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DATE: November 6, 1992 02:16pm

TO: Hans Wyss (HANS WYSS)

FROM: Michel Petit, AGRDR (MICHEL PETIT)

EXT.: 30340

SUBJECT: Kenya: Emergency Drought Recovery Project - FEPS

The drought in Kenya was particularly severe in the sparsely populated north and east of the country where pastoralism predominates. Livestock losses amounted to about 70 percent. There are probably another ten to fifteen districts in the marginal agricultural areas where the effects of the drought were severe.

The short rains, which broke the drought, began in mid-October and an emergency measure to provide seeds and other inputs to farmers should have been operational at that date. Moreover, unless the necessary mobilization and preparatory work has been done for the procurement of supplies and the design of the practical work program, it is doubtful that this program could be implemented within the 18 month time frame envisaged. The construction and rehabilitation of water supplies in remote areas requires considerable up-front work to identify spare-part needs for pumps, availability of rigs and equipment and logistical arrangements. Suppliers of agricultural input also need to be identified. Experience in other countries where seed supplies were eaten during famine has shown that it was virtually impossible to locate seeds of specific locally used varieties in sufficient quantity and to arrange for delivery in time to allow for planting at the appropriate date. Not much fertilizer is used in the semi-arid areas of Kenya and some time will be needed to identify the vaccines and drugs needed. Additionally it is not clear why an "environmental management component to support community efforts of sustainable management" should be included in an emergency project.

Given that the response of the Kenya Government to the drought situation has been poor, in spite of warnings by NGOs since February this year, the urgency of implementation implied in an emergency project is not convincing. There is little likelihood that the necessary institutional capacity and logistic support systems will be operational within such a short time. The proposal in para. 13 to allow "retroactive financing to enable an early start of project implementation", opens the possibility of poorly coordinated project activities with little impact on long-term and sustainable economic recovery.

The need to provide emergency assistance to Kenya to assist the recovery process is not questioned. However we are concerned that an emergency loan is not the correct vehicle to address problems of restocking and rehabilitation in the agriculture sector, given the complexity of the task. Rapid disbursement may be possible through providing finance for much needed imports rather than attempting to disburse against items closely

associated with the drought, which need to be addressed more comprehensively to be effective. A well planned development project could be financed as a second stage effort and could be directed towards the long-term recovery goals associated with sustainable resource use and economic diversification in this difficult and very fragile environment.

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