

Proceedings of the Governing Council High-Level Panel and Side Events

From summit resolutions to farmers' fields: Climate change, food security and smallholder agriculture

in Conjunction with the Thirty-third Session
of IFAD's Governing Council, February 2010



Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



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Cover photo:
Sri Lanka
R.M Mallika, 42, center, and R.M.Thamara Kumari, 24, right, working in their big onion field in the village Thariyan kulama, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka. They received financial assistance and training from an IFAD project.

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Acronyms

AARINENA	Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa
AFESD	Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
APAARI	Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
ARWR	actual renewable water resources
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Programme
CACAARI	Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
CEN	Central and Eastern Europe
COPROFRAM	Confederation of Family Farmer Producer Organizations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
ICARDA	Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IFAP	International Federation for Agricultural Producers
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MERCOSUR	Southern Cone Common Market
NARS	National Agricultural Research Systems
NENA	Near East and North Africa
NERICA	New Rice for Africa
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFID	OPEC Fund for International Development
OSS	Sahara and Sahel Observatory
NEN	IFAD Near East and North Africa Division

I. Summary of the High-Level Panel Discussion – *From summit resolutions to farmers’ fields: Climate change, food security and smallholder agriculture*

Introduction

Recent estimates indicate that as a result of the food and global economic crises of the last two years, more than 100 million people joined the ranks of the hungry. The number of people suffering from hunger and poverty now exceeds 1 billion, while 2 billion people live on less than US\$2 a day. The contraction of food supplies experienced during 2007 and 2008 and the subsequent food price spikes threatened the availability and affordability of basic staples for millions of people in countries dependent on food imports. In addition, riots in more than 40 countries provided a stark demonstration that food security is an integral part of overall security, both national and global.

The recent food price crisis underlined the need to reverse the trend of the last three decades, which saw developing countries’ public spending on agriculture decline from 11 per cent of national budgets in the 1980s to 7 per cent in recent years. A similar fall-off is evident in the share of official development assistance (ODA) allocated to agriculture, which dropped from about 20 per cent to 4 per cent. Population growth – projected to reach 9.1 billion people in 2050, or 2.3 billion more than today – will compound this situation and will require raising overall food production by some 70 per cent. Production in developing countries will need to double.

While such a forecast presents an enormous challenge, the recent commitments of financial resources to boost agriculture and food security made by the international community in various forums indicate that there is scope for optimism. At the G8 Summit in L’Aquila, US\$20 billion was pledged to be mobilized over three years. In Rome, in November 2009, the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security contained a commitment to increase substantially agricultural investments by international financial institutions (IFIs) and bilateral donors.

In this context, during the thirty-third session of IFAD’s Governing Council, CNN anchor Jim Clancy moderated a high-level panel discussion – “From summit resolutions to farmers’ fields: Climate change, food security and smallholder agriculture” – with a group of distinguished panellists. To jump-start the panel discussion, a press conference was held with all the panellists and the President of IFAD. The issues discussed generated international media coverage. In addition, Mr Clancy’s knowledge of the issues and his ability to bridge the dialogue between the panellists and Governors led to a highly interactive panel discussion.

The panel discussed, with IFAD’s 165 Member States’ representatives gathered in Rome, how to transform summit declarations into reality, by addressing the following challenges:

How can better market conditions be created to promote private investment in smallholder agriculture?

One of the main challenges faced by smallholder farmers in developing countries is their lack of parity with other stakeholders along the value chain. They lack access to reliable and stable markets, inputs, credit and agricultural services. In addition, their capacity to invest in more

efficient tools and equipment, fertilizers or improved seeds is constrained by price volatility, market uncertainties and unpredictable weather conditions triggered by climate change. All these factors limit the scope of smallholders to increase production. Policy constraints, lack of bargaining power on the part of poor rural producers, infrastructure deficiencies and other factors characteristic of highly imperfect agriculture markets have meant that the recent increase in food prices rarely translates into higher farm gate prices for smallholders.

Conversely, the higher input prices often are transmitted to farmers, particularly for energy, transport and fertilizers. As a consequence, the recent price shocks rendered many smallholder farmers more vulnerable and less well off. Despite this, in several countries smallholders have been able to benefit from increased prices, but only when policy and connectivity to markets have allowed farmers to sell at higher prices, and infrastructure has enabled more efficient sales. In large markets such as China and Viet Nam, for example, an agriculture supply response is discernible.

What specific role can governments play in creating better conditions for investment in smallholder agriculture and rural development, in particular through the provision of public goods and the implementation of supportive policies?

Investment in agriculture, particularly smallholder agriculture, is hampered by low investment in agricultural research and extension, rural roads, education, health care, irrigation, power supply facilities and other public goods. Such investments are fundamental for agricultural and rural development, particularly if supported by efficient economic and social institutions and policies that allocate and protect property rights, facilitate trading, reduce risk and allow collective action. However, to be effective, policies must be complemented by action to assist the poorest people (in both the farm and non-farm sectors); better risk management at both the household and the national levels; safety nets for vulnerable groups; well-functioning markets and institutions that are accessible to small businesses and smallholder farmers; improved access by farmers to input and output markets; support to develop value chains that benefit smallholder farmers; better natural resource management; and a broad political will to support policies that respond to smallholders' needs.

Public policies can make a difference: they can create the necessary conditions for the development of smallholder farming. This is true, for example, for the economic development and poverty reduction processes of China, Indonesia and Viet Nam. In Viet Nam, where almost 80 per cent of the country's poor people depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, agricultural growth has underpinned the country's economic growth, cutting poverty from nearly 60 per cent in the early 1990s to less than 20 per cent today. And Viet Nam has enjoyed growth with equity: smallholder farmers are both key actors and key beneficiaries. The same is true of China where the proportion of people living in extreme poverty in 1990 was 33 per cent, but had fallen to 10 per cent by 2004 and is projected to reach 2 per cent in 2015. In Indonesia, output price stability and input subsidies, together with increases in productivity closely linked to Green Revolution technology, were behind the reduction in absolute poverty from 40 per cent of the population in 1976 to just 12 per cent in 1996. More recently, in Malawi, during the period 2005-2008, a "smart" subsidy investment of about US\$258 million in around 2 million farm households contributed to incremental maize production and to a reduction – within two years – of the poverty headcount ratio from 50 to 40 per cent.

Government action is also needed to support smallholder farmers' ability to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, while building upon the knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities. Recent analyses highlighted that in sub-Saharan Africa, arid and semi-arid areas are projected to increase by between 60 and 90 million hectares. In southern Africa, yields from rainfed agriculture could shrink by up to 50 per cent between 2000 and 2020. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the number of additional people at risk of hunger could reach 600 million by 2080, as a direct result of climate change.

Policies must be put in place to halt the deforestation, groundwater depletion, salinization, destruction of biodiversity and soil loss already affecting millions of rural men and women, particularly in the poorest regions where the most vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, are the hardest hit.

What can be done to ensure that smallholder farmers are fairly positioned in a process where competition for scarce agricultural resources – particularly land and water – is on the increase? What role could farmers’ organizations play and how can they be effectively supported?

A major challenge faced by smallholders is their limited and insecure access to and control of natural resources in a context of growing demand for land to produce food and fuel. Five hundred million smallholder farms worldwide currently support around 2 billion people, or one third of the world’s population. They farm 80 per cent of the farmland in Africa and Asia. Smallholder farmers – especially women – produce 80 per cent of the food consumed in the developing world.

However, it is difficult for smallholder farmers to produce the bulk that would achieve the economies of scale needed to reach better and more remunerative markets, enhance quality control and obtain better access to input markets, technology and credit. The establishment of independent farmer- and producer-managed cooperatives and associations is enabling millions of smallholder farmers not only to acquire better skills and technology, access to credit and other financial products, but also to improve water management and the organization and logistics related to trading, marketing, quality control and storage. These types of associations can also facilitate the exchange of market information and increase the participation of smallholder farmers at different levels of the food and agricultural value chain. Such associations can also address the disparity between smallholder farmers and the other stakeholders along the food and agriculture value chain.

