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OTHER MATTERS

Consideration of ways and means of promoting know-how and technology transfer for combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought, as well as of promoting experience sharing and information exchange among Parties and interested institutions and organizations

Note by the secretariat

1. Pursuant to its terms of reference, as defined in decision 1/COP.5, and as requested by the Conference of the Parties (COP) through decision 9/COP.6, the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) at its third session had the following agenda item before it: Consideration of ways and means of promoting know-how and technology transfer for combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought, as well as of promoting experience sharing and information exchange among Parties and interested institutions and organizations. Consideration of this item was based on document ICCD/CRIC(3)/7 which had been prepared by the secretariat. This document has been reproduced and is available to enable the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) to take up the matter, as it relates to issues of importance to it.
2. Article 18 of the Convention provides provisions for transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of technology that is relevant to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought. Within the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) process, the scientific provisions relating to technology transfer are broad, and the subject of technology transfer is by its very nature interdisciplinary.

3. The document provides background information geared towards consideration of matters relating to technology transfer. It approaches the subject matter from a number of perspectives, and is an attempt to consolidate the available information from various sources which have emphasized the importance of technology transfer, know-how, and the possible ways and means of advancing them within the UNCCD process.

4. The report takes account of the deliberations of the CRIC on these issues during its first and second sessions, and describes thematic pathways to technology transfer including intergovernmental cooperation, cooperation and networking, private-public partnerships, small-scale enterprises, targeted training, direct public investment, financial incentives, enabling policy measures and education.

5. A number of activities and projects undertaken in support of the UNCCD process which have incorporated the promotion of various approaches to technology transfer have been presented. Much of the work tends to be country specific, and the projects and institutions that are involved in the subject matter are generally under the guidance of governments, multi-lateral and bilateral agencies, international research institutions, non-governmental organizations, universities and national research institutions.

6. Under Section IV of the document, the main approaches to technology transfer are presented with a view to advancing ways of improving the transfer of technology in support of UNCCD activities.

7. It has been observed that success in technology transfer depends on many elements, and key among them is building a cooperative partnership which invariably begins at local level. Measuring the extent to which these activities are taking place at local level can be interpreted as a performance measure for the utilization of science and technology.

8. The following issues are noteworthy, among others:

- (i) Transfer of Geographic Information Systems and training opportunities;
- (ii) Need to involve stakeholders in the national action programme (NAP) monitoring;
- (iii) Increasing scientific contributions to NAP implementation;
- (iv) Potential of traditional knowledge integration with modern technology;
- (v) Availability of remote sensing data for local level monitoring systems;
- (vi) Involvement of civil society in technology transfer projects;
- (vii) Inclusion of technology transfer in thematic programme network implementation;
- (viii) Investment profiles of technology transfer based on public-private and private-private partnerships;
- (ix) Formulation of preferential policies to encourage technology transfer.

9. The CST may wish to review and further structure the recommendations of the report and to propose ways and means of carrying out a sound scientific agenda that will make a major contribution to the success of the national, subregional and regional action programmes.

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