donor agency, while the Project National Advisory Committee was to be attended by the Permanent Secretaries of all relevant government agencies, as well as project management.

3. Project Implementation Status

In the following section, budget information is based on the latest available budget table prepared for the planned budget revision "J". The review of IHFSAN's implementation status is derived from progress reports, Back-to-Office and consultants' reports, and observations of the mission.

3.1 Project budget and expenditure

Description	Prior Years (incl 2000) Expenditures	Approved Total Revision "I"	% of total
Salaries Professional	301,883	357,241	9.8%
Salaries General Service	105,832	171,220	4.7%
Consultants	607,330	690,482	18.9%
Contracts	41,965	237,965	6.5%
Overtime	42,933	16,612	0.5%
Travel	325,442	296,916	8.1%
Training	326,454	434,444	11.9%
Expendable Equipment	306,013	351,396	9.6%
Non Expendable Equipment	206,766	237,122	6.5%
Hospitality	0	100,000	2.7%
Technical Support Services	12,240	220,118	6.0%
General Operating Expenses	330,452	322,118	8.8%
General Overhead Expenses	2,729	1,186	0.0%
Chargeback	2,063	2,063	0.1%
Chargeout	0	0	0.0%
SUB-TOTAL	2,612,102	3,438,883	94.2%
Support Cost	339,573	212,152	5.8%
TOTAL	**2,951,675**	**3,651,035**	100.0%

The above budget revision "I" reflects the increased budget agreed upon at the project's TPR in June 1999. There appears to have been some confusion regarding available budgets and budget expenditure, at least for project management in Mansa and the FAO representation in Lusaka. It seems that initially with the handing-over of managerial responsibility from the

[2] However, the incumbent appears to have operated from a distance (possibly due to illness), and sadly passed away in mid-2001.

international CTA to the National Project Manager, and subsequently with the transfer of operational responsibility from FAO's Regional Office to the FAO representation in Lusaka, the information flow as well as the decision-making processes were disturbed. In addition, the change-over in FAO's accounting system from the FINSYS to ORACLE software, together with the lack of on-line access by the FAO representation, has affected the reliability of financial information.

This became most evident in early 2001, when a budget cut was reported to be unavoidable due to the depreciation of the Belgian Franc against the US$. The project in anticipation of the budget cancelled some contracts and curbed funding of micro projects. However, a budget revision to reflect and formalize the new situation was not prepared, and it now appears that with the crediting of accrued interest to the project, the available budget will even be higher than planned.

The contracts budget line has been used for the funding of the Community Development Fund as well as for other contracts, such as the training organized by GAS in early 2001. There is no comprehensive breakdown available of activities funded from the CDF.

3.2 Activities and outputs

The following review of the status of the project's planned activities and outputs is based on the project's progress reports as well as other reports reflecting project activities. Mission observations on specific topics are added in certain sections.

The information was difficult to compile, for two reasons: (i) the project's guiding documents, i.e. the original project document and the Additional Logical Framework are overlapping in many parts (see also section on project design), resulting in frequent double reporting; and (ii) the level of detail varies in progress reports, thus making aggregation difficult.

The headings in this section follow the outline of the original project document, with the addition of the health objectives that were introduced in the Additional Logical Framework in 1999.

3.2.1 Increased year-round food production of specific oil crops, staple crops, fruits and vegetables

3.2.1.1 Oil palms

Three district central nurseries have been established through which a total of 67,000 *tenera* oil palm seeds have been received and pre-nursed for distribution to communities in the project area. Initially, 90 community nurseries were established through which almost 28,000 pre-nursery oil palms were nursed by communities for planting in farmers' fields (community and individual). The numbers of seedlings received by community groups and individual buyers range from 5 (Mbereshi B School) to 3057 (Katoba CG). The price was initially set at the equivalent of US$ 1, then reduced to a nominal fee as many communities/individuals lost some or all their seedlings due to water stress and inadequate management (loss rate approximately 20%)[3].

The strategy of promoting community nurseries was suspended by the project as irrigation activities made only slow progress. Oil palms imported in 1999 and 2000 are being nursed at central nurseries to a plantable stage before distribution, adding cost and transport problems as an average plantable oil palm weighs 20-24 kg.

[3] Recovery of payments for seedlings was low – out of a total of 2,369 oil palms sold in Nchelenge in the 1997-98 agricultural season, the communities did not pay for 1,090 or 46%. Similarly, 4,861 or 91% were not paid for out of the 5,370 sold to the communities in the 1998-99 seasons; in Mwense, during the 1997-98 season, 33% of the trees were not paid for out of the 3,288 supplied.

Other activities, such as inter-cropping of oil palms with other crops has been carried out on palm trees planted in dambos, as well as trials with inorganic fertilizers and cover crops at the three central nurseries and in selected farmer's fields. (Results are not reported.)

Guidelines on the utilization of various sources of manure have been developed by the oil palm agronomist, and manuals and other training materials developed by FAO and UNDP consultants have been used during training sessions. Camp extension officers, nursery supervisors/workers as well as farmers (120) have been trained in various aspects of oil palm cultivation.

3.2.1.2 Other oil crops and food legumes

The project has supplied groundnut, sunflower, soyabean, sesame, bean, cowpea, pigeon pea and bambara nut to community groups and individual farmers for on-farm multiplication of improved varieties. Technical backstopping was to be provided through the existing provincial, district and camp extension workers, while collaboration with the Seed Certification and Control Institute at Mount Makulu Research Station has ensured seed purity.

In its initial stage, the project entered into contracts with individual and communal growers for small-scale seed multiplication of food legumes, as well as for multiplication of "exotic" vegetable, and for cassava and sweet potato propagation. These contracts were converted into 111 micro-projects in 1998-99, and most community groups became engaged in multiplication of legume crops, as well as in the growing and utilization of rainy season crops. (Apparently, the designation as micro projects was later dropped as most micro projects listed at present are mostly in the fields of water, sanitation and infrastructure[4].)

In view of the high demands on the project's and the MAFF field staff's technical backstopping capacity, the project in 1999 limited promotional activities of crops to groundnuts and oil palm. In October 1999, 80 community meetings were held to identify and re-mobilize communities for the 1999/2000 seed multiplication season. In November 1999, two-day training workshops for a total of 40 extension officers were conducted in collaboration with the national Food Legume Project in each of the three project districts on food legume, seed production and multiplication techniques. In April and June 2000, 38 field days (25 in Kawambwa, 10 in Mwense, 3 in Nchelenge) were conducted, attended by 1120 farmers.

In November/December 1999, a total of 2740 kg groundnut seed was distributed to 89 communities and 35 individual growers, to promote the two improved groundnut varieties: MGV4 and Chalimbana, while 880 kg bean seeds were distributed to 62 communities and 10 individual growers to demonstrate a local variety (Solwezi). The distribution was done through local private seed distributors and in collaboration with the Seed Certification Institute. A total of 31,600 kg of MGV4 and Chalimbana groundnut seeds were produced by the communities in 2000.

For the 2000/2001 planting season, screening of potential individual growers was carried out by the communities in liaison with their local camp extension officers. The camp extension officers and community facilitators identified 50 potential individual seed growers, and trained and supplied them with groundnut seed under a contractual agreement.

[4] For seed multiplication as well as for micro projects, CGs had to go through certain procedures and submit application forms as well as pledge own contributions to the activity or repayment of seed in kind. However, the forms and procedures differ for micro projects and seed multiplication activities. In addition, "demonstrations" exist as a third category (supposedly one where the community input is less due to its promotional character), but the project in its documentation at times makes no distinction between micro projects and demonstrations, e.g. when it says that "through the micro-projects, demonstrations are given on proper use of water wells and proper hygienic practices".

Groundnut seed multiplication (especially MGV4) has generally expanded in terms of the area cultivated as well as the number of members benefiting from it, and the project has been able to reduce the provision of new seeds as an increasing number of community groups are maintaining their own seed supply. However, in the 1999/2000 season, while 400 kg of groundnut seed was collected as paybacks from individual growers, 500 kg of groundnut seed still had to be purchased by the project to meet the demand from other farmers.

3.2.1.3 Propagation of improved cassava

Cassava forms over 50 percent of the staple diet in the valley, and the project's emphasis has been on improving the productivity of cassava by introducing improved planting material through participatory on-farm research. (In the project's first two years, also the production of sweet potato was promoted through on-farm demonstrations and planting material multiplication.)

In each project district, two communities were identified for the purpose of demonstrating two improved varieties of cassava under contract with Mansa TAS to implement the activities. Forty extension staff were trained as trainers in a two-day workshop in each district in cassava production techniques in collaboration with Mansa TAS in November 1999. The extension workers in turn held 40 farmer discussions on cassava production.

A total of 88 communities were identified in 1999 through a needs assessment exercise, resulting in the development of 83 micro projects for cassava (Bangweulu) planting material multiplication on 83 lima. A total of 73 communities participated in cassava multiplication on 69 lima in the 1999/2000 season.

It appears that participating CGs and farmers have saved enough planting material from the project for replanting, with the result that there has been a decrease in the planting material requested from the project.

3.2.1.4 Production of vegetables and fruits rich in pro-vitamin A and C

The promotion of horticultural development by the project was initially focused on the identification of high-performing vegetable species, appropriate crop management techniques and on-farm multiplication, and an increase and diversification of fruit tree production. The efforts to promote dry and wet season production of improved varieties of vegetables (tomato, onion) were hampered by the absence of small scale irrigation techniques and equipment as well as limitations regarding technical guidance to farmers on improved cultural practices, and eventually reduced to three CGs per district.

As an alternative, local vegetables preferred by communities were identified and selected, such as pumpkin leaves, okra, cleome (cat's whiskers), amaranthus and African eggplant. Two community groups in Mwense, three community groups in Kawambwa, two community groups in Nchelenge and two community groups in Chienge have been identified for seed multiplication of these vegetables and have received seed in the 2000/01 growing season.

Under the fruit programme, citrus, mango, avocado and guava seedlings were raised early in the project in the three central pre-nurseries of the project, and 15 community fruit tree nurseries and mother orchards were established in 1999. Training material produced by an FAO consultant was used as reference material, and following training in 1999, nursery workers multiplied 1250 improved varieties of citrus. The University of Zambia provided the budding material. In 2000, each mother orchard had 5 grafted Mango, 20 budded citrus trees and 15 guavas.

Under the fruit tree programme, 3230 citrus, 3703 local avocado, 2045 local mango and 3971 other seedlings have been budded and/or distributed to communities. Limited technical capacity

in the grafting of fruit seedlings has affected progress in this area. The number of fruit trees distributed to CGs range from just one tree to 200. Lately, citrus red scale has attacked many fruit trees at community nursery and central nursery level, and the project has used chemicals for control.

3.2.1.5 Improved sustainable land productivity (upland & lowland) and irrigation

Efforts have been made to establish linkages with institutions that could promote improved land productivity including small-scale irrigation, such as Mansa Technology Assessment Site (MTAS) and Nanga Irrigation Research Station (NIRS). Draft agreements developed with these institutions were cancelled due to presumed budget cuts in 2001, following the depreciation of the Belgian Franc against the US$. However, some assessments were done of areas with potential to develop small scale irrigation systems, of areas with potential for land reclamation as well as dambo utilization, and some soil sampling was conducted in all districts. Other collaborators are the Small Holder Irrigation and Water Use Programme (SIWUP) and the FAO Women in Irrigation Project (WIN), who have conducted joint activities including technical training of staff at various levels, introduction of irrigation technologies in selected project communities and demonstration of treadle pumps.

Officers from the project attended some irrigation workshops, and 15 camp extension officers/irrigation officers were trained during the extension staff training sessions in simple irrigation techniques and vegetable production, in June and October 2000. The extension/irrigation officers in turn trained 212 farmers. Eight pilot communities have been identified to implement the irrigation activities in all districts and received one treadle pump each for demonstration purposes. (The mission observed in one of the communities visited that the pump had never been used as the pipes necessary to connect the pump from the field to the river, had not been procured[5].)

On-farm testing of improved upland management techniques, such as improved fallowing, alley cropping, and agro-forestry were also foreseen in the project document in order to reach high and sustainable food production.

In the project's initial phase, observation plots were established in 15 communities during 1997 resulting in one micro-project developed in this area for 1998. Results are not reported. Other activities were not initiated due to the presumed budget cut in 2001. However, the project states that selected soil management activities have formed a part of all food production micro-project activities.

The project also distributed green manure, legume and ground cover planting material (sunnhemp, cowpeas and velvet beans) to a few camps, and helped to establish green manure seed multiplication plots in 7 communities. Conservation farming technologies are being promoted in 16 communities.

3.2.2 Improved food availability and decreased seasonal variation through the introduction of appropriate storage, processing, preservation and preparation techniques and practices

3.2.2.1 Food processing, storage, and utilization

Activities on food processing and labour-saving devices have been initiated on a small-scale (provincial post-harvest staff became available only in late 1998; an APO to deal with post-harvest aspects arrived in late 1999). As oil palms from the first batch are starting to come into

[5] Reportedly, this is the case also with other pumps. In addition, in 1999 it was reported that 45 treadle pumps had been procured, out of which 20 had been installed. The fate of those pumps is not known to the mission.

bearing, guidance on improved oil palm processing technologies will be necessary in particular for those CGs with a large number of oil palms.

The project has so far focused on the spindle press for improved oil extraction and demonstrated the process to various communities. One spindle press was procured in Kitwe and first tested in Mansa TAS by the provincial Post Harvest Officers and later field-tested in Mwense with two farmers each from six CGs. Five more presses have been ordered and will be demonstrated to CGs in September 2001. The project expects that communities will purchase the press through the project's micro project facility.

In collaboration with the National Food Legume Project, a national consultant demonstrated the utilization of various food legumes and oil crops and how these can be integrated in a cassava based diet. This was done through conducting several food production and utilization field days, and a two-day training of trainers in May 2001 for 15 CSS and district staff on alternative techniques and uses of roots and tubers, including the development of handouts and recipes. After the TOT, community training on the topic was done in 15 communities.

3.2.2.2 Labour-saving devices

Selected storage equipment and labour-saving devices, such as cassava and mango driers, improved storage bins and push charts for transportation have been tested and demonstrated in selected communities. The intention is to encourage community groups to apply for the equipment through the project's community development grant or through other grant and credit organizations. However, no applications have yet been made on labour saving technologies by CGs.

On-farm demonstrations and training of TSB staff on cassava driers (6 in total) have been done, while 6 more cassava driers will be constructed in September/October 2001. After an evaluation in December 1999, modifications were applied to the 5 other driers – cheaper materials were used, such as a used drum instead of metal sheets. A new version will be tried out in September 2001. Generally, the driers find less acceptance in places where firewood is scarce.

Five storage bins have been constructed in 5 communities for demonstration purposes. Progress has been slow due to low participation of communities; however, one CG has applied for a storage bin as a micro project. (The CG had already procured the bricks to be used; the application was rejected due to funding constraints.)

Twenty-one pushcarts were designed and constructed by the project through a mechanical engineer from MS-Zambia who was attached to the project. Progress has been very slow, since initially no appropriate wheel design could be found. The push-cart design has been finalized by the Technology Development and Advisory Unit of the University of Zambia (UNZA), and carts have been assembled at the FTC-Mbereshi with the help of the Technical Services Branch (MAFF) officer in Kawambwa. They will be distributed in September 2001 to the community groups.

3.2.3 Communities empowered to ensure household food security and adequate nutrition for the most vulnerable (includes ALF objectives 1, 2, 6, 9)

3.2.3.1 Community Action Planning (CAP)

Community Action Planning is the cornerstone in the project's efforts to empower communities to plan and implement their own developmental activities. The CAP process is intended to provide a basis for communities to fully participate in the planning process and take the lead in determining needs, identifying solutions, initiating actions and monitoring progress. District staff and 35 CSS from various departments were trained in facilitation skills. However, the

information collected from the first phase of CAP was found to be incomplete and lacking a nutrition focus. Training-of-trainers workshops were subsequently carried out in three phases with assistance from a local consultant, followed by a training workshop of community support staff in January 2000.

The purpose of the training workshops was to review available information and to develop and agree on a methodology in preparation for the second phase of the CAP, i.e. problem analysis, objective and strategy analysis up to the preparation of action plans. For the latter, a more complete problem analysis was deemed to be necessary, leading to a decision to improve available community profiles and problem trees before the start of the second phase. CAPs have been facilitated in all 120 communities of the project area and all CGs have developed at least one micro-project proposal from the priority list that was prepared.

Draft guidelines for community support staff and facilitators in operationalizing the "Community Action Planning" were developed with the assistance of the MS Zambia Education Adviser, and circulated for comments in September 1999 (but not finalized yet). In 2000, the project fielded an international consultant to review and further develop guidelines and training materials for the field staff. Further action in this area was cut due to the presumed 2001 budget cut.

3.2.3.2 Community Development Fund (CDF)

The project's CDF had a grant and a loan component. The loan fund's credit scheme was modelled on the FINNIDA/MAFF Luapula Livelihood and Food Security Programme (LLFSP) that until May 2000 operated a similar loan fund administered by a Zambian company, Credit Management Services (CMS). In November/December 1997 FAO and CMS signed a Contractual Services Agreement (CSA) for the administration of the project loan fund of US$150,000. The first approved loans of K 136 million were disbursed in May 1998; by November 1999, a total of K 480 million loans had been provided to 307 borrowers with an average loan amount of K 1,563,518. Most loans were not directly related to project activities and (as of September 1998) dealt with grain trading (34%), followed by fish trading (32%), and market gardening (17%).