The panel discussion was highly interactive, with questions and comments being invited from Member Governments. In addition, people who were not attending the discussion were able to participate through Twitter. Their comments were displayed on a large screen next to the panellists.

Highlights of the discussion

The members of the panel were: Mr Mizengo Pinda, Prime Minister of Tanzania; Sir Gordon Conway, Professor of International Development at the Centre for Environmental Policy at Imperial College; Ms Haydée Castillo Flores, Coordinator of the Women’s Forum for Central American Integration; Mr Ajay Vashee, President of the International Federation for Agricultural Producers (IFAP); Ms Nahed Mohammed Taher, Founder and CEO of Gulf One Investment; and Mr Kevin Cleaver, Associate Vice-President of Programmes, IFAD.

The discussion had a question-and-answer format, with Mr Clancy directing focussed questions at specific panel members. During the discussion, three short videos were shown to stimulate discussion around three issues:

- *How can political and financial commitments be translated into action for higher and more secure agricultural investment?*
- *How can farmers’ organizations be strengthened so that smallholder farmers are better linked to markets?*
- *What can IFAD and its partners do to build on successes and reach MDG targets?*

The videos presented voices from the field accompanied by rather startling statistics that helped outline the theme of the panel and set the tone for the discussion.

Highlights of the discussion are summarized in the pages that follow.

Responsibility and political will for fulfilling commitments

"We can point a finger at the governments. We can point a finger perhaps at the United Nations, perhaps at the West. But is the political will really there?" – Mr Clancy, Moderator

Mr Pinda stated that the prime responsibility is among those who have been entrusted with leading their citizens, and they must ensure that results reach the poor people who are living in rural areas.

Ms Castillo Flores agreed that the role of states is irreplaceable. However, their efforts are not sufficient because there are major challenges that require greater creativity. She explained that members of the women's movement as well as indigenous peoples and other organizations are suggesting to the various states and governments how they can go back to the rural sector and how they can view them as an opportunity. Poor rural people and their representatives are training themselves. They are trying to have greater access to long-term credit and education, to build small aqueducts and to have property put in the names of women. In short, they are trying to empower themselves in order to have an actual impact on public policies.

Mr Vashee also agreed that primary responsibility lay with those who are in charge – the policy makers, the legislators and the people who are beyond the sphere of influence of the farmers themselves.

Ms Taher added that the overall mindset about agriculture is such that it is treated as a sector that is subsidized and not particularly business-oriented. The food and economic crises are largely the result of the private sector, the government and the partnership between them. The partnership needs to involve the farmer, and there has to be a business orientation to encourage partnership and collaboration.

"We feel that there are shared responsibilities and they need to be named out loud. On the one hand there is the concept among those involved in cooperation and government that poor people are people without rights and without capacity. I think we need to purge that language from the discourse on development. These are people who have not had enough opportunity but they are doing a great deal to meet the challenges facing the world, such as the lack of food. International cooperation on the one hand needs states which are transparent in the way they administer public affairs but it also requires consistent cooperation, cooperation that makes sense in terms of what is said and what is done." – Ms Castillo Flores

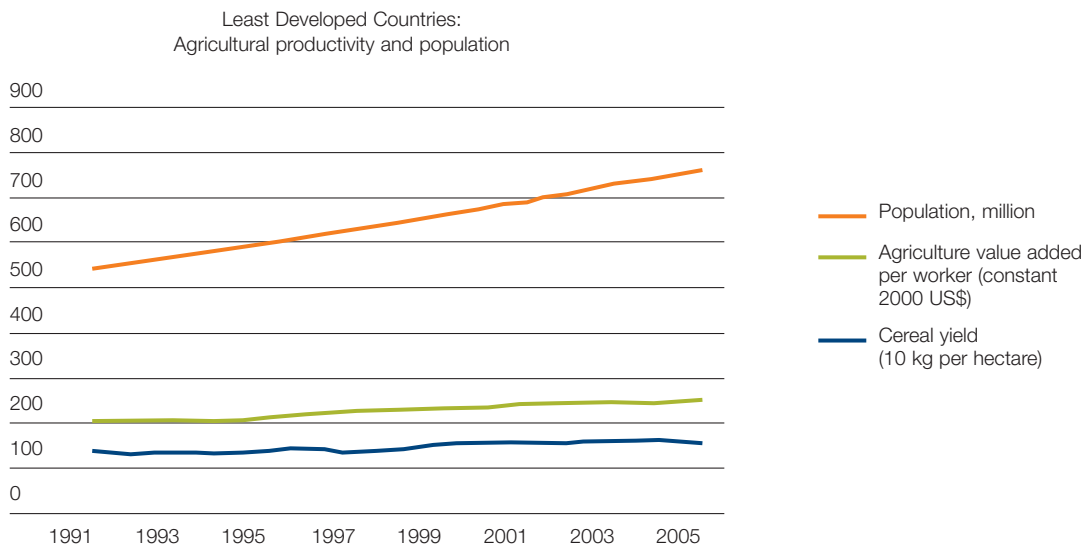
Mr Conway stated that there is political will but politicians tend to move from one crisis to another. Part of the problem is that they think the food price crisis is over. Recent figures from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) indicate that food prices are rising as fast as they were in 2007, and there are more crises ahead. There is much rhetoric at the top – the G8 and the G20 and the United Nations. And at the bottom there is much substantial work taking place – agro-dealers, microcredit, conservation farming, milk-producing goats – and a lot of it funded by IFAD. But there is a gap between what takes place on the ground and the rhetoric at the top. In this regard, the private sector has an extremely important role to play. The private sector can market and deliver, and can scale up and "ground" the rhetoric, provided it is operating within a government-enabling environment.

Prioritizing agriculture

"I believe that knowledge should go beyond research. It should transform research into a practical business plan. How can we encourage investors to come to agriculture investments and not look at other investment possibilities?" – Ms Taher, during the press conference

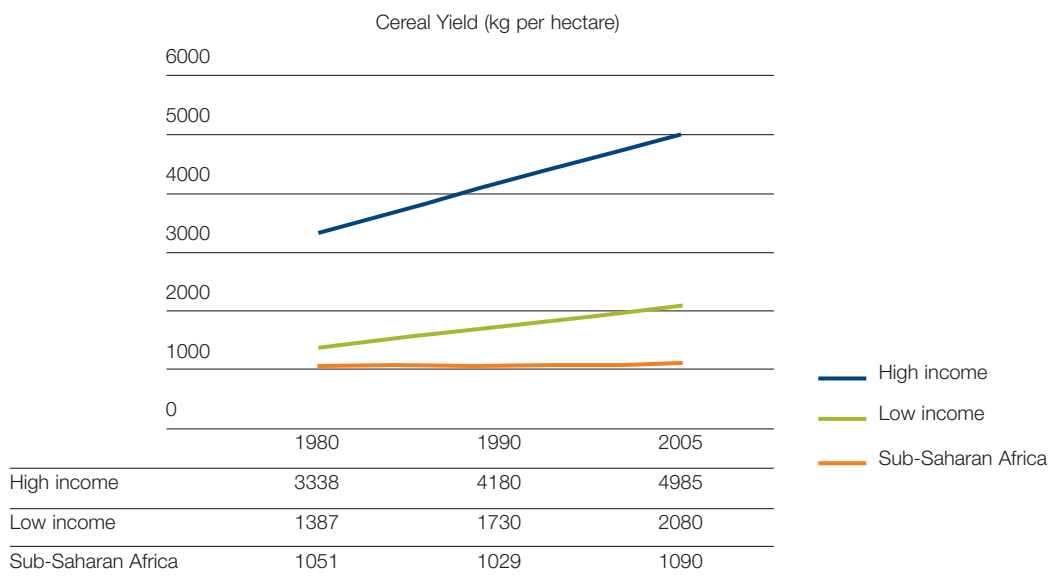
Mr Cleaver stated that the knowledge of what needs to be done is present, which was not the case 20 years ago. However, investments have been at a low level, although projects, programmes and policies have had successes in terms of agricultural growth, such as in Brazil, China, Tanzania and Viet Nam. What are the ingredients for success? Good leadership; investment programmes that are substantial and that include public infrastructure, research and extension and rural finance; and sound policies that attract private investors. In the last 20 years, agriculture was neglected because the world was complacent. The world apparently had enough food; it was just very inequitably distributed. However, the complacency has disappeared, and the current challenge is to apply resources, public and private, in an efficient way.

Graph 1
Agricultural productivity: Improvements far below population growth



Source: WDI (World Bank) dataset 2009

Graph 2
Agricultural productivity: Growth most in high-income countries; stagnation in sub-Saharan Africa



Source: WDI (World Bank) dataset 2009

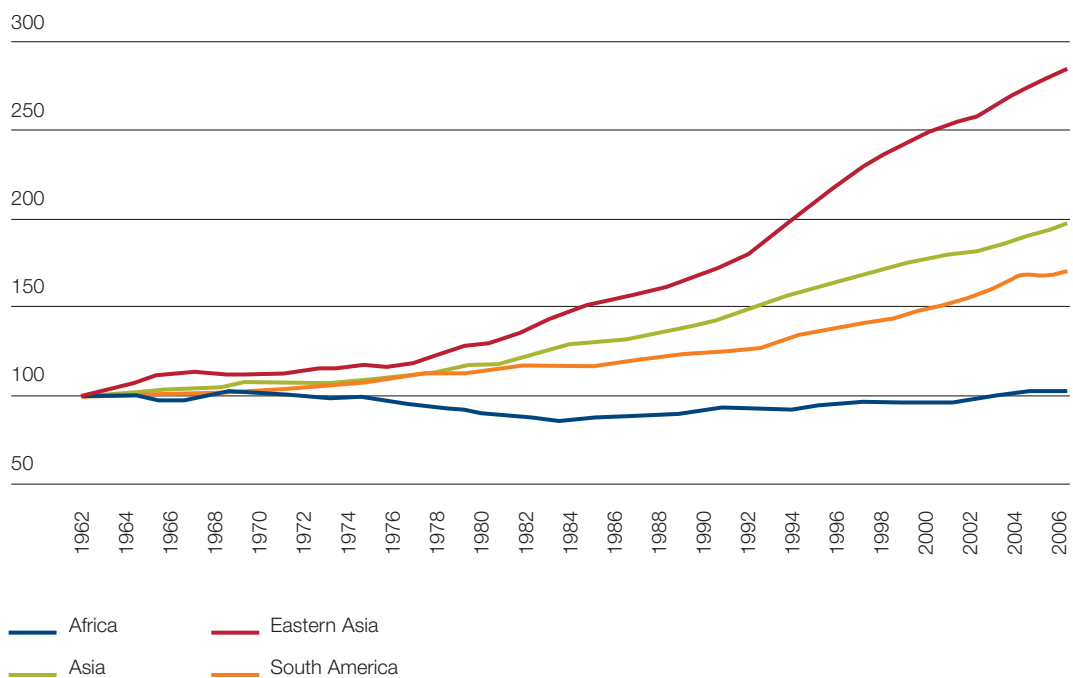
Ms Taher added that two decades ago and before, decision-makers or private investors were driven by greed. For example, they destroyed forests to build real estate. At the time they thought there was sufficient food. However, food and water scarcity are more than evident, which brings the question of prioritization to the foreground. Where do you prioritize? Water for drinking or for irrigation for agriculture? Another difference today is the isolation of farmers. More connections and linkages need to be made – in logistics and marketing and in companies working together as a group – to bring farmers more prominently into the picture.

Ms Castillo Flores remarked that an economy driven primarily by the profit motive is not the appropriate approach. The market is important but its primary role should be as a mechanism for improving living conditions for everybody. As an example, she questioned the judiciousness of giving priority to building airports instead of providing access to water or investing in agricultural development.

“Many countries have got their priorities wrong, with agriculture at the bottom of the pile in government cabinets and ministries of finance. This is why the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Programme (CAADP) proposal, in which governments should spend 10 per cent of their budget on agriculture, is so welcome. The priorities have got to be clear. They have to be about agriculture and what agriculture needs. You are not just going to create Nike shoe shops all over Africa. Eventually, but not just yet.” – Mr Conway

Mr Vashee added that prioritizing agriculture is important, but it is also important to determine whether agricultural-led growth should come from small-scale farmers, who essentially are the largest private sector in many developing countries. Are they treated and referred to as the largest private sector? Are we looking at agriculture from small-scale producers as a business? Are we trying to build our priorities so that we are able to build the sustainability and resilience of small-scale agriculture?

Graph 3
Food production per capita, 1961/62 to 2005/07



Source: Data from FAOSTAT, FAO. Gross food production per capita, indices, taken as three-year moving averages and based to 1961/63.

Mr Shkelzen Marku, the Director of Mountain Areas Development Agency (MADA), emphasized that prioritizing agriculture also requires that politicians be willing to commit in the medium and long term to revising and formulating appropriate policies. The reality is that many politicians commit to what will bring short-term wins and to policies that will bring them votes. Consequently, they may win short-term political gains but in the process lose the battle to change agriculture.

Sector versus country orientation

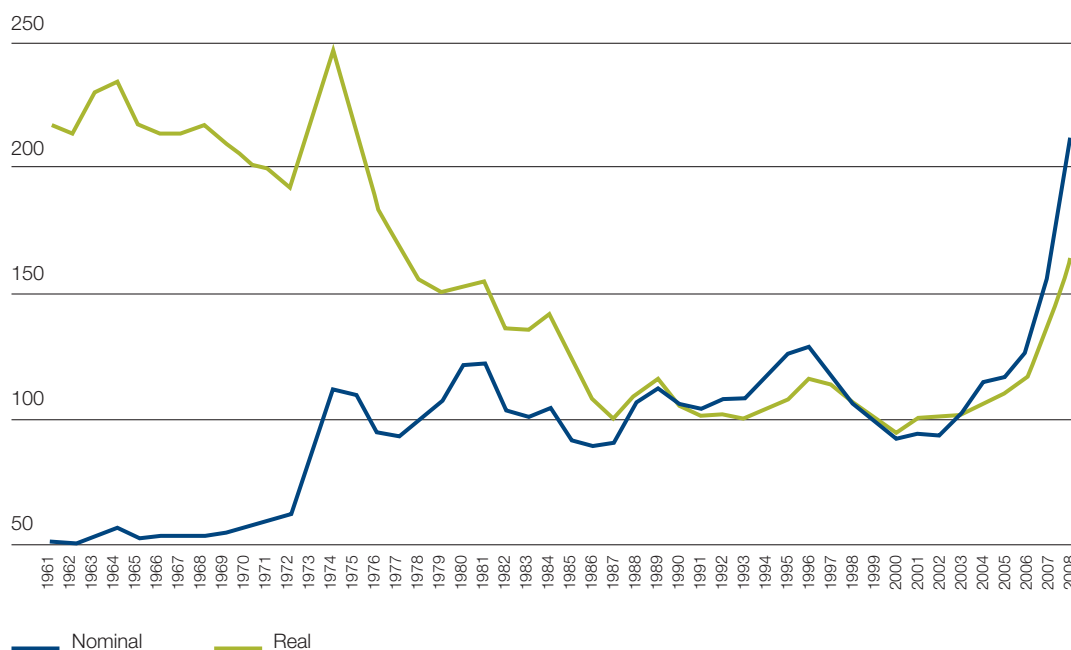
Ms Taher explained that in order for agriculture to become lucrative from an investment point of view and to attract the private sector, policies should be sector-related and not country-related. She gave the example of Saudi Arabia, an oil-rich country, where little attention is paid to agriculture. Although the country is primarily desert, it could become one of the largest producers of dates. The issue is not about the wealth or poverty of a particular country. Rather it is about wherever the investment for agriculture can work efficiently and with good margins.

Ms Castillo Flores added that there are also asymmetries between continents and regions that need to be taken into account. Integration is very important, but integration needs to consider more than simple economic imperatives. What is vital is that the people and organizations living and working on the territories in question should be making the proposals, and politicians should be listening to those proposals. This is genuine cooperation.

The deficit of trust

“I think we need to stop drawing a veil over one of the fundamental problems that donors have with receiving countries: the deficit of trust in the management of the resources mobilized. Most of the time, people think that when they give money to people in need, the money will not reach its true destination. I think we need to avoid any hypocrisy in this kind of debate.” – Mr El Hadi Thiemo Mamadou Cellou Diallo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guinea, contributing from the audience

Graph 4
Long-term trends: The long-term decline in real agricultural prices has been reversed



Source: Extended Annual FAO Food Price Index, 1998-2000=100 (graph obtained from “Soaring Food Prices: Facts, Perspectives, Impacts and Actions Required”, FAO, April 2008)

Mr Pinda agreed that investments will not be made if governments are known to be corrupt. The onus is on government leaders to ensure that transparency becomes one of the fundamental issues in governance. Otherwise, it is not possible. In this regard, he raised two important issues: how to make policies that suit the population; and the tendency of the bureaucracy to assume that it can think for its people, thereby resulting in the alienation of rural people and discouraging their participation in matters that touch upon their development. Some cooperatives and federations are able to accomplish a great deal, and governments need to accept the idea of decentralization of power, finance and administrative capabilities – the bottom-up approach. Farmers and their organizations must be fully involved in identifying their needs.

“Combating corruption goes hand in hand with development issues. Precisely because of corruption we get bad policies. A government leader who is fully committed to the people will create policies that help.” – Mr Pinda, during the press conference

Organizing farmers into groups

Mr Vashee emphasized that organizing farmers, especially smallholders, into groups not only gives them economic power but also creates a forum where they are able to discuss their policy issues, amplify and articulate their needs and build economies of scale, creating the critical mass that will attract the private sector, reduce transaction costs and bring other benefits. The perceived or tangible benefits of working together need to be evidenced in order to encourage such collaboration. At the same time, it is difficult to organize small farmers who are widely dispersed and who have different levels of education and understanding. However, this process can be achieved if sufficient time is given and if the process is facilitated by organizations such as IFAD.

Mr Pinda and Mr Conway added that strong and effective cooperative movements are the only way for farmers to be able to determine the prices of their products and acquire the necessary inputs and agricultural services. The significant advantage of farmer cooperatives and associations is the route it provides for information and new technology – for example, the mobile phone in Africa, which has been revolutionary in terms of connecting farmers to markets. Through cooperatives and associations, farmers can much more readily obtain new seeds, fertilizer, other essential inputs and the information they need for quality control.

Ms Castillo Flores underscored that the government should not view organizations of farmers and producers as rivals, but rather as other players that will stimulate the economy and complement the effort made by the cooperative efforts of the state and the government. Trust between the cooperatives and the state is a key factor.

“How to get producers to articulate their requirements is the challenge. The better informed and better articulated are those who are heard. Getting these farmers organized into groups to exert their voice and amplify their demands is how it is going to be done. In this way, they can ensure that the right policies are developed and resources correctly allocated. Now, most [of these processes are driven] by bureaucrats in the capitals.” – Mr Vashee, during the press conference

Farmers’ organizations and the private sector

“When farmers and the farmers’ cooperatives produce anything, it has to be marketed. In the majority of African countries, we do not find the necessary structure for marketing. In the past, we had state businesses and state enterprises responsible for marketing. International institutions, such as the World Bank and IMF, turned up in most of the African countries and put an end to these state-run marketing boards. However nothing took their place. There was no other body to market the produce, so of course production dropped. Who was responsible for that?” – Mr Rigobert Maboundou, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Congo, contributing from the audience

Table 1
Investment in the agricultural sector: Government spending and donor aid declining

**Share of total government spending on agriculture
(Africa, Asia, Latin America)**

Year	Total (Weighted Average)
1980	11.3%
1990	7.9%
2002	6.7%

Source: "Review of Public Spending to Agriculture: A Joint World Bank/DFID Study", Stephen Akroyd and Prof. Lawrence Smith, Oxford policy Management, 2007.

To meet MDG-1, an additional US\$14 billion annually needs to be invested in the agricultural sector in developing countries; and an additional \$3.8 to 4.8 billion in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Donor aid to developing countries: Share of agriculture

Year	Total (Weighted Average)
1980	20%
1990	15%
2006	4%

Source: "Setting Priorities for Public Spending for Agricultural and Rural Development in Africa", Shenggen Fan, Tewodaj Mogues and Sam Benin, IFPRI, April 2009.

Mr Cleaver acknowledged that during the period of structural adjustment, many public enterprises in agriculture and other sectors were abolished because they were costly, inefficient and sometimes corrupt. In many cases, alternatives did not substitute for these enterprises, and so a vacuum was created. The point is not to re-establish these public enterprises, but to establish cooperatives and private enterprises (the former being a private enterprise, owned by farmers). Through its projects, IFAD has experienced cooperative movements and the fact that groups of farmers often manage public services better than the public enterprises. For example, in irrigation projects, water users' associations composed of the farmers who actually use the water are managing the secondary or tertiary irrigation canals better than the government. In other projects, it is becoming clear that women's groups are managing rural microcredit better than government agencies. These successes are not only found among cooperatives that are buying inputs and selling crops, but also in those that are providing public services. There are many solutions to be found in such private/public partnerships.

Ms Taher added that IFAD and other agriculture-specialized funds should collaborate with – but not manage – sovereign wealth funds in major countries to allocate some of their budgets or funds towards agriculture: collaboration instead of competition.

Mr Vashee pointed out that stability and clarity of policies play a critical role in the success of private-sector involvement. There have been instances where the private sector has become involved, but government policy or policy reversals actually negate the investment decisions they have taken. Trade policy is a significant component of this – for example, a sudden export ban. These fundamentals need to be in place for the private sector to be motivated to be engaged and to truly thrive.

"What I see in the future of the aid business is that there will be declining funds. We are in an upward blip right now because it has become fashionable; the world realizes that there is starvation. However, I do not see the Western world, the OECD countries, continuing to put a lot of taxpayer money into agriculture or anything else in developing countries. I think that we are going to need another source of funds and knowledge, and this is what enamours me to the idea of cooperating with the private sector, sovereign wealth funds, foundations and the like. We in IFAD recognize the short-term nature of our business and the need to mobilize funds from other sources." – Mr Cleaver

The implications of climate change

Mr Conway explained two scenarios as a result of climate change. In one scenario, trends will begin to occur in certain parts of the world: it will become hotter, dryer, or wetter. These kinds of trends can be modelled mathematically, and the information can be passed on to farmers. This is currently being done in Burkina Faso, where farmers are being notified as to whether the first rains are going to be long or short, which enables the farmers to know if and when to plant their seed. The second scenario relates to the more extreme events – droughts, floods and the like – and is more difficult to cope with since such events cannot be predicted. In this case, building the resilience of farmers becomes critical. The most important component of resilience is a diversity of livelihoods and income. Again, cooperatives and farmers' associations have a significant role to play.

