

**SAHELIAN SOLUTION
ANNUAL REPORT
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PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

This is the first year of SASOL operation. Consequently significant amount of time has been spent in programme development work by Board members and consultants. Below we discuss the major elements of this work and show how they are related for we believe our partners should, in this our first annual report, get a briefing not only on the programme rationale but also on how we see our programme evolving.

THE SCHOOLS APPROACH

The Schools Approach lies at the heart of SASOL philosophy. It is intended to teach the future Arid and Semi-arid (ASAL) farmers. In Kenya they form 52% of the population and are under 15 years of age. Three quarters of them are students in schools. The objective is to enable them to lead productive lives under conditions of sound ecological management, which is in stark contrast to present accelerated degradation trends and decreasing incomes from the land. School children are to be taught theory and practice of the following concepts.

- Soil and Water Conservation;
- Organic Farming/Zero Grazing;
- Natural Pest Control;
- Agroforestry and Firewood Production;
- Production of ASAL Subsistence Crops;
- Production of ASAL Cash Crops;
- Production of Fruits and Vegetables;
- Animal Health Care;
- Farm Waterpoint Construction;
- Preventive Health Care and Nutrition;
- Primary Health Care; and
- Birth Control and AIDS Prevention.

In programming terms, the Schools Approach consists of three stages. Stage One consists of the provision of safe and adequate water for human consumption, livestock and vegetable plots in each school. Stage Two consists of teaching children and 24 parents per school the concepts mentioned above in practice on the school grounds (the 'school physical catchment'). Stage Three entails providing adult education on the same themes in the surrounding communities (the 'school social catchment').

Proposals for the Schools Approach have so far been written for three

districts. These are Kitui (164 schools), Kwale (100 schools), and Kilifi (50 schools). The Schools Approach in Kitui is already well underway. Kwale plans are ready and implementation awaits confirmation of co-financing by the EEC, UNICEF, and ICS. Discussions are afoot on the financing of Kilifi.

ASAL CASH CROPS

It is fundamental to SASOL philosophy that target groups pay, whenever feasible, for their own development. Under the present circumstances this means providing their own labour and materials such as sand, gravel and stones, as well as manufacturing clay bricks. However, apart from the occasional Harambee after a good harvest, cash contributions for development activities are minimal. Cash crops are to be introduced to enable farmers to finance some of the development costs.

The Kenya Government has decontrolled the prices of a number of ASAL cash crops recently. As a result, producers are now in a much better position to market ASAL crops for maximum returns to themselves rather than to state agencies. For years to come, SASOL will act as a benevolent intermediary to obtain the best possible farm-gate prices and to provide marketing services to ASAL farmers.

One of the crops introduced by SASOL in Kitui and Machakos is Sesame. Other examples to be introduced are Castor Oil, Chilies, and Cashew Nut. Prices for sesame (Ksh. 13 per kilogramme) and trial yields per acre indicate that net income from sesame is about twice as much as from maize, and that a maize/sesame association return is approximately 40% higher than the standard cropping pattern of maize and beans combination. Sesame's added benefit is that it tolerates drought more than both maize and beans. Therefore producers can cultivate maize and beans for subsistence and sesame for cash income.

Producers will contribute Ksh.3 per kilogramme of sesame produced for financing aspects of the Schools Approach Programme. These funds will be exclusively reserved to purchase materials, books, seeds, livestock, and to construct waterpoints. The rate of investment in the schools, including supplementary funding by donors, will be determined by producers surrounding the schools. In this manner communities will determine their own rate of development.

WATERPOINT NETWORK

Ultimately what is learned and practised in the school grounds must be applied on the surrounding farms to attain the goals of ASAL development. A

principal obstacle to achieving this is access to water for household use. This limits farm production. Women and girls lose between 3 to 6 hours a day from farm work while fetching water from long distances. Family health suffers because of limited water supply. Livestock lose condition as they trek looking for water. Improvements in livestock productivity can only come if water is available on farm. Reliable water sources are also required to improve cropping especially through compost use.

SASOL intends to introduce a waterpoint network between the farms, to drastically cut down on the time presently spent on obtaining water, and to increase its availability for alternative production.