The loan fund became inactive in 1999 and seems to be unable to recover most of its capital. (Only a few million Kwacha have been repaid; by September 1999 the figure stood at K 3.7 mill.) It appears that the oversight panel set up for the operations of the loan fund (a Project Policy Committee including IHFSAN and FINNIDA representatives) did not understand fully the financial reports presented by CMS. The Project Policy Committee also did not identify the problems involved when loan repayments dropped in anticipation of the pending termination of the FINNIDA loan fund at the end of 1999. At the same time, CMS failed to submit to FINNIDA and FAO timely audited statements of the annual accounts related to the project loan funds[6]. Available records indicate that as of May 2001, K12,694,696.20 were available in the CMS/FAO Kwacha account, while the US$ account showed a negative balance of US$ -59.67.

3.2.3.3 Micro projects

IHFSAN adapted the Community Development Fund draft guidelines developed by an international consultant, translated and distributed them to project communities through the district officers in 1999. As of October 2001, the guidelines still remain unfinished.

All 120 community groups developed at least one micro-project proposal from the priority list identified during the CAP process. In July 2000, a local consultant from NFNC facilitated a workshop on the development of micro projects. Additional training was conducted for 51

[6] There are also suspicions that monies may have been lost by CMS, as the company experienced a serious fraud case in late 1998.

community development, health, and agriculture CSS in September/October 2000, using the revised grant application forms. Eventually, 43 micro projects were approved, dealing with wells (32; in some cases more than one well planned), canal/furrow (4), storage bins (2), fish ponds (2), bridges (2), and a nursery centre (1). However, only 31 community micro projects have been funded due to the project's presumed funding limitations and are at various levels of implementation. This applies even to cases where CGs have already provided their matching contribution (25% of project value).

3.2.4 Local knowledge base of communities, extension and other support services strengthened towards improved household food security and nutrition (includes ALF objectives 7, 10)

3.2.4.1 Enhanced inter-sectoral cooperation between agriculture, community development, health, communication, education and other relevant organizations

The project was expected to facilitate meetings of inter-sectoral teams on household food security and nutrition at provincial, district and block levels involving the community representatives, to identify and nominate a district coordinator for household food security and nutrition activities, and to organize joint meetings of agricultural extension, community development and health workers, teachers and the communities.

Generally, inter-sectoral collaboration at district as well as at field level has been facilitated by the project, with the exception of teachers who do not seem to be involved as regular members of the CSS. The Food and Nutrition (FAN) teams at district level were discontinued as they were a duplication of the existing District Development Committees. The terms of reference for the District Project Coordinators were reviewed in 2000 and their title changed into District Nutrition Coordinators, and the District Agricultural Coordinators (DACO) have taken the coordinating role, since the project is implemented through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

3.2.4.2 Linkages between the communities and support services strengthened

Community Support Staff from all relevant departments have received a total of 90 bicycles, and ten more bicycles have been supplied to community facilitators in Chienge district. Three additional motorcycles were bought in 2001 for project staff in the Districts. A vehicle with a driver has since early 2000 been placed in Kawambwa and Nchelenge, and a vehicle from Mansa is assigned for facilitation of transport in Mwense three times a week. All project district staff receive monthly fuel allocations.

Nine community representatives (4 men and 5 women) participated in two study tours to the Copperbelt, Western and Southern Province and exchanged experiences in various subjects.

3.2.4.3 Training

In order to strengthen the capacities of CSS, provincial and district staff as well as facilitators, the project's stated emphasis for training has been on the following areas:

- strengthening the existing mechanisms for inter-sectoral coordination at all levels of project implementation;
- creating awareness on the Farmer's Field School Concept as a basis for farmers and extension workers to exchange experience and knowledge regarding specific technical issues arising from the field activities[7];

[7] However, from discussions with MAFF staff and observations in the communities it is obvious that the integration of Farmers Field Schools into the project is only theoretical.

- addressing conceptual and technical issues and helping community support staff and other project collaborators develop their skills to assist the community members in planning, implementing and monitoring of community action plans and micro projects;
- gender sensitization and socio-economic analysis as an integral part of all field activities.

The projects reports that all project staff from provincial through district to sub-district level have been trained in participatory approaches and gender through the various workshops on community action planning and other workshops. (However, some MAFF CSS stated to have been left out of the CAP training.) A specific course on leadership and group dynamics was held in collaboration with Groups and Associations Support (GAS) in 2001 for 70 community facilitators and CSS. Generally, the project states that all training conducted includes aspects of community participation by gender. A list of training given and training material produced by the project is provided in the annex.

Linkages with two FAO-TCP projects, TCP/ZAM/2256 and TCP/ZAM/8923T, were established in the planning, implementing and follow-up of activities aimed at integrating household food security, nutrition and health issues in the primary schools. Technical support was provided to the TCP/ZAM/8923T through training activities and training material identification, development and adaptation.

3.2.4.4 Communication

IHFSAN has produced and distributed literature on participatory approaches and gender, as well as technical leaflets for extension workers on integrated production and protection technology for farmers on: oil palm, fruit tree crops, main staple and oil crops. Under the health, food storage, processing, preservation and utilization components, technical materials were produced and distributed to CSS and communities. A survey on Knowledge, Attitudes, Perceptions and Perceptions (KAPP) on health and nutrition issues was conducted with the assistance of an international consultant and used to develop a draft communication strategy and health and nutrition education materials. Draft guidelines on the Community Action Planning process and the utilization of the Community Development Fund have been distributed to all CSS.

A provincial radio feasibility study was undertaken in collaboration with NAIS but not followed up due to presumed budget limitations. There is a possibility of collaboration with the Mansa Diocese, which has already acquired the initial equipment for a radio station. The coverage will, however, be limited to Mansa and Samfya districts.

A list of publications/communication materials developed by the project is provided in the annex.

3.2.4.5 Nutrition and health knowledge

At the community level, knowledge of health and nutrition issues is generally limited. Emphasis has since September 1999, been placed on improving the knowledge and skills of both community groups and service providers in specific health and nutrition issues. To this end, the project has identified Community Nutrition Promoters (CNP) in selected communities in each District. Out of 137 CNPs planned to be trained, 102 CNPs have been trained in community based growth monitoring and promotion. Community facilitators have also been trained in community-based malaria control and the de-worming of school children.

The project was also expected to facilitate the integration of relevant issues of household food security and nutrition in primary school education of Luapula province. To this end, the project in 1999 held meetings in selected schools to facilitate a school action planning exercise. (However, the actual number of schools included in follow-up activities appears limited. The project reports that one sensitization workshop was conducted in one school in Nchelenge was

held in August 1999, and that two schools in Nchelenge district were assisted in 1999/2000 season with groundnut seed for production in their school gardens.)

The project also coordinated activities with TCP/ZAM/8923T (Nutrition Education in Primary Schools in Zambia[8]) and in September 2000 provided technical assistance in training teachers and inspectors in PRA/RRA for situation analysis, using materials adapted from TCP/ZAM/2256 and TCP/ZAM/8923T. The provincial nutritionist presented the nutrition education and communication strategy developed by the IHFSAN project, in the training of teachers workshop from TCP/ZAM/8923T conducted in September 2001.

The project also developed and implemented various training sessions for service providers including those from District Health Management Teams (DHMT), Education and Community Development. According to the project, the long duration of the CAP process has "…delayed the implementation of specific health and nutrition activities that arose from the CAP process. The (*presumed – added by the mission*) 2001 budget cut has further affected the levels of community coverage as well as the number of health and nutrition micro projects that could have otherwise been implemented."

3.2.5 System of sustainable participatory monitoring and evaluation established

The original project document envisaged the monitoring system to be established by undertaking baseline surveys on nutrition and household food security, a KAP study, a Participatory Rural Communication Appraisal, setting up a database for monitoring project progress, and by holding regular participatory rural evaluation and planning exercises with the communities and CSS.

However, the project has only recently commissioned a national consultant to develop the concept, routines and forms for an M & E system, and to train actors/collaborators at all levels.

Two baseline studies were undertaken in collaboration with the Tropical Diseases Research Centre (TDRC) and the National Food, Health and Nutrition Information Services (FHANIS) and finalized after a long delay in 2000. The KAP study was finalized in 2001. The two survey findings together with that of the KAP are expected by the project to provide a basis for the establishment of a Nutrition and Household Food Security data base for Luapula valley.

3.2.6 Improved access to and quality of health care within the communities presently served by the project (includes ALF objective 8 – see also section on health and nutrition knowledge above)

Financial support has been given to facilitate access of communities/support staff to the necessary logistics such as weighing scales and bags, under-five cards, stationery such as tally sheets, register books and report forms (for CBGMP activities), mosquito nets and chemicals for treating the nets (for the Malaria Control Programme) and de-worming drugs (for the school de-worming programme).

In August 1999, a collaborative agreement between the project, UNICEF and the District Health Management Boards in Mwense, Kawambwa and Nchelenge Districts was concluded, following which the project provided support and technical guidance to the

[8] TCP/ZAM/8923 has produced the following outputs to date: (i) a situation analysis on school nutrition in Luapula Province; (ii) a nutrition education curriculum for Luapula Province; (iii) 80 hours of food, health and nutrition teaching materials (teachers' and pupils' books) for grades 2, 4 and 6; (iv) 60 teachers from 20 schools trained in integrating nutrition education into the curriculum; (v) a draft manual on how to plan and manage production units/school gardens; and (vi) an advocacy document for use in Zamiba on "Nutrition Education in Schools in Zambia" (under preparation).

training of 49 malaria agents and rural health centre staff on community malaria prevention and control within the project communities. In 2000, technical and financial support was given by the project for the planning and implementation of training of community malaria agents.

In 1999-2000, 4000 mosquito bed nets were distributed in Mwense, and an additional 4000 bed nets and chemicals (1500 for Kawambwa, 1500 for Nchelenge and 1000 for Chienge) were purchased and delivered to the respective districts in 2001. Funds collected from the sale of nets are put into a community revolving fund and sent to UNICEF for the purchase of more nets and chemicals.

In 2000, the project in collaboration with DHMT Mwense and Chienge conducted one de-worming exercise for 23 schools in Mwense and 7 schools in Chienge. A total of 12000 pupils were de-wormed in Mwense. Mwense District in 2001 de-wormed a total of 9,000 school children out of a target of 13,000 from 30 schools. For the other Districts, the exercise will be conducted in September 2001.

4. Government Involvement, Technical and Operational Backstopping, Project Management

4.1 Government involvement

GRZ agencies at provincial and most visibly at district level have adopted the coordinated approach promoted by the project. Equally importantly, GRZ staff at the block and camp level have been enabled to plan and operate together. The GRZ administrative structure has undergone some changes and embraces (for most ministries) a district-based planning approach. However, the District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCC), which in principle would (through dedicated sub-committees) provide the forum for inter-disciplinary planning, have yet to become fully operational in the project districts. Moreover, the government continues to be handicapped by bureaucratic, financial and manpower constraints.

The GRZ counterpart budget contribution have been initially erratic but increased towards the end of the project, from K 56 mill in 1997 to K 105 mill in 2001; this was in line with the provision in the project document that donor support for operational funds was to be scaled down during the project's lifespan. GRZ counterpart budget contributions have been scheduled through MAFF to the project account; no mechanism has been found for other ministries (such as CDSS, MOH) to budget their own financial contributions to collaborative activities with other line agencies and with IHFSAN. Most counterpart staff envisaged in the project document have been provided, although some components have remained vacant for some periods due to late nomination/arrival of staff, transfers and death.

4.2 Technical and operational backstopping

There has been a large number of consultancies and backstopping visits of varying quality; sometimes not properly followed up by project management and technical units (e.g. AGPC on oil palms; AGSM on resource management). Technical differences have remained unresolved (e.g. dambo planting of oil palms opposed by AGPC) or have partly paralysed project operations (e.g. concerns about micro projects raised by AGSM were not satisfactorily addressed by the project).

It appears that only "virtual" task forces were held through the exchange of email and circulation of reports; the lack of coordinated attention and response perhaps contributed to the absence of a sense of urgency when important issues had to be addressed, as e.g. in dealing with the performance of the loan fund, or in addressing the loss rates in oil palms. It

is also not clear whether the confusion brought about by the introduction of the Additional Logical Framework, has ever been addressed by IHFSAN backstoppers.

Operational backstopping has been characterized by complex, cumbersome and shifting arrangements (including the transfer of operational responsibility from the Regional Office in Accra to the FAO representation without additional staff allocations), which have handicapped project management. The flow in particular of financial information to the project and the FAO Representative as budget holder has been unreliable. This has led to planning difficulties and unwarranted cuts in expenditure due to anticipated (but not materialized) budget reductions.

4.3 Project management

IHFSAN implements numerous activities but is poorly developed and equipped with regard to monitoring and evaluation. A reliable management information system has been absent, and the monitoring done by the project has focused on activities and outputs monitoring rather than outcomes and impact of the project. Prior to 2001, the project lacked well-elaborated work plans with planned targets and indicators. Progress reporting was done in different formats and did not allow either for comparison between districts or for data aggregation.

Project management has had to deal with a complex institutional set-up and a vast array of attached staff. The management approach appears based on control rather than delegation of authority, possibly caused by the absence of a reliable management information system. Perhaps owing to the confusing project documents, the project's operations appear unfocused, spread too thinly over too many activities. Some crucial technical areas (e.g. communication, training, extension) have not been sufficiently covered by the project management team. As a consequence, activities frequently were not synchronized (e.g. oil palm development and gardening not complemented by irrigation activities). In like vein, the sequencing of activities did not seem to reflect the timeframe of the project – for example, activities to design a Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation system were initiated in the last year of the project, the KAP study was implemented 18 months before project closure, with no prospect for the planned Nutrition Education Communication Strategy (designed for a duration of six years) to be launched during the lifetime of the project. Last but not least, no contingency planning seems to exist for project termination and bridging to a potential new project.

IHFSAN relies on Community Support Staff of the collaborating agencies for its contacts with communities. In brainstorming sessions by the mission, CSS complained, among others, about feeling left out of the planning and decision making process, lack of communication between higher levels and the field level, and erratic payments of allowances and other operational benefits. (District-level and provincial attached staff, on the other hand, receive a monthly fixed allowance.)

In line with government policy, project management has initiated steps to devolve planning and operational responsibilities to the districts. District planning workshops begun in early 2001 were intended to assist district collaborators in the formulation of output and activity based workplans. The district planning workshops also explored the possibility of allocating funds to the districts; while it initially appeared not to be compatible with FAO's accounting regulations, it now seems possible to provide districts with funds through e.g. a Letter of Agreement with FAO.

5. Actual and Potential Results

5.1 Increased year-round food production and availability

5.1.1 Oil palm distribution

In the field of agriculture, oil palms have been the flagship of the project. IHFSAN has imported 67,000 pre-geminated cold tolerant and drought resistant *tenera* oil palm seedlings from Costa Rica, aiming at a distribution of five palm trees per household in the project area.

The trees were raised in central nurseries established by the project in Kawambwa, Mwense and Nchelenge districts, and initially 90 community nurseries were also established to nurture the trees before transplanting. However, insufficient management in the community nurseries led to high losses (reported to be 20% overall), and the concept of community nurseries was abandoned in favour of the practice of raising the seedlings to plantable stage.

Altogether, 40,000 seedlings have been supplied to community nurseries, while 12,000 plantable seedlings have been directly distributed to 47 communities. The latter have had a better survival rate in the field than the pre-nursery seedlings. As *tenera* oil palms were a new crop, knowledge of oil palm management was low not only among the farmers but also among the staff meant to provide technical support. The expertise of four international consultants and training materials have been provided and district and other workshops have been held to improve knowledge and skills, but it appears that generally, the level of oil palm management by farmers is low. Particularly trees planted in upland areas suffer from water stress. It was mentioned that farmers prefer to plant near their homesteads to guard against theft. Due to the distance to irrigation sources, these trees do not receive the required amounts of water.

It appears that the messages received from the oil palm consultants and backstoppers have not been consistent – some have argued against planting of oil palms in dambos, whilst others have expressly recommended it. Going by the visible results so far, planting of *tenera* oil palms in certain dambos with proper management (above all sufficiently large mounds) can be a valid practice. However, it remains to be seen how the trees will react once they are mature, and also the potential effect on the dambos due to their high water requirements is at present unknown. Trial plots to establish the relative advantages of alternative cultivation methods have not been established by the project.

The relatively high mortality rate might have contributed to low payment rate for trees obtained; for Nchelenge, it appears that 5,952 out of 7,739 oil palms or 76.9% have not been paid for, amounting to a monetary loss of about K 8,686,000 (US $2,400). A second factor may be the long-term nature of the investment; benefits to households accrue only after 4 years, when the trees come into bearing.

Crude estimates of the potential production in Luapula province (assuming 25% of potential yield will be reached) indicate that by 2004, more than 200,000 litres of palm oil can be produced in the four districts, translating roughly into 80 litres per household in the participating CGs. The extraction of palm oil using traditional methods will pose labour problems for households once maturity has been reached. The introduction of improved palm oil processing equipment has to date been limited to trials and demonstrations with the spindle press. The trials have shown that for the same variety, the amount of oil expressed is the same as the traditional method. However, the time required is less using the spindle press, compared to traditional methods.

Groups or individuals with large number of oil palms in their plantations would require the spindle press or better equipment, but so far the spindle presses have remained demonstration items.

Disregarding potential processing bottlenecks, two factors support the sustainability of the oil palm activity. Firstly, the use of the palm oil is native to the valley. Secondly, there is a potential market for palm oil in Luapula valley as well as in the neighbouring DRC. (However, in other Zambian provinces including Lusaka unrefined palm oil is relative unknown, and it is uncertain whether palm oil from Luapula would find a ready market there.) The facilitation of processing as well as marketing arrangements will be a major issue that needs to be addressed in the years to come.

