

Advice to PR before transition to FR

Title of the Project	Desertification and Livelihoods in Semi-Arid Afro-Eurasia
Project Leader	TANAKA Ueru
General advice and comments of PEC	
<p>This proposal seems to be well improved and in line with RIHN targets. Its purpose of how to deal with desertification and livelihood in semi-arid areas may well be utilized for future research on desertification. Nevertheless there is a general concern among PEC members that there should be more emphasis and interaction with local groups who are coping with desertification in the areas examined by this project. Gender issues might also be more integrated with the research framework in order to better understand the local reactions and changes. Implementing this proposal in three different localities would also require rather more systematic and concrete organization of the project in order to catch similarities and differences in each socio-ecological area. Related with this, the proposed social network and technology transfer should also be re-structured as there might be issues on the implementation side as well. Given the plan ahead and target to be achieved by the proposal, time limitation of 5 years should also be further considered and the overall agenda should practically be re-considered.</p>	
Reply	
<p>1. Interaction of local groups who are coping with desertification in the study areas</p> <p>Our project currently sets the study areas in West Africa (mainly Niger and Burkina Faso), Southern Africa (Namibia), Southwestern India and East Asia (China and Mongolia). Among the study areas, we focus more on West Africa where desertification has been seriously affected local livelihood. There, applied researches are done with ICRISAT-WCA who has a broad network with research institutes and experimental stations under local governments in West Africa, and some implementation activities related to desertification control are conducted with international and local NGOs in close contact with local people. Upon the progress of the project, we like to expand the opportunities and scales of interaction.</p>	
<p>2. Integration of gender issues in the research framework</p> <p>One of our study concerns is “vulnerable people” which may include the issues related to gender. As social network survey in one village of Niger done in 2011 identified the existence of isolated widow’s households, we like to further continue this case study.</p>	
<p>3. Re-structuring of social network survey and technology transfer</p> <p>Social network survey in our project has two major aims, i.e. to identify some aspects of sociological characteristics of the study site(s) and to integrate the component of this survey into a method of technology transfer.</p>	