In Kitui, waterpoints will mostly be shallow wells since the potential is high and unit cost low. A groundwater survey, to locate suitable sites, was completed in 2 locations. Another 4 locations will be surveyed in 1993. The target is to construct approximately 480 shallow wells. The number of other types of watersupply still needs to be established.

MARKET GARDENING PLOTS

The Schools Approach, introduction of ASAL Cash Cropping and establishing a Waterpoint Network are logical precursors to creation of sustainable production changes at the farm level. This will be achieved through supporting farming systems which take into account the fragile ASAL ecology.

SASOL will establish market gardening plots around the waterpoints owned and managed by selected women's groups as entry into this activity. Vegetables and fruits that will be grown will serve subsistence and cash needs. Crops will be grown by organic farming methods. Livestock will reside permanently at these plots to generate manure. Consequently growing of livestock feed will be an integral part of biomass production.

Feasibility studies are in progress for Kitui and Kwale which include obtaining commercial credit for each scheme. In the case of Kwale, the sale of produce has already been assured through DARAD Farm in Diani, which sells to beach hotels. Currently vegetable sales to these hotels stand at Ksh. 903,000 monthly and are projected to grow to Ksh. 1,500,000 monthly in two to three years. The legal framework for launching this activity has been completed.

ALTERNATIVE FARMING SYSTEMS

Alternative farming systems will be put in place once the above sub-activities are implemented. The proposed end condition production system is viable since it contains a number of elements which are highly attractive to farming families. These are:

- Time saving in fetching water;
- Time saving in fetching firewood;
- Time saving in minding cattle;
- Increased soil fertility;
- Increased crop and livestock yields;
- An improved resources base;
- Decreased risk of crop failure;
- Increased cash income;
- Farm capitalization;
- Diversification of produce and diet;
- Less need for off-farm wage labour;
- Increased standard of living; and
- Reduced dependence.

Though it will take some years before introduction of all elements of SASOL's envisioned farming system, demonstration plots by leading farmers and women groups will be established at the earliest opportunity. Obviously, this requires selection of areas where community participation and initiatives, reflected in their schools, farms, water infrastructure and so on, are highest.

POTENTIAL EFFECTS

Enhanced food security, increased income, skilled farmers, united families, an improved resources base, better living conditions, and generally a less fatalistic attitude to life set the stage for sustained development and a diversified economy. For example, agro-industry resulting from sesame production can be introduced in a few years. Given increased incomes veterinary services can be established from private funds. Organic farming further requires the permanent presence of a few heads of cattle on the farm premises, thus the introduction of dairy herds, with a view on producing for markets external to the communities.

During the past four months, SASOL has worked on developing a model of integrating wildlife and livestock production into smallholder farming systems. Admittedly, this so far applies to a limited number of wildlife species, but, it nevertheless paves the way towards the local population deriving income from wildlife, which in turn will ensure its long term survival. Presently, in contrast, wildlife in Kenya is faced with extinction outside the game parks since it cannot pay its way. Game parks are threatened by population encroachment, among other problems.

ICS/SASOL CHILD SPONSORING SCHEME

Recently SASOL has taken up child sponsoring in Kitui and South Nairobi on behalf of the International Christian Support Fund. Whilst the merits of a purely child sponsoring programme, in Kenya's rural areas, may be questioned, within SASOL's development framework, it becomes a key element in the sequence of activities starting with the Schools Approach. It is a pathway for some of the poorest students to learn survival skills.

In Kitui District there are 100 sponsored children in Mbusyani Sub-location of Kisasi location and 150 in Syomunyu Sub-location of Kanyangi location. In the slums of South Nairobi, 300 children are directly sponsored and another 250 children indirectly sponsored.

The areas, where these children come from, were selected on the basis of the apparent ability of parents and children to take their future into their own hands. Child sponsoring combined with the communities own efforts will possibly be sufficient for the Schools Approach to sustain itself. Thus following steps such as establishing the waterpoint network, bringing market gardening plots into operation, and introducing alternative production systems on the farms will only require minimal financing. Child sponsoring will therefore have a determining, permanent effect on area development.

In urban areas, past experience has shown that chances are high that some of the previously sponsored children assume a leading role in their communities, once they are adults. It is expected that those sponsored in the rural areas will become innovators in their communities.

