

**BEAN/COWPEA CRSP
FY 2001 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

Fiscal Year 2001 represents the fourth year in the current extension grant of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP and the 21st year since the inception of the program in 1980. This year was clearly a significant one from several perspectives. Not only was the program under new leadership resulting from staffing changes in the Management Office (MO), but also major efforts were invested in the reconceptualization of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP and the preparation of a grant proposal for the period FY 2002 through 2007. This year was also a critical time for Bean/Cowpea CRSP scientists to capitalize on the scientific advancements resulting from their collaborative research activities over recent years to achieve major program goals and impact within West and East Africa and Latin America. FY 2001, therefore, was a year of both high anticipated research output and a time of visioning and positioning for the future.

The staffing situation within the MO during FY 2001 included the first full year under the Directorship of Irvin Widders (appointed on June 1, 2000, 0.9 FTE), and the appointments of Mywish Maredia as Deputy Director (0.80 FTE) and Christina DeFouw, Administrative Officer (1.0 FTE) both on November 1, 2000. Missy Moryc, Program Secretary (1.0 FTE), continued in her position and provided valuable continuity and institutional memory. In spite of the overwhelming agenda of tasks and responsibilities that the new staff in the MO had to take on during the past year, the transition was essentially seamless and all the activities were completed without any major glitches. This smooth transition must be attributed in large part to the extensive experience, professionalism and dedication of the entire MO staff to the Bean/Cowpea CRSP. In addition, the MO is extremely grateful for Dr. Jiryis Oweis, the Cognizant Technical Officer (CTO) for the Bean/Cowpea CRSP, for his understanding, encouragement, mentoring and frequent words of advice during the past year. The Bean/Cowpea CRSP is very fortunate to have the support of such an experienced and committed CTO.

Job descriptions for the four staff positions were developed in December 2000 to equitably distribute responsibilities within the MO in accord with staff interests and skills (see attachments). Throughout this process, there was recognition of the fact that the staff in the MO needs to work as a team due to the interdependencies of the positions and the importance of communication to effectively complete the assigned responsibilities. On the other hand, this past year served as an opportunity for Maredia and DeFouw to settle into their new positions, to develop their own approaches, and to learn how they might best compliment and contribute to the functions of the MO.

Since the current grant will terminate on April 27, 2002, a primary goal of the MO during FY 2001 was to complete and present, at least five or six months in advance of this date, a new grant proposal to SPARE for the next phase (FY2002-07). With this amount of buffer period, it is hoped that all the necessary paperwork for a new grant authorization could be processed by USAID, assuming a favorable proposal evaluation by SPARE, such that no interruptions in funding will occur during the transition period between grants. SPARE (Strategic Partnership for Agriculture Research and Development), Subcommittee of BIFAD, was established to review the CRSPs every five years and make recommendations relative to their renewal.

A Time Line was developed and followed by the MO to ensure that all steps in the grant preparation process were considered and the needed activities completed in a timely manner (see attachment). Important objectives which the MO sought to achieve through the grant preparation process included: (1) a revitalized vision for the Bean/Cowpea CRSP taking into consideration contemporary global driving forces and needs within Africa and Latin America, (2) input from external stakeholders and clientele groups, (3) an open competitive process which allowed opportunity for participation by new U.S. scientists and universities, (4) engagement of scientists committed to the vision of the CRSP and internationally recognized for their excellence in research, teaching and outreach in their respective disciplines, and (5) a transparent participatory process that involved iterative interactions between the potential future PIs and the MO and TC.

Major activities associated with the preparation of a grant proposal for which the MO provided leadership and coordination during the past fiscal year include the following:

Completion of the Five-Year Technical Review of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP by the External Evaluation Panel (EEP).