5.1.2 Seed multiplication, other crops and fruit trees

The project originally identified a staple shortfall period during the rainy season when it was more difficult to dry cassava, and alternative staples were not available. The seed multiplication component of the project thus responded to the need to diversify the cropping pattern and increase crop productivity. The availability of other oil crops was to be increased as a short term measure before palm oil became available.

A wide range of crops (cassava, maize, groundnuts, cow peas, bambara nuts, pigeon peas, beans, etc.) were included in seed multiplication activities during the initial phase of the project. As oil consumption is required for improved absorption of pro-vitamin A in the diet, sunflower and soyabeans were also initially targeted by the project in order to improve oil crop availability during the hungry rainy season. These crops were narrowed down in 1999 to cassava, groundnuts and beans in order to reduce the demands on the project in terms of backstopping requirements. Groundnuts were the first choice as they were the most important oil crop in the valley and also a woman's crop. The production of groundnuts had been decreasing due to several reasons, including poor seed, poor crop management and lack of appropriate farmland; their availability for home consumption had been decreasing because much of the harvest was sold to meet other needs.

Initially, the project introduced the early maturing open-pollinated Pool 16 maize variety. The groups which had been exposed to this liked the fact that it could be harvested from February, during the rainy season when cassava was difficult to dry. This crop is no longer being actively promoted by the project and it is not known how many groups have managed to maintain their seed stocks. Sweet potato as an important supplementary staple was promoted initially by the project on a small scale; however, this was stopped when the project realized that farmer-to-farmer dissemination was already effective.

Although farmers reported poor performance of the Kabulangeti bean variety and pest problems in cowpeas, these crops have contributed to diversity in relish foods and their preparation.

Generally, from the data generated by the project it is difficult to determine the extent to which seed availability has increased for the community as a whole. The seed multiplication programme has increased the availability of selected seeds and planting materials (in particular cassava and groundnuts) to CG members. There are examples from a few CGs that cassava cuttings, from multiplication plots in particular have been sold outside the community; and in one CG, it was reported that four members of the group had purchased bicycles from the sale of groundnuts. However, little is known about the availability of improved seed and planting material to the wider community, and in particular to women.

Limited data from the BAS for Kawambwa show that the seed multiplication activity has good prospects of sustainability, particularly for groundnuts and cassava. In Kawambwa for

example, much of the area under seed multiplication was planted to cassava, (73 percent), followed by groundnuts (15 percent). Of the total area under crops in Kawambwa in the seasons 1998-99, 1999-00 and 2000-01, plots under individual households accounted for 3%, 38%, and 57%, respectively. This trend indicates that individual households were increasingly more likely to access the seed initially supplied by the project over time. Similarly, the proportion of area planted to reserved seed has increased overtime, while that under seed supplied by the project has decreased.

The BAS also indicates that that rice, maize and sweet potatoes have increased as staple foods, although none of these have had priority promotion from the project. Qualitative data would indicate that there has been a reduction in the length and intensity of the staple shortfall period, which could be attributed to increased yields from the Bangweulu cassava variety. (The widespread adoption within CGs of the Bangweulu cassava variety has increased yields per hectare, and the early maturing characteristic of the variety has reduced the cassava production cycle from three years to eighteen months on upland fields, and reportedly to nine months in dambos.) However, the ultimate objective of the seed multiplication effort should be to develop sustainable sources of seed in communities, for sale and distribution. This development still has to happen on a wider scale in Luapula valley.

The project also identified a relish short fall in the dry season, and particularly from June to early August when the cassava plants shed their leaves, and those on the plant become unpalatable. The project strategy was to promote dry season vegetable production (both exotic and indigenous) in dambo areas so as to improve the availability of vegetables at the time when other sources of relish are low (July – September). However, the project has had limited activities in the promotion of dry season vegetable production in dambo areas, due to presumed funding and technical constraints, such as the absence of progress on small-scale irrigation as well as the lack of cultural practice guidelines e.g. on Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Fruits rich in vitamin A and C, have been promoted by the project (citrus, papaya, guava, avocado, mango). To ensure sustainability in the provision of improved fruit trees, the project has established mother orchards in some communities, and has taught community members the skill to bud (but not to graft), with the expectation that such skills would sustain the activities of the project beyond the present phase. As most fruit trees have not reached production, it is not possible to determine how they are contributing to food security. Management problems related to water requirements and pest control (red-scale in citrus) have already been identified.

5.1.3 Appropriate storage, processing, preservation and preparation techniques and practices

The project has developed and tested a cassava drier with the objective of closing staple shortfall in the rainy season caused by the difficulty of sun-drying cassava. The cassava drier uses less firewood than traditional methods, does not produce smoky taste or discolour, and dries faster (3-4 hours). However, the amount that can be dried is limited, (the equivalent of two meals for two families per day), and the availability and/or cost of some of the materials is beyond many households' means. In some areas the supply of firewood is limited. The drier would probably be used for only three months of the year; however, there has been interest and requests for demonstrations for drying also other produce. One CG has applied for a cassava drier as micro-projects; however, the application was rejected.

Mango and vegetable solar-drying demonstrations have been carried out in some communities. It is not possible to assess results, but there is potential for mango as snacking food for children, and possible commercial opportunities if linked to dried fruit agro-business interests. It was reported that the drying and consumption of traditional vegetables has

increased[9]. This is in part due to increased production of groundnuts and food legume utilization demonstrations, which have emphasized how cowpeas, bambara nuts, etc. can also be added to improve the palatability of relish. The acceptability and accessibility of improved drying equipment is unknown.

Granaries are not commonly seen in homesteads in the districts covered by the project. Cassava is normally "stored" in the ground, and in many cases production has not been sufficient to warrant storage structures. Towards the end of the dry season, efforts are made to process and dry cassava chips for storage for use during the rainy season. However, much of this is sold, as the opportunity arises or dictated by cash needs. The surplus production of other crops, if any (predominantly groundnut), is normally stored within houses in sacks. Damage from pests is reported. Demonstrations of storage bins have been promoted by the project, and there have been requests for some as micro-projects so that production from a CGs communal field can be stored. However, to date there have been no completed micro projects for storage bins.

Distribution of the push cart developed by the project for testing and demonstration is expected in September.

To date, there have in general not been sufficient demonstrations and testing of processing and storage technology, to encourage widespread adoption by CGs or households. In particular many CGs were concerned that they would not be able to take advantage of the oil palms that would soon be coming into production, due to inadequate knowledge or access to improved oil processing methods.

5.2 Communities empowered and more knowledgeable

5.2.1 Household-level knowledge and practices related to dietary intake and nutrition

Many community groups reported appreciation of the food legume and root and tuber utilization field days. The field days covered the utilization of soyabeans, bambara nuts, cowpea, pigeon pea, cassava and sweet potato. Examples of new recipes included: sausage from pigeon pea; sweet potato with bambara nuts and soyabeans; cowpea mince balls, soyabean milk etc. The mission's discussions with community groups showed that there is increased knowledge of combining certain foods such as roasted cassava and groundnuts, pounded groundnuts and sweet potatoes, indigenous vegetable leaves with groundnuts, and other food legumes. There is knowledge of improved weaning porridge mixes: adding soya flour, pounded groundnuts, other legumes and pounded dried or fresh vegetables to mealie meal or cassava flour.

On probing, both women and men said that this was being done in their households. However, it is difficult to assess this objectively within the context of the mission and without direct observation over a period of time. Although mainly targeted at women, some men also participated in these field days, and said that they benefited by understanding about the wider utilization of some crops, and the importance of particular foods for children. Men noted that they did not have access to the information on nutrition education that women receive during under-five clinics. They attributed their low participation levels in certain important family activities, to this lack of information on food and nutrition.

CGs reported that one of the benefits that they had gained through the assistance of the project was "imilile" or "good feeding", i.e. an improved diversity of relish dishes for adults

[9] This increase in the drying of traditional vegetables is still using traditional drying methods.

and children. Reports from the early 1990s[10] emphasized the low status accorded to the consumption of dark green leafy vegetables. Anecdotal reports received by the mission would indicate that the consumption of vegetable relish has increased and is now widely appreciated. A range of factors have influenced this, and it would be necessary to verify these observations through systematic monitoring and evaluation.

The project has collaborated with TCP/ZAM/8923 for the development of a local curriculum for food security and nutrition. This is an additional entry point for influencing household food habits and dietary practices. The links with education vary by district, and at the community level depend very much on the interest of individual teachers. In Nchelenge at district level, good collaboration has enabled the school production units to be reinvigorated, and has sensitized head teachers, children and PTAs. Home economics is being taught to both girls and boys.

Communication activities were expected to play a central role in disseminating information on the project to a wider audience in Luapula province, as well as providing relevant materials to staff working in fields related to the project. However, efforts in communication have been relatively limited, and concentrated on the production and distribution of some technical leaflets for extension workers and communities on production issues as well as on health, food storage, processing, preservation and utilization. At district and community level there is a general inavailability of technical reference material, although individuals may have received handouts during workshops and the district nutritionists have received some material recently. Collaboration with the Mansa Diocese on radio messages appears possible for the future, but coverage will be limited to the (non-project) districts of Mansa and Samfya.

The nutrition education and communication strategy developed by the project, with support from a consultant over 2000/2001 has an envisaged time frame of approximately six years. Prior to implementation a pilot phase is necessary to develop the material and test the proposed strategy. To date the budget required to implement the strategy has not been developed or financial resources identified. In its present set-up, it is doubtful whether the project has the capacity to implement the strategy, and alternative modalities should be considered.

5.2.2 Community Action Plans

Project activities are community based. The Community Action Planning process has helped groups to focus their collective effort on problems that have affected them for a long time. The CAP methodology itself has gone through a trial-and-error process. After having treated the CAP as an extended PRA exercise in the initial 15 communities, the project later decided to implement the CAP in three stages (problem, objective and strategy analysis; identification of action plans; preparation of micro projects) over an extended period (approximately 6 months) interspersed with training sessions. However, there are reports that staff have experienced problems in trying to follow the agreed methodology, which was found to be overly complex and confusing for CSS.

Some Community Groups were in existence before the IHFSAN project, while others were formed as a result of the CAP process. During the CAP process, most members of the community were involved in the process. However, only a varying proportion of the overall community have gone on to join the community groups that have carried the objectives of the community to fruition. Furthermore, follow-up activities like micro-projects and

[10] Ogle, B. et al. (1990) Traditional vegetables in Zambia. Rural Development Studies No. 28, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, International Rural Development Centre, Uppsala, Sweden; Young, N. (1992) A Rapid Rural Appraisal of Household Food Security and Nutrition in Four Villages in Luapula Valley, Zambia. TCP/ZAM/0154; CSO, UNICEF, PAM and FAO (TCP/ZAM/2353) (1993) A Rapid Food Security Assessment in Mwense District, Luapula Province. Methodology Results and Recommendations. FAO.

demonstrations seem to be determined by the frequency of visits by CSS and other project staff to the groups. According to the BAS, out of the 120 groups only approximately 41% are visited with sufficient regularity and CSS in Mwense considered only 5 out of 42 communities active.

A systematic and consistent approach to the CAP was to be ensured through the preparation of draft guidelines in 1999. To date, these guidelines have not been officially finalized. They would benefit from a review of the experiences so far with the CAP methodology (which should take into account also the lessons learned in Zambia with other community-based approaches).

The greatest setback for the success of the CAP is the limitation of support for the micro projects, which should have been the culmination of the CAP exercise (see micro projects below).

5.2.3 Micro projects

The project was to facilitate the establishment of community groups and investment in community organizations through the establishment of a Community Development Fund. The original project document envisaged a Community Development Fund of US$ 225,000 for the funding of micro projects that would contribute to the improvement of household food security. At the beginning of the project, upon the insistence of FAO's technical backstopping unit (AGSM)[11], the fund was divided into two parts:

- a grant fund (US$ 75,000) to support communities in their action plans to carry out identified social and economic infrastructure works. (Initially this fund was used to distribute improved seeds and other agricultural inputs to communities.)
- a loan fund (US$ 150,000) administered by a financial institution to co-finance the carrying out of profitable income-generating activities by individuals or organized rural groups in the project area.

The grant fund was intended to assist in the implementation of micro projects and other related capacity-building processes. However, the definition of micro projects appears to have been fluid. The term has been used for seed multiplication as well as for the activities listed above; in addition, also the distribution of impregnated mosquito bed nets has been treated as a micro project and funded from the same budget line.

The demise of the loan fund (see section on CDF in Implementation Status) has limited the financial support that IHFSAN can give to developmental activities in the project area[12]. It appears that also for a while, the grant fund lacked an effective recording system. As the implementation, reporting and control of the grant fund recording system was apparently not acceptable to the FAO backstopping unit, from late 2000 to mid-2001 micro-project applications were requested to be channelled through FAO HQ for approval[13]. This has caused delays in funding community micro projects, and moreover in view of the presumed

[11] AGSM was not originally consulted on the design of a Community Development Fund. Only after the initiation of the project activities, AGSM became involved. Against advice of AGSM (to start instead first with matching grant funding of micro-projects) project management gave major priority to establish a loan fund, which according to the project budget had to be disbursed during the first project year. AGSM then insisted on the split-up of the two (grant and loan) components.

[12] The course of action to be taken on the loan fund by IHFSAN and FAO appears not to be clear. A study was initiated in late 2000 to assess the loan recovery prospects (considered very low; FINNIDA's action in this regard are reported to cover barely the operations cost) and the possibility of getting redress from the financial institutions involved (CMS) for alleged mismanagement. For all practical purposes, the money from the loan fund seems lost, as the debtors in most cases do not appear to own property that could be repossessed. (The positive aspect of this is that at least the defaulters seem to belong to the project's wider target group as they do not appear to be rich.)

[13] AGSM comment that approval by FAO HQ was not their recommendation or request; what they observed was that the grant fund recording system was not acceptable, and that at lest the initial community action plans and grant applications were of poor quality and action was needed to improve the planning process.

budget cut IHFSAN established in early 2001 a ceiling of 10 micro projects per district to be funded. Thus, a situation has developed where IHFSAN will not be able to fund two-thirds of the micro projects developed during the CAP. In several cases funding has been denied even where the CGs had already provided their matching contribution (25% of project value)[14].

In a few cases, CGs have received assistance from CSS to channel their applications for micro projects to other funds, such as ZAMSIF.

Through the CAP process and health and nutrition education, people have realized the importance of safe water and the relationship to disease. They also associate frequent diarrhoea as a contributing factor to malnutrition in children. It is then not surprising that most communities requested for water wells under micro projects (91 applications for water wells across the project area). The failure to fund the projects has caused considerable indignation in some communities who felt that the IHFSAN project has "abandoned" them. Moreover, the potential success of water and sanitation interventions has been jeopardized by the experience of some CGs that have dug wells without reaching water, or reached an impenetrable rocky layer. This has demoralized CGs and made the link with public health messages more difficult. In addition, it raises also questions about the adequacy of the technical appraisal process.

Many CGs have opened bank accounts (at some cost) to receive the financial contribution for the micro project. When IHFSAN switched to providing materials instead, this led to a sense of frustration and disempowerment among the CGs.

5.2.4 Participatory monitoring and evaluation system

The original project document envisaged a participatory monitoring and evaluation system to consist of community participation in problem identification, planning, implementation and monitoring of project activities, in addition to baseline surveys on nutrition and household food security, and the implementation of various studies and appraisals. While the establishment of an M&E system should not have been treated as a project objective (it is part of a management information system), the existence of a participatory monitoring and evaluation mechanism could have been regarded as an empowerment objective.

However, guidance as to what would exactly constitute a participatory monitoring and evaluation, was not given in the project document. Throughout most of its lifetime, the project has operated without clear mechanisms for monitoring, be it at community, camp, district or provincial levels. Progress reporting was done in different formats and focused on activities and outputs. The project has only recently commissioned a national consultant to develop the concept, routines and forms for an M & E system, and to train actors/collaborators at all levels. The baseline studies were finalized after a long delay in 2000, while a KAPP study was finalized in 2001. The project document also regarded the CAP process and the Farmers Field Schools concept (which has only theoretically been introduced) as elements of a PM&E.

Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at village or CG level seem to relate essentially to activities implemented within the village (such as participatory trials of cassava driers); there seems to exist no systematic knowledge within the community of activities in other CGs, of other project activities, or of developments at the district or provincial level.

[14] It should be noted that even without the presumed budget cuts, IHFSAN would not have been able to fund all micro projects developed by the CGs. (120xUS$ 3,000 would have by far exceeded the budget allocations for the grant fund.)

Not all communities have a copy of their CAP. Some communities, however, have the flipcharts prepared during the CAP or may have copied the results of the CAP in their own books. Generally the communities keep very poor records; they bemoaned the absence of folders which could be used to keep records. Groups do not prepare progress report, though they are aware of the state of their projects. To most CSS, especially the extension workers, monitoring means paying the community group a visit and seeing how the activities are being implemented. The concept of identifying the success indicators and the types of measurements to be collected in order to measure progress was relatively alien to the CSS. In some cases the CSS have examined the CAP and asked why not all objectives had been achieved.

However, the introduction of Community Based Growth Monitoring and Promotion has added an instrument to monitor changes in health status. The data from the CBGMP should form the ultimate mirror of the effect of the project in the communities. CBGMP forms one of the most significant collections of monitoring data to date, and has raised the awareness of participating communities of health and nutrition problems. The validity and appropriate use of this data needs to be carefully reviewed, drawing on the experience of other CBGMP initiatives in Zambia. Data on the project's impact on agricultural activities, on the other hand, is scattered and does not include information on the uptake by communities of the new techniques, practices and planting material promoted by the project.

