INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE

Annual Report 2007

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In 2007, IFS was supported by

Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles (CORAF/WECARD)

Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Germany

Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGDC), Belgium

Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR), Belgium

Foundation for Strategic Environment Research (MISTRA), Sweden

The John D. And Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, USA

Ministère des Affaires Étrangères (MAE), France

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Minbuza), The Netherlands

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Norway

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Organisation of Islamic Conference Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH)

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Sweden

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Switzerland

Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA), Switzerland

The United Nations University (UNU)

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2007 – an all-time high for IFS research funding!

Photo: Brian Porter

Pierre Roger

2007 has been an excellent year for IFS, enabling us to better fulfill our mandate of supporting promising scientists in countries with poor science infrastructure. We saw a significant increase in the budget which reached SEK 52 million (USD 8.6 million; EUR 5.6 million) as compared with SEK 44.6 million in 2006.

Accordingly, there has been a corresponding increase in activities. In fact, the 302 research grants approved and financed in 2007 represent an all-time high in the IFS granting programme! In collaboration with partner organizations, IFS organized 28 workshops, benefiting close to 600 young scientists. Two such partner organizations – CREPA and BCAS - are featured in this Annual Report.

Looking back over the last three years, it is clear that the number of young scientists supported by IFS has markedly increased. Some reasons for this are the increased visibility of IFS, better proposals, and more donor support.

IFS is in the middle of implementing the Five-Year Programme 2006-2010. The new feature is the addition of the Capacity Enhancing Support programme to our long established competitive research grant scheme.

In this Annual Report, you can read about the workshop organized by IFS for newly awarded grantees in Pretoria, South Africa. In the spirit of the Five-Year Programme, the grantees were offered the chance to participate in activities advancing their scientific development and helping them to successfully complete their research projects.

In order to help implement the new Capacity Enhancing Support programme, the Board of Trustees has assigned IFS to plan a feasibility study with a view to establishing an organizational presence in regions with large grantee populations.

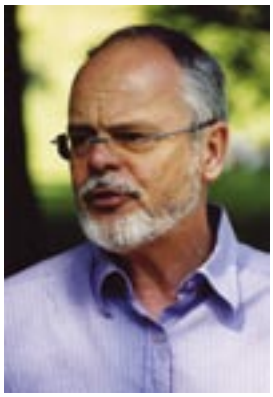

Photo: Brian Porter

Michael Ståhl

Also in 2007, in order to boost our organizational capacity and enable IFS to cope with an expanded and more complex activity programme, Dr Nighisty Ghezae was appointed to a new position as Head of Programme. Welcome, Dr Ghezae to this important post!

IFS has initiated a strategy for resource mobilization focusing on US Foundations. A significant contribution has already been obtained from the MacArthur Foundation for an inventory of scientific equipment at 15 selected African universities.

A major theme of this Report is the "French connection" with IFS. French academics were involved in the founding of IFS and the present French support is vital to retain IFS as a bilingual organization (applications and reviews are accepted both in English and French).

Thank you all for this past year. We wish you pleasant reading!

Merci tout pendant cette dernière année. Nous vous souhaitons la lecture plaisante !

Pierre Roger
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Michael Ståhl
Director

IFS Research Grants & Workshops

A vital part of IFS activities is supporting promising young scientists through the competitive research grants scheme. Applications are received throughout the year. After a thorough assessment process by IFS international scientific advisers, talented individuals are awarded grants to conduct research on the sustainable utilization, management and/or conservation of biological and water resources.

The research grants scheme is managed by the IFS secretariat and involves receipt and registration of applications, pre-screening, external review, meetings of Scientific Advisory Committees, decisions on funding, feedback to all applicants, signing of agreement with grantees and support during the research period (for more details about the granting process, see the section Excerpt from the IFS Audited Financial Statement).

Applications and Research Grants in 2007

The number of approved research grants increased considerably during 2007. Ninehundred and sixtytwo applications were accepted for reviewing and 302 grants were approved for funding. The trend of grants approved is shown in Fig. 1 and 3 which show that the number of new grants financed is clearly increasing. This is due both to increased visibility of IFS, better proposals and more support from donors.

In 2007 two thirds of approved grants went to young scientists in low income countries with vulnerable scientific infrastructure, i.e. IFS priority countries (cf. box). Moreover, a large number of scientists in priority countries were accepted to participation in workshops etc. (see below). In 2007 new grantees in Sub-Saharan Africa made up almost half (45%) of all approved grantees.

In 2007, the proportion of women scientists among new grantees was 30%. This is the same as during previous years. It is to be noted that IFS does not apply a gender-based quota. The approval rate of women applicants in the IFS grant system is slightly higher than the approval rate of male applicants.

Capacity enhancing support (workshops, conferences, visits to laboratories etc.)

During 2007, IFS made a strong thrust towards strengthening the scope, range and volume of capacity-enhancing activities, launching the Capacity Enhancing Support programme. Such activities, including workshops, courses and visits to reputable scientific institutions, are vital to support scientists in countries with vulnerable scientific infrastructure.

IFS has a long tradition of organizing workshops for young scientists. During the early years of the decade, around 150-200 participants have annually attended such workshops. The rising trend for 2005-2006 in the number of workshops and attendees has continued into 2007. From 12 workshops with over 300 attendees in 2005,

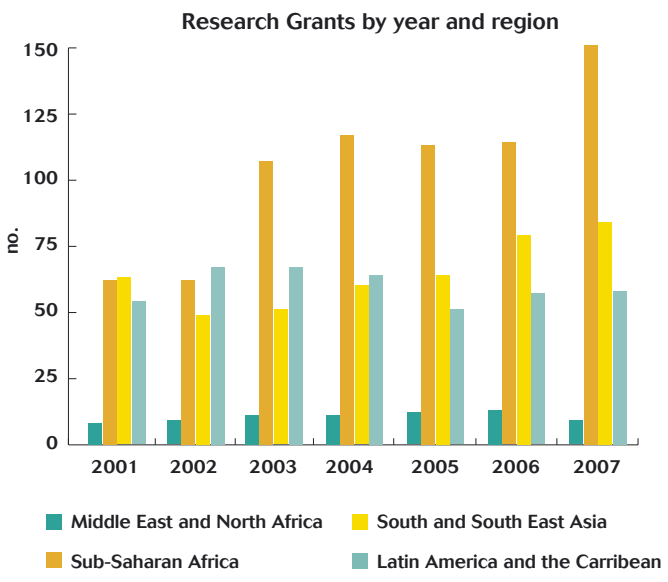

Fig. 1 Geographic distribution of IFS Grants 2001-2007

and 23 workshops with over 500 attendees (including resource persons) in 2006, the number of workshops in 2007 jumped to 28 with more than 600 participants (including resource persons). In addition, 42 grantees received individual travel grants to attend conferences or work at advanced laboratories.

IFS also participated in international events. For example, IFS held a morning seminar at the World Water Week in Stockholm in August. The theme was "Bridging the Gap in Research and Education between the North and the South – strengthening scientific capacity for water-related research and education in countries with vulnerable scientific infrastructure". The seminar was co-organized with UNESCO, CREPA, BCAS, CAPNet and WaterNet. Fifty persons attended.