The EEP visited the remaining U.S. and Host Country (HC) sites during the period from October 2000 through January 2001 and completed site visit reports utilizing the Scope of Work provided by the MO. Widders accompanied EEP members on their visits to INIAP in Ecuador and ISRA in Senegal. These are two locations where Widders had not previously visited. The trips proved to be highly insightful in terms of understanding the challenges and opportunities that exist to having strong CRSP projects in these countries. All four members of the External Evaluation Panel, Carolyn Brooks, Lowell Satterlee and Carlos Magno Campos da Rocha, under the leadership of the newest member and elected Chair, John Stovall, met in New Orleans January 29-February 1, 2001, to complete the Quinquennial Review (1997-2001) of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP. This review involved an in-depth technical evaluation of all research and training activities, utilizing the FY 2000 Annual Regional Project Reports and the insights gained from all the site visits in FY 2000 and 2001. The EEP is to be commended for their commitment of service to the Bean/Cowpea CRSP, thoroughness, and professional competency as evidenced by the high quality of the final report. The report was especially valuable to the MO because it included an assessment of the administrative and fiscal management aspects of the program, identification of program challenges for the future, and specific recommendations for the next phase (FY2002-2007). After completing their deliberations and writing, the EEP gave an oral presentation on Feb. 1 to the Board of Directors (BOD) which included the Institutional Representatives, and answered their questions.

Identification of U.S. principal investigators and universities to participate in the next phase of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP.

Following the prioritization of constraints and research goals for each region and the review of the 49 Expressions of Interest, the Technical Committee (TC) in conjunction with the External Technical Committee (at its Sept. 28-30, 2000 meeting) recommended the participation of 21 components for the next phase. The MO extended invitations to this cadre of scientists to proceed to the next step in the planning and grant preparation process by preparing a short proposal for evaluation. This proposal was to include a statement of the problem/constraint, how they propose to address this constraint through research and training, a list of proposed U.S. and HC principal investigators and collaborators, and a tentative budget. Following receipt of these short proposals (5 pages maximum), they were distributed to the TC for

evaluation. The MO provided specific guidelines and criteria to be used for the evaluation of the proposals.

At the April 18-19, 2001 meeting of the Technical Committee in Indianapolis, Indiana, the MO presented the results of these evaluations and proposed teams of U.S. scientists and universities to comprise each of the regional projects for the next phase. Based on the input from the TC evaluations, three proposals were not recommended for inclusion in the program for the next phase; Gilbertson/U.C. Davis, Snapp and Ferguson/Michigan State University and Graham and Swanson/University of Minnesota. Each of the proposals were discussed extensively by the TC and recommendations were formulated on how each component might be strengthened or modified.

Preparation of Five-Year Workplans for the next phase.

The MO sent individual letters to 18 U.S. scientists inviting their participation as PIs and Co-PIs in the 19 components identified for the next grant period (FY 2002-2007) for the Bean/Cowpea CRSP. To that end, as requested by SPARE, each scientist was requested to prepare a detailed Five-Year Workplan and Budget to be included in the proposal. The MO provided scientists with guidelines on the structure and composition of the workplans and budgets. In addition, the scientists were sent the specific comments and recommendations from the TC concerning such issues as suggested modifications in research objectives, the selection of HC partners and collaborators, ways to strengthen the training plan, opportunities to collaborate with other CRSP scientists, and the need to establish strong networks and linkages with IARCS and NGOs in the region. The Five-Year Workplans and Budgets constituted Volume II in the grant proposal.

Completion of the Training Report (FY1997-2001)

Maredia, having responsibility for management of the training program within the Bean/Cowpea CRSP, updated the training database for FY 2001 and 2002A. She then compiled both the degree and short-term training data for the period FY97-2001 and prepared both tables and figures which effectively summarized achievements in human capacity building by the Bean/Cowpea CRSP during the current grant extension period. The detailed written report was included in the grant proposal and will be distributed to all CRSP PIs and stakeholders.

Completion of Bibliography of Publications and Peer Recognition and Outstanding Achievement Awards (2001)

A Bibliography of Bean/Cowpea CRSP Publications, Proceedings, Presentations and Workshops (1996-2001) was prepared by Moryc. This bibliography was compiled from a new data-base developed by Moryc incorporating listings of publications and other scholarly activity reported in the annual regional project reports of the CRSP. For purposes of utility, it was decided to divide the bibliography into two sections; one focusing on beans and the other on cowpeas. The six categories that comprised this bibliography included: (A) Refereed Publications, (B) Technical Papers, Working Papers and Extension Bulletins, (C) Popular Articles, (D) Presentations (Abstracts and Proceedings of Meetings), Seminars and Invited Talks, (E) Theses, and (F) Web-Based Materials, Video, Radio, TV. The Bibliography provides clear evidence of the extensive high quality scholarly activity conducted by both U.S. and Host Country scientists within the Bean/Cowpea CRSP during the current extension grant (FY1997-2001). This document, perhaps unlike any other CRSP report, demonstrates the productivity,

(e.g., generation of new knowledge, technological output, etc.) and potential for impact of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP community of scientific progress on beans and cowpeas worldwide. The Bibliography will be available in both printed form as well as from the Bean/Cowpea CRSP website.

