



<p><i>schedule of activities. (In itemized form)</i></p>	<p>of their innovative character, one pilot ISF will be established in each of the four countries. The central concern of the proposed action research programme will be to monitor and assess the effectiveness and value of these pilot ISFs. In making available funds at the level of farmers, groups and communities/ community-based organisations (CBOs), each ISF can catalyse the emergence of community-owned innovation funds (COIF).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Objective 1 activities include</i> country-level explorative feasibility studies, international backstopping on feasibility assessment and design, stakeholder design workshop, implementation of ISF pilots, monitoring and evaluation of the pilots, and exchange and assessment of experiences across countries</li> <li>▪ <i>Objective 2 activities include:</i> documentation of country experiences; preparation and dissemination of ISF Synthesis Paper; dissemination of country experience and Synthesis Report; and Sharing results on the internet</li> <li>▪ <i>Objective 3 activities include:</i> national policy dialogues and longer-term resource mobilization; and preparation of operational plan for longer-term ISF</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expected outputs</b> <i>Kindly provide concise description of expected outputs of the project, including specific figures if possible.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sound practices in establishing Innovation Support Funds will have been determined, lessons documented and spread</li> <li>▪ Sustainable ISFs actively supporting the concept of community-owned innovation funds (COIFs) are operational in four countries</li> <li>▪ Local innovation processes in NRM and related farming practices will have been strengthened and local innovations documented, assessed, improved and/or spread.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E)</b>  <i>Kindly explain how the progress of the project will be monitored and how the outcome and impact will be evaluated.</i></p>	<p>M&amp;E is distinguished, in this project, at three levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Programme M&amp;E.</i> It is the responsibility of the lead proponent organisation, FSG, to ensure that information on these indicators is collected and summarised in the six-monthly progress reports. It will also ensure that reports prepared by other partners include the M&amp;E information as suggested in the logframe.</li> <li>▪ <i>M&amp;E of the ISF pilots.</i> is a central activity in this programme. It has been included in the list of activities and elaborated in Chapter 4.5 of the proposal. An important step in the pilot M&amp;E is the development of an M&amp;E framework across the four countries. A matrix table (cf. Table 1) is presented in the proposal which outlines a framework indicating the main criteria and detailed potential indicators. It needs to be refined in each country before the launching of the pilots.</li> <li>▪ <i>M&amp;E of accelerated innovation in NRM.</i> It refers to (a) the development of improved NRM practices and systems; (b) their spread, and (c) the increased capacities of land users and farmers in technology access and development. The scope of this project (time, funds) do not allow for separate M&amp;E actions on the third point but, where possible, relevant evidence will be collected and compiled.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project's INNOVATIVENESS, VALUE ADDED and CONTRIBUTION to SD</b></p>	
<p><b>Innovative aspects of the project</b>  <b>Project's value added</b>  <b>Project's contribution to sustainable development</b></p>	<p>There is a strong and direct link between the project and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A strengthened local innovation process will help to generate and spread methods and practices that small farmers and rural communities need to address poverty and hunger, the 1st MDG. The strong NRM focus and the attention to integrating production and environmental management objectives will enable the project to contribute to the 7th MDG, environmental sustainability. The ProInnova partnership, the main implementation vehicle for this project, is a clear example of the 8th MDG, which calls for global partnerships for development. The ISF project will integrate a gender perspective and will therefore be able to contribute to 3rd MDG of gender equality and women empowerment.</p> <p>Through the project's activities, the capacities of local land users in managing their resources, to develop and implement improvements in existing systems, will be strengthened. There is a lot of evidence showing the importance of increasing capacities at this level to ensure sustainable land and water management. The project, through its focus on innovative practices and through its networked approach, has the potential to have a significant catalytic influence across several countries. A number of key actors in shaping country research and policy agendas will participate in the project. In so doing, they will experience first hand the value of people- and farmer-centered research programs.</p> <p>The central concern of the project is to go beyond project-linked financial mechanisms to help create a situation in which the new mechanisms are institutionalised, taking into account the local context and ensuring that a regular flow of resources is mobilised. This will be an essential step to ensure longer-term sustainability of the mechanisms developed under this project.</p> <p>Through the ISF developed under this project and the interaction with stakeholders as part of local innovation work supported by ISFs, farmers will be able also to assert their needs and express their concerns vis-à-vis obstacles towards achieving improved levels of production, environmental management and food security. Through this process, a rich inter-play between central actors in NRM, food security and poverty reduction will be achieved. The policy dialogue that becomes possible has the potential to open up reflection and action on a range of critical questions. In this way, the potential for developing a more enabling policy environmental and for achieving social and economic sustainable development will also increased.</p>