5.2.5 Membership stability and maturity of groups

According to the BAS, some of the CGs already existed before the start of the IHFSAN project, indicating group stability. Most CGs seem to have experienced a loss and regain of members at some time in the course of the project period. Most CGs seem to appreciate group activities; some CGs for example, have even gone to the extent of sharing their newly acquired group skills with other groups that were not as developed. However, this is not to say that individual household work and community work were rated equally. Although the groups did not come out openly on this, some observations and strict interpretation of the discussions revealed that individual household activities ranked more highly in importance. For example, a good number of communities indicated having lost project seed but not necessarily their own seed. Some key informants (district extension staff) confirmed this fact and argued that regard for project activities was actually lower for groups whose formation was facilitated by IHFSAN than for those that had been formed autonomously.

A specific course on leadership and group dynamics was held in collaboration with Groups and Associations Support (GAS) in 2001 for 70 community facilitators and CSS. This was in line with the recommendations of the 1999 evaluation. However, the same evaluation also proposed to enhance CGs' capabilities through inter-group exchange mechanisms (farmers' field days, group leader meetings), and possibly the facilitation of group associations (apex organization), and furthermore recommended to develop a maturity index, to keep track of groups' progress towards sustainability. This has not happened.

The BAS developed ad-hoc notions of institutional maturity to determine the membership stability and maturity of CGs. Highest levels of coherence and group maturity were observed in Chifwalo/Kabuta and Koni communities in Nchelenge and Kawambwa districts, respectively. A comparison with the mid-term evaluation mission findings could only be made on three of the nine visited communities – Nkumbi, Kapambwe and Chibanga. While Nkumbi and Chibanga had remained stable, Kapambwe CG had dropped drastically in maturity ratings and frictions in the community were apparent – older people felt left out, and some individuals had not been informed of the meeting just because they held different views from those of the group management.

From the short observations of the mission, it was also evident that significant differences existed among the CGs met in terms of group organization as well as problem identification and planning abilities. While some CGs displayed initiatives in agriculture, health and business activities, other groups appeared more passive and more interested in identifying areas where they saw a need for further external assistance.

5.2.6 Increased planning and implementation capacity

The underlying principle of the project is the empowerment of the communities to organize and mobilize the own resources for joint problem identification and planning of activities. The CAP process has allowed for a deepened analysis of problems, but the overall impression of the degree of self-determination in the project area is mixed. The CGs are able to report on the status of their joint activities and micro projects, and the efforts they were making to see them to completion. However, the BAS also reports of communities that have failed to complete their own micro projects because they expected to be paid for the work.

One hypothesis is that the varying quality of training and support given to CGs by CSS may explain the great variation in the self-determination observed. CSS were noted to have different technical and facilitation skills to handle the CAP process. The dependence on outsiders, IHFSAN in particular, has been discouraged by the project. However, in response to the question whether the group has looked for assistance from other than FAO, the chairman of Chifwalo said “when you have somebody helping you how can you look for yet another”

The benefits from community activities should eventually flow to sub-groups and individual household. The coverage of the project in respect of particularly socio-economic groups in the community is mediated by the degree to which such sub-groups can contribute to the activities of the community group. According to the BAS, the project overall has a fair representation of community sub-groups – only the rich people do not feel the need to join the group in order to acquire the benefit that accrue to group members, while the poor, on the other hand, may find participation requirements (like membership fees for some groups) a barrier to their participation.

5.2.7 Access by project beneficiaries to services/resources/credit

A basic project idea is that once communities are appropriately empowered, they would be able to identify their own problems and mobilize resources to solve those problems. Self determination is thus key to sustainability of project activities.

Access to credit for most rural farmers is non-existent. Cash sources in the communities are not many and the most important ones (according to the BAS) are sale of crops and livestock (31%), natural resource products, i.e. crafts, grass, fish etc (22%) and market gardening (14%). The main crops sold are cassava and groundnuts. It is uncertain to what extent the sale of these crops would finance the acquisition of capital assets while meeting recurrent costs. The general knowledge from the MAFF staff is that the valley soils are poor and may not support acceptable levels of yield, except for the strip of land near the river or lake. Farmers also pointed to their inability to plant large areas of crop due to the limitations of their principal primary cultivation equipment, the hoe.

Access to other services can best be through a mediating organization. IHFSAN, for example, is seen by the community as a bridge through which they can access other services, and the integrated approach promoted by the project has brought about a higher presence of community support services in the communities.

5.3 Community support services strengthened

5.3.1 Strengthened capacity of government and other institutions to sustain provision of support to community groups

Generally, inter-sectoral collaboration at district as well as at field level has been facilitated by the project, with the exception of teachers who do not seem to be involved as regular members of the CSS. Coordination at district level is facilitated by the District Agricultural Coordinators (DACOs), since the project is implemented through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries[15].

In line with GRZ decentralization policy, which has given the key role in planning to districts, IHFSAN has sought to strengthen this process by supporting district planning workshops in early 2001. The workshops were intended to assist district collaborators in the formulation of output and activity based workplans. However, it is not yet clear how the community-based planning approach of the CAP could be reflected in the official planning process; a move by CGs towards higher-level associations on a district-wide basis would possibly facilitate the integration plans and priorities coming out of the communities.

5.3.2 Linkages between the communities and support services strengthened

The designation of field-level GRZ staff as Community Support Staff is not only a semantic change – the acceptance of the term reflects the integrated approach adopted by the field staff. Regular and meaningful contacts between CSS and communities are essential to ensure a common understanding. IHFSAN has attempted to ease operational constraints – Community Support Staff from all relevant departments have received a total of 90 bicycles, and ten more bicycles have been supplied to community facilitators in Chienge district. In addition, district staff were bought motorcycles, and vehicles have been made available in Kawambwa, Nchelenge and Mwense.

However, in brainstorming sessions organized by the mission, CSS complained, among others, about feeling left out of the planning and decision making process, lack of communication between higher levels and the field level, limited mobility, and erratic payments of allowances and other operational benefits. As it is also evident that follow-up activities like micro-projects and demonstrations are determined by the frequency of visits by CSS and other project staff to the groups, a review of the decision-making process as well as the allowance mechanisms at field level would seem appropriate. It should not be forgotten that according to the BAS, CSS estimated that out of the 120 groups only approximately 41% are visited with sufficient regularity.

5.3.3 Increased collaboration and coordination of line ministries at provincial, district and block and camp level

It is evident that GRZ agencies at district level have adopted an inter-sectoral approach to planning and collaboration. GRZ staff at the field level have begun to plan and operate together. However, the District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCC), which in principle would (through dedicated sub-committees) provide the forum for inter-disciplinary

[15] The project also contributed to the upgrading of human resources in Luapula province through: (i) obtaining the support of 2 volunteers from MS Denmark for two years each to support post-harvest technology actvities and community action planning (i.e. post-harvest technology engineer and an education specialist); (ii) the Provincial Post-Harvest Technology Officer obtained a Diploma in Food and Nutrition Security from the International Agricultural Centre, Wageningen, Netherlands in June 2000 (on scholarship from the Government of the Netherlands; ESNP was instrumental in facilitating her participation); the two remaining district nutritionists and the Provincial Nutritionist are participating in a 6-week training course at the IAC in the Netherlands on Food and Nutrition Programme Management. (Again, ESNP has facilitated their participation.)

planning, have yet to become operationally effective in the project districts. Moreover, the government continues to be handicapped by bureaucratic, financial and manpower constraints, including conflicting interpretations of responsibilities at district level especially between councils and district administrators.

5.3.4 Better understanding by CSS of food security, nutrition and other issues

The project has made a significant contribution to develop the understanding of the CSS that food security and nutrition problems can only be dealt with in an inter-sectoral way. Training of trainers for CSS involved in the CAP process was carried out; this included a certain amount of awareness raising on food security and nutrition issues. Training of trainers on the utilization of food legumes, cassava, mango and vegetable drying and oil processing has been conducted.

However, there has not been a formal conceptual and practical training on food security and nutrition for CSS. No overall training strategy for the project has been developed based on a comprehensive needs assessment of the technical staff, and there has been a dependence on workshops and consultants to provide training. This type of training is not recognized or accredited within ministry career structures. In addition, this approach adds little sustainability to training events.

At district and community level there is a general unavailability of technical reference material, although individuals may have received handouts during workshops and the district nutritionists have received some material recently.

The cross-cutting communication component of the project has not been fully operationalized, leading to an unsystematic approach in the development and dissemination of materials and a loss of synergy among project components.

5.4 Improved access to, and quality of, health care within the communities

Health and nutrition activities were introduced late in the project life. Only a few community groups have been trained and started Community-Based Growth Monitoring and Promotion (CBGMP) and health and nutrition education. The project has trained five community nutrition promoters, two men and three women (CNP) from selected CGs. The CBGMP activities show early promising signs of acceptance and success, with an outreach beyond the CG. Mothers (and parents) appreciate the reduction in time required to attend the under-five clinic at the RHC, which are often 7-10 km away. Health centre staff welcome the reduced workload, which means that they can concentrate on referral cases. The house visits and counselling approach undertaken by peers mean that discussions and advice for the parents is more appropriate, and the stigma of malnutrition is reduced. The link with the preparation and use of enriched weaning foods from locally available foods, contributes to a sense of empowerment that families can improve the well-being of their children from their own resources. The Knowledge, Attitudes, Perceptions and Practices (KAPP) survey on nutrition and health issues was only implemented in 2000, with the outline of the Nutrition education and communication strategy completed in mid-2001. While existing health and nutrition messages were used, these have not been as effective as they might have been. This has led to a lost opportunity to influence the knowledge, attitudes and practices of a wider range of people.

During the process of the CAP, many communities identified diarrhoeal diseases, unsafe water and distance to water sources as priority problems, and the rehabilitation of existing or the construction of new wells were perceived as solutions. This has been supported by the establishment of sub-groups for well maintenance, water and sanitation and or linkages with already established WASHE (Water, Sanitation and Health Education) groups. These sub-

committees or groups have rules concerning the use of wells, which in case transgression, results in a fine. Through discussions, the mission found that, group members understood that the use of water from rivers ("where everything was done by everybody") led to diarrhoea.

Both the KAPP and BAS indicate that diarrhoea is perceived as a cause of malnutrition in children, which would seem a good entry point for further nutrition education. Women stated that if their baby or child had diarrhoea, they would take the child to the health centre, where the child would receive ORS. Women also stated that they knew how to make the solution from sugar and salt at home, but they did not always have the ingredients. Both men and women could explain about the need to keep water containers clean and covered. The extent to which this is always practised in the home and by how many families is not known. There are anecdotal reports of a reduction in cases of diarrhoea reported to RHC in villages where wells have been constructed or improved. Chlorine, which is promoted for water purification is available in some shops. The CSS in Nchelenge felt that previous perceptions about the causes of diarrhoea (related to witchcraft and bad air) had changed when communities could see the reduction in number of cases of the disease when they improved their water source.

However, the potential success of water and sanitation interventions has been jeopardized by the experience of some CGs who have dug wells without reaching water, or reached an impenetrable rocky layer. This has demoralized CGs and made the link with public health messages more difficult.

Malaria agents have been trained in some communities to promote basic prevention measures (keeping grass cut, compounds clean, and without standing water), and are responsible for the sale of impregnated bed nets. This has been in conjunction with UNICEF and the MOH. There have been some difficulties with standardization of prices and procedures, with respect to sale of nets and the commission and bicycle maintenance allowance that the malaria agents receive. The CGs with malaria agents were aware of these measures and the sale of nets. The cost of nets was considered too expensive. Households that had reported purchasing of nets said that several nets, or the larger size of net, were purchased so that everyone could sleep under a net.

Collaboration between the MOE and MOH has been facilitated by the project through support for a de-worming campaign in schools – more than 20,000 children in two districts have been treated.

6. Specific Topics and Issues

6.1 Women's access to and control over means of food production (land, seed, technology, division of labour)

It is difficult to determine whether women's access to and control over land has changed. Early project documents report that access to dambos is a constraint for women, although it is not clear whether this relates to access to, and or control over the land, or problems related to the heavy labour requirements to prepare a dambo for cultivation. The headman or chief mediates distribution of dambo areas for cultivation; however, many households have had plots for several generations. In some villages, the mission was shown dambo plots belonging to single women who were able to hire casual labour for land preparation. However, the project has had limited dry season activities and coverage.

The seed multiplication programme has increased the availability of selected seeds and planting materials (in particular cassava, groundnuts, food legumes, which were traditionally viewed as "women's crops", and oil palm) to CG members. Gender disaggregated data on contracts with seed growers is not available. Less than half of the CG membership is women

and many of those women are members together with their husbands. While seed availability may have increased for members, the extent to which seed is more available to women in the wider community is difficult to determine. CGs are still requesting support for SM activities. It was not possible to determine the extent of vegetable seed multiplication.

Gender sensitization activities and the CAP process have highlighted the heavy labour burden place on women through their agricultural activities and how this in turn affects their ability to care adequately for family members in particular young children. There have been discussions about how men and women share tasks more than in the past, with planting, weeding and harvesting mentioned in particular. Farmer adaptation of cultural practices for certain crops e.g. late planting of groundnuts may have spread labour demands during the early rains/planting period.

The project has tried to introduce potentially labour-saving technology, such as treadle pumps, spindle presses, push carts. However, the majority of these demonstrations have not been fully operational, e.g. treadle pumps without pipes, irrigation furrows and reservoirs. Therefore, it has not been possible for women to test these new technologies or to determine who would benefit from changes in labour requirements and or potential increased income. Women farmers have been included in training for crop management, which may have exposed them to improved cultural practices and skills such seed multiplication and budding of fruit trees. The data available is not disaggregated by sex.

The project has also tested and demonstrated various processing technologies (cassava drier, mango/vegetable drier) on a limited scale. Women have been involved in the demonstrations and participatory evaluations of the technologies. With the cassava drier, it has been reported that there was a change in the division of labour with men assisting by stoking and maintaining the fire. This was acceptable as it was a “new” technology. Whether household decision-making on the allocation of financial resources would place priority on investment in drying technology, is not known.

Many community groups reported appreciation of the food legume and root and tuber utilization field days. Although mainly targeted at women, some men also participated in these field days, and said that they benefited by understanding about the wider utilization of some crops, and the importance of particular foods for children. Men noted that they did not have access to the information on nutrition education that women receive during under-five clinics. They attributed their low participation levels in certain important family activities, to this lack of information on food and nutrition.

6.2 Increased food production and availability and results in terms of improved food security and nutrition

The project originally identified a staple shortfall period during the rainy season when it was more difficult to dry cassava, and alternative staples were not available. The project aimed to increase crop productivity and diversity. The findings of the BAS indicate that rice, maize and sweet potatoes have increased as staple foods, although none of these have had priority promotion from the project. Qualitative data would indicate that there has been a reduction in the length and intensity of the staple shortfall period, which could be attributed to increased yields from the Bangweulu cassava variety. In addition the BAS reports that over the last five years piecework and gifts (i.e. coping strategies) as sources of food have declined while own production and purchasing of food have increased.

A relish short fall was identified in the dry season, particularly from June to early August when the cassava plants shed their leaves, and those on the plant become unpalatable. The project strategy was to promote dry season vegetable production (both high performing exotic and indigenous) in dambo areas so as to improve the availability of vegetables at the

time when other sources of relish were low. However the restricted coverage of project activities in dambo utilization, means that the project's contribution to combating the vegetable relish shortfall has been limited. Project activities have made a significant contribution to the improved availability and consumption of groundnuts and to a lesser extent other food legumes (cowpeas, pigeon peas, soyabeans, beans). This has contributed to a wider diversity of relish dishes, and increased awareness of improved weaning foods. However, as awareness about the nutritive value and demand for food legumes increased, the project reduced the active promotion of seed multiplication of these crops.

Fruits rich in vitamin A and C, have been promoted by the project (citrus, papaya, guava, avocado, mango), but low coverage and management problems, have reduced the potential impact of these activities.

While the project did not have an explicit poverty reduction or income generation focus, it was probably assumed that there would be an indirect contribution to increased income, through increased crop sales and eventually sales of surplus palm oil. The BAS reported that CGs considered that income from crop and livestock sales had increased compared to five years ago. CGs reported that there was an increase in income from groundnut and vegetable sales. This has led to some economic empowerment, however there has been limited diversification of livelihoods. When the oil palms come into production, they will become a potentially important source of household income as well as an addition to family diets. The control and use of income is difficult to ascertain, although some CGs said that husbands and wives sit down together to look at their expenditure needs. In one CG, it was reported that four members of the group had purchased bicycles from the sale of groundnuts.

The BAS analysis superimposed the seasonal patterns for: food availability, cash availability and workload. In the early rainy season, the lowest period of cash availability coincides with low food availability, together with the period of highest labour demands, and higher morbidity due to malaria and diarrhoea. There is no comparable data to compare the situation in 2001, with the situation at the beginning of the project to determine whether the intensity and length of this period of stress has changed.

At this stage it is not possible to assess whether the combined activities supported by the project have contributed to the achievement of the project's overall objective of improving the nutritional well-being of vulnerable groups in the Luapula Valley. This is in part due to the incomplete and inoperational monitoring and evaluation system, together with the late initiation of CBGMP activities. In order to determine whether a food based approach is the most efficient and effective strategy for the reduction of vitamin A deficiencies, anaemia and PEM, it would be necessary to implement a statistically representative survey, which could be compared to the original baseline surveys.

6.3 Vulnerable groups

The 1996 PRA report includes an analysis of nutritionally vulnerable individuals (infants, young children, female adolescents, women of child bearing age and elderly) and food insecure households (those that have poor access to: natural resources; knowledge; income; labour; and households facing time constraints such as single-headed and small-sized households and families with chronically ill or disabled members).