Moryc also coordinated the preparation of the new Bean/Cowpea CRSP Peer Recognition and Outstanding Achievement Awards booklet. All current U.S. and HC Bean/Cowpea CRSP PIs and collaborators were contacted to obtain updated information on recognitions they have received from peers for significant achievements in research, teaching and outreach in their respective fields. These recognitions may have come in the form of awards, election to positions of leadership, membership in distinguished professional societies and nominations as Fellows. This publication, which reaffirms the quality, professional stature and international recognition of CRSP scientists, was included in the proposal and will be distributed to CRSP affiliates and stakeholders.

Administrative Management Review by USAID of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP

The Administrative Management Review (AMR) of individual CRSPs is conducted for the benefit and at the request of USAID to provide input into the review process for CRSP renewals and extensions. The AMRs are normally conducted once every five years. Since the Bean/Cowpea CRSP will be terminating a grant that was initiated in 1986, and seeking a new grant to continue the program, this AMR comes at a critical time. Dr. Jiryis Oweis, USAID Cognizant Technical Officer (CTO), coordinated and oversaw the AMR. In deliberations with the MO, a Scope of Work was prepared for the review and five universities were identified to be visited (Michigan State University, University of California-Riverside, Washington State University, Purdue University and the University of Puerto Rico). The members of the AMR Team were Ray Miller (Team Leader), Ikbal Chowdbury, and Deborah Rubin. Drs. Miller and Rubin participated on the review of four other CRSPs earlier in 2001. The team visited the five participating universities from October 11-23, 2001 along with Dr. Oweis. At each institution, the team visited with university administrators (deans, department chairs), the MO staff (at MSU), contracts and grants staff, CRSP PIs, CRSP trainees, and other CRSP scientists who might be collaborators and participants in other CRSPs. The MO is highly grateful to the AMR Team for their cooperation in scheduling this review in early Fall so that the grant proposal could be completed and submitted to SPARE and USAID prior to November 15, 2001. The Team is also to be complimented for their professionalism during the visits and efforts to prepare a DRAFT AMR Report by November 2, 2001. This enabled the MO to respond to the report and make appropriate changes in the proposal prior to its submission to SPARE.

Revision of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP Operations and Policy Manual

During the months of July through September 2001, the Management Office staff dedicated time during biweekly staff meetings to discuss revisions of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP Operations and Policy Manual. This Manual had not been thoroughly reviewed and revised since 1994, although amendments had been made at different times. The revisions that are being proposed are consistent with the proposed organizational structure and operations of the new grant. DeFouw took the leadership for the development of the new Operations and Policy Manual for the next phase of the CRSP (FY 2002-07). A DRAFT of the Manual was distributed to the members of SPARE when the proposal was presented on November 30, 2001. This manual will also be reviewed thoroughly by the BOD in 2002.

Grant Proposal Writing, Editing and Review

The initial writing of the grant proposal was a cooperative effort principally by Widders and Maredia during the months of August through October 2001. The writing of the individual regional project sections within Volume 1 of the proposal were assigned to the respective Regional Facilitators of these regional projects for the next phase: Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer, West Africa; Jim Myers, East and Southern Africa; and Jim Beaver, Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Projects. These three individuals plus Dick Phillips (provided expertise in food technology) came to the MO (MSU) at different times to discuss the development of strong rationale for the regional projects and to assist in the preparation of coherent integrated regional project proposals. DeFouw had responsibility for working with the potential future PIs to prepare the budgets for the Five-Year Workplans and for the overall budget for each of the five years. Moryc was invaluable in proof-reading all the sections of the proposal, formatting, and coordinating the compilation, copying, and distribution of the proposal.

The MO is particularly grateful to Dr. Frank Dennis, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Horticulture and editor of various horticultural science journals, for his editing of the entire proposal. His revisions made the proposal more concise, understandable, and easier to read.