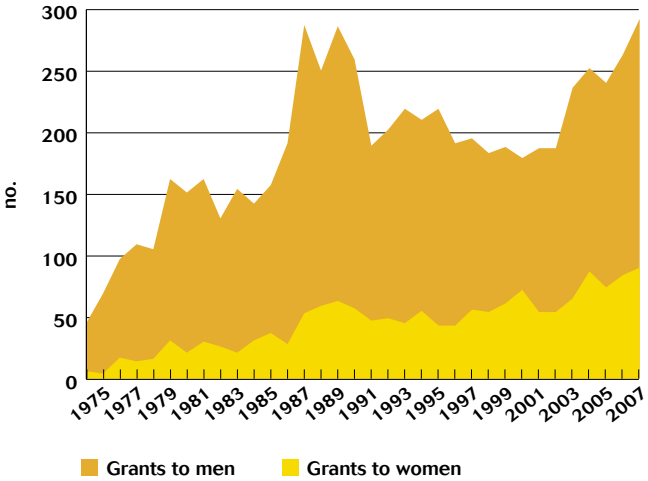

Fig. 2 Research Grants by gender

Countries which are eligible for IFS support are defined using indicators for assessment of their economic development and their scientific infrastructure.

Researchers based at institutions in the following categories of countries are, in principle, eligible to apply for IFS grants:

Low Income Countries (LIC), Lower Middle Income Countries (LMIC) as well as some Upper Middle Income Countries (UMIC) namely those with a below-average GNI/Capita of that category of countries.

IFS gives priority to research applications of satisfactory scientific quality from researchers based in countries classified as LICs and LMICs. This category includes most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, some countries in Central America and Asia. The rationale for this policy is that researchers based in UMICs in general have much better access to national research funding and infrastructure than their colleagues in LICs and LMICs.

IFS also takes into consideration the scientific infrastructure of countries and gives priority to countries where scientists, who are at the beginning of their research career, have difficulty in accessing research funding and research tools.

IFS aims to allocate at least 70% of the research grants to scientists from LICs and LMICs, while up to 30% of grants can be allocated to researchers from UMICs.

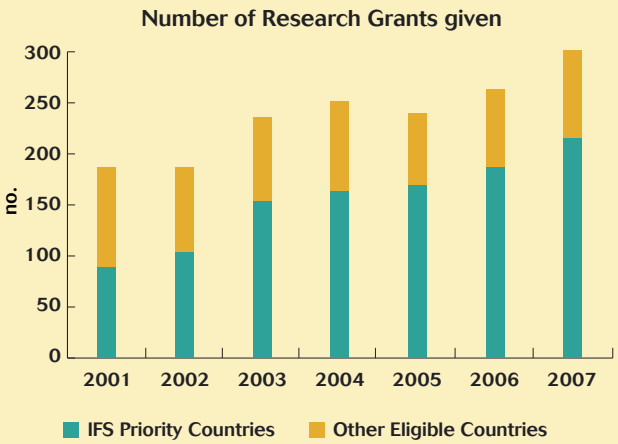

Fig. 3 Distribution of Grants given to IFS priority countries and other eligible countries

French Support to IFS

France was constructively involved in the creation of IFS in the early 1970's. The French professor Paul Auger (discoverer of the auger electrons) was the chairman of the international committee which in 1970 provided the first outline of an organization to support young scientists in developing countries – the organization which a few years later would become IFS. Another French scientist involved in the initiation of IFS was Hubert Curien, Director General of the French "Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), and later to become the French Minister of Scientific Research. France was also, together with Sweden and Canada, among the countries to provide initial support for the operations of IFS. The French Government would continue to contribute regularly to the IFS budget through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE).

IFS activities fit well within MAE priorities of favouring scientific research and promoting a scientific community in developing countries, as well as promoting the use of the French language. MAE also emphasizes a focus on Africa in a broad sense, not least on researchers in francophone countries, increasing the number of grantees in countries with the most vulnerable scientific infrastructures, addressing issues pertaining to the scientific environment of the grantees, and placing particular and added emphasis on South-South collaboration.

Other French research organizations which support and collaborate with IFS are the "Institut de Recherche pour le Développement" (IRD), the "Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement" (CIRAD), the "Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique" (INRA) and the French Academy of Sciences.

French universities and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) significantly contribute to IFS activities by providing roughly one quarter of all the scientific advisers. Several hundred French scientists have accepted to become IFS advisers, participating in project evaluation and training workshops for the grantees. In all, 22 out of 134 organizations affiliated with IFS are French or francophone. Of all IFS grants awarded in 2007, some 20% went to researchers in francophone countries.

History of the IRD-IFS partnership

Of French affiliate organizations, IRD has the longest history of partnership with IFS. IRD is a public science and technology research institute with a budget of EUR 177 million and a staff of more than 2,000 employees. It works under the joint authority of the French ministries in charge of research and overseas development and has three main missions: research, consultancy and training within the areas of natural resources, earth and the environment, and societies and health.

The special relationship between France and IFS was concretised in 1975 when the "Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique d'Outre-Mer" (ORSTOM), the forerunner of IRD, decided to post one scientist as scientific secretary at IFS. IRD continues to provide a Research Coordinator on secondment. Taking into account the financial contribution of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the salary of the IRD scientist posted at IFS, France is a notable donor to IFS, contributing about 6 % of the total IFS budget.

The first French scientist posted in Stockholm was Jacques Gaillard, who was to become seconded a second time. It was Gaillard who established the *Monitoring and Evaluation System for Impact Assessment (MESIA)* so vital for IFS in orienting its policies. He also carried out the first five MESIA studies himself. Other IRD scientists who have been posted at IFS are Jacques Baldensperger, Jean-Louis Lierdeman, and Jean-Marc Leblanc. These scientists have been in charge of one of the eight IFS Research Areas, their primary responsibilities being to handle the evaluation and selection process of the research applications, the allocation of grants, the organization of workshops and the follow up of the grantees.

Photo: Brian Porter

IFS and IRD mingling after a recent dinner. From left: Serge Treche, Nutritionist IRD, Adviser to IFS in Food Science; Pierre Roger, Microbiologist IRD (retired), Chairman IFS Board of Trustees; Michael Ståhl, Director IFS; Catherine Aubertin, Sociologist IRD, Member of IFS Social Sciences SAC; Gunther Hahne, Agronomist and Head of DSP Department at IRD, Adviser to IFS in Crop Science; Jean-Marc Leblanc; Geneticist IRD, seconded to IFS as Scientific Programme Coordinator for Crop Science 2004-2008; Alexande de Kocko, Geneticist IRD, Adviser to IFS in Crop Science

Jean-Marc Leblanc, currently posted at IFS, is the Scientific Coordinator of the Crop Science Research Area, which annually handles some 300 applications, following up about 350 grantees and organizing two Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings annually.

By posting one scientist at IFS and providing French-speaking advisers, IRD and other French organizations significantly contribute to maintaining French as a working language at IFS. This is vital to allowing French-speaking scientists with limited English-language abilities, e.g. in West Africa, to benefit from IFS support. The presence of a French scientist within the IFS secretariat also contributes to maintaining and renewing the pool of French IFS advisers and to keep IFS functional as a bilingual organization in everyday operations. Moreover, the eminent IRD scientist Pierre Roger has served on the IFS Board of Trustees for eight years and is presently its chairperson.

A constructive complementarity

Both IRD and IFS are committed to strengthening scientific communities in developing countries and especially to supporting young scientists from the poorest countries.

There exists a constructive complementarity of IRD and IFS, a win-win situation which ensures the training of students interested in a research career, followed by support during their early career as scientists working in a research institution. IRD mainly provides PhD and Master grants (about 60% of its financing to scientists of developing countries is for PhD theses), whereas IFS focuses on young scientists from research organizations and universities in developing countries.

IRD funds institutions, research teams and individuals, while IFS primarily supports individuals but encourages candidates to form teams and helps such teams by offering them opportunities for training.

IFS also strengthens institutions indirectly by allowing them to keep the scientific equipment that the grantees received. It has been estimated that one piece of equipment acquired by an IFS grantee on his or her grant is used, on average, by 14 people.