In the early phase of the project, group membership was explicitly orientated towards female headed households, elderly and disabled. In the later stages this was not the case. Usually, the wider community would be involved in the initial CAP exercise. As priorities emerged and proposals prepared for particular micro-projects, smaller interest groups would develop around different proposed activities (e.g. seed multiplication, well construction, requests for

oil palm seedlings). These proposed activities required physical input, which may have been beyond many vulnerable individuals.

The project's intention was to directly assist vulnerable individuals through the free distribution of oil palms by the project[16], with other potential assistance identified and provided by the CGs. As the oil palms require high management, in terms of location and watering, in some districts (Mwense) this resulted in poor condition and low survival rates of oil palms allocated for vulnerable individuals. In other districts (Kawambwa), management of the palms is being done by the CG on behalf of the vulnerable individuals. As no groups have reached the stage of harvesting and processing their oil palms, the mechanisms of how the benefits would then reach the vulnerable individuals have not been fully discussed within the groups. The ownership of the oil palms distributed for vulnerable individuals is unclear (i.e. individual ownership or held in trust by the CG)

Other assistance provided by the CGs (sharing of production from communal plots, payment of school fees, purchase of blankets and clothes), has been at the grace of the group. Many CGs felt that the benefits from the project were still minimal, and that their ability to support vulnerable individuals was limited. While it can be argued that the project has generally been orientated to vulnerable communities as defined in the 1996 PRA, it is not clear whether a group approach is the most appropriate strategy to addressing the needs of vulnerable individuals. It would appear that it is more realistic for households to provide direct care for their vulnerable members. The CAP process and CGs should be used to increase awareness of the needs of vulnerable individuals and provide knowledge as to how to meet those needs for different types of vulnerable individuals.

6.4 Gender sensitivity

All project staff have participated in gender awareness training, so that they can incorporate a gender sensitive approach in all their activities. Promoting discussion and change in cultural attitudes and behaviour is a long and gradual process. The CAP process has led to men in some groups being much more aware of how gender roles contribute to the causes of illness and malnutrition in their children.

The mission noted several groups engage in lively repartee on gender issues, indicating that a subject which in the past was never discussed openly is now on the agenda. Training material produced by the project is gender sensitive to the extent that it shows men and women involved in activities normally associated as the role of women. However, it is not known what the reaction (acceptability and receptivity of the message) is to men and women.

6.5 Issues in irrigation, extension and conservation farming activities

Irrigation activities should have played an important role in IHFSAN, to support the establishment of oil palms as well as to facilitate dry season production of vegetables. The project efforts in this regard have been weak. Expected links with Mansa TechnologyMansa Technology Assessment Site (MTAS) and Nanga Irrigation Research Station (NIRS) have not become operational (planned contracts were cancelled due to presumed budget cuts in 2001), and also other collaborators such as SIWUP and the FAO Women in Irrigation Project (WIN) have not contributed to establishing a significant presence of irrigation pumps in the project area. The introduction of irrigation technologies in project communities seems to have been limited to a cursory demonstration of treadle pumps; it is not clear whether any real-life trials of treadle pumps have taken place. Currently, there is no established network that potential buyers of treadle pumps could turn to for maintenance and spare parts.

[16] Avocado saplings were also distributed to CGs for vulnerable individuals. However, the numbers distributed have been limited and survival rates are not known.

It appears from reports that agricultural extension training has followed largely a traditional top-down approach; the planned introduction of the Farmers Field School approach has not taken place. IHFSAN has missed a chance here, as the FFS approach would be complementary to the community-based concept followed by the project and could be an important vehicle to improve the level of agricultural practices as well as group cohesion.

Presumably, results of on-farm testing of improved upland management and conservation farming techniques are available, but have not been written up and analysed. In this regard, it would be important to keep a systematic record particularly of those activities recently introduced by the project, in particular the planting of oil palm in dambos and their potential effect on the agro-ecological conditions.

Annexes

Terms of Reference for the Final Evaluation – GCP/ZAM/052/BEL

1. PROJECT DETAILS

Project Code and Title:	GCP/ZAM/052/BEL – Improving Household Food Security and Nutrition in the Luapula Valley
Executing agency:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Main implementing Ministry:	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Collaborating agencies:	Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, Ministry of Education, National Food & Nutrition Commission Ministry of Health
Donor:	Belgian Survival Fund
Starting date:	January 1997
Finishing date:	31st December 2001
Budget:	US$ 3,651,036 (including preparatory phase and mid-term budget increase)
Government Contribution:	(in cash and kind)

2. BACKGROUND

The project began operations in March 1997, preceded by a six-month preparatory project which undertook an in-depth assessment of the household food security and nutrition situation in the Luapula valley.

The Development Objective was formulated as: Long-term household food security and nutrition ensured in the Luapula valley, including year-round access to a balanced diet, which is adequate in energy, vitamin A, iron and other macro- and micro-nutrients.

The Immediate Objectives were formulated as: (1) Increased year round food production of specific oil crops, staple crops, fruits and vegetables. (2) Improved food availability and decrease seasonal variation through the introduction of appropriate storage, processing, preservation and preparation techniques and practices. (3) Communities empowered to ensure household food security and adequate nutrition for the most vulnerable. (4) The local knowledge base of communities, extension and other support services strengthened towards improved household food security and nutrition. (5) A system of sustainable participatory monitoring and evaluation established.

A mid-term evaluation was undertaken in 1999, preceded by a Participatory Rural Appraisal with the aim of assessing project progress and the benefits that the people in the communities perceive to be gaining from their participation in project activities. This mid-term evaluation resulted in the development of an additional framework to guide the implementation of project activities in the remaining period (June 1999 – December 2001).

The project follows a strategy of community action planning which is rooted in, and sustained by, the community itself. This participatory approach enables community members to take the lead in determining needs, identifying solutions, initiating actions and monitoring progress. It also calls for strengthening the capacity of the existing community support staff in terms of technical competence and community mobilization.

Furthermore, the project has adopted a multi-sectoral approach at all levels to improving the household food security and nutrition in the Luapula valley. The collaborating departments included are Agriculture, Community Development, Health, Education, Technical Cooperation and Planning and the National Food and Nutrition Commission.

3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS

In terms of results, the project has to date imported 67,000 oil palm seeds, and has established three central nurseries. Ninety communities have been supported to establish community nurseries, several community, district and camp level workshops have been organized by the project, and training materials in Bemba and English have been produced on the establishment of central nurseries, identification of production sites and overall oil palm management and utilization.

The project has had to review its strategy of community nurseries as the small-holder irrigation initiative to support communities in watering their trees, has not been fully established. Accordingly, the 1999 and 2000 imported oil palm seeds have been nursed/are being nursed at central nurseries to a plantable stage when they are distributed to the community members for planting in either dambos or along the river banks.

The project has also reviewed the cost of accessing the oil palms by most of its target population and has decided to reduce the price to a nominal fee during its remaining life span.

Rainy season production of oil crops such as groundnuts, sunflower, soyabean, sesame, beans, cowpeas, pigeon peas and bambara nuts have been promoted through the use of on-farm multiplication of improved varieties.

After the mid-term evaluation in June 1999, the project limited its promotional crops to groundnuts and oil palm. Except for beans which has not performed well in almost all community groups, the groundnut seed multiplication process has been progressing and is at various levels of development. Some groups that accessed the initial seed from the project have been multiplying it and expanding either in terms of area cultivated and/or the number of members benefiting from it.

To improve the year-round availability of staple crops and reduce seasonal shortages, the production of improved varieties of cassava (Bangweulu) through group and individual plant material multiplication and on-farm demonstrations has been promoted. Collaboration has been established with the Root and Tuber Research Team and Mansa Technology Assessment Site through whom technical support has been received. A total of 113 lima of Bangweulu cassava variety have been established in 73 communities of the project area.

The promotion of dry and wet season production of improved varieties of vegetables (tomato, onion) has been hampered by the limited small scale irrigation techniques to lift water on one hand and on the other, the limited technical input in responding to some of the practical production constraints farmers are faced with; including pest infestation and soil infertility.

Collaboration agreements have been established with Mansa Technology Assessment Site (MTAS) and Nanga Irrigation Research Station (NIRS), but their implementation has not been possible due to budget cuts.

Collaboration with the Smallholder Irrigation and Water Use Programme (SIWUP) and the FAO Women in Irrigation Project (WIN) has been established and has resulted into several joint irrigation activities being implemented; including technical training of staff at various

levels, introduction of irrigation technologies in selected project communities and demonstration of water lifting devices (treadle pumps).

The community action planning process has been used as basis for the identification of community micro projects and related activities. The process involves empowering communities in problem identification, objective setting and development of an action plan.

The Community Action Planning (CAP) exercise has been facilitated in all the 120 communities of the project area. This was done after 9 district staff and 35 community support staff were trained in facilitating skills of the CAP process.

A Community Development Fund was being managed by a private company; Credit Management Services (CMS) and was discontinued as per the recommendations of the mid-term review. The grant part of the fund has been operated by the project and is meant to assist community groups put into practice what they have learnt from the CAP and other related capacity building processes. Information, education and communication activities related to basic life skills and an understanding of the causes of malnutrition constitute a major component of the project.

Training materials have either been developed by the project or adapted from existing materials in the areas of nutrition, household food security, agriculture, gender and participatory approaches.

Linkages with the TCP/ZAM/2256 and TCP/ZAM/8923T projects have been established and ensured collaboration in the planning, implementation and follow-up of activities aimed at integrating household food security, nutrition and health issues in primary schools. Technical assistance was provided to project TCP/ZAM/8923 during for its training activities and training materials identification, development and adaptation.

Baseline surveys on nutrition and household food security were undertaken in 1997 and 1998 with the collaboration of the Tropical Diseases Research Centre (TDRC) and the National food, Health and Nutrition Information Services (FHANIS). The two survey findings have since been merged and analysed and will assist in monitoring and evaluating household food security and nutrition conditions and the effect of developmental activities in the valley. The two survey findings together with those of KAPP survey (knowledge, attitude, practice and perception) are expected to provide a basis for the establishment of a future Nutrition and Household Food Security database for Luapula.

The project has implemented its activities through the existing government staff (almost 90) of the relevant departments found at provincial, district and community levels. This strategy provides a basis for enhancing the integration of activities into different sector departments beyond the project's life span.

Project management has been ensured through the National Project Manager (NPM) in collaboration with the National Project Director (NPD) who was appointed at the departure of the Chief Technical Adviser and is located in the office of the Permanent Secretary. The officer assists in strengthening the inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration at national, provincial and district levels.

4. PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION

As the project is coming to an end, the evaluation is intended to provide the government, FAO and the donor on results accomplished, and eventual steps necessary to consolidate progress and ensure achievement of objectives. Any further need for external assistance will be identified. The mission will be preceded by a beneficiary assessment of community

members and their perceptions of project activities. The salient issues brought out through the beneficiary assessment will provide a basis for the final evaluation.

5. SCOPE OF THE EVALUATION

The Evaluation mission will assess the:

a) Relevance of the project to development priorities and needs.
b) Clarity and realism of the project's development and immediate objectives, including specification of targets and identification of beneficiaries and prospects for sustainability.
c) Quality, clarity and adequacy of project design including the following:

- Clarity and logical consistency between, inputs, activities, outputs and progress towards achievement of objectives (quality, quantity, and the time-frame);
- Realism and clarity in the specification of poor obligations and prerequisites (assumptions and risks)
- Realism and clarity of external institutional relationships, and in the managerial and institutional framework for implementation of work plans;
- Likely cost-effectiveness of the project design and implementation.

d) Efficiency and adequacy of project implementation including:

- Timely availability of funds for FAO and GRZ budgets.
- Quality and timeliness of input delivery by both FAO and GRZ;
- Managerial, coordination and work efficiency;
- Follow-up on the recommendations and decisions of the mid-term evaluation and tripartite review;
- Implementation difficulties;
- Adequacy of monitoring and reporting;
- Extent of GRZ support and commitment;
- Quality and quantity of administrative and technical support by FAO.

e) Progress towards project results, including a full and systematic assessment of outputs produced to-date (quantity and quality as compared with work plan and progress towards achieving immediate objectives). The evaluation mission will especially review, the status and quality of work on the following:

- Integrating nutrition and household food security aims and considerations in all project activities.
- Ensuring full community participation in problem identification, planning, implementation and monitoring of project activities.
- Promoting gender-sensitive approaches in project implementation and ensuring that the nutritionally vulnerable are properly targeted.

And more specifically, review progress achieved towards:

- Increasing year-round production of specific oil crops, staple crops, fruits and vegetables.
- Improving food availability and decreasing seasonal variation through the introduction of appropriate storage, processing, preservation and preparation techniques and practices.
- Empowering communities and households to ensure household food security and adequate nutrition for the most vulnerable members.
- Strengthening the role of women in food production and food security.
- Reducing food security problems among target households, especially with regard to improving the nutritional quality and quantity of foods.

- Strengthening the local knowledge base of communities, extension and other support services towards improved household food security and nutrition, including the household-level knowledge and practices related to food consumption and nutrition.
- Establishing a system of participatory monitoring and evaluation.

f) The prospects for sustaining the results of the project by the beneficiaries, government and other institutions after the termination of the project. The evaluation mission should examine in particular the following:

- Institutional and organizational arrangement put in place and support towards organizational capacity building to ensure that community participation will be part of an integral part of implementing and collaborating Ministries and Organizations service delivery strategy. In particular, the continuation of the Community Action Planning and the active participation of all community support services in these grass-roots activities;
- Level of development of Community Groups in relation to sustaining project supported activities without external (e.g. GRZ and FAO) support;
- Capacity of government and other institutions to sustain provision of support to Community Groups from their own resources after termination of project support;
- Commitment and willingness for host institution to continue providing support to community groups after termination of project support.

g) The likely cost-effectiveness of the project.

Based on the above analysis the evaluation mission will draw specific conclusions and make proposals for any necessary further action by GRZ, FAO and BSF to ensure sustainable development. The mission will also identify the need for any additional assistance that was not foreseen at the start of the project, and that will be required if project outputs and objectives are to be sustained. The mission will draw attention to any lessons of general interest. Any proposal for further assistance should include precise specification of objectives and the major suggested outputs and inputs.

6. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

The mission will comprise of the following persons:

Team Leader (FAO), specialist in evaluation, community participation and development;
- Representative nominated by GRZ, specialist in agronomy, horticulture and participatory extension.
- Community Nutrition specialist - with experience in food-based nutrition programmes, community nutrition education and training, and community empowerment for nutrition improvement (BSF).
- Team leader of the preceding Beneficiary Assessment Mission.

Gender issues will be considered Community Nutrition Specialist and the GRZ nominated representative with input from the team leader of the preceding Participatory Rural Appraisal Mission.

All team members should have experience of evaluation and participatory methodologies. They should also be able to undertake multi-disciplinary work and be familiar with concepts of household food security and nutrition. They should also be familiar with gender issues and have working experience in Africa.

Team members should be independent and thus have no previous direct involvement with the project either with regard to its formulation, implementation or backstopping.

7. ITINERARY AND TENTATIVE TIMETABLE FOR THE MISSION

The mission will take place over a period of three weeks. It will be preceded by a 10-day Beneficiary Assessment Survey (BAS) to be carried out in August 2001.

The Team Leader will be technically briefed by the various FAO units involved in the project (nutrition, industrial oil crops, horticulture, micro-finance, communication, post-harvest and food technology, gender). The team will travel to Lusaka, Zambia in September 2001 where the Team Leader and the consultant nominated by the donor will join the Government representative and the (BAS) Team Leader for a briefing session with project management and the FAOR and the main implementing ministry (MAFF).

The team will then travel to Mansa (one day) and spend six days in the field carrying out a participatory evaluation, followed by a one-day workshop in Mansa. The mission will return to Lusaka where it will debrief with the Project National Advisory Committee. The mission should not attempt to cover every project site (over 120) but rather aim at getting a more in-depth view of a representative sample of locations.

8. CONSULTATIONS

The mission will maintain close liaison with the Representatives of the donor and FAO and the concerned national agencies, as well as with national and international project staff. Although the mission should feel free to discuss with the authorities concerned anything relevant to its assignment, it is not authorised to make any commitments on behalf of the Government, the donor, or FAO.

9. REPORTING

The mission is fully responsible for its independent report, which may not necessarily reflect the views of the Government, the donor or FAO. The report will be written in conformity with the FAO Guidelines.

The report will be completed, to the extent possible, in the country and the findings and recommendations fully discussed with all concerned parties and wherever possible consensus achieved with all stakeholders.

The mission will also complete the FAO Project Evaluation Questionnaire.

The mission leader bears responsibility for finalising the report, which will be submitted to FAO within two weeks of mission completion. FAO will submit the report to the Government and the donor together with its comments.