Prior to submission, a draft of the grant proposal was forwarded to both the TC and BOD for their review and feedback. Conference calls were held (TC- October 26, 2001, BOD- October 31, 2001) to discuss issues of concern and receive recommendations to strengthen the proposal. The MO is grateful to both these groups for the time they dedicated in reviewing this lengthy document, for cooperating with the MO to work within the limited time frame for completion of the proposal, and for providing valuable input that led to substantial changes in the proposal.

Presentation of the Proposal to SPARE

A team of eleven persons was constituted to travel to Washington and orally present the Bean/Cowpea CRSP grant proposal to SPARE on Friday, November 30, 2001. The composition of the team was as follows:

Irvin Widders, Director
Mywish Maredia, Deputy Director
Chris DeFouw, Administrative Officer
James Beaver, LAC PI and future RF
James Myers, ES Africa PI, TC Chair and future RF
Sam Sefa-Dedeh, W Africa HC PI, Food Scientist, U. Ghana-Legon
Jan Noel, BOD, Chair
Mbene Faye, CRSP Trainee, ISRA, Senegal
Fran Carlson, Michigan Bean Grower, Nutritionist
Thomas Grebb, Research Committee, National Dry Bean Council
John Stovall, External Evaluation Panel, Chair

The Agenda for the meeting with SPARE and the titles of the individual Power Point presentations are attached to this report. The entire team is to be commended for their efforts in preparing clear interesting presentations, their enthusiasm when speaking and answering questions, and ability to keep their talks to the designated time allocations. All who attended

the presentation by the Bean/Cowpea CRSP team commented on the organization of the presentation and the excellent composition of the team.

The preparation of the grant proposal however was not the only activity which occupied the time of the MO staff. Being the fourth year of the grant, all the normal management responsibilities of the program had to be coordinated and completed during FY 2001. The principal ongoing program administrative activities included the scheduling of two regional planning meetings (West Africa and East Africa Regional Planning Meetings), one TC meeting and two TC conference calls, and two Board of Directors Meetings.

Annual Progress Reports for FY 2000 from the three regional project teams were requested and due on November 1, 2000 in the MO. The cooperation by the PIs, Regional Advisors, Regional Project Chairs in preparing, editing and submitting these reports in a timely manner was quite good. After the individual report submissions were compiled and reformatted into individual regional project reports by the MO, they were sent to respective chairs of the regional projects for a final review and the preparation of an Executive Summary. The completed annual reports were then copied by the MO, distributed to both the TC and the EEP and became the basis for the annual technical reviews by these two groups.

The Management Office recognizes that USAID and the MO have required a tremendous amount of reporting from PIs during this current extension grant. With the implementation of regional projects in 1997 and the proliferation of interdisciplinary research and training activities within the workplans of each of the regional projects, the reporting process has become increasingly complicated and burdensome. To make the reporting system work and to enable the TC and EEP to complete their review functions in a timely manner, the cooperation of all PIs, both U.S. and HC, in submitting their annual reports by the established deadlines is absolutely necessary. Any failure by an institution to report in a timely manner causes problems and delays an entire sequence of activities. In 2000, no or late submissions of annual reports were received from SARI, Ghana, and IRAD, Cameroon. Unfortunately, the failure of certain PIs to report reflects negatively on their institution and the Regional Project as a whole. The MO is certainly grateful to the overwhelming majority of the PIs for their understanding, effort, and cooperation in preparing the annual reports. The goal of the MO for the next grant (FY2002-2007) of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP is to simplify the annual reporting process utilizing more effectively an interactive web page to write and submit workplans, budgets and reports.

The first BOD meeting during FY 2001 was held in New Orleans on February 1-2, 2001 and included the Institutional Representatives. This was a particularly important meeting since this was the first time that both Widders and Maredia, Director and Deputy Director, respectively, met with the Board. The MO was highly pleased by the fact that all eleven IRs attended this meeting, reflecting favorably on the commitment of the partner U.S. universities to the CRSP and the support of the IRs to the research and training activities of Bean/Cowpea CRSP scientists at their institutions. Dr. Gustavo Martinez, UPR, chaired this meeting which addressed a broad range of issues including the process for preparation of the proposal for the Bean/Cowpea CRSP continuation grant to be submitted later in 2001.