Grants once provided to scientists by IRD and then

continued by IFS, guarantee sustainable support over time. Once PhD and MS students who are IRD grantees reach a position in a national research organization, they become young scientists eligible for IFS support. This has been true for more than 50 scientists. The support of IFS to grantees working in teams supported by IRD results in a "multiplication effect", while taking advantage of one of the specificities of IFS, i.e. assistance of individuals. IFS awards lead to greater recognition, which in turn results in improved access to international funds.

Mutual support of IFS and IRD

The combined expertise of IRD and IFS in promoting research within the natural sciences in developing countries is unique in Europe.

IRD metropolitan and overseas centres and networks disseminate information about IFS, especially in the French-speaking countries; IRD scientists provide information about IFS in developing countries and help IFS to identify promising candidates.

Similarly, during its scientific meetings and training courses, IFS disseminates information about IRD in the scientific communities of developing countries, indicating the role of IRD in supporting IFS and providing information on the kind of support scientists from developing countries may expect from IRD.

IRD (and CIRAD) provides IFS with advisers trained in research for development and with strong experience in developing countries. In turn, IRD scientists posted at IFS acquire an additional and specific experience that can be of great value to IRD. They contribute to creating or reinforcing IRD relationships with a wide range of international organizations working for development. The same applies to the members of the SACs who interact with many international scientists. Through the process of evaluation of the projects, advisers come into contact with scientists from developing countries who may become partners in research projects. Relationships established with IFS grantees are also beneficial in the long term, as grantees may become influential members of the scientific community in their countries.

IRD hosts events organized by IFS, especially SAC meetings. IRD has also offered access to its facilities abroad to IFS grantees for bibliographic searches.

New opportunities for more collaboration

The IFS Five Year Programme goals (2006-2010) overlap with those of IRD's Four-Year Plan (2006-2009). Geographical priorities - Africa and the poorest countries of Asia and Latin America - are also similar. In particular, exchanges with the Support and Training Department of IRD have identified some of the components of the IFS Capacity Enhancing Support that can be shared between both organizations (conceptualization and presentation of a research project; maintenance, repair and acquisition policy of scientific equipment) or developed in collaboration (statistical methods and experimental design; bibliographic searches on the Internet; presentations of scientific results for different audiences).

IRD has recently established a coordinating agency encompassing French organizations that devote part or all of their research and training activities to the development of developing countries, the "Agence Inter-établissements de Recherche pour le Développement" (AIRD). IFS is an international partner especially suited to reinforce AIRD activities.

The IFS-French connection is mutually beneficial and rests on experts devoted to the support of promising scientists in developing countries as well as on resources from both partners. The continuous posting of IRD scientists at IFS headquarters and the mobilisation of the French scientific community as advisers, allows IFS to remain a bilingual organization in keeping with the wishes of the founding fathers and in the interest of scientists in developing countries.

Photo: Brian Porter

Participants at the Workshop – including IFS Grantees from thirteen sub-Saharan African countries

The First Workshop on Capacity Enhancing Support in Pretoria, South Africa

In late May 2007, IFS organized a capacity enhancing support workshop in Pretoria, South Africa. Some 70 researchers, of who half were grantees and half resource persons and IFS staff, attended the workshop. The purpose was to provide the participating grantees with a range of activities which would help them advance in their scientific development and successfully complete their research projects. The workshop featured keynote speeches, lectures, presentations of African research networks and scientific counselling.

The capacity enhancing support offered by IFS includes a variety of components often in short supply among young scientists such as mentorship, thematic workshops, methodology courses, scientific paper writing workshops, access to scientific literature and support to attend scientific meetings. The Pretoria workshop was in itself a capacity-enhancing activity for the group of 39 selected grantees who attended. It was also an opportunity for IFS staff to dialogue with grantees around precisely what types of support are most needed.

The opportunity for grantees themselves to propose relevant activities for strengthening their own scientific skills was an important feature of the workshop. The grantee has the primary responsibility for proposing rel-

evant activities while the final decision is made by IFS. The support is made available either as funding for a grantee to participate in a single activity or a package of activities during his/her whole research project.

Ideally, all grantees would benefit from the support. When funds are limited, preference will be given to grantees in IFS priority countries.

As the range of capacity enhancing support being offered grows over time, a course catalogue of activities is being developed. IFS will not be in charge of all these activities, but will rather take every opportunity to organize workshops and courses together with other organizations, offering grantees the chance to participate.

Keynote speeches

During the workshop in Pretoria, the grantees also had the chance to learn from experienced scientists how to collaborate, network, and present their results. The grantees also got the opportunity to discuss and present their own projects in the form of posters, published on the web.

In the first of two keynote presentations, Sospeter Muhongo, International Council For Science (ICSU), Regional Office for Africa, Pretoria, South Africa spoke on Scientific Challenges in the Context of Global Climate Change and its Implications on Biological Production Systems in Africa.

Kassim Kulindwa, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, delivered the second keynote presentation on how to translate development issues into researchable problems.

Jose Jackson, a food scientist at University of Botswana, spoke about her experiences of making the transition from IFS grantee to established scientist. The research for which she was awarded her IFS grant dealt with the safety and physico-chemical characteristics of the fruit ackee. Her advice to budding scientists included establishing effective research and writing habits, and to identify research interests and funding opportunities, with the help of mentors and senior researchers, taking into account the needs of one's country.

During the workshop, grantees and resource persons worked together in small groups. This allowed for grantees to specify their needs for capacity-enhancing activities, and get some of these needs addressed.

Several of the proposals outlined by the participants in the various groups were similar. Among the suggestions were training workshops, some on a regional basis, on e.g. research methodology and design, data processing, scientific writing, leadership and project management skills, or on "alien" topics adjacent to but outside the core competence of the grantee.

Photo: Brian Porter

Workshop participant Priscilla Nyadoi, Uganda, on a field trip to the University of Pretoria's experimental farm

The give and take of networking

Two presentations and a round-table discussion were devoted to networking among IFS grantees. Networking is useful for several purposes such as information sharing, mentoring, collaboration, administrative help, lobbying and empowering grantees, empowering the grantees locally, facilitating access to a strategic facility and dealing with the internal management of the grant at the grantee's institution.

Photo: Brian Porter

A lecture by Prof John Taylor for the Workshop participants at the University of Pretoria Food Science Department

Yogeshkumar Naik, National University of Science and Technology, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, is current coordinator of SARBIO (Southern African Regional Network for Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology). He said networking is a question of give and take. It is an advantage to have a generous senior scientist on board and start small, moving from the local to the national and then international levels.

Working together does not happen spontaneously, cautioned Barthelemy Nyasse, University of Yaoundé, Cameroon and chairperson of the ACBIFS (Association Camerounaise des Boursiers de l'IFS – Cameroon Association of IFS Grantees), established in 2005. It often happens in unexpected ways, not always through acts of altruism but as an act of necessity, born of mutual dependence.

While IFS can assist in the networking process in various ways, in the final discussion, Nyasse stressed that grantees should not become over-dependent on IFS and expect the organization to solve all their problems. If that were to happen, we would risk facing a second period of colonisation, he said. Instead, take what IFS can provide, make good use of it and push your own research system at home to evolve and to reward you, he advised.

Together with Philippe Rasoanaivo, Institut Malagache de Recherche Appliquées, Madagascar, Barthelemy Nyasse also spoke on how to present your scientific results. Participants were guided through each section of a scientific paper such as Introduction, Methods and Materials, Results and Discussion, highlighting common mistakes which writers make under each section.