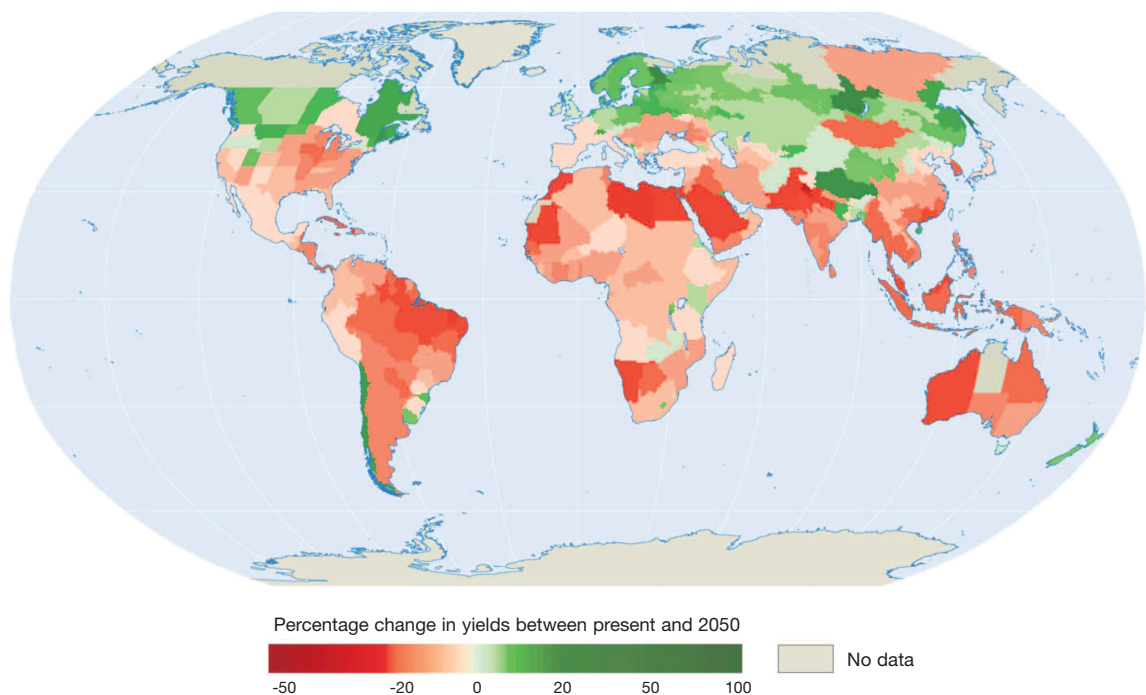
Mr Cleaver added that the question of climate change could be serviced better if resources, science and knowledge could be mobilized from non-traditional sources.

Mr Vashee explained that risk is the central issue concerning climatic events, and that addressing risk takes three forms. The first instance is to avoid the risk, which involves the planning and communication of early warning systems and the ability to plant drought-resistant crops. The second instance – managing the risk – requires financial instruments such as insurance, which are not readily available to smallholders. The third instance is when disaster strikes, and there is a need to rebuild the productive capacities of farmers who have been affected. Responses to climate change cannot be limited to early warning systems and the technology of drought-resistant crops. They must be considered in their totality, including risk avoidance, risk management and the rebuilding of productive capacities.

Smallholder agriculture as a business

"We are still going to support organizations of small, poor farmers, fisher folk, forest dwellers and indigenous people, but what we discovered in our projects is that what works is to make them

Graph 5
Impact of climate change on potential agricultural yields by 2050



Source: World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate change, p.145. World Bank.

commercial, to think of them as small businesses. The projects that work are those that are economically sustainable in the long term. The issue is to bring very poor people out of poverty but to do it in a way that is commercially, economically and financially viable. And yes, that means producing something – not just agriculture, incidentally; perhaps working in a small enterprise that processes agricultural products or supplies inputs, very much like the retail enterprises we have spoken about.” – Mr Cleaver

Genetically modified foods

“You chose the technology to suit the problem. Don’t be ideological about it.” – Mr Conway, during the press conference

There is great debate on the issue of genetically modified foods as one solution to increasing smallholder production. Mr Conway explained that New Rice for Africa (NERICA) is not genetically modified, but is rather a cross between African and Asian rice that was developed by an African scientist, Monty Jones, by adding coconut oil in the culture, which enabled the two rices to cross. He added that better plant breeding will be needed – what is called marker-assisted selection – to accelerate the breeding. In addition, tissue culture will be needed, such as the NERICAs or the new bananas in Kenya and Uganda. Genetically modified crops will be needed for a variety of reasons – to increase yields, control pests and diseases and resist droughts and heat. Although genetically modified crops are not a panacea, and there are some environmental concerns that need to be addressed, they cannot simply be discounted. They have to be seen as one part of the technological tool kit that is needed to feed the world.

“There are going to be stress factors that conventional breeding will not be able to resolve. Science has not been able to produce one crop that is resistant to drought. Where technology can be a tool to resolve intractable problems that conventional science cannot, this needs to be considered. At the same time we have to further explore the potential of conventional crops.” – IFAD President, during the press conference

A focus on women

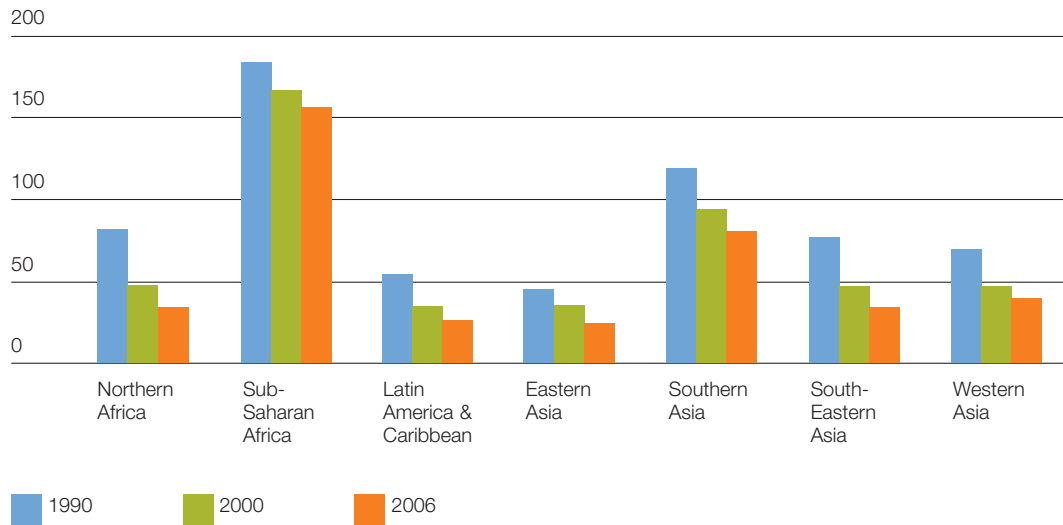
“I am often reminded by some people that if you want to teach five or ten people to read, teach one woman, because she is going to teach her children and the people around her. How much would it accelerate a fulfilment of these Millennium Development Goals that we have set for ourselves if we would put a little more emphasis on the women?” – Mr Clancy, Moderator

Ms Castillo Flores drew a distinction between investing in women because of their multiplier effect and investing in women in their own right and for their own merit because they are human beings and have the same rights as men. She added that the time has also come for the world to listen to women. Women are carrying the message of hope, but hope without mere rhetoric; hope through direct, concrete action. Women do not think only of themselves, they think of other people as well. When spokespeople are elected, it is for them to think of everybody – men, women, children, rural inhabitants, everybody.

Ms Taher agreed that women should have the right but she cautioned against being gender-biased, emphasizing that men and women should collaborate on an equal footing.