The second BOD meeting was held at Michigan State University on June 21-22, 2001. Jan Noel, Washington State University, was elected Chair of the BOD due to the resignation of Dr. Martinez from his administrative position at UPR. The focus of the meeting was the

review of the FY 2002A regional project workplans and budgets and the approval of the proposed reconstituted regional projects with new components for the next phase (FY 2002-2007). Other issues addressed by the BOD included improving efficiencies and economies in financial management during the next phase (i.e., hub model) and enhancing the competitiveness of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP for possible new funds in biotechnology. The BOD encouraged the MO to solicit Expressions of Interest from partner U.S. universities to serve as HC Financial Management Hub Institutions for the regional management of CRSP subagreements with HC institutions.

Regional project planning meetings were held early in 2001 to prepare the workplans and budgets for FY 2002A, the last fiscal year of the current grant. FY 2002A, however, is a short year, extending only from October 1, 2001 through April 27, 2002. The West Africa Regional Planning Meeting was held in Dakar, Senegal on January 13-15, 2001 following the Workshop on the Genetic Improvement of Cowpea . The East Africa Team organized a Workshop on Bean Seed Multiplication, Dissemination, Entrepreneurship and Quality Concerns in East Africa: Current Status and Future Needs in Arusha, Tanzania on January 12-14, 2001. Their regional planning meeting was held subsequent to that workshop. The combining of planning meetings with workshops is an effective way to cost share and achieve economies. Because of the high costs associated with the meetings in Africa, the LAC regional project team developed their workplan and budgets through emails and conference calls which seemed to work well. From the MO s perspective, the CRSP needs to continue to explore means of effectively using conference calls and the Internet to facilitate communication and accomplish certain administrative tasks.

A challenge for the Management Office (MO) in FY 01 was dealing with the late receipt of the amendment from USAID for the final year s allocation for the current Bean/Cowpea CRSP Extension Grant, the period from April 16, 2001 to April 27, 2002. The amendment was not received until August 20, 2001, nearly four months late. During this waiting period, the MO sought to keep the PIs and financial representatives at partner U.S. universities informed of all information the ME received from USAID. At the request of the PIs, the MO sent correspondence to Contract and Grant Offices at partner universities advising them that the ME anticipated allocating funds, including the estimated amount to be allocated once the amendment was received from USAID, and that the current balance of funds in the subagreement could be used through the end date of the grant. The MO recognizes that any such disruption in the flow of funds will likely cause problems at HC institutions where CRSP funds are rapidly expended for ongoing research activities, especially if these institutions have not received advances from their subcontracting U.S. university.

On September 24, 2001, the ME sent a notification to the USAID Procurement Office of a one-year no-cost extension to April 27, 2003 for the Bean/Cowpea CRSP. The Procurement Office requested additional information which was provided to them by the MO on October 24, 2001. As of January 11, 2002, the MO was still waiting for approval of the no-cost extension.

In general, USAID/Washington has responded in a timely manner to requests from the MO. The Procurement Office approved the purchase of a multimedia projector within less than 10 days and the replacement vehicle in less than 45 days. Unfortunately, the MO is still waiting for an authorization for the purchase of a high-pressure helium acceleration system. The initial equipment authorization and request to purchase was submitted on May 17, 2000, with

follow up inquiries on November 2, 2000, January 12, 2001, April 9, April 12, May 21, and October 24, 2001. Such delays not only limit research progress but also discourage PIs who are seeking to attain their research goals in a timely and cost effective manner.

The MO in particular wants to commend and thank Dr. Jiryis Oweis, Cognizant Technical Officer for the Bean/Cowpea CRSP, for promptly reviewing and approving International Travel Notifications and Participant Trainee requests. The turn around time has typically been one day.

During the past year, the Bean/Cowpea CRSP has remained committed to maintaining communication with stakeholders, alumni, participants and other affiliates. Maredia with the assistance of Moryc completed two editions of Pulse Beat. The first was completed in the Spring 2001 and the second in the Fall 2001 (October). This newsletter is an effective way of sharing recent news of notable events within the CRSP as well as awards/recognitions received by CRSP scientists and affiliates. In addition, an abstract is presented of research advances by CRSP trainees and a profile of a CRSP alumnus. A calendar of future Bean/Cowpea CRSP activities was added and well received.

An important event during the past year was the visit of Dr. Felipe Manteiga, Director of the Office of Agriculture and Food Security (AFS), in the Office of Economic Growth and Agriculture Development (EGAD), USAID/Washington, to Michigan State University on January 3-5, 2001. In spite of his busy agenda, Widders and Maredia were able to schedule a two hour personal meeting with Dr. Manteiga in the Bean/Cowpea CRSP MO and introduce him to the staff. We took advantage of this opportunity to brief him on the current scope and structure of the program, noteworthy outputs and impacts from the research and training activities, and to ask him specific questions relative to his vision for the future of the CRSPs. A meeting was also scheduled which provided opportunity for CRSP scientists at MSU (e.g., Kelly, Bernsten, Ferguson, and Hosfield) to meet with Dr. Manteiga and hear his perspectives on the importance of such issues as impact assessment, women in development, biotechnology, nutrition, human capacity building, mission buy-ins, etc. The MO was especially encouraged by Dr. Manteiga's interest in specific aspects of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP, his vision for the role of the CRSPs in USAID's agenda for agricultural development, and his commitment of support for the CRSPs. This is critical since numerous CRSPs including the Bean/Cowpea CRSP will be submitting proposals for renewal/continuation during the current year.

With the encouragement of Oweis, Widders sought to take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to orient new agriculture trainees in the Office of AFS/USAID about the CRSPs and specifically about the Bean/Cowpea CRSP. Most of these individuals will be assigned to specific missions around the world as Agriculture Officers. These personal contacts and the knowledge of the CRSPs can prove to be extremely valuable in improving relations with the USAID missions in countries where the Bean/Cowpea CRSP is active, and in cultivating relationships which may lead to future mission buy-ins. The objective of the MO is to inform mission staff of the resources and the research and training capacity that the CRSP can make available to missions to achieve their specific in-country strategic objectives. During the past year, Widders was able to spend time with Andrew Karas (Rwanda), Andrew Levin (Nigeria), and Gary Mullins (Mozambique or another Southern Africa country).

The MO also explored opportunities for new Bean/Cowpea CRSP involvement in several countries. Widders visited Mozambique in December 2000 and Bolivia in January 2001.

Richard Fraenkel, Agriculture Officer/USAID/ Mozambique, and Duncan Boughton, Food Security II Program/Mozambique, hosted Widders during his visit. Meetings were held with INIA administration and staff (e.g., Rafael Uaiene, Sancho Cumbi, etc.), Custodio Mucavele (Extension, Deputy Director), Eduardo Mondlane University faculty, and World Vision Int. staff (Gary Bayer and Sally Henderson) to identify needs and opportunities for Bean/Cowpea CRSP involvement during the next phase. The Bean/Cowpea CRSP is already participating in the Mozambique Training InterCRSP managed by INTSORMIL. Staff from INIA are currently in the U.S. to pursue advanced degrees. A couple of these students are projected to apply to U.S. Bean/Cowpea CRSP partner universities to enroll in graduate programs and be mentored by CRSP scientists. Feliciano Mazuze, the first of these students, enrolled in a M.S. program in Agriculture Economics in January 2001 (R. Bernsten will serve as his advisor). The visit to Bolivia was less fruitful, however. Widders was well received by David Delgado and Larry Rube in the USAID Mission in Bolivia. Although they expressed much interest in ongoing Bean/Cowpea CRSP collaborative research and training activities in Latin America, beans were not considered to be a high priority crop in their agriculture development agenda.

As Director, Widders also became involved in several efforts to obtain increased support for Bean/Cowpea research and training activities. In particular, the MO followed up on three specific initiatives; a biotechnology training project in Nigeria, a Legume Genomics initiative, and the coordination of cowpea transformation activities. Briefly, the Bean/Cowpea CRSP MO interacted both with USAID staff in Washington and contacts in Nigeria concerning potential funds that might become available through the Nigerian Mission for training of Nigerian Ministry of Agriculture scientists in the use of tools of modern molecular biotechnology. With regards to Legume Genomics, Widders participated in a workshop in Washington on August 20-21, 2001. This workshop, which was convened by Ann Marie Thro, USAID, and Joe Tohme, CIAT, brought together fundamental legume geneticists from universities throughout the U.S. and from the International Agriculture Research Centers (IARCs). The objective of the meeting was to develop an unsolicited pre-proposal to position the U.S. universities and IARCs to compete for new biotechnology monies that might become available through USAID in the future. This workshop, which was also attended by U.S. scientists affiliated with the CRSP (e.g., Paul Gepts, Mike Timko, Sally McKenzie) and bean and cowpea geneticists/breeders from CIAT and IITA, provided an opportunity for Widders to discuss how Bean/Cowpea CRSP research in biotechnology compliments and might benefit from the proposed research on gene mapping, molecular marker development, etc., in model legume species. Widders also met during these meetings with research leaders from CIAT (Joe Tohme, Director of Biotechnology Program) and IITA (Rodemiro Ortiz, Director of Crops Research) to discuss ways to enhance coordination and collaboration between the CRSP and scientists at these two international centers. Invitations were extended to Widders to visit both CIAT and IITA/Nigeria and to schedule joint planning meetings with CRSP regional project planning teams. This information has been shared with regional project facilitators and is being considered. In 2002, the West Africa Regional Team is scheduling a planning meeting jointly with PRONAF, while the LAC Team is scheduling a planning meeting concurrent with PCCMCA in the Dominican Republic (April 2002). CIAT and PROFRIJOL bean scientists attend and participate in PCCMCA.

The MO sought to encourage USAID during this past year to better coordinate cowpea biotechnology research activities supported through various projects by USAID. As a result of the workshop on Genetic Improvement of Cowpea in Dakar, Senegal, which was organized by Bean/Cowpea CRSP scientist Larry Murdock, Purdue University, and financially supported

in part by the CRSP, a coordinating body was established (NGICA, Network for Genetic Improvement of Cowpea in Africa). Subsequent to this meeting, the MO became aware of other possible projects being funded by USAID independent of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP which focused on cowpea transformation and introgression of genes for insect resistance into cowpea. Although, Bean/Cowpea scientists and the MO are encouraged by the apparent increase in interest by USAID in cowpea biotechnology, there was clear dismay at the lack of coordination and interaction. Such a situation is conducive to duplication and the emergence of gaps in research. The outcome of the MO's efforts was a meeting convened by USAID in Washington on October 29, 2001, and attended by CRSP scientists from Purdue (Larry Murdock and Ray Bressan) and the U. Zimbabwe (Idah Sithole), IITA (Directors, Lucas Baker and Peter Hartman), University of California-Davis, U. Virginia, Monsanto, Rockefeller Foundation, USDA/ARS, USAID (Josette Lewis, Felipe Manteiga, Jeff Hill, and Jiryis Oweis) and Irv Widders. It is hoped that this meeting established a foundation for greater coordination of biotechnology research on cowpea in the future and positions CRSP scientists to compete for possible new biotechnology funds that may become available.

Maredia assumed responsibility in November 2000 for the Natural Resource Management Technology Transfer in the West Africa InterCRSP Project administered by the Bean/Cowpea CRSP MO. FY 2001 was the fifth year of this project which is projected to terminate in September 2002. Responsibilities of Maredia have included preparation of the annual InterCRSP reports, participation in the annual planning and workplan development meetings and communication with the Coordinator of the project in World Vision Int. (WV). In September 2001, the reassignment of Dr. Johnson Olufowote, the coordinator of this InterCRSP project, caused a temporary interruption in reporting between WV and the MO. Dr. Ayo Abifarin, Director of the Food Security Program in Africa has since assumed responsibility for supervision of the NRM Technology Transfer InterCRSP project and communication is improving. Looking to the future, the MO has had discussions with World Vision, INTSORMIL, the BOD, and Mike Bertleson at Virginia Tech, regarding Bean/Cowpea CRSP participation in a future InterCRSP if a proposal is developed to continue the program. The MO recognizes the unique opportunity afforded to extend CRSP technologies and knowledge more broadly within West Africa as a result of this linkage with World Vision Int. However, there is concern about the inadequacy of funding for WV to effectively complete the broad agenda of activities in the five countries, as outlined in the annual workplans. In addition, there have not been any funds available to support travel and consultancies by CRSP scientists or to provide training for WV staff on the adaptation of CRSP technologies.

Within the MO, steps have been taken during the past year to cultivate a team dynamic among the staff within the office. An extremely important activity is the biweekly staff planning meetings. At these regularly scheduled meetings, each person shares information about the activities and tasks in which they are involved or which need to be addressed. These meetings improve communication and coordination within the office, facilitate a team effort on tasks involving all staff, a more equitable distribution of responsibilities, and greater understanding and appreciation of the skills and knowledge which the staff contribute to the office. When preparing for major meetings during the past year (e.g., BOD, TC, EEP, and AMR meetings) as well as when preparing the grant proposal, these staff meetings proved invaluable.

In response to feedback from CRSP scientists and a recommendation by the EEP, the MO has decided to revise the website of the Bean/Cowpea CRSP beginning in 2001. The objective is to

not only make the website more attractive and user friendly, but also to simplify the workplan and the technical and financial reporting processes. Following the example of the Peanut CRSP, the MO was interested in developing an interactive website with security which CRSP scientists could access using a password and complete workplan and report forms. Such a reporting process would also make the task of preparing annual reports for the MO simpler due to the increased standardization. Since the Bean/Cowpea CRSP will be transitioning into a new grant in 2002, this seemed to be a good time to begin such a revision of the website. Moryc is leading this effort. In order to keep costs down, the MO is contracting the services of a student and a staff person through the MSU ANR Education and Computer Systems Office.

DeFouw, the Administrative Officer for the Bean/Cowpea CRSP, has provided leadership to activities in the MO which enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of financial management functions. Three key contributions in FY 2001 include: (1) the exploration of the Host Country Financial Hub Model, (2) the development of a 12-column budget sheet in Excel, and (3) the coordination of the revision of the Operations and Policy Manual for the next phase. The new 12-column budget form, which follows the SF424-A line items, separates participant training from other training, and allows for budget information for a U.S. lead university, a Sub-U.S. institution, and two HC institutions to be included on one sheet. Formulas were included so that columns 7, 8, 9 and 12 automatically calculate, as well as the total five-year budget, SF424 and SF424-A.

Relative to the HC Financial Hub Model, DeFouw prepared a list of pros and cons for consideration by the BOD and the TC, and sent out a Request for Expressions of Interest to all future U.S. Pls and the IRs from their respective universities. Ultimately, four Expressions of Interest were received with at least one U.S. university interested in assuming a financial hub function for each of the three proposed regional projects. Due to the excessive cost of the HC Financial Hub Model, it was decided that each U.S. lead institution would complete a sub-agreement for each HC institution with which it will work during the next phase.

Widders and Maredia, when possible, participated in CRSP Council of Directors activities during FY 2001. Since Maredia was new in the Deputy Director position, the CRSP Council provided an opportunity for her to gain an understanding of the unique aspects and management of the other eight CRSPs and become informed of developments in USAID. Key activities during FY 2001 by the CRSP Council included: a joint CRSP exhibit at the NASULGC Agriculture Science Exposition in Washington on March 6, a CRSP Day (March 29) during the BIFAD meetings in Washington, a CRSP Council Retreat on November 12-13, 2001, and frequent CRSP Council conference calls during the year to discuss such issues as budgets, attribution for research and training in biotechnology, and new grant opportunities. The Bean/Cowpea CRSP MO made specific contributions to the CRSP Council by preparing the poster for the NASULGC Exposition (Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs): Food and Health Promotion by U.S. Universities and Developing Countries) and a presentation on Biotechnology s Potential Contributions for the 21st Century for the CRSP/BIFAD Day (orally presented by Widders).

Training and professional enhancement activities in which Bean/Cowpea CRSP staff participated in FY 2001 include:

Chris DeFouw:

Excel Level 1 (November 2000)

Excel Level 2 (December 2000)
Trouble Shooting & Maintaining PCs (January 2001)
MSU USAID Business Officers Meetings
MSU Meeting Planners

Missy Moryc:

Web Page Design (November 2000)
Accounting 230 (Spring 2001)

Irvin Widders:

2001 Recently Appointed Administrators Workshop, May 29-June 1, 2001,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The MO staff has also sought to participate in the CANR Institute of International Agriculture (IIA) monthly staff meetings and in the quarterly ISP Directors meetings and annual retreat. These meetings have enabled the MO to become better informed of, and connected to, other international programs on the MSU campus. A specific responsibility that Widders accepted in 2001 was to serve on the search committee for a new Director for ABSP (Agriculture Biotechnology Support Program). Cathy Ives, who left MSU, was replaced by Dr. Johan Brink, who came from the Agriculture Research Council (ARC) Roodeplaat Vegetable and Ornamental Plant Institute, South Africa, where he served as Assistant Director of Biotechnology.

W:/DOCS/CRSP Program Docs/MOAnnualReportFY01.wpd