

中华人民共和国财政部  
Ministry of Finance, People's Republic of China

September 1, 2005

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Assistant Executive Director and Director  
Division of Global Environment Facility (GEF) Coordination  
United Nations Environment Programme  
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Dear Mr. Djoghlaif

As the Operational Focal Point of GEF in China, I endorse the UNEP/GEF-IPGRI project on "Conservation and Use of Crop Genetic Diversity to Control Pests and Diseases in Support of Sustainable Agriculture." China has participated from the beginning of the planning phase in developing this joint project with national partners from Ecuador, Morocco, and Uganda, UNEP-GEF and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI). The national project implementation agency in China will be the Yunnan Agricultural University, Kunming.

The proposed project fits well with the priorities articulated in the GEF Operational Programme 13: "Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity important to agriculture." Conservation of Chinese crop genetic diversity is a main concern of agriculture research and development in China. The project fits within China's national agenda for *in situ* conservation of agricultural crops. The selected project target crops: rice, faba bean, barley and maize are the basis for food security and agricultural income generation for the local poor in southwestern China, where the project is located. These target crops still contain high genetic diversity in southwestern China's traditional agroecosystems, and the conservation of this important resource is key to China's and global food security.

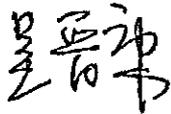
China is also equally concerned on the reduction of pesticide use in the country to protect environment and improve human health. The proposed project results will also serve as a model to implement similar initiatives on other crops. In addition to this, the use of intra-specific crop diversity to control pest and diseases will reduce pesticides use in the country and in turn production costs. These strategic objectives will contribute to increase the sustainability of agriculture production as well as improve ecosystem health in China.

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The government of China has already endorsed the PDF B phase of this project and I again endorse the full project proposal developed by the Chinese partners in collaboration with national partners from Ecuador, Morocco and Uganda. I also confirm Chinese commitments and full cooperation with national partners from Ecuador, Morocco and Uganda for the success of this project and would be grateful if you facilitate approval of funding for this important project.

Yours Sincerely



WU Jinkang

Director

IFI Division IV

International Department

cc: Ms. Marieta Sakalian; UNEF/GEF Project Management Officer; P.O.Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya

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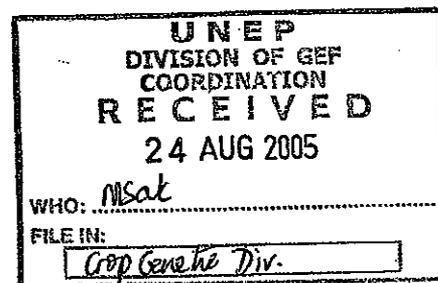


ministerio del  
ambiente  
República del Ecuador

Quito, agosto 09 de 2005  
Oficio No. 70372 DASI/MA

05/934

Mr.  
Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Assistant executive director and director  
Division of Global Environment Facility (GEF) Coordination  
United Nations Environment Programme  
P.O. Box 30552,  
Nairobi, Kenya



Dear Mr. Djoghlaif:

As Operational Focal Point for GEF in Ecuador, I would like to endorse and to provide all necessary support to the project entitled "Conservation and Use of Crop Genetic Diversity to Control Pests and Diseases in Support of Sustainable Agriculture", which has been developed jointly by national partners from China, Morocco, Uganda and Ecuador. In Ecuador, the project will be implemented by The National Autonomous Institute of Agricultural Research (INIAP) with support from local national partners together with UNEP-GEF and International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

The Environment Ministry will take action as member of the National Steering Committees and it is assumed to make the follow up to this project in Ecuador.

The proposed project fits with the priorities articulated in GEF operational programme 13 "Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity important to agriculture" and will support the objective "to promote the positive and mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture systems and practices on biological diversity in agroecosystems and their interface with other ecosystems; the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of actual and potential value for food and agriculture".

Conservation of crop genetic diversity and reduction of pesticide use are main concerns of Agriculture research and development in Ecuador. The project fits well with in situ conservation priorities in Ecuador especially for crops such as maize and common bean for which crop genetic diversity is still high in our traditional agro ecosystem system. The project also aims to enhance the conservation and use of faba bean and plantain genetic resources, which are important crops



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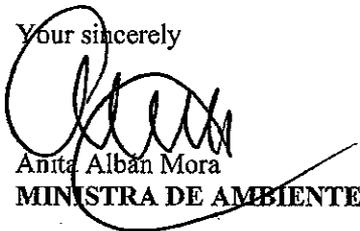


ministerio del  
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República del Ecuador

for food security in Ecuador. Project results will also serve as a model to implement similar initiatives on other crops. In addition to this, the use of intra specific crop diversity to control pest and diseases will reduce pesticides use in the country and in turn production cost. This strategic objectives will contribute to increase the sustainability of agriculture productions as well as improve ecosystem health in Ecuador.

