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Agenda item 7

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DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 1999)— CHINA 6023.00

Wuling Mountains Minorities Integrated Agricultural and Social Development Project Hunan

Number of beneficiaries	500,000
Duration	Three years

Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	2,989,875
Total food cost	2,015,000
Total cost to Government	17,092,610
Total cost to IFAD	11,200,000

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff focal point(s) indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2645).



1. The project covers five counties in western Hunan, located in the resource-poor, remote and densely populated Wuling mountain area of southern China. It is one of the poorest areas in the country, with an annual per capita income of RMB 300 yuan (US\$38). Average grain availability per capita is 238 kg a year, and villagers frequently lack cereals for three to four months annually.
2. Household food insecurity is caused by multiple factors: subsistence farmers living in scarce rain-fed arable land, adverse weather conditions with frequent floods and drought, fragile infrastructure in irrigation and transportation, farmers (especially ethnic minorities) lacking knowledge and technical skills, prevalent illiteracy, low attendance rate of primary schoolchildren, malnutrition and unhygienic living conditions. Farmers, especially women, suffer from a limited access to credit.
3. In accordance with decision 1999/EB.A/2 of the Executive Board, the project's objectives are to: a) develop poor farmers' capacity for food production (particularly women) by improving their practical skills and literacy level to enable absorption of technical information and handling of credit; b) increase their knowledge of health, hygiene and sanitation to improve their living conditions; and c) enhance the attendance rate of primary schoolchildren—particularly girls—with access to village schools.
4. WFP food provides local farmers with social development opportunities through training of practical skills in crop production, water management, economic tree cultivation, and livestock and fish production. Functional literacy/basic calculations and health/sanitation education are conducted using food as an incentive. Food-for-work activities will construct 42 clean drinking water supply systems and 3,715 household/school latrines. In addition, 44 village primary schools will be built.
5. A total of 658 villages (118,278 households and about 500,000 people) will benefit from the project overall. Project activities target primarily but not exclusively the ethnic minority people. Women on average compose 61 percent of the total beneficiaries and 68 percent of the workforce/recipients of food rations. Women's direct benefit from literacy and health training is as high as 80 percent.
6. WFP food assistance to western Hunan is designed to complement IFAD micro-finance activities. IFAD loans are invested in agricultural infrastructure development, land improvement, irrigation construction, production of food, livestock and fish, economic tree cultivation and income-generation activities.
7. Under a pilot agreement, the Hunan provincial government will reimburse to the project the equivalent of the full ocean transport and insurance cost of WFP commodities (US\$542,500). The contribution will provide the project with five additional drinking water supply schemes and 6,285 household/school latrines. Non-food resources of US\$325,000 are facilitated from wealthier Chinese provinces and special administrative zones to support ten out of the planned 44 village schools and at least one out of the 42 drinking water schemes. Meanwhile, Médecins sans frontières (MSF) and UNICEF



cooperate by sharing experience in sanitation education in rural China. WFP's Gender Action Fund has supported the sanitation education workshop and training materials. To strengthen the finance management capacity of Chinese Rural Credit Cooperatives (RCCs) at the grass-roots level, one German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) resident advisor provides RCCs in the project area with training sessions on credit monitoring and financial transactions.