Philippe Rasoanaivo highlighted factors why young scientists do not publish their results such as a lack of leadership or motivation from their supervisor and inexperience. Researchers should recognize that they need to publish, inter alia to attract money in the form of research grants and to promote their careers. It is important to choose the right target journal to which to submit your manuscript and follow the instructions/guidelines provided. Another important piece of advice was learning by doing, which means to attend courses on writing research papers, read the instructions for authors, read reference papers and start to write your papers, Rasoanaivo said.

At the end of the workshop participants listed the types of capacity enhancing activities that they wanted to take part in. Some activities were conducted in 2007 and others deferred until 2008.

Photo: Brian Porter

Grantees presented posters of their research projects

IFS Focal Points – Intensifying Contacts With Young Scientists

In 2007, collaboration was strengthened with two regional organizations which help IFS reach out to young scientists. The organisations are Centre Régional pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement à faible coût (CREPA), representing West and Central Africa and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), representing South Asia. The collaboration relates to research in the field of water resources and sanitation. Both organizations function as regional partners to IFS. They are "Focal Points" for IFS and both have appointed a senior staff member to be contact person for IFS. The Focal Points collaborate with IFS when it comes to organizing workshops and field visits for young scientists, help them to improve their research proposals and support IFS grantees who conduct field and laboratory research through mentorship and networking.

During 2007, the IFS-CREPA partnership intensified, and many activities were carried out. These included the elaboration of a training programme with universities in Burkina Faso; the organization of an international training workshop on water resources in Bamako, Mali with some 50 participants; the participation of IFS grantees to the 2nd Forum of CREPA with the theme "Water, energy and environment: technology innovation and sustainable management in tropical areas". CREPA also participated in a seminar at the World Water Week (Stockholm) on bridging North-South gaps in research and education. CREPA was instrumental in identifying potential applicants for the IFS research grant scheme and helping them develop proposals. Moreover, CREPA was responsible for arranging the Scientific Advisory Committee meeting for the IFS Water Resources research area.

For BCAS, progress has been made in terms of forming a scientific committee, chaired by Dr Atiq Rahman; establishing contact persons in countries in the South Asia region and organizing and leading a workshop and a national-level training programme in Bangladesh. Moreover BCAS has identified potential grantee candidates in collaboration with IFS; identifying six categories of end users of research in various parts of Bangladesh. BCAS and IFS have brought together about 15 academic and research institutions (including public and private universities) in a common platform where the young staff members expressed interest to participate in research related to water and sanitation. In these institutions a faculty member has been identified to liaise with the focal point at BCAS for necessary follow up of water related research supported by IFS.

Photo: Cecilia Öman

Research on water ans sanitation is important in the collaboration between IFS and CREPA. The picture shows a water treatrment facility in Burkina Faso.

Focal Points novel form of collaboration

Collaborating with partner organizations through Focal Points helps expand and intensify support to young scientists in the research fields of water resources and sanitation. The establishment of Focal Points has grown out of the realization, that stimulating local expertise, initiatives and activities are paramount to achieving success in implementing projects not least in countries where the conditions for scientific research are challenging. Thus, enabling researchers from the various regions to conduct scientific research on locally relevant issues is essential in order to live up to the international commitments made on water and water-related issues for the decade 2005-2015.

IFS supports the Focal Point organizations to establish a critical mass of researchers within a region and/or on a theme and then supports the researchers to carry out their projects as well as disseminating and implementing results. The Focal Points in turn serve as a professional help-desk for applicants and grantees by visiting them and establishing contacts with senior scientists and other professionals in the region.

In areas where the IFS Water Resources Research Area has operated without local partner organizations acting as Focal Points, the impact of activities has left significant room for improvement. For example, in assessing the success of a single research training workshop on how to conceptualize and prepare new research projects, participants – young researchers and would-be IFS grantees - report very positively and say they feel they have learnt a lot. Yet, a workshop of this kind is usually not sufficient to increase their scientific capacity to such a level that international reviewers will then recommend their projects for funding. Results show that only about 30% of participants will submit applications after a one-time event. However, with the support of Focal Points, the submission rate increased to around 80%. And the success rate in terms of gaining IFS support for such applications rose from 10% to about 80% thanks to Focal Point interaction combined with a follow-up workshop. This is but one example of the significantly higher impact in areas where Focal Points are active.

IFS support to young researchers in collaboration with the two Focal Points includes:

Photo: Cecilia Öman

Flooding is an important research topic. This is a flooded farm outside Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 2007, where farmers were forced to become fishermen.

Photo: Cecilia Öman

End-user meeting in Dhaka 2007 arranged by BCAS and IFS. Meetings with end-users are important for discussions of their needs and to learn from their knowledge. This information is then transferred into research projects.

1. A five-day training course to develop a scientific project proposal. The training includes lectures on scientific methodologies, access to scientific literature and fundraising; field visits to meet with potential end users; and development of an individual research proposal under the supervision of a senior researcher.
2. Follow-up with guidance and support from local organizations to each workshop trainee
3. Project proposal review by 10 international senior researchers, compilation and forwarding the comments to each researcher
4. Another five-day workshop is offered for revision of research proposals that were unsuccessful in obtaining funding. The workshop contains lectures in combination with revision of the proposal according to the comments forwarded from the reviewers under the supervision of senior researchers.
5. Follow-up with guidance and support from local organizations to each workshop trainee
6. Workshops to provide a platform for researchers to establish contacts with potential end users, those who stand to be potentially interested in or affected by the outcomes of scientific research.

All in all, due to the introduction of Focal Points, the level of IFS-supported activities in the two sub-regions has increased in terms of the number of research proposals submitted to IFS in the field of water resources and sanitation, as well as the number of approved grants and training workshops conducted.

Evaluation of IFS/OPCW grants

In 1997, an international treaty, The Chemical Weapons Convention, went into effect, banning the development, production, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons. The Convention mandated the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to eliminate the scourge of chemical weapons and verify their destruction. The Organization also focuses on capacity building for the peaceful application of chemistry in areas relevant to the Convention.

From 1998-2007, IFS and OPCW have jointly given 105 grants to scientists in Africa for research fostering the peaceful uses of chemistry.

Some examples of research funded by this programme are e.g. biochemical studies on local crops for increased value as functional foods, evaluation of locally harvested rubber for use in local drug production, strategy for use of ethnobotanicals in tick control, and mercury in the meat from cattle grazing near goldmines.

In 2006, IFS and OPCW jointly decided to evaluate the funding. The evaluation was finalized in 2007 by Malin Åkerblom, Associate Professor, formerly Director of the Chemistry Programme at the International Science Programme, Uppsala University, Sweden, applying a modified version of the survey methodology developed for IFS MESIA (Monitoring and Evaluation System for Impact Assessment) studies by Jacques Gaillard and co-workers. The response rate among the 71 surveyed grantees (1998-2005) was 77%, equally from countries.

Thirteen of the 54 respondents had received two or three grants. Overall 19 (27%) of all grantees were female. This is an increase from the 15% women reported in a 2001 survey of African scientists, covering 1974-1999.

Only 17 of the respondents reported receiving other funding since their first IFS/OPCW grant. Thus, 37 grantees were currently relying mainly on the IFS/OPCW grant. From the start of their research career, 60% of the responding grantees had received funding from altogether about 50 other donors, but 40% had only received IFS/OPCW funding. An informative and continuously updated database of funding possibilities would be of great help to grantees.