I confirm Ecuadorian's commitments and full cooperation with national partners from China, Morocco and Uganda for the success of this project and would be grateful if you facilitate approval of funding for this important project.

Your sincerely



Anita Alban Mora

**MINISTRA DE AMBIENTE**

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16 AOUT 2005

Mr. Ahmed DJOGLAF  
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### ENDORSEMENT LETTER

**Subject:** Conservation and Use of Crop Diversity to Control Pest and Diseases in support of Sustainable Agriculture

Dear Mr. Djoghlaif,

This is to inform you that in my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for Morocco I formally endorse the project proposal entitled "Conservation and Use of Crop Genetic Diversity to Control Pests and Diseases in Support of Sustainable Agriculture". This project is entirely in the scope of the Moroccan strategy for development of agricultural sector, rural development, and sustainable management of national resources.

The project is in line with priorities of GEF Operational Programme 13 "Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity important to agriculture", and will support GEF OPI3 objective "to promote the positive and mitigate the negative impacts of agricultural systems and practices on biological diversity in agro-ecosystems".

The project has an innovative approach to the problem of crop genetic diversity conservation in agroecosystems through its management to control pests and diseases. It will assist Moroccan farmers in sustainable management of crop diversity to maintain yield stability of the faba bean and barley, two major food sources of a large population particularly in marginal zones.

The achievement of this project will support sustainable agriculture, enhance food security; provide low-cost options for pest and disease control to farmers in Morocco. By reducing pesticide use, it will improve ecosystem health.

The project will support Morocco's efforts to fulfil its obligations to the Convention on Biological Diversity as it supports directly all objectives of the CBD programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, adopted through decision V/5 at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and relates directly to each of four objectives of the CBD programme of work for agricultural biodiversity.

For all these considerations, I would thus very much appreciate if you could facilitate the approval of this important project proposal by UNEP/GEF.

Yours Sincerely,

Le Directeur du Partenariat, de la  
Communication et de la Coopération

Signé : Tahia BELLAÏFREJ

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In any correspondence on  
this subject please quote No FAD.175/245/01



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Ministry of Finance,  
Planning and Economic  
Development,  
P.O. Box 8147,  
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Uganda.

5 August 2005

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Coordinator  
UNEP/GEF Coordination Office  
P.O. Box 30552  
Nairobi, Kenya

**RE: ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROJECT ON "CONSERVATION AND USE OF  
CROP GENETIC DIVERSITY TO CONTROL PESTS AND DISEASES IN SUPPORT  
OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE" FOR SUPPORT FROM THE UNEP/GEF**

I wish to refer to the project proposal stated above, which has been undergoing development in the project partner countries namely, China, Ecuador, Morocco and Uganda in collaboration with IPGRI and other partners. The proposal is in line with the GEF's Focal Area on Biodiversity and the operational programme number 13 on agricultural biodiversity.

In Uganda, banana/plantain and beans are a major staple. Uganda is the world's second producer of bananas, with an estimated annual production of more than 9 million metric tonnes, accounting for 15% of total world banana/plantain output. Uganda is the largest consumer of bananas and more than 7 million depend on the crop as their staple. Beans and banana are very important sources of food and household income in Uganda. Beans contribute 30% of dietary energy and consumption exceeds 50kg/person/year. Therefore these are key crops in the national development plans.

Over the years tremendous research efforts towards management of the pests and diseases in these crops have been engaged. However, these problems still remain. Presently threat to the genetic diversity in these two priority crops and hence to the food security and well being of the people in Uganda is bigger than ever before.

Through this project, use of crop genetic diversity to control pests and disease pressures will lead to reduction of genetic vulnerability, optimize use of crop and crop associated diversity as well as reduced use of pesticides. This will imply reduced risk of crop losses, reduced farmer inputs, increased net incomes and improved ecosystem and human health. The ultimate benefits will include important biodiversity conserved, food security increased and improved livelihoods.

This project in line with Uganda's Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), as well as Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA).

I fully endorse this project and will appreciate your kind support and facilitation towards its approval by UNEP/GEF.

Yours sincerely,

  
Keith Muhakanizi

For: DEPUTY SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY

