

CONFORMED COPY

CREDIT NUMBER 2461 ALB

Development Credit Agreement

(Rural Poverty Alleviation Pilot Project)

between

ALBANIA

and

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Dated March 2, 1993

CREDIT NUMBER 2461 ALB

DEVELOPMENT CREDIT AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT, dated March 2, 1993, between ALBANIA (the Borrower) and INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (the Association).

WHEREAS: (A) the Borrower, having satisfied itself as to the feasibility and priority of the Project described in Schedule 2 to this Agreement, has requested the Association to assist in the financing of the Project;

(B) the Project will be carried out by Rural Development Fund (RDF) with the Borrower's assistance and, as part of such assistance, the Borrower will make available to RDF the proceeds of the Credit as provided in this Agreement; and

WHEREAS the Association has agreed, on the basis, inter alia, of the foregoing, to extend the Credit to the Borrower upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement and in the Project Agreement of even date herewith between the Association and RDF;

NOW THEREFORE the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

General Conditions; Definitions

Section 1.01. The "General Conditions Applicable to Development Credit

Agreements" of the Association, dated January 1, 1985, with the last sentence of Section 3.02 deleted (the General Conditions) constitute an integral part of this Agreement.

Section 1.02. Unless the context otherwise requires, the several terms defined in the General Conditions and in the Preamble to this Agreement have the respective meanings therein set forth and the following additional terms have the following meanings:

(a) "Special Account" means the account referred to in Section 2.02 (b) of this Agreement;

(b) "RDF" or "Rural Development Fund" means the Rural Development Fund of the Borrower, established as an independent entity with juridical personality pursuant to Government Decision No. 12 of January 9, 1993;

(c) "Subsidiary Agreement" means the agreement to be entered into between the Borrower and RDF pursuant to Section 3.01 (b) of this Agreement, as the same may be amended from time to time, and such term includes any schedules to the Subsidiary Agreement;

(d) "Project Agreement" means the agreement between the Association and RDF, of even date herewith, as the same may be amended from time to time, and such term includes all schedules and agreements supplemental to the Project Agreement;

(e) "ABAD" means the Albania Bank for Agricultural Development of the Borrower;

(f) "Operational Guidelines" mean the guidelines containing the administrative, promotion, appraisal, and supervision criteria to be followed by RDF and to be approved pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.01 (c) of this Agreement;

(g) "Regulation" means the implementing Regulation of Government Decision No. 12 of January 9, 1993 and to be approved pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.01 (c) of this Agreement;

(h) "Sub-loan" means a loan or grant made or proposed to be made out of the equivalent of the proceeds of the Credit by RDF for a Sub-project;

(i) "Requesting Entity" means a governmental or non-governmental entity such as a village commune, a village credit committee, a rural association or an enterprise which meets the eligibility criteria under the Regulation and Operational Guidelines and which proposes to carry out or is carrying out Sub-projects;

(j) "Sub-project" means a specific development project to be carried out by a Requesting Entity utilizing the proceeds of a Sub-loan;

(k) "Sub-project Agreement" means the Agreement to be entered into between RDF and a Requesting Entity and, where applicable, a contractor or supplier, for the purposes of carrying out a Sub-project, under terms and conditions satisfactory to the Association, as the same may be amended from time to time, and such term includes all schedules to the Sub-project Agreements;

(l) "Beneficiary" means farmers and other rural residents;

(m) "Credit Project" means a project, to be carried out by a Beneficiary, favoring the productivity of agriculture, development of off-farm activities, self-employment and rural micro-enterprises and other productive activities;

(n) "Subsidiary Lending Agreement" means the agreement to be entered into between village credit committees and a Beneficiary pursuant to Part B of Schedule 2 of this Agreement, for the purposes of carrying out a Credit Project, under terms and conditions satisfactory to the Association, and "Subsidiary Lending" means any loan made pursuant to a Subsidiary Lending Agreement; and

(o) "Guidelines" means the "Guidelines for Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits" published by the Bank in May, 1992.

ARTICLE II

The Credit

Section 2.01. The Association agrees to lend to the Borrower, on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in the Development Credit Agreement, an amount in various currencies equivalent to one million eight hundred thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 1,800,000).

Section 2.02. (a) The amount of the Credit may be withdrawn from the Credit Account in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 1 to this Agreement for: (i) amounts paid (or, if the Association shall so agree, amounts to be paid) by RDF on account of withdrawals made by a village credit committee under a Subsidiary Lending to meet the reasonable cost of goods and services required for the Credit Project in respect of which the withdrawal from the Credit Account is requested; and (ii) expenditures made (or, if the Association shall so agree, to be made) in respect of the reasonable cost of goods and services required for Parts A, C and D of the Project and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Credit.

