

MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES **CGIAR Information Service**

Direction de la Coopération Internationale
Niamey
Republic of Niger

The Resident Representative
United Nations Development Program
Niamey
Niger

10 December 1980
Your ref: HDM 250/24
ORG 130/5/GEN of 28/3/80

Our ref: 11755/MAE/C/DCI

Re: Memorandum of agreement between the Republic of
Niger and the UNDP for the establishment of the
ICRISAT Sahelian Center.

Dear sir,

In reply to your above-mentioned letter, I have the pleasure in informing you that the Government of Niger has consented to the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement concerning the establishment of Sahelian Center of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

I am sending you herewith, duly signed, two copies of the said document.

However, the competent Nigerian authorities wish to include the Agricultural Departments of the different countries concerned in the Coordination Committee constituted for the project, as they are the users of the research results.

With highest regards,

Yours truly,

Secretary of State
For and on behalf of the
Minister for Foreign Affairs and
Cooperation

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGER AND
THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP) FOR THE ESTAB-
LISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR
THE SEMI-ARID TROPICS (ICRISAT) SAHELIAN CENTER

PREAMBLE

During the past decades, very substantial progress has been made in technology for increasing productivity and profitability in the tropics of crops such as rice, maize, and wheat in areas in which moisture supply is reasonably assured. Large areas of Africa are not so favorably situated, however, and have not yet benefited to any degree from these advances. It is estimated that approximately 100 million people live in the seasonally dry, semi-arid tropical zones of Africa and are mainly dependent for their staple foods on rainfed cereals such as millet and sorghum intercropped with pulse crops such as groundnuts and cowpea. There is a great need, and equally great potential, for the development of scientific technology applicable to this sector of the world's agriculture which can improve the quantity and quality of food supplies and upgrade the quality of life of the people of these semi-arid areas.

In recognition of these needs and possibilities, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) has authorized the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to establish research and training programs in Africa as part of its core program and in accordance with the Constitution of ICRISAT.

Considering that UNDP, a member of the CGIAR, is the major sponsor of ICRISAT's work in Africa and because the ICRISAT Sahelian Center will necessarily serve as a long-term scientific and administrative headquarters for ICRISAT in Africa, therefore, the parties to this Memorandum agree to work together toward the establishment of an ICRISAT Sahelian Center in the vicinity of Niamey, Niger, for research and training on millet, groundnut and sorghum crops and the farming systems related to them. The Center will be given with the appropriate status, juridical powers, privileges and other conditions necessary to enable the Center to operate effectively toward the attainment of its objectives when provided the requisite financial support. Specifically, the parties to this Memorandum agree to the following points:

I. Objectives and Activities of the ICRISAT Sahelian Center in Africa

The ICRISAT-Sahelian Center will serve as (a) an African regional research center for the improvement of millet, groundnut and sorghum; (b) it will promote the development and demonstration of improved farming systems, and (c) it may undertake such other programs or extensions of these programs as the ICRISAT Governing Board may determine. In carrying forward its program, the Center will develop close links and cooperate with ICRISAT in India and with regional and national research and development programs for the millet, groundnut and sorghum crops and farming systems in other ecologically similar regions in Africa.

The ICRISAT Sahelian Center will engage in the following types of activities:

1. Research on practical and theoretical problems including plant breeding aimed at improving production of millet, groundnut, and sorghum and related farming systems of which these crops and cowpea are major components.
2. Evaluation, maintenance and distribution of a germplasm collection and improved plant material for use in crop breeding, improvement, and production programs.
3. Publication and dissemination of research results.
4. Periodical organization of conferences, forums and seminars on subjects related to the Center's objectives.
5. Training of scientists.
6. Assistance in the development of appropriate research and extension programs in cooperating countries to facilitate the use and application of research conducted at the ICRISAT Sahelian Center.
7. Such other activities as may be found necessary for achieving the objectives of ICRISAT.

In furtherance of these objectives and activities, ICRISAT is empowered to:

1. Acquire or obtain from any authority governmental, national, municipal, local, foreign, or otherwise, or from any co-operation, company, association, person, or other entity, such charters, exemptions, rights, privileges, financial or other assistance, and concessions as may facilitate or may be necessary for the attainment of the objectives of the ICRISAT Sahelian Center.
2. Receive and acquire from any person, company or entity, through donation, contract, bequest, purchase or lease, either absolutely or in usufruct, contributions consisting of land or movable property including money and stocks as may be deemed useful or necessary to carry out the objectives of the ICRISAT Sahelian Center, and to hold, use or dispose of the said properties or stocks.
3. Carry out any operations that may be necessary or appropriate for the attainment of any or all of the aforesaid objectives, or which, at any time may appear to be useful for the activities of the ICRISAT Sahelian Center.

II. Agreements

- a. The Government of Niger recognizes the ICRISAT Sahelian Center as a philanthropic, non-profit organization with the objectives

set forth in this Memorandum. The international status of the Center will be ensured by the Government of Niger which will take appropriate measures to grant to ICRISAT the privileges and immunities stated in the United Nations Convention.

Further, ICRISAT officials will be granted the same privileges in no way less favorable than those extended to officials of the UNDP. The following facilities will also be afforded by the Government of Niger:

1. Authorization for the unrestricted movement of ICRISAT staff members within and outside Niger, as often as may be necessary for the requirements of the ICRISAT Sahelian Center.
2. Recognition of the power of the ICRISAT Governing Board to establish employment policies and conditions for ICRISAT international staff without discrimination as to nationality, origin or any consideration other than scientific and professional merit and performance.

The Governing Board of ICRISAT will also have the authority to establish terms and conditions of employment of other scientists, technicians, and administrative and support personnel recruited largely from the host country. Their conditions of employment will be expected to comply, as far as possible, with the accepted norms of the host

country, with such modifications as may be necessary to ensure recruitment of well qualified staff and high quality of performance.

3. Guarantee of procedures for expeditious clearance for entry into Niger of trainees, scholars, and visitors interested in the ICRISAT Sahelian Center's program.
4. Authorization for the unrestricted movement of seed and genetic materials into and out of Niger as may be needed by the ICRISAT Sahelian Center in accordance with quarantine inspection regulations to avoid the introduction or export of pests or diseases. The Government agrees to ensure expeditious quarantine inspection and clearance of seed imports and exports.
5. Freedom for publication and dissemination of research results to all parties concerned.

The Government of Niger further agrees to make available to ICRISAT on a long-term (for example, 50 years) nominal lease, a tract of land of approximately 400 hectares near Niamey city which has been judged as suitable for the establishment of the ICRISAT Sahelian Center and its activities, including:

1. A site for the construction of the main laboratory, office, and service buildings.

2. Land for experiments, seed production, and other activities of the Center.

b. ICRISAT agrees, within the limits of funds made available to it by the members of the Consultative Group, to pursue the objectives and activities established for the Center.

III. Termination of the Agreement

The rights and obligations of the UNDP under this agreement will terminate at the time the UNDP transfers its rights and obligations under this agreement to ICRISAT and as well as the assets it has received under this agreement.

In the event of the dissolution of the ICRISAT Sahelian Center, any land and fixed capital thereon, situated within the territory of the Republic of Niger, shall revert to the Government of Niger. The disposition of all other movable assets and equipment shall be determined by the ICRISAT Governing Board.

Signed in Niamey, on behalf of the parties to this agreement, on this day of _____ 1981.

For and on behalf of
The Government of Niger
(Seal and signature)

7 Jan 1981

For and on behalf of
United Nations Development Program
(Seal and signature)

7 Jan 1981