



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Aide-Memoire

**Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Science and
Technology Issues for Sustainable Development:
Principles, methodology and strategy for promoting
the African Green Revolution**

16-18 November, 2004
Addis Ababa

I. Background

Science and technology are at the core of food security and sustainable development. In the agricultural sector in Africa, key challenges remain in increasing agricultural production and delivery through the harnessing of science and technology. In addressing these challenges, a consensus is emerging that Africa must design, trigger and implement its own Green Revolution. Following calls by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in 2003 and 2004 for African countries to promote a uniquely African Green Revolution, the ECA has initiated a series of activities and outputs to promote the African Green Revolution Initiative.

One of the key challenges of causing a Green Revolution in Africa is that the continent has a diversity of agroecological zones, farming systems and socio-cultural contexts. It has become increasingly clear that different versions of the Green Revolution must be designed to fit the different contexts. However, the design principles must be the same: to be sustainable, the African Green Revolution must be scientifically valid, economically viable, environmentally friendly and socially acceptable and hence manageable by African farming communities.

Such designs will not only promote Green Revolution science and technology, but also the market, institutional and policy issues – indeed the whole TIIP (technology, infrastructure, institutions and policy) complex of GR prime movers. The designs must identify the entry points, driving forces and processes for triggering and sustaining the African Green Revolution. They must prime and galvanize African rural communities for the testing, adaptation and adoption of GR technologies and methods, using participatory approaches to accompany the usual technical assessments. And they must link the redesigned production and delivery systems to other players in the technology, infrastructure, institution and policy sectors, and tune up those other players, so that the whole Green Revolution system takes off and is sustained in Africa.

ECA has responded to this resurgent interest by commissioning a study on “Principles, methodology and strategy for promoting the African Green Revolution: A design and training manual.” This Manual promises to be a key contribution to the design effort of the African Green Revolution.

II. Objectives of the Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting

The main objective of the meeting will be to give advice and feedback on emerging critical science and technology issues for sustainable development and particularly on the principles, methodology and strategy for promoting the African Green Revolution in order to serve Africa better. In this regard, the experts are expected to:

1. Review and validate the Study on “Principles, methodology and strategy for promoting the African Green Revolution: A design and training manual.”
2. Reflect on the potential, readiness and prospects of Africa to design, trigger and implement the African Green Revolution.
3. Provide feedback, recommendations and advice on a way forward.

III. Format of the meeting

The meeting will be conducted in plenary sessions and group discussions as appropriate, based on papers prepared for presentation at the meeting by selected participants/resource persons.

IV. Participants

The meeting will bring together some 18 – 25 high level experts and practitioners in the fields of science, technology, innovation, economics, agriculture, rural development, environment, natural resource management, and the African Green Revolution. Participants are invited in their personal capacity.

V. Date and venue

The meeting will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 16 - 18 November 2004 and will be held in the United Nations Conference Centre at the ECA. The provisional agenda and programme of work are attached.

VI. Administrative Arrangements

ECA will provide participants with round-trip economy class air-tickets through the UNDP offices in their countries and pay them, on arrival in Addis Ababa, a daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the meeting. ECA will make all flight and hotel reservations for participants and they will be met at the airport on arrival by ECA protocol officers and taken to their hotels. **An entry visa into Ethiopia is absolutely required. The visa can be obtained from the Ethiopian embassy in the country where the participant resides if there is an Ethiopian embassy in the country. A business visa can also be obtained upon arrival at the Addis Ababa airport upon presentation of the letter of invitation from ECA. Participants are expected to pay for their visas.**

VII. Contacts

All communication on the meeting should be directed to:

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