Itinerary and persons met

FAO Headquarters, Rome (B Bultemeier)

Ms J Heney (AGSM)
Mr A Slangen (AGSM)
Ms E Muehlhoff (ESNP)
Mr P Griffee (AGPC)
Mr W Baudoin (AGPC)

Lusaka (16-8/9/2001 and 29/9/2001 – 5/10/2001)

Mr R Fuller, FAO Representative
Mr C Chileya, FAO National Programme Officer
Ms E C Phiri, National Project Manager
Mr M R Mulele, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Participants in the National Advisory Committee, and the Tri-partite Review Meeting
Mr G Tembo, member of Beneficiary Assessment Team
Ms B Locatelli-Rossi, Head Health Section, Unicef
Ms R Mulenga, National Programme Officer, WFP
Mr L Olasvirta, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Finnish Embassy (FINNIDA)
Ms S Korpia, Programme Officer, FINNIDA
Ms M Sikazwe, Curriculum Specialist, CDC
Mr J J Nijhoff, In-country Coordinator, Food Security Research Project
Mr D Gerber, Country Representative, Africare
Mr I Sakala, Project Coordinator - SAMeP, Africare
Mr J LaFleur, Chief of Party, ZATAC (Zambia Agribusiness Technical Assistance Centre)
Mr I Stubbs, Director of Programme Management, ZATAC (Zambia Agribusiness Technical Assistance Centre)
Ms E Phiri-Mudenda, ZATAC
Mr Chinene, SHEMP
Mr J C Banda, Project Officer - Malaria, Unicef
Ms M Zimba, Project Officer - Nutrition, Unicef
Mr C B Mambo, Programme Director, ZAMSIF (Zambia Social Investment Fund)
Ms H Samatebele, Deputy Director, PAM (Programme Against Malnutrition)
Mr L J Alrutz, Director for Africa, CLUSA (Cooperative League of USA)
Mr G Allison, Project Cordinator, CLUSA

Mansa (19/9/2001 and 27-29/9/2001)

Mr R C Mukuma, Permanent Secretary, Luapula Province
Members of the Provincial Steering Committee
Mr M Kaoma, Dep Permanent Secretary, Luapula Province
Mr A Kalumba, Provincial Agriculture Coordination Officer
Mr J Chalwe, Provincial Community Development Officer
Father O Chansa, Catholic Diocese, Mansa
Mr B M Mubanga, Regional Officer, ZAMSIF
Ms E Chipopola, Provincial Officer, PAM /Food Security Pack Programme
Ms S van Waeyenberge, APO Nutrition-Post Harvest
Mr L Kitch, Crop Production and Protection Officer, FAO Sub-regional Office, Harare
Mr E de Bock, Belgian Survival Fund (BSF)
Mr P van Acker, Office of the Special Evaluator, Belgium
Provincial Component Heads
Financial Administrative Assistant

Nchelenge District (20/9/2001 – 21/9/2001)

Mr C Nsakasha, District Administrator
Mr A Mulenga, District Administrative Officer
Mr A C Chendeka, District Agricultural Coordinating Officer
District line ministry staff (MAFF, CDSS, MEdu, MHealth)
Community Support Staff
Ms A C Ngwira, Coordinator SNV/GAS (Group and Association Support)

Kasamba Community Group
Mukeya Community Group
Chifwalo Community Group

Kawambwa District (22/9/2001 – 24/9/2001)

Mr B Chansa, District Administrative Officer
Mr J Kabaso, DACO
District line ministry staff (MAFF, CDSS, MEdu, MHealth)
Community Support Staff

Shitima Community Group
Chipepa Community Group
Michael Sata Community Group

Mwense District (25/9/2001 – 26/9/2001)

Mr A Kalunga, District Administrative Officer
Mr H Musonda, Acting DACO
District line ministry staff (MAFF, CDSS, MHealth)
Community Support Staff

Kapamba Community Group
Chifuba Community Group
Muyabi Community Group

List of project staff and attached staff

1. National Project Manager (Mansa)
2. Associate Professional Officer – Nutrition (Mansa)
3. Financial/Administrative Assistant (Mansa)
4. Secretary (Mansa)
5. Administrative Assistant (Mansa) paid through GRZ counterpart funding
6. 4 drivers (1 in Nchelenge) 1 (Kawambwa) while two are under short term contracts.

The following government staff have been attached to the project:

1. District Nutrition Coordinator (Mwense)
2. District Nutrition Coordinator (Nchelenge)
3. District Nutrition Coordinator (Kawambwa)
4. Provincial Oil Palm Agronomist (Mansa)
5. Provincial Community Empowerment Officer (Mansa)
6. Provincial Community Development Fund/Gender Officer (Mansa)
7. Provincial Irrigation Specialist (Mansa)
8. Provincial Land Husbandry (Mansa)
9. The District Agricultural Coordinator (Mwense)
10. The District Agricultural Coordinator (Kawambwa)
11. The District Agricultural Coordinator (Nchelenge)
12. The District Crop Husbandry Officer (Mwense)
13. The District Crop Husbandry Officer (Kawambwa)
14. The District Crop Husbandry Officer (Nchelenge)
15. The District Community Empowerment Officer (Mwense)
16. The District Community Empowerment Officer (Kawambwa)
17. The District Community Empowerment Officer (Nchelenge)
18. The District Community Empowerment Officer (Chienge)
19. The Artist (Kawambwa)
20. The Provincial Post Harvest Officer (Mansa)
21. The Provincial Nutritionist (Mansa)
22. The Fruit Nursery Supervisor (Mwense)
23. The Fruit Nursery Supervisor (Mbereshi)
24. The Fruit Nursery Supervisor (Nchelenge)
25. The District Health Director (Mwense)
26. The District Health Director (Kawambwa)
27. The District Health Director (Nchelenge)
28. The District Health Director (Chienge)
29. The District Education Officer (Kawambwa)
30. The District Education Officer (Nchelenge)
31. The District Education Officer (Mwense)
32. The National Project Director (until August when he passed away)

Consultancies and backstopping visits

International Consultants and FAO Technical Officers:

1997

Jenice Rankins (Nutrition/Education)	-	19/07/97 to 17/08/97
Jenny Heney (Community Development Fund)	-	02/08/97 to 26/08/97
Giuseppe De Bac (Horticulture)	-	07/08/97 to 03/10/97
Dario Berardi (Nutrition Assessment and Monitoring)	-	09/10/97 to 01/11/97
Carlos Umana (Oil Palm)	-	14/10/97 to 05/11/97
Sally Sontheimer (Gender Backstopping)	-	08/11/97 to 15/11/97
Peter Fellows (Food Processing)	-	20/11/97 to 19/12/97

1998

Ellen Muehlhoff (Nutrition/Education Backstopping)	-	17/01/98 to 28/01/98
Giuseppe De Bac (Horticulture)	-	17/01/98 to 14/02/98
Carlos Umana (Oil Palm)	-	07/02/98 to 17/02/98
Giuseppe De Bac (Horticulture)	-	07/05/98 to 10/07/98
J M Rousseau (UNDP Oil Palm Consultant)	-	05/10/98 to 07/10/98
J M Rousseau (UNDP Oil Palm Consultant)	-	26/10/98 to 31/10/98
Jenny Heney (Rural Finance Training)	-	10/11/98 to 24/11/98
Giuseppe De Bac (Horticulture)	-	12/11/98 to 17/12/98
Ellen Muehlhoff (Nutrition/Education Backstopping)	-	14/11/98 to 29/11/98

1999

Laurie Kitch (Industrial Crops Backstopping)	-	27/02/99 to 06/03/99
Peter Griffee (Industrial Crops Backstopping)	-	27/02/99 to 10/03/99
Karel Callens (General Backstopping/CAP)	-	12/1999 to Jan 2000

2000

Wilfried Baudoin (Horticulture Backstopping)	-	23/03/00 to 02/04/00
Ellen Muehlhoff (Nutrition Backstopping)	-	27/03/00 to 15/04/00
Kemeh Mensah (Oil Palm Backstopping)	-	May 2000
Arine Valstar (KAP Backstopping)	-	23/06/00 to 13/07/00
Gabriele Goetz (Nutrition Education/KAP)	-	June to Sept 2000
Anthony Slangen (Loan Fund Backstopping)	-	28/06/00 to 19/07/00
Jenny Heney (Rural Finance)	-	28/06/00 to 18/07/00
Ojehomon (Vegetable Consultancy)	-	July 2000
Maren Lieberum (APO Nutrition)	-	Sept 2000
Karel Callens (Review and Planning Backstopping)	-	24/11/00 to 09/12/00
Ellen Muehlhoff (Review and Planning Backstopping)	-	01/12/00 to 09/12/00

2001

Karel Callens (District Planning Backstopping)	-	12/01/01 to 11/02/01
Gabriele Goetz (Nutrition Education/KAP)	-	Feb to April 2001

National Consultants

1997

Rodah Zulu (Post Harvest)	-	18/11/97 to 17/12/97
Peter Masunu (Communication/Education)	-	18/11/97 to 31/12/97
Eustina M Besa (Communication/Education)	-	18/11/97 to 31/12/97
Mr Mwandu and team (TDRC Baseline Survey)	-	Sept to Nov 1997

1998

Mr Masunu and team (Rural Radio Programme)	-	20/04/98 to 30/04/98
Mr Masunu and team (Rural Radio Programme)	-	13/10/98 to 25/10/98
Joyce Kanyangwa (FHANIS Survey)	-	February 1998
Ms Mutinta Hambayi (FHANIS Survey)	-	February 1998
Rhodah Zulu (FHANIS Survey)	-	February 1998

1999

Radio Programme

Peter Masunu	-	27/01/99 to 31/01/99
Churchill Mutale	-	27/01/99 to 31/01/99
Enock M. Katowezhi	-	27/01/99 to 31/01/99

PRA/Beneficiary Assessment Team

Ms Mutinta Hambayi	-	24/2/99 to 10/03/99
Mukelabai Ndiyoi	-	24/2/99 to 10/03/99
Lewis Bangwe	-	24/2/99 to 10/03/99

Mid-Term Evaluation Team

B Bultemeier	-	20/03/99 to 01/04/99
M Vanderheyden	-	20/03/99 to 01/04/99
G Chomba	-	20/03/99 to 01/04/99
C Ndiyoi	-	20/03/99 to 01/04/99

2000

Rosemary Ng'oma (Crop Utilization)	-	08/05/00 to 15/06/00
Freddie Mubanga (CAP)	-	May 2000
Diana Banda (Rural Savings)	-	June 2000
D S Mingochi (Vegetable Production)	-	01/07/00 to 21/07/00
Freddie Mubanga (KAP/Micro Projects)	-	05/07/00 to 27/08/00
Beatrice Kawana (KAP)	-	05/07/00 to 27/08/00
Dick Siame (Review and Planning)	-	01/12/00 to 16/12/00

2001

Dick Siame (District Planning)	-	15/01/01 to 10/02/01
Dick Siame (Planning/M&E)	-	27/02/01 to 30/06/01

PRA Team

Ms P Bwembya	-	13/08/01 to 27/08/01
Chris Ndiyoi	-	13/08/01 to 27/08/01
Gelson Tembo	-	13/08/01 to 27/08/01

Flipcharts – brainstorming sessions with Community Support Staff and district officers

COMMUNITY SUPPORT STAFF (meeting in Mwense; participants were requested to identify benefits, constraints experienced with the project, and make suggestions for the way forward)

HEALTH GROUP

BENEFITS – Community

1. High coverage for GMP in areas of operation
2. Sensitization done in crop utilization
3. Drop in the percentage of malnutrition through GMP counselling
4. De-worming is done in schools
5. Training of malaria control agents and GMPs
6. Communities trained in CAP formulation
7. CSS workloads is reduced by introduction of GMP/MCA
8. Trained in crop utilization and CAP
9. Supported with transport (bicycles)

CONSTRAINTS – Community

1. Price for bed nets not affordable
2. Some communities not covered in crop utilization
3. Late or no funding of community projects
4. Breach of agreement between IHFSAN and communities
5. No provision of GMP counselling cards and other logistics
6. Gender imbalance in terms of roles e.g. men do not bring children for under-five check-ups

CONSTRAINTS – CSS

1. Some CSS not provided with transport
2. Limited training for CSS in specific areas e.g. roots/tubers alternative utilization
3. Late introduction of health and nutrition components
4. Hard to reach communities in terms of using bicycles
5. Late payment of allowances
6. CAP training took too long
7. District team bypassing CSS on going to communities
8. Demoralizing CSS by late or no funding/or not following the action plans

WAY FORWARD

1. CSS:

1. Provision of bicycles and motor bikes in areas with hard to reach communities
2. Training of all CSS in specific areas e.g. root and tubers alternative processing
3. Action plans to be funded and followed strictly according to schedule
4. Allowances to be paid in time and full or monthly fixed responsibility allowance
5. Decentralization of funding from province to district level

2. COMMUNITY:

1. Training of all communities in crop utilization/project monitoring and evaluation
2. GMP to be provided with adequate logistics e.g. counselling cards

3. Empowerment of communities to handle funds other than materials
4. Reduction of bed net prices to at least K10.000 like those for UNICEF
5. Project to continue for next 5 years to implement all activities in CAP
6. Fixed reporting formats

FOOD PRODUCTION COMPONENT G.1

Community Benefits

1. Farmer training in seed multiplication i.e. cassava, G/nuts, cowpeas etc.
2. Oil palm production
3. Introduction of improved high yielding varieties
4. Planting of oil palm in the dambo
5. Establishment of mother orchard
6. Introduction of fruit trees through nursery

POST HARVEST

1. Conducted demonstration on i.e.
   - Mango preservation
   - Cassava drying using cassava drier
   - Alternative processing
2. Utilization and storage of root and root crops

FOOD SECURITY ASPECT

1. Generally food availability has improved through the project activities i.e. Seed Multiplication Programme (SMP)

THE WAY FORWARD

1. Staff training in conservation farming techniques
2. Training in grafting and budding of fruit trees
3. Establish cassava nurseries at camp level
4. Project to provide motorized transport
5. Unfinished projects to be completed e.g. water wells, furrows, storage bins
6. Seed multiplication to continue in all communities
7. Work plans to be followed strictly
8. Timely payments of allowances

Staff Benefits

1. Inter-sectoral collaboration has improved
2. Training in crop production techniques and post harvest
3. The project provided resources to enable us reach more farmers (communities) and to be effective in our work

Staff Constraints

1. Late delivery of seed/poor quality seed
2. Poor quality of planting material
3. Watering of oil palm in upland was a problem
4. Post harvest training was only done in few communities
5. Uncompleted storage bin, water well, furrow

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT COMPONENT

ACHIEVEMENTS/BENEFITS

1. Communities are now able to carry out the CAP process
2. Communities are able to mobilize internal resources towards micro project implementation
3. Sense of ownership has been instilled in communities because of their full participation
4. Communities know their roles in community development (bottom-up approach)
5. Funded communities will benefit as their standard of living will improve after finishing the projects
6. CSS have been able to monitor funded micro projects effectively under very difficult circumstances.
7. Rapport has been created between CSS and the communities.
8. Gender sensitivity was imparted in communities
9. Partnership has been created amongst the stakeholders now there is less duplication of work
10. Training of CSS in CAP and PM&E

LIMITATIONS/CONSTRAINTS

1. Mode of transport – some community areas are too vast
2. Project materials not made available to CSS
3. Unfair distribution of resources such as allowances
4. Delayed funding to approved micro projects
5. Collection of paybacks is cumbersome
6. Work plans not honoured
7. Inadequate provision of logistics
8. Visits to communities by district/provincial project staff without prior knowledge of responsible CSS
9. Non consultation of CSS over community trainings
10. No provision of protective clothings
11. Supervision by district staff poor

WAY FORWARD

1. Attachment to the project must be on merit (component heads)
2. Provision of reliable mode of transport i.e. motor cycles per camp
3. Payment of privileges on time and fair
4. Funding to approved micro projects must be done on time
5. Honouring of planned programmes e.g. training of CSS
6. Buying of materials on behalf of the communities must cease
7. Project document should be made available to CSS
8. Ample time to be given to such meetings even workshops so that issues come out effectively

GROUP (2) AGRICULTURE

BENEFITS

1. Capacity building in some communities
2. Exotic oil palm introduction to communities
3. S.M.P in some communities
4. Staff experienced in oil palm PNT
5. Mode of transport (bicycles)
6. Introduction of citrus orchards in some communities
7. Training on how to organize PM&E in communities

CONSTRAINTS

1. Lack/no trainings for field staff e.g. refresher courses
2. Lack of quarterly work plan implementation
3. Non-funding of micro project activities
4. Not all HH in the valley are beneficiaries of project activities
5. Late delivery of inputs and at times wrong inputs delivered
6. Self-centredness by project management
7. No motorized transport
8. No provision for protective clothings and stationery
9. Some allowances not honoured and late payments of allowances
10. No proper collaboration between the district Staff and CSS

WAY FORWARD

1. Change of project management at national level
2. Implementation of planned activities
3. Involvement of CSS in the planning process
4. Provision of long-term training for all CSS
5. Provision of motorized transport to CSS
6. Disbursement of funds to the district level
7. All collaborating ministries to put in funds

DISTRICT OFFICERS (meeting in Mansa 28/9/2001; participants were requested to work out future scenarios for the project with, and without the availability of external funding)

SOCIAL SECTOR GROUP I
(community development and health group)

WITHOUT FUNDING

Education
1. Continue funding PUs (School Production Units=school gardens) using the GRZ grants and PTAs
2. Capacity building for teachers will continue with BESSIP funds under school health and nutrition component.

Health
1. Reduce number of children in schools to be de-wormed.
2. Lower level of monitoring of activities in the communities.
3. Source Funds from other donors on capacity building, also use GRZ grant.
4. Integrate activities in the action plan.

5. Purchase of bednets will continue using the revolving fund.

Community Development
1. Reduce number of activities.
2. Look for other donors to fund developmental activities.

PLANS WITH FUNDS

Education
1. Increase capacity building to staff.
2. Procure inputs for PU
3. More schools will be covered

Health
1. Purchase more drugs for deworming in schools and children outside schools.
2. Procure logistics to enable us strengthen the monitoring.
3. Develop more training materials in health and nutrition based on the KAP.
4. Intensify the Nutrition Education to community.
5. Train District Staff in data management and more community facilitators in CBGMP (growth monitoring), MCP (malaria control), sanitation, etc.