Published 500 articles

The grantees had published around 500 articles between 1999 and 2006 in a total of 232 journals. The highest publication rate came four to five years after receiving the grant. (See Fig. 1) Spending extended periods of research time away from the home country increased the rate of publication, as could be expected. Their main contribution to the advancement of science was new knowledge; knowledge about the chemical composition of plants, including new molecules, knowledge about efficacy and safety of traditional medicine and of nutritional or industrial values of local crops, and knowledge about environmental pollution. In a few cases, chemical synthesis or modification of natural compounds was carried out, chemical analysis was predominant, but also biochemistry, molecular biology and pharmacology/toxicology were represented. Most grantees had their local or the African society in mind when choosing their research subject. Three main themes could be discerned – to make use of local plants, crops or other materials; to improve the economy, either for the poor, or for the national economy by reducing the need to import goods and providing a basis for export products; and to give a basis for sound management of land and water resources.

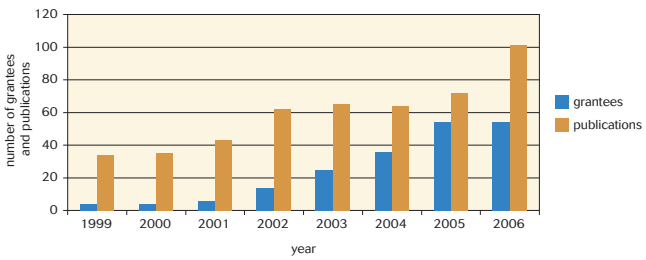

Fig. 1 "Publish or perish" is a saying among scientists, and grantees do publish. In all, over 500 articles were published by the 54 responding grantees during the period 1999 to 2006.

In order for the funding bodies to provide the most suitable support, the grantees were asked to indicate the main obstacles for research, ranking the four foremost difficulties. Overall, lack of funding and lack of access to sophisticated equipment were far and away the major problems mentioned, tightly followed by lack of consumables and supplies. Other responses indicate that any financial support would, to a large extent, be used for equipment. At the bottom of the list, we find incentives for research, such as salaries. (See Fig. 2)

Equipment repair was one of the main recurring difficulties mentioned, something which may sometimes be downplayed. It is not always appreciated that the cost of running a piece of equipment may be estimated at about 20% of the original price annually. Inferior infrastructure, poor access to documentation and lack of good technicians and students were also high on the list.

A majority of the grantees said they found the administration of the grant excellent and the selection process good-excellent, but they were considerably less satisfied with aspects such as scientific counselling and support with maintenance of research equipment. (See Fig. 3)

Summing up, Malin Åkerblom concludes that the IFS/OPCW grant, though comparatively small (10-12000 USD) certainly can play an important role in initiating a research process where little or nothing is available, or where the grantee wants to open up a new research avenue. But it is an uphill struggle, and it is suggested that IFS and OPCW should pay special attention to:

- Assisting and encouraging grantees to find funding opportunities
- Increased funding for a second grant
- Grants for equipment
- Funds for material to run and repair equipment
- Repeated hands-on training on the spot for technicians – and grantees – on maintenance, repair and optimal use of equipment
- Support to attend scientific conferences of high calibre and to pay research visits to good research institutions
- Regional collaboration.

The full evaluation report will be published by IFS in 2008.

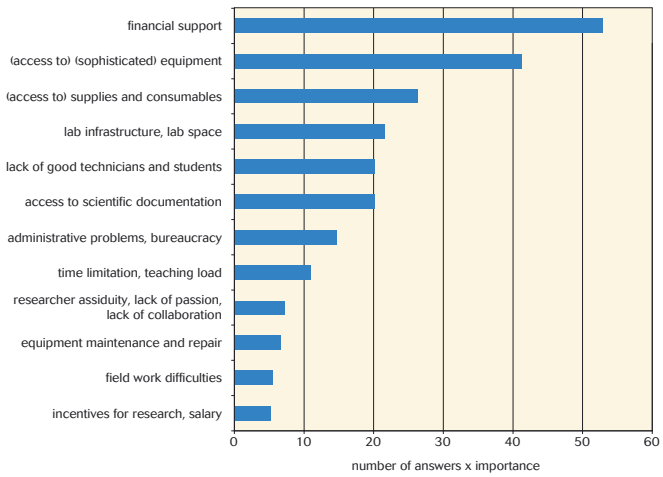

Fig. 2 The grantees were asked to indicate the main obstacles they experience doing scientific research. The report presents this weighted scoring of the 12 foremost difficulties encounted.
1=least impact; 4=highest impact

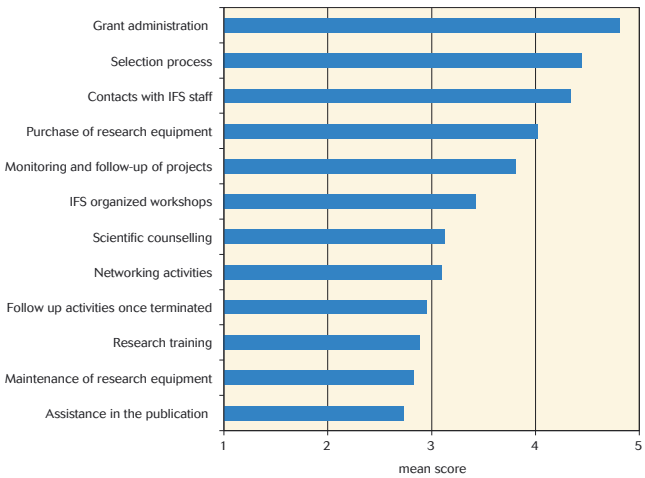

Fig. 3 The grantees also gave an overall assessment of the support they had received from IFS, broken down under a number of headings.
1=unacceptable; 5=excellent

Photo: Brian Porter

Dr Horacio Zagarese, 8th IFS Sven Brohult Awardee, presenting his research at the annual IFS Dinner in November 2007

The 8th IFS Sven Brohult Award

The 8th IFS Sven Brohult Award is presented to Dr Horacio Zagarese of Argentina for his research in environmental aquatic photobiology.

Dr Zagarese is Associate Professor at Instituto de Investigaciones Biotecnológicas, Instituto Technologico de Chascomus (IIB-INTECH), Universidad Nacional de General San Martín, Buenos Aires and has previously received three IFS grants (1994, 1997 and 1999) and the IFS Jubilee Award in 1999.

His research, which essentially is of a basic science nature, has largely concentrated on the understanding of the response of planktonic organisms to the direct and indirect effects of sunlight, particularly of its UV component.

Nowadays, it is commonly known that ozone depletion is one of the factors that alters the effect of ultraviolet radiation on biological ecosystems.

However, at the time when Horacio received his first grant, in 1994, very little was known on this topic. Ever since he started with his IFS project, Horacio has been at the forefront when it comes to the study of the effects of UV radiation on plankton communities.

Photo: Brian Porter

Dr Horacio Zagarese, Argentina

Over the years, he has developed into a world leading and well respected scientist in this topic. He has produced numerous scientific papers of high quality, and created an strong research group around him. He has been able to secure substantial funding for his research from national and international sources and is often requested to act as scientific reviewer of project proposals and scientific papers for numerous renowned national and international science foundations and scientific journals.

