

INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION 2008

NETWORK: **Africa-Asia-South America Coordinating Group for Natural Products Research (AFASSA)**

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IPICS grants:	k-SEK
2002	50
2003	50
2004	13
2005	107
2006	22
2007	134
<u>2008</u>	<u>43</u>
Total	419

SUMMARY OF THE NETWORK

Background

AFASSA is an acronym for “Africa Asia and South America” and is meant to stand for a group that coordinates activities of several networks involved in natural products research in the three continents of Africa, Asia and South America. Establishing such a coordinating body called AFASSA was felt necessary because of the following considerations:

- Most collaboration on multi-disciplinary natural product research are cantered on a South - North basis and rarely on South - South links,
- There are advanced natural product research laboratories in the South that could provide services in Chemistry and Biology to other laboratories in the region,
- South-South collaborations could provide better solutions to research problems faced by countries in the South and that therefore, South-South collaborations need to be encouraged,
- Hence, research groups in the continents would be in a better position to collaborate if there is a Coordinating Group focusing on South-South collaboration.

Main activities

The different networks covered by AFASSA are to take part in intercontinental collaborative activities that are of mutual benefit to research groups in the South.

-The AFASSA Secretariat, now based in ALNAP, hosts a website which is linked to websites of member networks.

AFASSA implements an intercontinental Exchange of Researchers Scheme. -Although distance is a serious impediment to the co-operation, member networks have expressed readiness to host young researchers under the Exchange of Researchers Scheme.

-The Coordinating Group of AFASSA comprising leaders of networks active in Africa, Asia and Latin America met in Addis Ababa in June 2002 and selected ALNAP to serve as the seat of the Secretariat for two years, to be followed by the Research Group of Sri Lanka.

Key words: natural products, South-South collaborations

Training, Research visits:

Participant (no of months; year)	Home Institute	Host scientist/Host Institute
Mr M Fawzi (3 m; 2005)	Univ of Mauritius Reduit, Mauritius	HEJ Research inst. Karachi, Pakistan