Mr Vashee added that regardless of gender, the underlying principle is that there be some institution – the government or the private sector – willing to invest in an opportunity, to look at the commercialization of agriculture and at productivity increases and essentially make sure there is a profit and that the market takes it forward. The underlying principle is market-led agriculture with profitability for smallholder farmers and some investment as a catalyst to enable them to be profitable.

Graph 6
Under five mortality per thousand live births, Africa and other developing regions, 1990 to 2006



Source: UN MDG report 2008

Aid versus sustainable development

Mr Pinda stated that countries that have been able to make strides in development should have a sense of responsibility and commitment for those that have not. The key is cooperation.

The moderator suggested that the world view does not distinguish between food aid and agricultural development, which could be in part due to the media, which does not provide adequate coverage of global food insecurity, especially in terms of on-the-ground realities.

"The truth of the matter is, I have a hard time convincing my producers and my editors that global food security is a big issue. They say, well, Jim, I know it involves a lot of people but there was a train wreck today and a couple of Americans were killed. We have to go with that one. It is hard for people to visualize that 18,000 children a day die from malnutrition or the effects of malnutrition. It is hard to get your head around. – Mr Clancy, Moderator

Ms Castillo Flores underscored a serious problem: the world has become accustomed to poverty. Poverty is almost seen as a natural phenomenon. People are no longer shocked by the data and the statistics. In addition, the market is only concerned with production. African palm oil production is discussed, but those who are involved in the discussions do not see the villages, the rivers and the people behind the production. With respect to aid, a distinction needs to be made between an urgent and immediate need, such as the case of Haiti or Hurricane Mitch, and, on the other hand, investment to build capacity. In this regard, food for work is not sufficient. Health, personal satisfaction and education are also important. A new approach needs to be created for rural and social development, one that focuses on building capacity so that people become self-sufficient, economically and socially.

Mr Conway addressed the issue of sustainability in terms of improving cooperation between donor projects and local institutions. He explained that countries like Britain and France have not funded individual projects but instead have joined together and funded a country. For example, the British contribute about £100 million per year to the Tanzanian budget, and other countries do the same. Donors have little say in terms of how that money is spent. Such an

approach helps the Tanzanian government since it then does not have to manage an excessive number of projects and their corresponding reports. Such an approach would be even more effective if agriculture had a higher priority.

“Aid can help, but can also suffocate. Let the governments themselves critically look at their own resources, determine how much of their budget they can put into the hands of the poor people, so that when you get aid, that aid can go to assist you in your assignment. Aid should only complement efforts being undertaken by the leadership.” – Mr Pindar, during the press conference

Stakeholder ownership and the future of smallholder agriculture

“I think we also need to review the way we go about cooperation, distinguish between the charismatic face of aid and aid that can truly build capacity and achieve its objective.”

– Ms Castillo Flores

Mr Pinda expressed his disapproval of the donor community dictating the kind of project to be carried out in a country. The question of project ownership is essential. The decision on how to use funding should be left to the country. Donors can promote agriculture as a priority but they should not make decisions.

Mr Vashee added that development strategies must be country-led, with full ownership by the stakeholders.

Ms Castillo Flores said that the responsibility is great but it cannot be ignored. There is an ethical dimension that needs to be continually at the forefront, and there is no alternative but to change, assume responsibility, take the issue of hunger from a responsible perspective and address it. She added that the Governors who were present need to be working with IFAD, the United Nations and people in civil society to forge a pact for agriculture and for the economic development of small- and medium-size producers, in addition to making decisions and investments with a sense of urgency.

Ms Taher expressed great optimism about the future of agriculture. She recounted that her organization was able to have water produced for a quarter of the cost of government efforts. Reducing costs is important, but social responsibility is also a key factor. Partnerships will create jobs, leading to greater investment. Sovereign wealth funds with institutional investors and institutions like IFAD that are specialists in agriculture must work together in partnership with the farmers – the solution will be to not allow them to compete, but rather, to complete each other.

Mr Conway also expressed optimism about the future of agriculture. There is a real commitment to create public-private partnerships that will close the gap between those at the bottom and those at the top. He described a number of successful initiatives, including the Alliance for Green Revolution sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which can be scaled up globally.

“There need to be much stronger links between urban centres and sources of production. In this way, inputs will be cheaper and markets will be more competitive.” – Mr Conway, during the press conference

The concluding remark was given to Mr Cleaver, who expressed less optimism than the other panellists. He referred to a quote that had arrived through Twitter – “The Western world is tired of aid” – and added that there has been a lot of failure. Moreover, for every country like Tanzania that allocates 10 per cent of its budget to agriculture, there are three that do not. In the Western world, subsidization is being carried out to a huge degree: the United States and Canada subsidize their farmers to the tune of US\$100 billion a year. The European Commission

contributes the same amount. Moreover, there are huge trade distortions. Therefore, there are reasons for pessimism. On the other hand, there is a good deal of knowledge about what works, the knowledge is circulating, and successes are greater than in the past. It is also possible that funds to invest in agriculture can be mobilized from the private sector, from charities, from farmers themselves and from places other than Western governments. A balance is being established, but there is much to be done.

II. Proceedings of the Side Events

Introduction

As a follow-up to the high-level Governing Council panel discussion on “Climate change, food security and smallholder agriculture – From summit resolutions to farmers’ fields”, four thematic side events (round tables) were held to provide an opportunity for multi-stakeholder dialogue. They were also intended to be a source of new ideas and proposals for IFAD. A common thread to these side events were the issues and options for replicating and scaling up project-level achievements or policy gains, taking into account opportunities and challenges. Issues to be considered in the discussion included: (a) “drivers”, such as innovative ideas, vision and leadership, champions and catalysts, incentives and accountability; and (b) “space to grow”, for example in fiscal and financial resources, policies and institutions, partnerships and learning.

The four round-table discussions held were:

- **Round Table 1** – *Natural resource management in sub-Saharan Africa: successes, challenges and future directions*
- **Round Table 2** – *The role of smallholder agriculture and family farming in Asia and Latin America and options for South-South cooperation*
- **Round Table 3** – *Adapting management of water resources to climate change in the Near East, North Africa and Central and Eastern Europe*
- **Round Table 4** – *The Rural Poverty Report 2010 – highlights and feedback on work in progress*

The sections that follow describe the proceedings of each of these round tables. Discussion papers were prepared in advance to inform the debate.

A. Natural resource management in sub-Saharan Africa: successes, challenges and future directions

Moderator: Mr Alex Puissant, TV journalist and independent conference moderator

Panellists:

1. **Mr Laurent Sédogo**, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Fisheries, Burkina Faso
2. **Mr Stephen Masato Wasira**, Minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, United Republic of Tanzania
3. **Mr Youba Sokona**, Executive Secretary of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)
4. **Ms Mary Allen Ballo**, Executive Secretary Sahel Eco (English NGO based in Mali)
5. **Mr Chris Reij**, Senior Advisor on Natural Resource Management at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam
6. **Mr Philip Kiriro**, President of the Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation

This well-attended two-hour panel discussion was characterized by animated interventions by the panellists and clear interest and engagement by the approximately 250 members of the audience. The discussion was preceded by a short documentary entitled "More people, more trees", by William Critchley. The documentary revisited the sites of two IFAD-supported projects in Burkina Faso and Kenya 20 years after the first visit by the documentary film crew. The film highlighted the very significant progress that had been made in restoring soil fertility and enhancing agricultural productivity in both countries.

Background papers prepared for this side event can be found at:
<http://www.ifad.org/events/gc/33/roundtables/africa/PA-PFev.pdf>

A number of important themes emerged from the discussion. The salient points follow.

Natural resource management in Africa: progress made?

There was a variety of viewpoints on this topic with certain panellists affirming that very significant progress had been made, while others (both a panellist and members of the audience) believed that few tangible advances had occurred.