Depending on ICS's willingness and ability to fund sponsoring for a larger amount of children, it is SASOL's intention to increase child sponsoring in Kitui from 250 to 1200. Selection will take place at the sub-locational level in the schools. The concept of child sponsoring as part of the Schools Approach and the related activities are integrated. SASOL target for child sponsoring is 4000 over the next eight years.

FINANCING

During the formative period of 1991 and 1992, most of SASOL's financing came from Board Members private funds although target groups made a significant contribution, the ravages of prolonged drought notwithstanding. Towards the end of October 1992, ICS came on the scene to finance food relief for the school children of Central and Kwa Vonza divisions of Kitui district. ICS further funded food relief for Somalia, and has become a permanent senior partner in the child sponsoring scheme.

If child sponsoring takes off at the envisaged scale, it appears that districts like Kitui need relatively little development financing. In Kitui a sizeable percentage of potential sesame profits are to be re-invested in the area. Additional support can probably be expected from medical NGO's like SIMAVI (waterpoints) and MEMISA (health care and health education), whilst credit for market gardening plots could possibly be obtained through SEFCO (supported by MATRIX and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs). UNICEF may reasonably be expected to sooner or later resume their role in children related development activities in Kitui.

Partial self financing in the other SASOL target districts (Machakos, Makueni and Kwale) will be less easy than in Kitui. It must be remembered that the first move towards the SASOL approach was made by Kitui Integrated Development Programme (KIDP) which was managed by the same individual developing the SASOL activities now. It started with supplying water and sanitation facilities to some 300 schools. The effect on community mobilisation was so positive that afterwards it was relatively easy for SASOL to commence implementing its strategy. Similarly, the KIDP sesame cultivation trial results also helped.

For the reasons mentioned above and since child sponsoring is likely to grow slowly in the near future, a more conservative and thus more expensive approach needs to be taken. An example of this is Kwale, for which a 100 school proposal has been written. It includes supplying water (2x46m³ water tanks) and sanitation facilities (Stage 1) as well as starting school catchments (Stage 2) in all schools and an adult education programme (Stage 3) in 10 schools. The two year cost is US\$1,500,000 of which 50% probably will be co-financed by the European Community. Approaches for the balance have been made to ICS, UNICEF and Bernard Van Leer Foundation from the Netherlands.

Given a more fertile ground in some locations of Makueni District for community involvement and participation, a more modest approach is possible. A scenario for initiating work in one or two locations is envisaged where approximately Ksh. 800,000 will be raised through SASOL membership

drives. These funds will be used to closely assess, in conjunction with potential target groups, the viability of jointly carrying out activities. Entry points would be the Schools Approach (of which child sponsoring forms a part), construction of waterpoints, and setting up of a revolving fund for marketing of a farming produce, so that incomes are improved and profits re-invested.

If the previous step generates the expected success, the Makueni development train can be set in motion by the following partners making the identified contribution. Child sponsoring by ICS of 300 children (Ksh. 3.5 million annually including SASOL overhead cost), waterpoint construction by SIMAVI, Terre des Hommes and Paul de Gruyter Foundation (Ksh. 3 million), a marketing fund by Rabobank (Ksh. 3 million). During the first two years SASOL would need Ksh. 1.5 million per annum to cover additional costs. After this period, costs can be covered by the profits from commodity marketing which will also cover the cost of ongoing and expanded activities.

DGIS, GTZ, and Foster Parents have expressed interest in SASOL carrying out the Schools Approach on their behalf in the districts where they are active. The World Bank, in conjunction with the ministry responsible for ASAL areas, is considering implementing the Schools Approach in all of Kenya's ASAL districts in a programme set to begin in 1994. It should, however, be noted that the Schools Approach for Agro-Ecological Zones VI and VII needs redefining since the existing conception is applicable to Zones IV and V. Further, working at such a large scale under government procedures carries the risk of precluding community participation. Though safe drinking water and adequate sanitary facilities in schools are of high priority, the community's responsibility in its own development towards self-reliance is an overriding principle, however attractive funding from these donors will be to SASOL.