Workshops organized by IFS and

Subject matter and geographical coverage	Type of workshop
Integrated coastal zone management (Southern and Eastern Africa)	Thematic specialization
Grey-water reuse (Middle East & North Africa)	Thematic specialization & research conceptualization
Multidisciplinary (Madagascar)	Science methodology & research conceptualization
Repair of scientific equipment (Bangladesh)	Training
Water resources (West Africa)	Science methodology & research conceptualization
Water resources (West Africa)	Revision of applications
Agriculture & Forestry (Tanzania)	Science methodology & research conceptualization
Water resources (West Africa)	Science methodology & research conceptualization
Capacity enhancing workshop for IFS grantees: Multidisciplinary (Sub Saharan Africa)	Scientific counseling for selected IFS African grantees
Pesticides in water bodies (West Africa)	Thematic specialization & manuscript preparation
Drug Discovery from African Flora (Sub Saharan Africa)	Thematic specialization & project conceptualization
Water resources (international)	Policy and management
Soil science (Sub Saharan Africa)	Science methodology
Vulnerability of Water Resources in the context of global environmental change (Sub Saharan Africa)	Thematic specialization & research conceptualization
Social sciences (Sub Saharan Africa)	Science methodology & research conceptualization
Social sciences (Sub Saharan Africa)	Revision of applications
Integrated water resources management (South Asia)	Revision of applications and manuscript preparation
Multidisciplinary (Zimbabwe)	Follow up of grantees' research
Integrated coastal zone management (Southern and Eastern Africa)	thematic specialization & research conceptualization
Launching IFS Alumni Association in Uganda	Research conceptualization
Water resources (Central America)	Science methodology & research conceptualization
Multidisciplinary - River basin management (Volta River basin countries)	Science methodology & research conceptualization
Grey water reuse (Middle East & North Africa)	Science methodology & research conceptualization
Multidisciplinary (Vietnam)	Science methodology & research conceptualization
Social sciences (Philippines)	Conceptualization of research proposals
Water resources (Sub Saharan Africa)	Manuscript preparation
Food Science - traditional grains (Sub Saharan Africa)	Thematic specialization
Chemical Ecology of Plants & Insects (Latin America)	Field course; thematic specialization
Water resources (East Africa)	Research project conceptualization
Analytical Chemistry (water) (Bangladesh)	Use of scientific equipment

BCAS Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies
CAPNet Capacity Building for Integrated Water Resources Management
CODESRIA Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa
CREPA Centre Regional pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement à faible cout
CPWF Challenge Program on Water and Food
ICRAF World Agroforestry Centre
ICSU-ROA International Council for Science - Regional Office for Africa
IEBRI Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (Vietnam)
IRD Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
INWRDAM Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management
IWMI International Water Management Institute
MISTRA Foundation for Strategic Environment Research

its collaborating partners in 2007

IFS Partner	Venue	Month	Duration	Participants (including resource persons)
WIOMSA; Stockholm University	Tanzania	February	3 days	19
INWRDAM	Jordan	February	5 days	20
Inst. Malagache de Recherche Appliquées	Madagascar	February	3 days	10
BCAS	Bangladesh	March	4 days	10
CREPA	Burkina Faso	March	3 days	15
CREPA	Mali	March	5 days	20
Sokoine University of Agriculture	Tanzania	May	8 days	25
CREPA	Burkina Faso	May	5 days	10
ICSU-ROA; University of Pretoria	South Africa	May	5 days	70
CREPA	Benin	June	6 days	21
NAPRECA	Uganda	July	6 days	8
BCAS; CAPNET; CREPA; UNESCO; Water Net	Stockholm	August	1 day	50
ICRAF; TSBF	Tanzania	September	5 days	20
START; UNESCO	Netherlands	September	21 days	25
Uppsala University; IRD	Burkina Faso	September	12 days	30
IRD; CODESRIA	Senegal	October	5 days	16
BCAS	Bangladesh	October	7 days	25
University of Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	October	2 days	30
MISTRA; WIOMSA; Stockholm University	South Africa	October	3 days	20
Makerere University	Uganda	October	4 days	16
National University of Costa Rica	Costa Rica	October	5 days	20
IWMI; CPWF	Ghana	October	8 days	22
INWRDAM	Jordan	October	5 days	10
IEBR; VAST	Vietnam	November	5 days	25
SEARCA	Philippines	November	1 day	50
AuthorAid	Kenya	November	7 days	20
University of Pretoria	South Africa	November	5 days	36
MISTRA; National University of Chile; Swedish Agr University	Chile	November	14 days	26
Maji na Ufanisi	Kenya	December	5 days	20
NITUB	Bangladesh	December	5 days	5

Maji na Ufanisi Water and Development (Kenya)
NAPRECA Natural Product Research Network for Eastern and Central Africa
NITUB Network of Instrument Technical personnel and User scientists of Bangladesh
SEARCA Southeast Asian Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture
START global change SysTem for Analysis, Research and Training
TSBF Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Institute
UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VAST Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology
WIOMSA Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association

Excerpt from the IFS Audited Financial Statement 2007

Administration Report

Information about the activities

For the year 2007, IFS provided support to approximately 2500 young scientists in developing countries in the form of research grants, travel grants to scientific meetings and conferences, feedback on research proposals including the failed applications, assistance in the purchasing of equipment and supplies, arrangement of workshops and training courses, network support and awards for scientific achievement. Three hundred and two (302) new research grants were awarded.

In addition, Programme Services included meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committees where research grant applications were reviewed and recommended for funding; staff costs and allocated general and administrative costs to provide this support. In total, Programme Services expense totalled SEK 48 796 128 (EUR 5 100 000), or 90% of total expense, for the year 2007.

The IFS granting process includes the receipt and registration of the research grant applications and the internal pre-screening of all proposals. Thereafter, applications are sent to internationally established scientific advisers and experts for comment (IFS has approximately 1400 advisers in its database). The proposals are then reviewed and prioritised at the meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committees (SAC), these meetings are held twice each year with the participation of approximately ninety advisers. Upon the recommendations of the SACs, the IFS Director approves the research grants for funding. Thereafter, the Secretariat draws up the contracts for signature by the grantee, head of institution and the IFS Director. During the research period (one to three years, renewable twice), IFS provides supporting services to the grantees.

The advisers and experts involved in the evaluations of the proposals do not receive remuneration for reviewing applications nor for participating in the SAC meetings. The estimated value of these contributed services is not reflected in this report.

Financial Result

Recommendation for the disposition of the net result

Balance, 1 January	3 326 288	(EUR 350 100)
Net Income less Expense for the Year	-1 586 725	(EUR -167 000)
	1 739 563	(EUR 183 100)

The Board of Trustees and Director recommend that the accumulated surplus is carried forward to the following year

1 739 563	(EUR 183 100)

The result of the organization's activities, and the financial position at the end of the year, are reflected in the following Statement of Income and Expense, Balance Sheet and accompanying notes.

All amounts in the Audited Financial Statement are shown in Swedish Crowns (SEK) unless otherwise noted.

Accounting Principles

The evaluations and assessments are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in Sweden. The Financial Statement is in conformance with the laws on annual financial reports and is consistent with last year's.

Accounting for Contributions

The IFS programme is funded annually by various donor organizations. Some of the contributions are unrestricted (Core Funds) and some contain restrictions on their use (Donor Restricted Funds).

Core Funds

Core funds are used for all aspects of the on-going operations of IFS. Core funds are recorded at the time of official notification by the Donor on the accrual basis of accounting.

Donor Restricted Funds

Donor restricted funds are used in accordance with the restrictions placed by the contributor. Donor restricted funds are recorded at the time of official notification by the Donor as deferred revenue. These deferred revenues are accounted for as self-balancing funds and the Restricted Contributions are recognized in the year in which the related expenses are incurred (utilized).

Contributions not received as of 31 December are accounted for as Donor Receivables.

Research Grants

Research grants are recorded as grant expense and as a liability at the time that the grants are approved by the Director.

Receivables

Receivables are recorded according to an assessment of the amounts that are anticipated to be received.

Foreign Currency

Receivables and liabilities in foreign currency are accounted for in Swedish Crowns at the exchange rate as of the date of the Balance Sheet.

Equipment, Furniture and Fixtures

Equipment, furniture and fixtures are recorded at cost and depreciated using the straight line method over a period of five years.