Mr Sédogo, the Minister of Agriculture of Burkina Faso, spoke with great enthusiasm about progress in his country. He said that because of improved natural resource management, there is no longer a shortage of grains and cereals. In certain areas of his country, lands that were considered marginal 20 years ago are now producing large marketable surpluses of vegetables that are being exported to the region.

"As Minister of Agriculture today, I can dream of agriculture in the Sahel where I can really tell the farmers you can become farmers in the agribusiness and on a commercial scale because you have created conditions that enable people to truly master this trade and reconstitute the ecosystem." – Mr Sédogo

Two other panellists, Mr Reij and Ms Allen Ballo, also shared this opinion. Mr Reij discussed progress with reforestation in Niger. He affirmed that many villages in Niger have 15 to 20 times more trees today than they did two decades ago. According to a study which he cited, farmers in Niger have begun to systematically protect natural regeneration on their farms, covering approximately 5 million hectares of land. Mr Reij said that these successes are not known to mainstream media because farmers have undertaken much of this work outside of a project/donor context and therefore it has not received appropriate coverage. Ms Allen Ballo spoke about her experiences in Mali. She highlighted the positive impact of natural resource management education on farmers, describing some of the remarkable differences that she has perceived over a 15-year period. Once farmers understood their rights and obligations under the national forestry law, they began to practise sound land management techniques. A clear impact of better land management is the increased availability of fuel wood. Today, there are many more trees in the fields of farmers with whom she works. Women now access fuel wood by trimming existing trees rather than gathering firewood, which requires much more time and effort.

A contrasting view was held by Mr Sokona and was seconded by several audience members. Mr Sokona repeatedly referred to the prevailing ecological situation in Africa as “dramatic”. He mentioned that at present there is no reliable system to monitor African natural resources and to serve as an early warning system when lands become dangerously depleted of nutrients. Key indicators pertaining to static crop yields, increased population pressure and persistent erosion paint a very pessimistic picture. His analysis resonated with Mr Behre, the Eritrean Minister of Agriculture, who was seated in the audience. The Minister affirmed that African natural resources are much worse off today than 20 years ago.

The central role of secure land tenure in natural resource management

There was widespread agreement among the panellists concerning the central role of secure land tenure in natural resource management. Without secure tenure rights, farmers have little incentive to make long-term investments to restore soil fertility. The Minister of Agriculture from Burkina Faso highlighted the need to confer land ownership rights to farmers while at the same time establishing a policy that would regulate land transfers to protect farming communities. The Tanzanian Minister of Agriculture spoke of a two-pronged approach to land ownership in his country. Farm land in the immediate vicinity of villages is governed by customary land-use systems that allow for secure tenure rights but do not allow for land sales. Land that is far away from settlements is governed by different conditions. This land is available for sale to local or foreign investors. Mr Kiriro stressed the need to have appropriate legal frameworks in place that protect small farmers while also allowing for much needed investment in rural areas.

The complexity of natural resource management

“If we are talking about managing something, you have to first be given assurance that you have the right to manage it. You also need to be reassured that if you have managed it, you can then benefit from it. Farmers are not protecting the trees just because they look nice and just because it is environmentally sound to do so. They are protecting trees and managing their land sustainably because that is what they need to do to survive and they want to benefit.” – Ms Allen Ballo

A theme which permeated the discussions was the great complexity of effective natural resource management both from a policy and implementation perspective. The importance of an appropriate policy framework that would guarantee secure tenure but also protect farming communities from ill-advised land sales was widely acknowledged. Effective approaches to natural resource management must have regional, national and local dimensions. Mr Wasira stressed the regional dimensions of natural resource management, citing the case of Tanzania,

where most (if not all) rivers originate in Kenya. The judicious use of these water resources must include concerted regional planning so that both countries can use this resource sustainably.

Mr Kiriro stressed that national policies must provide incentives to farmers to invest in their resource base. Local communities must be intimately involved in planning and managing local resources. Several of the participants underlined that governments and donors need to listen to their farmers more closely and observe with greater attention the natural resource management initiatives undertaken by farming communities. Mr Sédogo highlighted the need to develop partnerships with farming communities whereby decisions are reached jointly between farmers and government. Ms Allen Ballo highlighted the need for cross-disciplinary, holistic approaches in which foresters view livestock as potential contributors to sustainable land use rather than merely as threats. There was general agreement with Mr Sokona's statement that there is not just one solution for the problem, such as agroforestry, but that a variety of solutions are required.

Alternative sources of energy as part of the response

Panellists and audience members mentioned that alternative sources of energy (e.g. wind, biogas, solar) can play an important role in decreasing the pressure on vegetative resources. Mr Sédogo mentioned that insufficient availability of affordable gas and electricity in urban areas translated into vastly higher demand for fuel wood and charcoal from rural areas. Increasing availability of gas and electricity would greatly diminish pressure on the natural resource base.

Conclusions and recommendations

There was widespread recognition that responsible stewardship of natural resources is a pre-condition for increased agricultural productivity and farmers' revenue. Solutions are multiple and complex. They are within the grasp of stakeholders but need to be deployed in a concerted and coordinated manner. Improving the natural resource base requires a long-term commitment by all concerned.

Key take-away messages from the panel included:

- There is much more success in Africa than is known to the public, and these successes need to be identified, analysed and scaled up.
- The root causes of poverty need to be addressed if the natural resource base is to be sustained.
- We have come far but there is still a long way to go. Successes can be achieved with concerted partnership.
- Farmers are investing in sustainable land management. They need to be listened to, and sound policies need to be provided.
- The challenge is complex and it is essential that we build up and strengthen our institutional governance systems.
- Farmers' education is the key to managing natural resources and achieving food security.

B. The role of smallholder agriculture and family farming in Asia and Latin America and options for South-South cooperation

Moderator: Mr. Carlos Mermot Salvino, Technical Manager REAF/Mercosur

Panellists:

1. **Mr Ganesh Thapa**, Regional Economist, IFAD
2. **Mr Abhijit Sen**, Member, Planning Commission (India)
3. **Mr Laudemir Müller**, Special Advisor to the Minister of Agrarian Development, Chief of International Advisors and Trade Development (Brazil)
4. **Mr Xiaosong Zheng**, Director-General, International Department, Ministry of Finance (China), and Alternate Governor for China to IFAD
5. **Ms Thenjiwe Mtintso**, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to Italy
6. **Ms Susana Márquez**, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Argentina)
7. **Mr Jorge Neme**, Representative of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Argentina)

The joint event was organized by the Asia and the Pacific Division and the Latin America and the Caribbean Division of IFAD. It provided a platform for discussing different countries' experiences with smallholder agriculture and family farming; public policies and programmes; IFAD's instruments for support; and options for cooperation between the two regions, as well as with Africa. Approximately 100 people attended the event.

The meeting was informed by presentations given by the seven panellists on smallholder agriculture and family farming in Argentina, Brazil, China, India and South Africa.

Background papers prepared for this side event can be found at:

<http://www.ifad.org/events/gc/33/roundtables/pl/index.htm>.

Characteristics of smallholders and family farmers

Asian agriculture is characterized by smallholder farmers cultivating plots of land. Small farms are defined as those with less than 2 hectares of land area and those depending on household members for most of the labour. There are 500 million such farms in the region. Out of these, 200 million are in China and 100 million are in India. The average farm size is 0.4 hectares in China, 0.5 hectares in Bangladesh, 0.8 hectares in Nepal and Sri Lanka and 1.3 hectares in India. In India, small farms contribute more than 50 per cent to the total value of agricultural output, although they cultivate only 44 per cent of the land.