Developing a model for integrating wildlife and livestock production, geared towards the benefit of smallholders, is a SASOL objective for wildlife is part of ASAL ecology and potentially is a major source of income for ASAL populations. Towards that end, preparation for wildlife utilisation investigations in various parts of Kenya and Tanzania, reflecting different conditions and approaches, is under foot. Financing is being sought from the European Community through AID Environment and from the Rockefeller Foundation.

FIELD ACTIVITIES

KITUI FOOD RELIEF

Food relief was given to 98,302 children in 343 schools in Central and Kwa Vonza divisions, Kitui District, for a period of three months. SASOL organised procurement, transportation, distribution and administration of relief food, which included wheat, maize and beans. Maize, beans and sesame seed were distributed through the schools. This four month project terminates at the end of February 1993. It was sponsored by ICS and had a budget of Dfl.296,000.

SOMALIA FOOD RELIEF]

In conjunction with CARE Somalia, SASOL took part in food relief for Somalia. Food was targeted for Baidoa and Bardera. SASOL activities included purchase and delivery of 200 tonnes of Unimix and 40 tonnes of powdered milk. On site distribution, management, and administration was carried out by CARE Somalia. SASOL was further responsible for monitoring and evaluation. This four month project terminates in April 1993. It is sponsored by ICS at a budget of US\$200,000.

KITUI SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

This is implementation of the Schools Approach in 164 schools. Activities included soil conservation works on 1,640 acres of school farms/compounds, planting of 57,000 tree seedlings on the same acreage, planting of 544 acres with sesame, and planting of Napier Grass for feeding livestock, and construction of 23 shallow wells. Planting of chilies is in progress.

It should be noted that all work so far has been carried out by the school children and their parents free of charge. Further, the community has made a cash contribution of Ksh. 848,393. SASOL contribution to the programme is Ksh. 3,840,000 (US\$109,714).

KITUI SESAME PROJECT

The Kitui Sesame Project covers 10 locations. It was started experimentally in November 1991. Due to prolonged drought, yields so far have not amounted to more than 80 tonnes, which was locally consumed by the producers for lack of other food. The number of participating farmers is 3400. It is estimated that approximately 500 tonnes which will be marketed by SASOL in the second quarter of 1993. It is planned that a share of profits will be invested in the Schools Approach.

MACHAKOS SESAME PROJECT

The Machakos Sesame Project covers 2 locations with 143 participating farmers. As in Kitui, yields have been low, but are due to pick up significantly during the current rains. If successful, the project will be extended to 4 neighbouring locations.

CHILD SPONSORING PROGRAMME

Acting for ICS, during the past year, SASOL has been instrumental in the selection of 800 children who will be sponsored during the next 8 years. Of these, 550 are from the South Nairobi slums and 250 are from two sub-locations in Kitui. Child sponsoring in this case is tied to the Schools Approach. The SASOL target is to finally sponsor 4000 children in 4 districts. This will probably be accomplished by the end of 1993. The annual budget per child amounts to Dfl.540 of which 18% is spent on overhead cost on behalf of ICS and another 18% on behalf of SASOL. Two thirds of donations by sponsoring parents reach the child directly or the school or the community.

MANAGEMENT

SASOL is policy is made by a six member Board. The Secretary of the Board is the Chief Executive and is responsible for day to day management.

The Formation Board Members were:

George Mbate
Peter van Dongen - Treasurer
Josphat Mulyungi
Jaap Van Der Zee - Secretary
G-C. M. Mutiso - Chairman
Nicholas Hennety

During the year two Board members have become unavailable for a variety of reasons. Consequently the 1993 the Board is constituted as follows:

George Mbate
Peter van Dongen - Treasurer
Jaap Van Der Zee - Secretary
G-C. M. Mutiso - Chairman
Eliud Simon Mbilu

Albert Makau Kyambo

The Head Office personnel are currently 7 of which 4 are auxiliary staff. Field personnel in Kitui are 13 of which two are auxiliaries. At present there are no field personnel in other target districts.

CONCLUSION

We, the SASOL Board Members and the staff, would like to thank all our development partners for making it possible to launch our field activities. We are especially grateful to Kitui farmers, school children and teachers who have pointed the way. We look forward to many years of cooperation with all our partners in the name of development.

SASOL Board
January 1993