(b) The Borrower shall, for the purposes of the Project, open and maintain in Dollars a special deposit account in a bank on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Association, including appropriate protection against set-off, seizure or attachment. Deposits into, and payments out of, the Special Account shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 3 to this Agreement.

Section 2.03. The Closing Date shall be June 30, 1995 or such later date as the Association shall establish. The Association shall promptly notify the Borrower of such later date.

Section 2.04. (a) The Borrower shall pay to the Association a commitment charge on the principal amount of the Credit not withdrawn from time to time at a rate to be set by the Association as of June 30 of each year, but not to exceed the rate of one-half of one percent ($1/2$ of 1%) per annum.

(b) The commitment charge shall accrue: (i) from the date sixty days after the date of this Agreement (the accrual date) to the respective dates on which amounts shall be withdrawn by the Borrower from the Credit Account or cancelled; and (ii) at the rate set as of the June 30 immediately preceding the accrual date or at such other rates as may be set from time to time thereafter pursuant to paragraph (a) above. The rate set as of June 30 in each year shall be applied from the next payment date in that year specified in Section 2.06 of this Agreement.

(c) The commitment charge shall be paid: (i) at such places as the Association shall reasonably request; (ii) without restrictions of any kind imposed by, or in the territory of, the Borrower; and (iii) in the currency specified in this Agreement for the purposes of Section 4.02 of the General Conditions or in such other eligible currency or currencies as may from time to time be designated or selected pursuant to the provisions of that Section.

Section 2.05. The Borrower shall pay to the Association a service charge at the rate of three-fourths of one percent ($3/4$ of 1%) per annum on the principal amount of the Credit withdrawn and outstanding from time to time.

Section 2.06. Commitment charges and service charges shall be payable semiannually on June 15 and December 15 in each year.

Section 2.07. (a) Subject to paragraphs (b) and (c) below, the Borrower shall repay the principal amount of the Credit in semi-annual installments payable on each June 15 and December 15 commencing June 15, 2003 and ending December 15, 2032. Each installment to and including the installment payable on December 15, 2012 shall be one percent (1%) of such principal amount, and each installment thereafter shall be two percent (2%) of such principal amount.

(b) Whenever (i) the Borrower's gross national product per capita, as determined by the Association, shall have exceeded \$790 in constant 1985 dollars for five consecutive years and (ii) the Bank shall consider the Borrower creditworthy for Bank lending, the Association may, subsequent to the review and approval thereof by the Executive Directors of the Association and after due consideration by them of the development of the Borrower's economy, modify the terms of repayment of installments under paragraph (a) above by requiring the Borrower to repay twice the amount of each such installment not yet due until the principal amount of the Credit shall have been repaid. If so requested by the Borrower, the Association may revise such modification to include, in lieu of some or all of the increase in the amounts of such installments, the payment of interest at an annual rate agreed with the Association on the principal amount of the Credit withdrawn and outstanding from time to time, provided that, in the judgment of the Association, such revision shall not change the

grant element obtained under the above-mentioned repayment modification.

(c) If, at any time after a modification of terms pursuant to paragraph (b) above, the Association determines that the Borrower's economic condition has deteriorated significantly, the Association may, if so requested by the Borrower, further modify the terms of repayment to conform to the schedule of installments as provided in paragraph (a) above.

Section 2.08. The currency of the United States of America is hereby specified for the purposes of Section 4.02 of the General Conditions.

Section 2.09. RDF is designated as representative of the Borrower for the purposes of taking any action required or permitted to be taken under the provisions of Section 2.02 of this Agreement and Article V of the General Conditions.

ARTICLE III

Execution of the Project

Section 3.01. (a) The Borrower declares its commitment to the objectives of the Project as set forth in Schedule 2 to this Agreement, and, to this end, without any limitation or restriction upon any of its other obligations under the Development Credit Agreement, shall cause RDF to perform in accordance with the provisions of the Project Agreement all the obligations of RDF therein set forth, shall take and cause to be taken all action, including the provision of funds, facilities, services and other resources, necessary or appropriate to enable RDF to perform such obligations, and shall not take or permit to be taken any action which would prevent or interfere with such performance.

(b) The Borrower shall make proceeds of the Credit available to the RDF on a grant basis, under a Subsidiary Agreement to be entered into between the Borrower and RDF, under terms and conditions which shall have been approved by the Association.

(c) The Borrower shall exercise its rights under the Subsidiary Agreement in such manner as to protect the interests of the Borrower and the Association and to accomplish the purposes of the Credit, and except as the Association shall otherwise agree, the Borrower shall not assign, amend, abrogate or waive the Subsidiary Agreement or any provision thereof.