Short-term Investments

Short-term investments contain securities and are accounted for at book value.

Leasing Agreements

Leasing agreements, irrespective of whether they are financial or operational, are accounted for as ordinary operational leases therefore the expenses are recorded as they are paid.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

(in thousands SEK) (SEK 1 = EUR 0.11)

	1 January - 31 December 2007	1 January - 31 December 2006
Programme Revenue		
Core Contributions	38 787	35 707
Donor Restricted Contributions	12 625	7 532
Grants Withdrawn	376	1 242
Other Programme Revenue	135	171
Total Programme Revenue	51 923	44 652
Programme Expense		
Programme Services	48 796	39 498
Fundraising and Partnership Building	2 799	1 769
Management and General	2 660	1 750
Total Programme Expense	54 255	43 017
Programme Income less Expense	-2 332	1 635
Interest Income and Expense		
Interest Income	745	280
Interest Expense		1
Interest Income less Expense	745	279
Net Income less Expense	-1 587	1 914

BALANCE SHEET

(in thousands SEK) (SEK 1 = EUR 0.11)

	31 December 2007	31 December 2006
Assets		
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets		
Equipment, Furniture and Fixtures	314	434
Financial Assets		
Long-term Donor Receivables	967	1 135
Total Fixed Assets	1 281	1 569
Current Assets		
Current Receivables		
Donor Receivables	2 589	2 531
Other Current Receivables	108	78
Prepaid Expense and Accrued Income	1 207	1 191
Total Current Receivables	3 904	3 800
Short-term Investments	33 684	17 904
Cash and Bank Balances	4 316	4 801
Total Current Assets	41 904	26 505
Total Assets	43 185	28 074
Equity and Liabilities		
Equity		
Restricted Equity		
Board Designated Fund for Contingencies	2 500	2 000
Total Restricted Equity	2 500	2 000
Unrestricted Equity		
Balance, 1 January	3 326	1 912
Net Income less Expense for the Year	-1 587	1 914
Total Unrestricted Equity	1 739	3 826
Total Equity	4 239	5 826
Current Liabilities		
Research Grants Payable	15 436	11 859
Deferred Restricted Contributions	5 623	6 307
Accounts Payable	1 242	2 133
Other Current Liabilities	3 607	365
Accrued Expense and Prepaid Income	13 038	1 584
Total Current Liabilities	38 946	22 248
Total Net Assets and Liabilities	43 185	28 074
Pledged Assets: provision for credit cards	400	400
Contingent Liabilities	None	None

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Director of Research (retired), Laboratory of Microbiology, Institut de Recherche pour le Developpement (IRD), University of Provence, France
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Director, Institute of Environmental Studies, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe

Professor Bo Mattiasson, Sweden
Head, Department of Biotechnology, Center for Chemistry & Chemical Engineering, Lund University, Sweden

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Dr Oumar Niangado, Mali
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Head, International Relations, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), Switzerland

Professor Dr Atta-ur-Rahman, Pakistan
Federal Minister / Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan

Professor Dr Yola Verhasselt, Belgium
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Ms Wendy White, USA
Former Director, Board on International Scientific Organizations, The National Academies, USA

Dr Michael Ståhl, Director, IFS (ex-officio)

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Scientific Programme Coordinator, Social Sciences (as of June)

Dr Linley Chiwona-Karltun
Scientific Programme Coordinator, Food Science (two year project)

Ms Maria Dutarte
Scientific Programme Coordinator Social Sciences (up through May)

Ms Rumila Edward
Programme Administrator, Water Resources

Ms Annika Eriksson
Programme Administrator, Animal Production and Aquatic Resources

Ms Eva Gerson
Head of Finance and Administration

Dr Nighisty Ghezae
Head of Programme

Dr Richard Hall
Scientific Programme Coordinator, Forestry / Agroforestry

Mr Henrik Hovmöller
Manager, Database and Statistics

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Scientific Programme Coordinator, Natural Products

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Mr Brian Porter
Manager, Network and Information

Ms Eva Rostig
Programme Administrator, Natural Products

Dr Michael Ståhl
Director

Ms Pirkko Tolamo
Office Manager

Ms Marianne Widingsjö
Personnel and Accounting Administrator

Dr Cecilia Öman
Scientific Programme Coordinator, Water Resources

IFS Affiliated Organizations 2007

National Organizations

Argentina
- Academia Nacional de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales (ANCEFN)
- Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET)

Australia
- Australian Academy of Science (AAS)

Austria
- Fonds zur Förderung der Wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF)
- Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (ÖAW)

Bangladesh
- Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR)

Belgium
- Académie Royale des Sciences d'Outre-Mer (ARSOM)
- Académie Royale des Sciences des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique
- Koninklijke Academie voor Wetenschappen, Letteren en Schone Kunsten van België (KVAB)

Bolivia
- Academia Nacional de Ciencias de Bolivia (ANCB)

Brazil
- Academia Brasileira de Ciencias (ABC)
- Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPQ)
- Fundaçao Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ)

Burkina Faso
- Ministère des Enseignements Secondaire, Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (MESSER)

Cameroon
- Ministry of Scientific and Technical Research

Central African Republic
- l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique

Chad
- Direction de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique, MESRS

Chile
- Academia Chilena de Ciencias
- Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica (CONICYT)

China
- Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)

Colombia
- Academia Colombiana de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales (ACCEFYN)
- Centro para la Investigación en Sistemas Sostenibles de Producción Agropecuaria (CIPAV)
- Instituto Colombiano para el Desarrollo de la Ciencia y Tecnología (COLCIENCIAS)

Congo (Brazzaville)
- Direction Générale de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique, MENRST

Costa Rica
- Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnológicas (CONICIT)

Côte d'Ivoire
- Académie des Sciences, des Arts, des Cultures d´Afrique et des Diaporas africaines

Cuba
- Academia de Ciencias de Cuba (ACC)
- Ministry for Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation

Denmark
- Akademiet for de Tekniske Videnskaber (ATV)
- Det Kongelige Danske Videnskabernes Selskab (RDVS)

Ecuador
- Fundación para la Ciencia y la Tecnología (FUNDACYT)

Egypt
- Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT)

El Salvador
- Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT)

Ethiopia
- Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission (ESTC)

Finland
- Delegation of the Finnish Academies of Science and Letters

France
- Académie des Sciences
- Centre de Coopération Inter-nationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD)
- Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)
- Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)

Germany
- Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

Ghana
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Guinea
- Direction Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique

Guinea-Bissau
- Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisa (INEP)

Guyana
- Institute of Applied Science and Technology

Honduras
- Consejo Hondureño de Ciencia y Tecnología (COHCIT)

India
- Indian National Science Academy (INSA)

Indonesia
- Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia (LIPI)

Israel
- The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Jamaica
- Scientific Research Council (SRC)

Jordan
- Royal Scientific Society (RSS)

Kenya
- Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI)
- Kenya National Academy of Sciences (KNAS)

Korea DPR (North)
- Academy of Sciences of DPR Korea

Korea R (South)
- National Academy of Sciences (NAS)

Kuwait
- Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR)

Latvia
- Latvian Academy of Sciences (LAS)

Lesotho
- The National University of Lesotho (NUL)

Liberia
- University of Liberia (UL)

Madagascar
- Académie National Malgache

Malawi
- National Research Council of Malawi (NRCM)

Malaysia
- Malaysian Scientific Association (MSA)
- Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation

Mali
• Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (CNRST)
• Comité National de la Recherche Agricole (CNRA)

Mexico
• Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT)

Mongolia
• Mongolian Academy of Sciences

Morocco
• Centre National de Coordination et de Planification de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique (CNR)
• Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II

