

ATNESA Network Meetings

During the workshop there were two ATNESA General Assembly Meetings, as well as several meetings of committees.

First ATNESA General Assembly

The First General Assembly Meeting was held in the afternoon of the first working day (Saturday 18 January). It was chaired by L P Singogo (Farming Systems Programme), the rapporteurs were R Shetto and T Simalenga, and most workshop participants attended.

The meeting started with a review of animal traction networking activities in Africa. This was introduced by the ATNESA Technical Adviser, P Starkey, who presented a paper describing and analysing recent experiences and organisational arrangements (see page 82). Dr K Apetofia of Togo highlighted some of the benefits of the West Africa Animal Traction Network, of which he was a steering committee member. The ATNESA steering committee member from Uganda, J Omoding, then described how an initial ATNESA Steering Committee had been formed in November 1990, during a meeting in Harare organised by AGROTEC (Agricultural Operations Technology for Small Holders in East and Southern Africa). The steering committee comprised:

- R Nazare, Zimbabwe, *Chair*
- E Mwenya, Zambia, *Secretary*
- E Kayumbo, Tanzania
- C Mbara, Kenya
- J Omoding, Uganda
- S Tlhaole, Lesotho
- L Sylwander, AGROTEC
- C Schmieg, GTZ
- P Starkey, UK, *Technical Adviser*

The committee had met in Lusaka in April 1991, to plan the present workshop and discuss formal network statutes. J Omoding had been given the task of drawing up draft statutes based on those of the West Africa Animal Traction Network. These were presented to the General Assembly and several points were discussed. The General Assembly then approved the formation of a small committee to review the statutes, in the light of the points raised, and prepare a revised draft for submission to the Second General Assembly, scheduled for the fifth day of the workshop. The committee was also to make appropriate arrangements for the election of a new Steering Committee, and to consider suggestions for future network activities.

Second ATNESA General Assembly

The Second General Assembly Meeting was held on the penultimate day. It was Chaired by A Muthama (Commonwealth Secretariat), the rapporteur was M Sizya and the meeting was attended by most workshop participants.

J Omoding, who had chaired the working group, presented the revised network statutes. After discussion and slight modification, the statutes were accepted by the general assembly (see page 50).

Reports of the progress of national networking activities were given for Uganda, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Kenya, Zambia and Tanzania. Some suggestions were made for future ATNESA activities.

The Chairman introduced the procedures for the Steering Committee election proposed by the working group. It had been agreed that the Steering Committee should have a geographical, disciplinary, gender and institutional diversity. As the committee was to be small, not all ATNESA countries would be able to have one of their nationals on the committee. Thus, in order to achieve geographical diversity, and ensure all countries were *represented* on the committee, it had been proposed have one committee member per broad geographical area within the ATNESA region. The committee members should be concerned about the animal traction interests of several countries. For the purposes of this election (and taking into account the countries then present), it was suggested and agreed that there be a minimum of one member from the Horn of Africa (including Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan), one from eastern Africa (including Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda), one from Central Africa (including Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe) and one from southern Africa (including Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland).

Eight people were nominated and given a chance to introduce themselves to the General Assembly. Six of these candidates were then elected onto the committee. Three people were nominated for the two committee positions reserved for donor agencies or international institutions. Following discussions, it was agreed that two of these would be committee members, and the third would act as an invited resource person (the committee was empowered to invite relevant individuals and organisations to assist its planning and deliberations). The General Assembly agreed that P Starkey should continue to act as ATNESA Technical Adviser. The new committee comprised:

- A Aganga, *Botswana*
- R Mpande, *Zimbabwe*
- E Mwenya, *Zambia*
- J Omoding, *Uganda*
- T Simalenga, *Tanzania*
- O Taha, *Ethiopia*
- L Sylwander, *AGROTEC*
- M Guntz, *GTZ*

Resource persons

- P Starkey, *UK (Technical Adviser)*
- H Helsloot, *The Netherlands*

Steering Committee plans

The new Steering Committee met immediately after the workshop, and asked E Mwenya to act as its new chairman. The committee stressed that while it would help to stimulate, coordinate and facilitate arrangements, the actual responsibility for implementing network activities would have to lie with individual ATNESA members in several countries (perhaps with support from resource organisations).

In the light of workshop discussions, the committee proposed that ATNESA members should undertake the following networking activities in the coming years.

- Form informal or formal national animal traction networks in as many countries in the region as possible. The success of ATNESA regional networking will depend on the effectiveness of these. The Tanzanian animal

traction network will prepare and circulate a paper on its experiences.

- Collect and collate information on organisations and individuals involved in animal traction in all countries in the region. Such information will be used in national and regional mailing lists and will form the basis of an ATNESA directory.
- Increase awareness of the existence, aims and objectives of ATNESA through publicity materials and announcements in newsletters.
- Prepare a report of the workshop and edit and publish the papers prepared for the first ATNESA workshop.
- Collaborate with Silsoe Research Institute in the planning and implementation of a regional workshop relating to animal draft power in 1993.
- Facilitate the holding of a small regional workshop on gender issues in animal traction.
- Facilitate the holding of a small regional workshop on animal-drawn transport, concentrating on issues of cart design.
- Facilitate the holding of a small regional workshop on the use of donkeys.
- Facilitate the holding of a small regional workshop relating to the design, manufacture and distribution of tillage implements.
- Identify a suitable venue and host for the next large ATNESA workshop, anticipated to be held in 1994.