



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
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pour
l'alimentation
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l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE

Thirty-sixth Session

Rome, 18 – 23 November 2009

PRESENTATION OF THE EDOUARD SAOUMA AWARD 2008-2009

1. The Twenty-Seventh Session of the FAO Conference in November 1993 adopted Resolution 2/93 and decided to institute, as a new permanent feature in FAO, an award to a national or regional institution which, in the course of the biennium preceding the Conference, has implemented with particular efficiency a project funded by the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). The award bears the name of Dr Edouard Saouma and is directed towards the goals he served. It is conferred every biennium.
2. The elements of the Award are (i) a medal inscribed with the name of the recipient institution; (ii) a scroll describing its achievements; (iii) a cash prize of USD 25 000; (iv) travel to FAO headquarters in Rome by a representative of the winning institution to participate in the Award Ceremony and to receive the award on behalf of the institution.

Selection of the Winning Institution

3. The Edouard Saouma Award Selection Committee, under the Chairpersonship of the Director-General selects the award winning institution; it comprises the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the Chairperson of the Programme Committee and the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. The selection has been made from a short-list drawn up by an Ad Hoc Inter-departmental Screening Committee, chaired by the Deputy Director-General and comprising the Assistant Directors-General of all the headquarters departments, the Director of the Field Operations Division, and the Chief of the Technical Cooperation Programme Service (TCOT) as Secretary.
4. Nominations are submitted by national institutions to FAO Representatives or UNDP Resident Representatives, as appropriate, for endorsement and eventual submission to the technical department in charge of the project's technical backstopping. FAO Representatives, FAO Regional Representatives or UNDP Resident Representatives, as appropriate, may also submit nominations directly to the technical department concerned.

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Conferment of the Award

5. The Award is presented by the Director-General at a special ceremony held at the beginning of each regular session of the Conference to the representative of the winning institution. The Award for the 2008-2009 biennium will be presented at the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference, at a ceremony to be held on 18 November 2009.
6. This year, the Award is being granted to the **Fisheries Department (DP), Ministry of Environment and Fisheries Resources, Chad**, for the implementation of the TCP project: TCP/CHD/3003 – «Renforcement des capacités nationales en inspection sanitaire et amélioration de la qualité des produits halieutiques du lac Tchad et du fleuve Chari».
7. Among the ten nominations, this national institution stands out for its timely execution of the project, despite the situation prevailing at that time which had led to the postponement of some activities as well as for its capacity to mobilize support from key partners and promote new technological and methodological approaches, which transformed the project into a success that well exceeds the amount invested by FAO.
8. The TCP project was launched to strengthen the national capacity in sanitary control and responsible utilization of fish products. The project resulted in the formulation of a national regulation governing the production and marketing of safe, high quality and marketable fish products, validated by all the stakeholders in the sector and widely disseminated. It strengthened the operational capacities of post-harvest operators by training twenty (20) extension officers, seven (7) fish inspectors and seventy (70) fish operators, 95 percent of which were women. In the field of improved post-harvest technologies the project enabled the construction of seven (7) platforms for demonstrations/pilot testing, four (4) processed fish storage rooms, fifteen (15) insulated containers, thirty-five (35) drying racks and seven (7) improved Banda smoking kilns and other equipment. The project also activated the group dynamic by strengthening twenty-five (25) associations in its intervention area.
9. The DP granted high priority to the implementation of the project by supporting the creation of interinstitutional mechanisms involving all the ministerial departments connected to sanitary control and marketing of products. It also created a working team of dedicated staff, mobilized partners at the decentralized level and provided the necessary facilities and logistical support which allowed a rapid implementation of project activities. Above all, key to the success of the project was the adoption and promotion by the DP of innovative technical and methodological approaches, such as the platform approach, which caters for technical deficiencies and socio-economic or cultural constraints in post-harvest fisheries.
10. An impact was noted in terms of increased value-addition following improvement in the quality of processed fish and reduction of post-harvest losses, fuelwood consumption, drying time and women's working hours. Funds have been allocated to recruit additional staff for the DP which has continued to monitor the project activities and to disseminate improved fish processing techniques in other sites. In light of the positive results obtained by the project, the Government also co-financed, with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the construction of the *National Centre for Control of Products of Animal Origin*, including fish products and engaged in negotiations with AfDB which led to the funding of the *National Fisheries Development Project* (PRODEPECHE) that uses the technologic platform approach developed by the project. This same approach was also integrated by the Government into the ongoing *National Programme for Food Security*. It was also included as a basic theme of the *Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook* (World Bank/IFAD/FAO), published in 2008. In addition, an expert workshop on Fish Technology in Africa, held in November 2008, recommended its dissemination within the region.

11. The performance of this project has been outstanding in terms of project implementation as well as impact and catalytic effects. The personal commitment of the Director and the staff of this institution have been vital to the achievements of the project, not only in terms of immediate objectives but also with regard to the sustainability of its achievements.