Community Development
1. Increase coverage of community activities.
2. Strengthen PME (participatory monitoring and evaluation) in the community.
3. Develop the capacity of community to a level where they will do things on their own, e.g. planning, meetings, record keeping, financial management.
4. Fund all the initiated projects and include more projects.
5. Train more community facilitators in community organization and group dynamics.
6. Improve mobility of staff from district to community to enable strengthen monitoring.
7. Further strengthen the collaboration with all the line departments.

SOCIAL SECTOR GROUP II

WAY FORWARD WITHOUT FUNDING

1. School health and nutrition (integrated in to the school curriculum)
2. De-worming of pupils (memorandum of understanding/health and education)
3. Agricultural production units (school gardens)
4. Community based health and nutrition programmes
5. Community based malaria control programme (IEC)
6. Community based GMP (Community participation through the trained Community Agents will ensure continuity)
7. Community empowerment
8. Community mobilization towards working in groups (limited courage)
9. Dissemination of information on accessibility of group assistance/funding (ZAMSIF, RIF, CDF, etc.)
10. Formation of area associations
11. IEC on proper utilization of local resources in the community

APPROACH – INTERSECTORAL COLLABORATION WILL CONTINUE

WITH FUNDING

Health and Nutrition
1. Training and re-training of community malaria agents and CSS

2. Scaling up of the Community-based GMP
3. Conduct regular supportive supervision
4. Procurement of bed nets and bicycles for malaria control agents

Empowerment of the community

1. Revamp functional literacy programme
2. Train community facilitators in various skills (e.g leadership)
3. Regular backstopping and monitoring of Community activities
4. Improve transport for CSS so they can cover wider areas
5. Capacity building for CSS and communities

EDUCATION

1. Train teachers in school health nutrition
2. Scaling up of de-worming exercise.
3. Monitor and evaluate school production unit activities.

MAFF GROUP I

ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED WITHOUT THE PROJECT FUND

Crop Production

1. Distribution of oil palm seedlings
   - Budget for the distribution looking at the objectives and benefits.
   - Accessing of oil palm pre-germinated seed
2. Our local research to develop hybrid oil palm seed i.e. research on breeding the *tenera* oil palm locally and come up with proper cultivation practices/recommendations.
3. Seed Multiplication Programme
   - We have already system in place in the Department of Field Services of the same groups the project is carrying
   - Plan for replacement of seed after a period of three years at the same time working in collaboration with the research, introduce new improved varieties.

Post Harvest

Storage – with the demonstrations that have been done are not adequate the rate of adoption by farmers has been low, so there is need to improve the rate of adoption. This can be attributed to the technology being expensive, therefore farmers are failing to adopt it. TSB need to come up with cheaper materials that farmers can afford an example of this is cassava drier, farmers have liked the technology, however they do not have resources to make their own even this one is part of our routine activity in our field services.

Horticulture Production

Identified problems are lack of knowledge in grafting and budding in both farmers and staff. So we have to put a programme on the training in budding and grafting.

WITH FUNDING

1. With increased funding we plan for more trainings for both staff and community in identified training need/areas.
2. On post harvest would endeavour to give soft loans to the communities to procure the necessary materials to make the equipment like cassava drier, spindle press.
3. Increase funding in the research of oil palm breeding so that we locally improve varieties which are adaptable to our local environment can be bred.
4. In general all the planned activities that were mentioned earlier on could be easily carried out.

MAFF GROUP II

WHERE THERE IS NO EXTRA FUNDS AVAILABLE, THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES COULD BE CONDUCTED ALONG WITH TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES IN MAFF:

1. SMP Seed Multiplication Programme): taken care by crop husbandry section
2. Post Harvest activities: TSB/WY (Technical Services Branch/Women and Youth) programmes
3. Nutrition demonstrations: WYPO
4. Management of orchards and fruit trees : Crop section
5. Irrigation/soil improvement : TSB

NB: Though at a reduced scale due to limited funds.

IN ADDITION TO THE ONES IN FIRST CATEGORY, THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FUNDS:

Micro-projects :
1. Irrigation
2. Treadle pumps to reach a stage of handing over to communities
3. Construction of storage bins still at demonstration level
4. Construction of cassava driers still at demonstration stage
5. Labour saving technologies: e.g. push carts. Still at demonstration stage

Palm oil processing
1. Equipment (processing)
2. Training of staff/communities in palm oil processing

Management of oil palms
1. Staff training
2. Farmers training

Maintenance of central nurseries
1. Wages for workers
2. Chemicals/fertilizers/oil palm
3. Procurement of pre-germinated seed nuts

Sustainable Monitoring and Evaluation System
1. Documentation
2. Equipment
3. Stationery
4. Field visits/meetings
5. Transport

Key: SMP: Seed Multiplication Program
TSB: Technical Service Branch

MAFF GROUP III

WITHOUT:

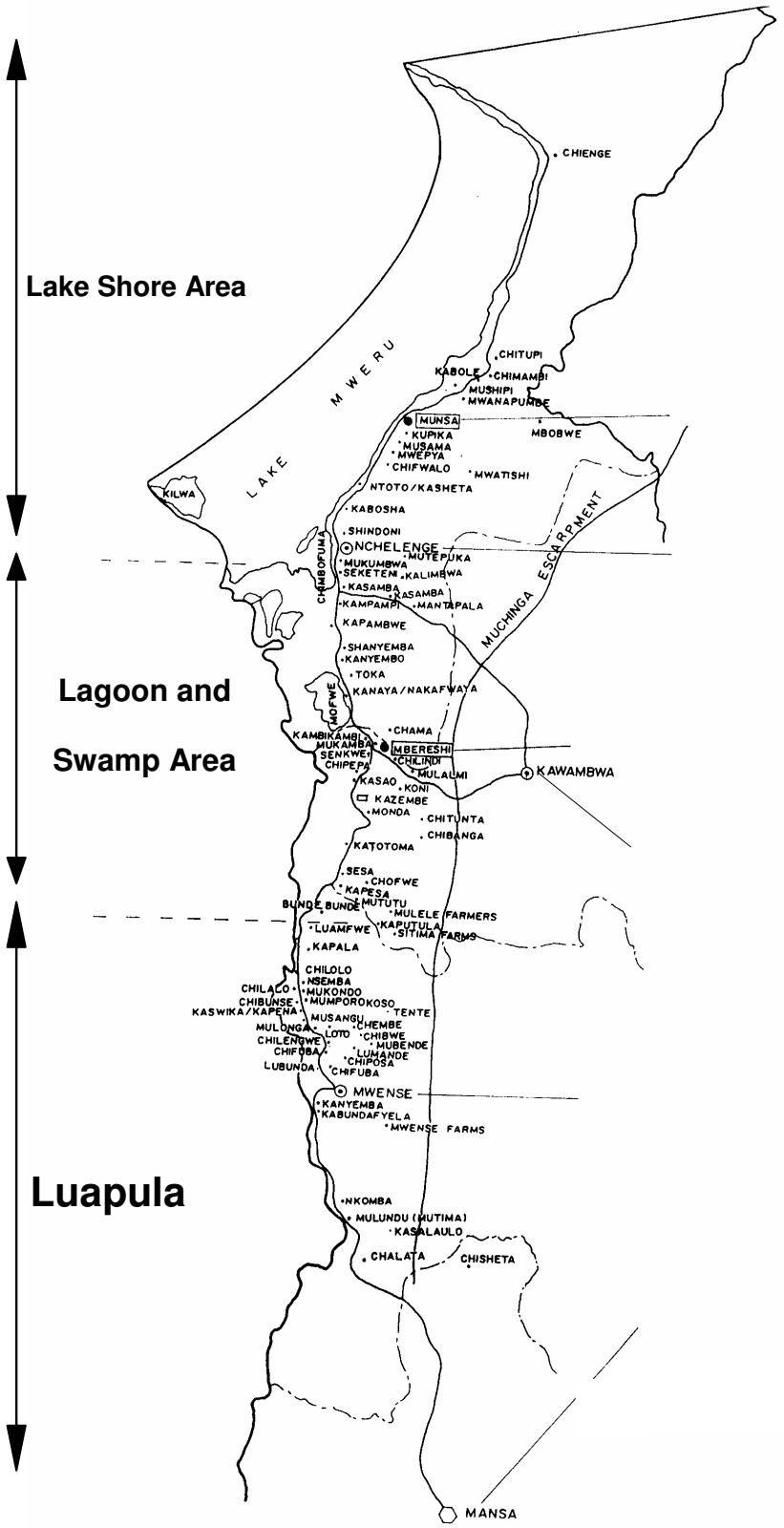
1. Seed multiplication, e.g. G/nuts, cassava, green manure crops
2. Community meetings
3. Raising of fruit tree nurseries at community level except citrus.
4. District level inter-sectoral coordination meeting.
5. Farmer training in monitoring and evaluation.

6. Demonstrations on crop utilization, e.g. legumes, oil palms
7. Promotion of production processing and utilization of local vegetables
8. Promotion of listening groups

WITH:

1. Sourcing pre-germinated oil palm seedlings and research back-up
2. Micro-projects (post harvest-technologies, infrastructure etc.)
3. New crop varieties for SMP
4. Central nursery management (labour force, chemicals)
5. Staff development at all levels (project staff e.g. DDCC, CSS)
6. Sub-district intersectoral review and planning meetings (strengthen and enhance the planning process)
7. Transport (vehicles, motorbikes, fuel)
8. Inter-district/ province study tours
9. Sourcing/maintenance of office equipment
10. Establishment of community radio station
11. Training in farmer field schools and integrated pest management.

LUAPULA VALLEY AREA MAP



Scale:
1:750,000.

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Summary of Beneficiary Assessment Study

1. This report presents participatory beneficiary assessment of the FAO/IHFSAN project. The study was commissioned by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in preparation for the final evaluation. The study was carried out in four project districts of Chienge, Kawambwa, Mwense, and Nchelenge by a team of three consultants from FASAZ, Mr. Mukelabai Ndyoi, Dr. Gelson Tembo and Ms. Phoebe Bwembya between 13 and 27 August 2001. An average of 20 persons (11 men and 9 women) were interviewed per community.

2. The study was intended to provide factual information about the project's contribution to community empowerment, ability to reach the vulnerable, and collective action as vehicles for addressing problems of food insecurity, post harvest technologies, and poor health and nutrition.

3. Data used in the evaluation exercise were obtained through a participatory rural appraisal in selected project communities, complimented with records from the principal and district project offices. Eight project communities and one non-project (or control) community were selected for the study. The eight project communities were selected on the basis of their level of participation in project activities and the degree to which they were fishing or an agricultural community. An effort was made to compare the findings with the results from the 1999 mid-term evaluation and with the control community. Suitable processing packages were used to analyse the data.

4. Oil palms were the flagship of the project. Palms seedlings were distributed to all communities in the project area and beyond. However, their survival rate was low. For example in 1998, out of 3,203 palms supplied, 2524 (79 percent) survived. Several reasons caused the high mortality (21 percent), including inadequate and inappropriate crop husbandry practices. Unlike the local palms, the exotic variety requires intensive management. Since the communities were not equipped with relevant knowledge, the first batch of palms received was planted on the uplands, which are too dry for their optimal growth. The communities adjusted by planting the trees in the damboos following extension recommendations. However, these recommendations came too late for the earlier trees. Another setback to palm tree development is poor repayment rates. In Nchelenge, for example, about 54 percent of the 2,369 trees distributed in 1997-98 agricultural season were paid for.

5. Several crops were included in seed multiplication activities. Much of the area under seed multiplication was planted to cassava, (73 percent), followed by groundnuts (15 percent). Sweet potatoes had the largest proportion of total area under individual household (95 percent), followed by groundnuts (42 percent). Of the total area under crops in the seasons 1998-99, 1999-00 and 2000-01, plots under individual households accounted for three percent, 38 percent, and 57 percent, respectively. This trend clearly shows that the individual household were increasingly more likely to access the seed initially supplied by the project over time. Similarly, the proportion of area planted to reserved seed increased overtime, while that under seed supplied by the project decreased.

6. Several attempts were made to introduce post harvest technologies. Cassava driers were introduced only on demonstration basis in 12 communities. One community expressed interest in acquiring a cassava drier but the application was rejected.

7. All communities received training in Community Action Planning (CAP) and were assisted to develop micro projects. Out of the 120 communities, 34 micro-projects in 18 communities were approved and funded, and were at various levels of development. The high rate of non-approval is one of the major sources of frustrations for the communities.

8. Health and nutrition activities were introduced late in the project life. Few communities are already involved in community Growth Monitoring Promotions GMP) and health and nutrition education. The project lost an opportunity to influence the knowledge, attitudes and practices of the people.

9. There was no participatory monitoring evaluation system in place at all levels. This resulted in unsatisfactory implementation of activities. It was not uncommon to find data that had been entered in Microsoft Word (MS Word). Virtually none of the project offices used any form of an established database system. Also, each project office collected and keyed in records independent of other offices, which resulted in different offices collecting different kinds of information. In fact, the lack of standardization in record keeping and incompleteness of the records collected by the districts posed one of the greatest challenges to this evaluation exercise. For example, in almost all cases it was virtually impossible to do inter-district performance comparisons.

10. The communities have perceived increased food production over the years. The favourable trend manifested in form of a shift from being piece work and barter dependent to an increasingly greater reliance on own production as a food source. With regard to staples, there has been a slight reduction in the importance of cassava as sweet potatoes have gained importance overtime. Relishes from local and exotic vegetables increased over the period 1999 to 2001. All local vegetables account for 46 percent of total relish. The lean months of December through February coincide with heavy agricultural workload and decreased food and cash availability. This may lead to reduced productivity and severe subsequent lean periods. Unless appropriate interventions that target this period are strengthened, the vicious cycle is likely to remain unbroken.

11. In conclusion the project has done a commendable job in areas of seed multiplication, promoting diversity in terms of crops and their varieties. An encouraging trend was observed towards sustainability with regard to the introduced planting materials. In communities where GMP and health and nutrition education activities were performed, the knowledge and practices of the people were impressive. However, there were very few of such communities. Even for those few, these activities did not start until 2000. On the other hand, the underlying message contained from discussions with project staff and communities are that the project has not been able to accomplish the objectives set out because of limited in-house technical capacity. For the services that the project could not provide, it did not adequately link the communities with the providers. The objectives were wide, yet there were not enough resources to accomplish them adequately.

12. The line and flow of administrative authority between top management in Mansa and district staff seemed well defined. However, the research team finds it very difficult to say the same about technical responsibilities. District staff seemed to operate with very little guidance from the technically more qualified staff and management. It was also brought to light that District Nutritionists got even more disoriented by frequent adjustments in the terms of reference.

13. If a similar project were to be implemented the following need to be taken into account:

i) Such a project should play an active role as the go between to help communities access services.
ii) The project should respond quickly on the requests made by the communities
iii) The oil palms are getting ready and will soon be ready for harvest. The project needs to facilitate linkages to input and output marketing and agro-industries.
iv) Ensure that the project is run by staff that are technically competent to assist the NPC.
v) Ensure that technical capacity is resident within the project

vi) The project needs to establish a research component, especially with regard to the oil palms.
vii) The project should facilitate and strengthen institutional linkages with all relevant stakeholders.
viii) Institutionalize clear flow of technical information from the district to the provincial level
ix) Nutrition Coordinators needed periodic training to improve their technical skills especially in PME and database management.
x) The project should hire a consultant to help set up a functional database and monitoring and evaluation system.
xi) All project staff should be trained in empowerment evaluation.
xii) As 95 percent of the households have oil palms, training in processing and sourcing markets for the oil should receive priority attention
xiii) Decentralize resource allocation to districts coordinators
xiv) Train community facilitators in CAP in general. Community facilitators should posses skills to steer the communities through the ups and downs of the process
xv) Investigate the possibility of producing the *tenera* seed within country
xvi) Produce training and teaching material for health and nutrition education
xvii) Intensify health and nutrition education at community and school levels.
xviii) Extend GMP to all the communities.
xix) The project will have to devote a lot more resources to achieve empowered communities.