Mozambique
• Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (UEM)
• The Scientific Research Association of Mozambique (AICIMO)

Nepal
• Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (RONAST)

Netherlands
• Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen (KNAW)

Niger
• Université Abdou Moumouni

Nigeria
• Federal Ministry of Science and Technology (FMST)
• The Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS)

Norway
• Det Norske Videnskaps-Akademi (DNVA)

Pakistan
• Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (PCST)

Panama
• Secretaria Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnologia e Innovación (SENACYT)
• Universidad de Panamá

Papua New Guinea
• The University of Papua New Guinea

Peru
• Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONCYTEC)

Philippines
• National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP)

Poland
• Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS)

Saudi Arabia
• King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST)

Senegal
• Délégation aux Affaires Scientifiques et Techniques, MRST

Seychelles
• Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS)

Sierra Leone
• Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR)

South Africa
• National Research Foundation (NRF)

Sri Lanka
• National Science Foundation (NSF)

Sudan
• National Centre for Research (NCR)

Sweden
• Ingenjörsvetenskapsakademien (IVA)
• Kungliga Skogs- och Lantbruksakademien (KSLA)
• Kungliga Vetenskapsakademien (KVA)

Switzerland
• Council of the Swiss Scientific Academies (CASS)
• Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

Tanzania
• Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH)

Thailand
• National Research Council of Thailand (NRC)
• Thailand Research Fund (TRF)

Tunisia
• Direction Générale de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique, MES

Uganda
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• Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST)

United Kingdom
• The Royal Society
• Natural Resources Institute (NRI)

Uruguay
• Programa de Desarrollo de las Ciencias Basicas (PEDECIBA)

USA
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• National Academy of Sciences (NAS)
• New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS)

Venezuela
• The Ministry of Popular Power for Science and Technology

Viet Nam
• Ministry for Science and Technology (MOST)

Zambia
• National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research (NISIR)

Zimbabwe
• Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre (SIRDC)
• University of Zimbabwe

Regional Organizations

Africa
• Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)
• Association of African Universities (AAU)
• Centre Regional pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement à faible coût (CREPA)
• Institut du Sahel (INSAH)
• The African Academy of Sciences (AAS)
• West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD/CORAF)
• Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)

Latin America and the Caribbean
• Centro Agronónomico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE)
• The Caribbean Academy of Sciences (CAS)
• Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)

International Organizations

• BioNET-INTERNATIONAL (The Global Network for Taxonomy)
• International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development (IOCD)
• International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
• The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS)

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR):
• CGIAR Secretariat
• Bioversity International
• Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT)
• Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
• International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
• International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)
• International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
• World Fish Center

2007 une année record pour l'IFS

2007 a été une excellente année pour l'IFS : nous avons pu accroître de façon très significative l'aide que nous apportons aux jeunes chercheurs des pays du Sud à infrastructure de recherche fragile. Notre budget est passé de 44,6 millions de couronnes en 2006 à 52 millions de couronnes (8,6 millions $; 5,6 millions €) en 2007.

L'augmentation du budget s'est traduite bien évidemment par une augmentation de nos activités annuelles. De fait, 302 bourses ont pu être financées en 2007 ce qui représente un record absolu depuis la création de l'IFS. Parallèlement, en collaboration avec des organismes partenaires nous avons pu organiser plus de 28 ateliers qui ont bénéficié à 600 de jeunes chercheurs. Deux de ces organisations -CREPA and BCAS – sont présentées dans ce rapport.

Le nombre des jeunes chercheurs soutenus par l'IFS a augmenté très significativement au cours des trois dernières années. Les raisons en sont une meilleure visibilité de l'IFS au niveau international, des projets de recherche de meilleure qualité et un support accru de la part de nos donateurs en réponse à la nouvelle stratégie de l'IFS.

L'IFS est maintenant au milieu de la période de réalisation de son plan quinquennal 2006-2010. La nouveauté de ce plan est l'établissement d'un Programme de Développement des Compétences (CEP) qui vient complémenter le programme de bourses compétitives mis en place depuis la création de la Fondation. Le CEP a pour but d'aider spécifiquement les jeunes scientifiques prometteurs des institutions ayant une infrastructure scientifique fragile et de faibles moyens de communication électronique qui limitent leurs accès aux débats scientifiques internationaux. Dans nombre de ces institutions se produit actuellement un changement de génération et les jeunes chercheurs ont besoin d'aide pour pouvoir devenir des chercheurs expérimentés et des leaders de leur communauté scientifique nationale.

Ce rapport annuel présente l'atelier organise pour de nouveaux boursiers à Prétoria en Afrique du Sud. Dans l'esprit du plan quinquennal, les boursiers ont pu participer à des activités de renforcement des compétences destinées à les aider à réaliser avec succès leur projet de recherche. L'atelier a comporté des conférences invitées, des cours, des présentations de réseaux africains de recherche et des sessions de conseils aux boursiers.

En 2007, pour améliorer ses capacités opérationnelles et répondre aux demandes d'un programme aux activités accrues et plus complexes, l'IFS a créé la nouvelle position de Directeur du Programme. Ce poste a été confié au Dr Nighisty Ghezae à qui nous souhaitons la bienvenue.

Afin de faciliter la mise en place des nouvelles activités de développement des compétences des boursiers, le Conseil d'Administration a demandé à l'IFS de mettre en place une étude de la faisabilité concernant l'établissement d'antennes de l'IFS dans les régions où la densité de boursiers est la plus importante.

L'IFS a également mis en place une stratégie de recherche de financements focalisée sur les Fondations des Etats-Unis. Une contribution significative a déjà été obtenue de la Fondation Mac Arthur pour une évaluation des équipements scientifiques de 15 universités africaines.

Un thème important de ce rapport est celui du partenariat de l'IFS avec la France. Des chercheurs et universitaires français de haut niveau ont été impliqués dans la création d'un IFS bilingue et l'aide apportée actuellement par la France à l'IFS est vitale pour maintenir ce statut (les projets de recherche peuvent être présenté en anglais ou en français)

Merci à tous ceux qui ont contribué à faire de 2007 une excellente année pour l'IFS !

Pierre Roger
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Michael Ståhl
Director

IFS Mission Statement

The need

Scientific research provides an important input for sustainable management of biological resources. Scientific knowledge is central for rural, urban, industrial, and policy development, which will lead to improvement of people's livelihoods.

The mission

IFS shall contribute towards strengthening the capacity of developing countries to conduct relevant and high quality research on the sustainable management of biological resources. This will involve the study of physical, chemical, and biological processes, as well as relevant social and economic aspects, important in the conservation, production, and renewable utilisation of the natural resources base.

The strategy

IFS shall identify, through a careful selection process, promising young scientists from developing countries with potential to become future lead scientists and science leaders. They will receive support in their early careers to pursue high quality research in developing countries on problems relevant to the mission, which will help them to become established and recognised nationally and internationally. Additional supporting services will be provided to researchers in scientifically weaker institutions and countries.

IFS shall act in collaboration with Affiliated Organizations and other national, regional, and international institutions utilising the complementary strengths of such partnerships.

Editor: David Finer
Cover photos (numbers from left to right):
Dina Andersson: 5; Ingrid Leemans: 3; Brian Porter: 1, 2, 4, 6, 7
Design: IdéoLuck
Printing: AlfaPrint, July 2008

Supporting Young Researchers in Developing Countries

International Foundation for Science (IFS) supports scientific capacity building in developing countries. It gives research grants and supporting services to young scientists at the beginning of their research careers. IFS was established as a non-governmental organisation in 1972, is funded by more than 15 donor organisations and has provided over 6,000 grants to researchers in 100 countries.

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