Section 3.02. Except as the Association shall otherwise agree, procurement of the goods, works and consultants' services required for the Project and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Credit shall be governed by the provisions of Schedule 1 to the Project Agreement.

Section 3.03. The Borrower shall cause RDF, until the Project completion, to employ an executive director whose experience and qualifications shall be at all times acceptable to the Association and to consult with the Association with respect to the replacement of the executive director of RDF prior to any such replacement.

Section 3.04. The Borrower undertakes that, unless the Association shall otherwise agree, Sub-projects and Credit Projects shall be promoted, identified, appraised, carried out, and maintained in accordance with the procedures set forth or referred to in the Regulation and Operational Guidelines.

Section 3.05. The Borrower and the Association hereby agree that the obligations set forth in Sections 9.03, 9.04, 9.05, 9.06, 9.07 and 9.08 of the General Conditions (relating to insurance, use of goods and services, plans and schedules, records and reports, maintenance and land acquisition, respectively) shall be carried out by RDF pursuant to Section 2.03 of the Project Agreement.

ARTICLE IV

Financial Covenants

Section 4.01. (a) For all expenditures with respect to which withdrawals from the Credit Account were made on the basis of statements of expenditures, the Borrower shall:

- (i) maintain or cause to be maintained in accordance with sound accounting practices, records and accounts reflecting such expenditures;

- (ii) ensure that all records (contracts, orders, invoices, bills, receipts and other documents) evidencing such expenditures are retained until at least one year after the Association has received the audit report for the fiscal year in which the last withdrawal from the Credit Account was made; and
 - (iii) enable the Association's representatives to examine such records.
- (b) The Borrower shall:
- (i) have the records and accounts referred to in paragraph (a) (i) of this Section and those for the Special Account for each fiscal year audited, in accordance with appropriate auditing principles consistently applied, by independent auditors acceptable to the Association;
 - (ii) furnish to the Association as soon as available, but in any case not later than six months after the end of such year the report of such audit by said auditors, of such scope and in such detail as the Association shall have reasonably requested, including a separate opinion by said auditors as to whether the statements of expenditure submitted during such fiscal year, together with the procedures and internal controls involved in their preparation, can be relied upon to support the related withdrawals; and
 - (iii) furnish to the Association such other information concerning said records and accounts and the audit thereof as the Association shall from time to time reasonably request.

ARTICLE V

Remedies of the Association

Section 5.01. Pursuant to Section 6.02 (h) of the General Conditions, the following additional events are specified:

- (a) RDF shall have failed to perform any of its obligations under the Project Agreement.
- (b) As a result of events which have occurred after the date of the Development Credit Agreement, an extraordinary situation shall have arisen which shall make it improbable that RDF will be able to perform its obligations under the Project Agreement.
- (c) Government Decision No. 12 of January 9, 1993 shall have been amended, suspended, abrogated, repealed or waived so as to affect materially and adversely the ability of RDF to perform any of its obligations under the Project Agreement.
- (d) The Borrower or any other authority having jurisdiction shall have taken any action for the dissolution or disestablishment of RDF or for the suspension of its operations.
- (e) The Regulation and Operational Guidelines shall have been amended, suspended, abrogated, repealed or waived, or other legal provisions shall have been enacted, so as to affect materially and adversely, in the opinion of the Association, the carrying out of the Project.

Section 5.02. Pursuant to Section 7.01 (d) of the General Conditions, the following additional events are specified:

- (a) any event specified in paragraph (a) of Section 5.01 of this Agreement shall occur and shall continue for a period of 60 days after notice thereof shall have been given by the Association to the Borrower; and
- (b) any event specified in paragraph (c), (d), or (e) of Section 5.01 of this Agreement shall occur.

ARTICLE VI

Effective Date; Termination

Section 6.01. The following events are specified as additional conditions to the

effectiveness of the Development Credit Agreement within the meaning of Section 12.01 (b) of the General Conditions:

(a) the Subsidiary Agreement has been executed on behalf of the Borrower and RDF;

(b) the RDF Executive Director has been appointed with experience and qualifications acceptable to the Association; and

(c) the Regulation and Operational Guidelines have been approved by RDF in form and substance satisfactory to the Association.

Section 6.02. The following are specified as additional matters, within the meaning of Section 12.02 (b) of the General Conditions, to be included in the opinion or opinions to be furnished to the Association:

(a) that the Project Agreement has been duly authorized or ratified by RDF, and is legally binding upon RDF in accordance with its terms;

(b) that the Subsidiary Agreement has been duly authorized or ratified by the Borrower and RDF and is legally binding upon the Borrower and RDF in accordance with its terms; and

(c) that the Regulation and Operational Guidelines have been adopted by RDF and are in full force and effect.