14. Issues to be dealt with by the final evaluation mission:

i) Emphasize the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system to assist in the management of the project.
ii) Review and evaluate the consultant's proposed monitoring and evaluation system and provide recommendations.
iii) Besides the mid-term and final evaluations, what input did ministry of agriculture at central level have in the project

List of publications and training/reference materials

REFERENCE MATERIAL FOR TRAINING*:
*no numbers given

Distributed to all nutritionists:
- Social Communication in Nutrition: a methodology for interventions – FAO, 1994
- Nutrition and health in community programmes, a teaching manual – NFNC/UNICEF
- Health Care within the community, a booklet for neighbourhood health committees – USAID/CBoH
- How to find malnutrition and catch it…? – IRNP/GTZ
- How to identify children at risk? – IRNP/GTZ
- Manual for Community Child Health Promoters – NFNC
- Complementary feeding, family foods for breastfed children – WHO, 2000
- Weaning – GTZ/IRNP
- Breastfeeding Counselling: a training course – Trainers guide – WHO/UNICEF
- HIV/AIDS in Zambia – Background, projections, Impacts, Interventions – Ministry of Health/Central Board of Health, Sept 99

Distributed to all nutritionists and community nutrition promoters:
- Nutrition for Developing Countries, Felicity Savage King & Ann Burgess, 1992
- Community Based Growth Monitoring and Promotion: Manual for Community Child Health Promoters + counselling cards:

Distributed to all relevant district and provincial staff:
- Improving nutrition through home gardening, a training package for preparing field workers in Africa – FAO
- Agriculture, food and nutrition for Africa, a resource book for teachers of agriculture – FAO, 1997

MATERIALS DEVELOPED BY IHFSAN*:
*no numbers given

Distributed to district staff, CSS and communities:
- Booklet on weaning foods
- Poster on weaning foods
- Booklet on oil palm
- Poster on oil palm
- Booklet on mango-drying
- Poster on mango-drying
- Handout on Vitamin A deficiency
- Leaflet on de-worming
- Leaflet on good storage practices
- Handouts on crop utilization / Recipes
- Handouts on vegetable processing/ nutritional value
- Talking about money
- Handouts on vegetable growing
- Handouts on seed multiplication

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Breakdown of budget utilization

Oracle Trust Fund Project Revision

(in US Dollars)

Project Symbol: GCP/ZAM/052/BEL

Oracle Symbol: TFBE11ZM95061

Project Name: Improving Household Food Security and Nutrition in Luapula Valley, Zambia

Project ID: 047937

Starting Date (EOD): 01 Dec. 1995

Operating Unit: FAORZAM

Previous completion date (NTE): 31 December 2001

Budget Holder: Richard W. Fuller

Revised completion date (NTE): 31 December 2001

Incoming funds		PRIOR YEARS	2001	Fut. Years	TOTAL
3051	TF Contributions Received	3,475,591	0	0	**3,475,591**
3052	TF Interest Earned	218,911	13,697	0	**232,608**
	SUB-TOTAL	**3,694,502**	**13,697**	**0**	**3,708,199**

Code Accounts	Description	Prior Years Expenditures	2001 Budget	2002 Budget	Revised total Revision "J"	Approved Total Revision "I"	CHANGES
5300	Salaries Professional	301,883	0	0	301,883	357,241	-55,358
5500	Salaries General Service	105,832	45,000	0	150,832	171,220	-20,388
5570	Consultants	607,330	140,000	0	747,330	690,482	56,848
5650	Contracts	41,965	105,000	0	146,965	237,965	-91,000
5660	Overtime	42,933	35,000	0	77,933	16,612	61,321
5900	Travel	325,442	45,000	0	370,442	296,916	73,526

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5920	Training	326,454	118,000	0	444,454	434,444	10,010
6000	Expendable Equipment	306,013	70,000	0	376,013	351,396	24,617
6100	Non Expendable Equipment	206,766	12,000	0	218,766	237,122	-18,356
6110	Hospitality	0	0	0	0	100,000	-100,000
6150	Technical Support Services	12,240	30,000	0	42,240	220,118	-177,878
6300	General Operating Expenses	330,452	69,490	0	399,942	322,118	77,824
6400	General Overhead Expenses	2,729	0	0	2,729	1,186	1,543
6500	Chargeback	2,063	0	0	2,063	2,063	0
6510	Chargeout	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SUB-TOTAL	2,612,102	669,490	0	3,281,592	3,438,883	-157,291
6130	Support Cost	339,573	87,034	0	426,607	212,152	-20,448
	TOTAL	**2,951,675**	**756,524**	**0**	**3,708,199**	**3,651,035**	**-177,739**

[redacted]

Inventory list and use made of grant funds1998-2000

INVENTORY

1	VEHICLE 'TOYOTA' LAND CRUISER 4X4 SW STDDIESEL ENG	20,735.85	Mansa
1	COMPUTER 'IBM' 350 PENT 90MHZ, 16MB C/W MOUSE,	3,459.00	Mwense
1	PRINTER 'HP' LASERJET 4 PLUS 2 20V	1,575.00	Mwense
1	COMPUTER 'COMPAQ' CONTURA 430C DX4/100	3,031.00	Mansa
1	PHOTOCOPIER 'CANON' MODEL NP 1550	3,161.25	Mansa
1	FAX MACHINE 'CANON' L300	1,487.58	Mansa
1	PHOTOCOPIER 'CANON' MODEL NP-6030, COMPLETE W	6,150.89	Mansa
1	TYPEWRITER 'OLIVETTI' MODEL ET2450	662.31	Mansa
1	VEHICLE 'TOYOTA' LANDCRUISER HZJ80 4X4 STATION WA	25,646.02	Mansa
3	VEHICLE 'TOYOTA' HILUX DOUBLE CABIN 4X4 MODEL LN-1	52,765.17	Mansa
2	COMPUTER 'COMPAQ' DESKTOP	5,167.52	Mansa
2	PRINTER 'HEWLETT PACKARD' LASERJET 6P	2,840.00	Mansa
1	OVERHEAD PROJECTOR 'COMMUTER'	722.80	Mansa
1	SLIDE PROJECTOR 35MM 'ELMO' COMPLETE WITH WIRED	1,670.00	Mansa
5	MOTORCYCLE 'HONDA' MODEL XL 185 SP DK	9,486.67	Chienge, Nchelenge, Kawambwa, Mwense
1	AUTOMATIC DOCUMENT 'CANON' FEEDER FOR CANON COPI	1,501.37	Mansa
1	20 BIN SORTER 'CANON' FOR COPIER NP6030	3,212.40	Mansa
1	PAPER DECK PEDESTAL 'CANON' FOR COPIER CANON NP60	1,879.13	Mansa
2	PRINTER 'HP' LASER JET 6L	3,065.00	Kawambwa, Nchelenge
2	COMPUTER 'COMPAQ'	5,365.45	Mansa
1	FREEZER 'OCEAN'	516.98	Mansa
1	AIRCONDITIONER	1,450.35	Mbereshi

USE OF GRANT FUNDS

1998/99

Item	Amount in K	Amount in $
Beans	950,000	700
Cassava cuttings	1,000,000	647
Seeds	12,548,400	6,600
Soyabeans	539,200	322
Seedlings	6,367,213	3,812
Nurseries	4,404,500	2,243
Treadle pump / pipes	6,753,600	3,546
Installing pump	1,336,000	701
Tools	1,422,306	746
Fertilizer	449,362	235
Transport / fuel / DSA	6,785,087	4,257
TOTAL	42,555,668	23,809

1999/2000

Item	Amount in K	Amount in $
Seeds	3,170,000	1,305
Cassava cuttings	3,775,250	1,578

Nurseries	6,650,000	2,891
Water tank	1,272,000	553
Well	1,653,000	603
Cassava drier	399,426	190
Fuel / DSA	20,461,015	8,419
RIMACO	17,815,000	8,840
TOTAL	55,195,691	24,379

Kwacha amounts have been converted to dollars at the prevailing rates when payment was made.

CONSOLIDATED LIST OF COMMUNITY MICRO PROJECT GRANTS - 2001

N.B. breakdown of complete expenditure under CDF not available

No.	Community		Project	Approved	Date approved	Amt	Funded
1	Mulalami	Kawambwa	Canal	Yes	10/02/01	8,596,800	Yes
2	Chipepa	Kawambwa	2 wells	Yes	15/11/99	2,870,000	Yes
3	Chituta	Kawambwa	2 wells	Yes	10/02/01	8,298,000	Yes
4	Koni	Kawambwa	Canal	Yes	10/02/01	9,799,200	Yes
5	Kasao	Kawambwa	2 wells	Yes	15/11/99	8,298,000	Yes
6	Chofwe	Kawambwa	2 wells	Yes	10/02/01	3,165,000	Yes
7	M.Sata	Kawambwa	F/bridge	Yes	10/02/01	9,435,600	Yes
8	Chibanga	Kawambwa	F/bridge	Yes	07/05/01	9,936,000	Yes
9	Mulele	Kawambwa	2 wells	Yes	07/05/01	7,730,000	Not yet
10	Kaputula	Kawambwa	2 wells	Yes	07/05/01	10,370,000	Not yet
11	Mututu	Kawambwa	2 wells	Yes	07/05/01	10,730,000	Not to be funded
12	Nakafwaya	Kawambwa	2 wells	Yes	07/05/01	10,730,000	Not to be funded
13	Kapambwe	Nchelenge	4 wells	Yes	15/11/99	9,150,000	Yes
14	Ntoto	Nchelenge	2 wells	Yes	15/11/99	9,330,000	Yes
15	Kanaya	Nchelenge	2 wells	Yes	15/11/99	7,336,000	Yes
16	Kasamba	Nchelenge	1 well	Yes	07/05/01	9,550,000	Not yet
17	Kabosha	Nchelenge	1 well	Yes	07/05/01	11,610,000	Not yet
18	Twikatane	Nchelenge	1 well	Yes	07/05/01	10,702,000	Not yet
19	Chifwalo	Nchelenge	2 wells	Yes	07/05/01	8,330,000	Not yet
20	Chimbofuma	Nchelenge	2 wells	Yes	07/05/01	7,070,000	Not yet
21	Seketeni	Nchelenge	1 well	Yes	07/05/01	13,110,000	Not yet
22	Kalimbwa	Nchelenge	1 well	Yes	07/05/01	8,320,000	Not yet
23	Munsa	Nchelenge	Furrow	Yes	07/05/01	12,000,000	Not to be funded
24	Kabuta	Nchelenge	N/centre	Yes	07/05/01	10,090,000	Not to be funded
25	Mwatishi	Nchelenge	4 S/bins	No	07/05/01	4,816,000	Not to be funded
26	Nshoka	Nchelenge	3 wells	No	07/05/01	8,355,000	Not to be funded
27	Chilonga	Nchelenge	Gardening	No	07/05/01	2,345,000	Not to be funded
28	Lushiba	Nchelenge	22 latrines	No	07/05/01	23,870,000	Not to be funded
29	Kapampale	Chiengi	1 well	Yes	07/05/01	5,172,000	Not yet
30	Katoba	Chiengi	1 well	Yes	07/05/01	4,940,000	Not yet
31	Chilanga	Chiengi	1 well	Yes	07/05/01	3,842,000	Not yet
32	Kalukungu	Chiengi	2 wells	Yes	07/05/01	7,636,000	Not yet
33	Chingansa	Chiengi	1 well	Yes	07/05/01	5,272,000	Not yet
34	Mukabe	Chiengi	2 wells	Yes	28/07/01	10,185,000	Not yet
35	Sensele	Chiengi	1 well	Yes	28/07/01	4,870,000	Not yet
36	Ponde	Chiengi	S/ box	Yes	28/07/01	937,350	Not yet
37	Maoma	Chiengi	1well	Yes	28/07/01	7,120,000	Not yet
38	Kabambi	Mwense	1 well	Yes	15/11/99	5,360,000	Yes
39	Chilolo	Mwense	3 wells	Yes	15/11/99	9,940,000	Yes
40	Chalata	Mwense	1 well	Yes	15/11/99	7,175,000	Yes
41	Mwense E.farm	Mwense	Fish pond	Yes	15/11/99	700,000	Yes
42	Chifuba	Mwesne	2 wells	Yes	09/02/01	7,074,000	Yes
43	Chebele	Mwense	Furrow	Yes	09/02/01	10,512,000	Yes
44	Chimbini	Mwense	1well	Yes	09/02/01	4,176,000	Yes
45	Luamfwe	Mwense	Fish pond	Yes	09/02/01	1,792,000	Yes
46	Bunde Bunde	Mwense	S/bin	Yes	09/02/01	4,852,800	Yes
47	Mumpolokoso	Mwense	2 wells	Yes	09/02/01	7,767,000	Yes
48	Chilengwe	Mwense	S/bin	Referred	08/05/01	10,004,000	Not to be funded
49	Mulonga	Mwense	S/bin	Referred	0-8/05/01	10,004,000	Not to be funded
50	Muyabi	Mwense	S/bin	Referred	08/05/01	10,004,000	Not to be funded
51	Ponga	Mwense	S/bin	Referred	08/05/01	10,004,000	Not to be funded

List of training given by GCP/ZAM/052/BEL

DISTRICT	TYPE OF TRAINING AND TARGET GROUP	DATE	ATTENDANCE		TOPICS COVERED - LIST	RESOURCE PERSONNEL
			MALE	FEMALE		
	Community Training	1998			Community Nursery Management and Field Planning	UNDP Consultant
3 district workshops, Mwense, Kawambwa and Nchelenge.	Agricultural Camp Extension Staff training	1998			Oil palm field planting and maintaining.	FAO Oil Palm Consultant, Provincial Component Head
	Field Days for community members in the project area	1997/98			Food Legume Production, Multiplication and Utilization	Food Legume Production
One day district workshop	Camp Extension Staff Workshop	1998			Seed Multiplication	FAO Consultant
Five day training workshop	Camp Extension Staff Workshop	1998			Nutrition and Seed Multiplication	FAO (NPC)/FINNIDA Project Staff
	Community group discussions	1998			Various production issues relevant at the specific stage of production or season for various crops	Camp Extension Officers
Workshop	32 Camp Extension Staff	1998			Cassava production, Planting material multiplication	Mansa Technology Assessment Site, Root and Tuber Team
District Training	Training of 30 trainers	1998			Cassava production and Cassava utilization	Mansa Technology Assessment Site, Root and Tuber Team
District Training	Camp Extension Staff	1998/99			Rain season cassava drying	Mansa Technology Assessment Site, Root and Tuber Team
	5 community field days	1998			Crop utilization focussing on the role of food legumes in improving a cassava based diet.	National Project Coordinator, District Project Nutritionists
Camp staff training	15 community members and 15 camp extension staff	1998			Utilization of food legumes and palm oil	National Project Coordinator, District Project Nutritionists
District training of trainers	6 district staff/district x 3 were trained as trainers	1998			Crop utilization (using food legumes and palm oil)	National Project Coordinator, District Project Nutritionists
District training	Training workshop for district and staff extension staff	1998			Gender, Participatory approaches, Money and Resource Management	FAO/FINNIDA Project Staff
District training	National technical training for the Provincial Engineer	1998			Small scale irrigation and water use	SIWUP Staff

Camp level	Camp extension staff	1998			Installation, operation and maintenance of various types of treadle pumps	Provincial Irrigation Engineer
	For the 15 community members where the treadle pump was installed.	1999			Installation, operation and maintenance of various types of treadle pumps	Camp Extension Staff
	Community Action Planning Workshops	1999			Problem identification analysis and participatory planning	District multi-sectoral training teams
National Level	Two Provincial NAIS staff member underwent training	1998			Multi-Media Communication Campaign	Harare based Regional Communication for Development Project on multi media
District Training	One day training workshop x 3 district for 54 Camp Extension Staff and Nursery workers	15/10/99	45	7	Oil palm field planting and management techniques.	Provincial Agronomist
District Training	2 day training workshops x 3 districts for extension officers	23/11/99 to 30/11/99	38	2	Groundnut seed production and multiplication techniques	National Legume Project
	80 Community meetings	1999/ 2000			Groundnut seed production and multiplication techniques	District CHO, CEO
District Level	2 day extension staff training x 3 districts.	Nov-99	38	2	Cassava production techniques	Mansa Technology Assessment Site, Root and Tuber Team
District Level	Monthly planning meetings for all project extension staff	Nov-99			Cassava production techniques	CEO and DCHO
	4 community demonstrations	1st Quarter 2000			Rain season cassava drying	PHOs, CEO, Women and Youth Officers
	One field training of trainers for 3 district (TSB) staff	2000	3		Construction of cassava dryers	PHOs
District Level	1 training of trainers/district x 3	Jun-00			Food Legume Utilization, Oil Palm Processing	PHO
	15 field days (5/district)	May/ June 2000			Food Legume Utilization, Oil Palm Processing	PHO, District Staff
	3 Training of trainers (Camp Extension Officers)	Jun-00			Oil Palm production and processing (Spindle press)	International Consultant, Provincial Crop Production
Provincial Level	1 workshop for provincial, district and CSS (35 Participants)	Jan-00			CAP: Objective tree development + strategy setting	Previous CTA, Provincial Staff

District Level	2 Training of trainers workshop for CSS and district staff from Mwense, Nchelenge, Chienge and Kawambwa. (39 participants)	May-00			Formulatuon and implementation of CAP	
District Level	Meetings for CSS from Health and Community Development Department.	Apr-00	23	12	Technical assistance on how to address issues emerging in 15 initial community.	
District Level	3 day training workshop for 4 districts	Aug - Oct 2000	37	14	Micro project development	National Consultant
District Level	2 – One day training of trainers workshop for staff from 4 districts.	Jul-00	21	10	Money and Resources Management and Mobilization, Savings and Budgeting.	International Consultant
District Level	1 district training of trainers for CSS from Rural Health Centres	Aug-00			Community Child Care, Nutrition and Health.	Provincial Nutritionist, UNICEF
District Level	Training course for primary school teachers and school inspectors in Mwense and Chienge districts.				PRA/PRA for situation analysis	Provincial Nutritionist, Com. Dev. Fund and Gender Officer
District Level	Training for CHW and CMA in Kawambwa and Chienge. (20 participants)				Malaria Prevention and Control	Provincial Nutritionist, District Nutrition Coordinator
All Districts	38 field days				Dry season crop production	Crop Husbandry Officer
All Districts invited at province	Training of trainers (9 CSS, 3 WYPO, 3 DNC)	May-01	11	4	Weaning food prepared, Alternative use of roots and tubers, vegetables	PHO, DNC
All Districts	Community training in 15 communities	July - Aug 2001			Weaning food prepared, Alternative use of roots and tubers, vegetables	WYPO, DNC, Trained CSS, PHO
Nchelenge/Chienge	Community training in 4 communities	Aug-01			Vegetables (processing + nutritional importance in the diet)	WYPO, DNC,
All districts	3 training of trainers for group facilitators + CSS		40	17	Leadership, group dynamics	GAS
All districts	3 training of trainers for community support staff (Agric, Health, Com. Dev, Education)	Jun-01	55	13	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation	International consultant, Provincial Com. Dev. Fund/Gender Officer
All districts	Training of trainers (3) for community nutrition promoters		27	30	Community Based Growth Monitoring and Promotion	Provincial Nutritionist, DHMT, DNC
	Training of 20 community groups				Community Based Growth Monitoring and Promotion	CNP