Section 6.03. The date ninety (90) days after the date of this Agreement is hereby specified for the purposes of Section 12.04 of the General Conditions.

ARTICLE VII

Representatives of the Borrower; Addresses

Section 7.01. Except as provided in Section 2.09 of this Agreement, the Minister of Finance and Economy of the Borrower is designated as representative of the Borrower for the purposes of Section 11.03 of the General Conditions.

Section 7.02. The following addresses are specified for the purposes of Section 11.01 of the General Conditions:

For the Borrower:

Ministry of Finance and Economy
Bulevardi "Deshmoret e Kombit"
Tirana
Albania

Telex:

4295 Komplan AB

For the Association:

International Development Association
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433
United States of America

Cable address:

INDEVAS
Washington, D.C.

Telex:

248423 (RCA)
82987 (FTCC)
64145 (WUI) or
197688 (TRT)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto, acting through their duly authorized representatives, have caused this Agreement to be signed in their respective names in the District of Columbia, United States of America, as of the day and year first above written.

ALBANIA

By /s/ Roland Bimo

Authorized Representative

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By /s/ Kemal Dervis

Acting Regional Vice President
Europe and Central Asia

SCHEDULE 1

Withdrawal of the Proceeds of the Credit

1. The table below sets forth the Categories of items to be financed out of the proceeds of the Credit, the allocation of the amounts of the Credit to each Category and the percentage of expenditures for items so to be financed in each Category:

Category	Amount of the Credit Allocated (Expressed in SDR Equivalent)	% of Expenditures to be Financed
(1) Civil works under Part A	750,000	100%
(2) Small-scale credits under Part B	200,000	100%
(3) Technical assistance, studies, and training under Part C	270,000	100%
(4) Equipment under Part D	250,000	100% of foreign expenditures, 100% of local expenditures (ex-factory cost) and 85% of local expenditures for other items procured locally
(5) Incremental operating costs	135,000	100%
(6) Unallocated	195,000	
TOTAL	1,800,000	

2. For the purposes of this Schedule:

(a) the term "foreign expenditures" means expenditures in the currency of any country other than that of the Borrower for goods or services supplied from the territory of any country other than that of the Borrower;

(b) the term "local expenditures" means expenditures in the currency of the Borrower or for goods or services supplied from the territory of the Borrower; and

(c) the term "incremental operating costs" means operation and maintenance costs which would not have been incurred absent the Project and includes, inter alia, costs with respect to: (i) maintenance and operation of equipment procured under the Project; (ii) salaries paid to RDF staff hired for purposes of the Project; (iii) remuneration for RDF staff, not hired for purposes of the Project, for work done for the Project which is not covered by their salaries; and (iv) consumable office supplies.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 above, no withdrawals shall be made:

(a) in respect of a Sub-loan or Subsidiary Lending unless the Sub-loan or Subsidiary Lending has been made in accordance with the procedures and on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in Schedule 1 to the Project Agreement; and

(b) in respect of payments made for expenditures prior to the date of this Agreement.

SCHEDULE 2

Description of the Project

The objectives of the Project are: (a) to create employment for the rural population and inject cash resources into rural households; (b) to repair basic rural infrastructure; and (c) to promote small private sector activities to help create a rural market economy.

The Project consists of the following parts, subject to such modifications thereof as the Borrower and the Association may agree upon from time to time to achieve such objectives:

Part A: Rural Works Program

The promotion, evaluation, designing, and financing, through grants, of Sub-projects by Requesting Entities for, inter alia: (a) rehabilitation of ex-cooperative dirt roads; (b) repair or extension of water supply systems; (c) rehabilitation of small village irrigation schemes and their adjustment to the new land-ownership structure; (d) repair and rebuilding schools and health centers; and (e) establishment of new market facilities.

Part B: Small-Scale Credits

The establishment of village credit funds in ABAD to finance small loans to Beneficiaries favoring the productivity of agriculture, development of off-farm activities, self-employment, rural micro-enterprises, and other productive activities.

Part C: Rural Studies, Technology and Training

I. The carrying out of studies on the Borrower's rural economy, sociology and history to assess the new situation of the rural areas, orient the activities of RDF, and provide basic information for development policies.

II. The testing of small-scale technologies adopted to local resources and markets, and facilitating the procurement of small equipment for private entrepreneurs.

III. The training of RDF and Requesting Entities' technical staff in project evaluation, financial management and market economies, business planning and management for farmers and rural entrepreneurs, and professional exchanges with local governments or enterprises in other countries.

Part D: Institutional Development

The improvement in RDF's institutional capacity, inter alia, in designing its information system, auditing and evaluating the impact of its operations, and identifying, preparing, appraising, supervising and promoting Sub-projects, through provision of technical assistance and equipment.

* * *

The Project is expected to be completed by December 31, 1994.

SCHEDULE 3

Special Account

1. For the purposes of this Schedule:

(a) the term "eligible Categories" means Categories (1) to (5) set forth in the table in paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to this Agreement;

(b) the term "eligible expenditures" means expenditures in respect of the reasonable cost of goods and services required for the Project and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Credit allocated from time to time to the eligible Categories in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 1 to this Agreement; and

(c) the term "Authorized Allocation" means an amount equivalent to \$300,000 to be withdrawn from the Credit Account and deposited into the Special Account pursuant to paragraph 3 (a) of this Schedule.

2. Payments out of the Special Account shall be made exclusively for eligible expenditures in accordance with the provisions of this Schedule.

3. After the Association has received evidence satisfactory to it that the Special Account has been duly opened, withdrawals of the Authorized Allocation and subsequent withdrawals to replenish the Special Account shall be made as follows:

(a) For withdrawals of the Authorized Allocation, the Borrower shall furnish to the Association a request or requests for a deposit or deposits which do not exceed the aggregate amount of the Authorized Allocation. On the basis of such request or requests, the Association shall, on behalf of the Borrower, withdraw from the Credit Account and deposit into the Special Account such amount or amounts as the Borrower shall have requested.

(b) (i) For replenishment of the Special Account, the Borrower shall furnish to the Association requests for deposits into the Special Account at such intervals as the Association shall specify.

(ii) Prior to or at the time of each such request, the Borrower shall furnish to the Association the documents and other evidence required pursuant to paragraph 4 of this Schedule for the payment or payments in respect of which replenishment is requested. On the basis of each such request, the Association shall, on behalf of the Borrower, withdraw from the Credit Account and deposit into the Special Account such amount as the Borrower shall have requested and as shall have been shown by said documents and other evidence to have been paid out of the Special Account for eligible expenditures.

All such deposits shall be withdrawn by the Association from the Credit Account under the respective eligible Categories, and in the respective equivalent amounts, as shall have been justified by said documents and other evidence.

4. For each payment made by the Borrower out of the Special Account, the Borrower shall, at such time as the Association shall reasonably request, furnish to the Association such documents and other evidence showing that such payment was made exclusively for eligible expenditures.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Schedule, the Association shall not be required to make further deposits into the Special Account:

(a) if, at any time, the Association shall have determined that all further withdrawals should be made by the Borrower directly from the Credit Account in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the General Conditions and paragraph (a) of Section 2.02 of this Agreement; or

(b) once the total unwithdrawn amount of the Credit allocated to the eligible Categories, less the amount of any outstanding special commitment entered into by the Association pursuant to Section 5.02 of the General Conditions with respect to the Project, shall equal the equivalent of twice the amount of the Authorized Allocation.

Thereafter, withdrawal from the Credit Account of the remaining unwithdrawn amount of the Credit allocated to the eligible Categories shall follow such procedures as the Association shall specify by notice to the Borrower. Such further withdrawals shall be

made only after and to the extent that the Association shall have been satisfied that all such amounts remaining on deposit in the Special Account as of the date of such notice will be utilized in making payments for eligible expenditures.

6. (a) If the Association shall have determined at any time that any payment out of the Special Account: (i) was made for an expenditure or in an amount not eligible pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Schedule; or (ii) was not justified by the evidence furnished to the Association, the Borrower shall, promptly upon notice from the Association: (A) provide such additional evidence as the Association may request; or (B) deposit into the Special Account (or, if the Association shall so request, refund to the Association) an amount equal to the amount of such payment or the portion thereof not so eligible or justified. Unless the Association shall otherwise agree, no further deposit by the Association into the Special Account shall be made until the Borrower has provided such evidence or made such deposit or refund, as the case may be.

(b) If the Association shall have determined at any time that any amount outstanding in the Special Account will not be required to cover further payments for eligible expenditures, the Borrower shall, promptly upon notice from the Association, refund to the Association such outstanding amount.

(c) The Borrower may, upon notice to the Association, refund to the Association all or any portion of the funds on deposit in the Special Account.

(d) Refunds to the Association made pursuant to paragraphs 6 (a), (b) and (c) of this Schedule shall be credited to the Credit Account for subsequent withdrawal or for cancellation in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Agreement, including the General Conditions.