Latin America is characterized by family agriculture. Approximately 85 per cent of farms in MERCOSUR countries belong to the family farming category. These farms employ about 60 per cent of the rural population. The average area of a family farm is 25 hectares with large variations among countries (ranging from 8 hectares in Paraguay to 20 - 30 hectares in Brazil and Chile, and over 100 hectares in Argentina and Uruguay). Family farming provides 35 per cent of total food production in the region. Approximately 65 per cent of food consumed in the region comes from family farming. In Brazil, 70 per cent of food is produced by family agriculture and about 10 per cent of GDP comes from it.

A summary of the main themes and issues that emerged during the presentations and discussion follows.

Responding to the transformation of agriculture in the two regions

Different measures are being taken in countries to improve agricultural productivity, modernize and commercialize agriculture, make it more competitive and add value. In China, policy reforms started from the countryside with the introduction of the household responsibility system, an agriculture production system launched in the early 1980s that allowed households to contract land, machinery and other facilities from collective organizations. The aim was to preserve basic unified management of the collective economy, while contracting out land and other goods to households. Households could make operating decisions independently within the limits set by the contract agreement, and could freely dispose of surplus production over and above national and collective quotas. The system provided the institutional foundation for agricultural productivity growth and poverty reduction. The government is providing support to smallholders by allocating increased resources to agriculture, abolishing taxes on agriculture (since 2006), providing subsidies and establishing minimum support prices. In Argentina, this is being done by providing agricultural technologies to small farmers and by focusing on regional production clusters specializing in high-yield products, such as apples, wine and nuts.

In MERCOSUR, the Specialized Meeting of Family Agriculture (REAF) was created as an association with three main goals: to facilitate trade of family farming products and to increase the visibility of family farming and promote the convergence of differentiated policies in the region in the area of family farming. Most of the food that is consumed in the region comes from family farming; hence the prominent role of family farming and the reason why food security in the region largely depends on it. In addition, family farming depends on the development policies that are put in place, especially policies that ensure sustainability of production and increased production. In the six years since REAF was created, there have been a number of important achievements: Structural modifications were introduced in the region's governments in order for the governments themselves to better implement differentiated policies. For example, in recent years Argentina introduced in its Department of Agriculture a special unit for family farming. Very recently it has elevated this unit to the rank of Secretariat within the Ministry for Agriculture. The same has happened in Uruguay. In addition, REAF made it possible to implement regional programmes involving government and civil society. One programme that has already been implemented is a training programme for young rural people. A regional programme on gender equality is under way.

Attention is moving from low-value agriculture for local markets to high-value agriculture for national and world markets. Diversification of agriculture from traditional food production to high-value commodities is difficult as small and family farmers face high transaction costs and risks in production and marketing of high-value crops. They also face poor access to credit and poor food safety and quality standards. In India, for example, high-value agricultural commodities are the fastest-growing sector. However, small farms face problems of high transaction costs (e.g. banks, insurance companies). These problems are being addressed through institutional innovations (e.g. cooperatives). Brazil and India are the world's leading producers of sugar, but the structure of production in the two countries is different: large farmers dominate in Brazil whereas small farmers are important in India.

The socio-economic transformation, especially in middle-income countries, is also resulting in migration to urban areas. Young people, in particular, are migrating in search of better opportunities. A major concern is how to encourage young people to remain in rural areas. There is a need and opportunity for a new 'greener' agriculture, which could be seen as a viable business opportunity by young farmers, thus motivating them to remain in rural areas instead of leaving to search for employment in cities.

In a rapidly changing world, food security, energy security and poverty reduction are all important policy goals. Energy security should not be achieved at the cost of food security, although there could be trade-offs in some situations.

Risks and challenges faced by smallholders and family farmers

A number of risks faced by smallholders persist, including vulnerability to climate change, which is a special challenge in marginal areas, and environmental changes, such as deteriorating soil and water quality. Food price inflation and high price volatility in the agricultural commodities market, as well as access to markets, pose significant challenges to smallholders, as do the existence of two separate economic systems within one country (as is the case in South Africa) and achieving productivity growth (as is the case in India). The need for adequate government recognition of and support to family farming cannot be underestimated. These risks and challenges serve as a disincentive for farmers to invest in the land that they cultivate.

Land and land-security related problems have existed for a long time and continue to be extremely important. Many studies have shown that marginalization is linked to lack of access to land and land-use rights. In Asia, land security has become acute because of urbanization and industrialization, which are resulting in a diminishing agricultural area. However, the political prospects for redistributed land reform are not very promising in many countries of Asia. Some aspects of land reform, such as tenure and security, are perhaps easier to implement than some of the aspects of land redistribution. In South Africa, land distribution is among the key concerns of the government, which continues its efforts in distributing land, 30 per cent of which should go to smallholders.

Smallholders play an important role in feeding the growing world population, especially within their own countries. Family agriculture is not a synonym for poverty. Rather, it is a foundation of a strategy for food security and for social and economic policies. Smallholders and family farmers have a number of significant opportunities coming from technical innovations – conservation agriculture, organic agriculture, biotechnology and information technology – and institutional innovations – farmers' organizations and contract farming.

The importance of enabling measures

Governments are the principal actors in creating an enabling environment for smallholders and family farmers to develop themselves. The recent food and financial crises showed the limits of neoliberal policies, especially in South America. When the crisis started, smallholders suffered most. In Brazil, the government was able to work with public banks to finance family agriculture. The international development community is increasingly emphasizing that smallholder and family farming should become a political priority in many developing countries, with appropriate policies and increased resources directed to agriculture.

India recognizes that although it has millions of small farmers, about 40 per cent of the rural population is comprised of landless agricultural labourers who depend on wages. In many cases, these labourers are poorer than those rural people who depend on family farms. In essence, there is a dual challenge: diversifying within agriculture and diversifying outside of agriculture. India has allocated a significant amount of resources to implement rural employment guarantee schemes to provide employment and incomes to these people. The infrastructure developed through these programmes, such as soil and water conservation schemes, has helped agricultural production. The central government has also started a programme that provides funds to state governments based on their agricultural plans and budgets. China has been reviewing its rural tax regimes to help small farmers, and since 2008 Chinese farmers have not been taxed. The country is supporting small farmers through subsidies; it also improved the rural social safety net by constructing a new rural cooperative medical system in three years, covering 815 million people or 91.5 per cent of the rural population. It has also adopted and improved the rural minimum living allowances policy.

In 2009, the Chinese Government began to work on the rural pension system in order to have a pension system for all farmers within a few years.

Governments should also create a conducive economic environment, with market reforms to facilitate trade. For example, African countries such as Lesotho and Swaziland could be linked with South Africa, which has important ports. Investments need to be made in public goods to develop technologies that can increase the potential production of smallholders. Improving infrastructure is crucial, especially in places like Africa where access to markets continues to be poor and farmers must travel to cities to sell their products.

Access to education is a fundamental driver of social development and equality, and policies need to ensure that all school-age children have access to education. China is promoting education by prohibiting children in the countryside from dropping out of school. The government is also providing fee exemptions to students from poor rural families. At the same time, skills training needs to be provided.

Policies should also aim at creating equal opportunities for women. For example, South Africa is characterized by a patriarchal system that often does not permit women to use family plots of land for themselves. In many societies, formal systems may recognize the rights of women, but informal rules or traditions that deny women such rights may reign. Agricultural cooperatives have started to address this issue but as soon as they are formed and become powerful, men take over.

Enhancing South-South cooperation

As agriculture transcends boundaries, regional cooperation and enabling environments can lead to increased investments. It is important to forge regional cooperation based on trust, and to ensure the sustainability of the processes on which cooperation is based. Presenters stressed that it is important to organize events to share experiences in Asia, Latin America and Africa. However, these events should focus more on implementation rather than knowledge sharing as such, and there should be a systematic follow-up.

IFAD introduced the idea of organizing South-South learning events related to smallholder agriculture and its rapid transformation, in order to enhance cooperation, and invited countries to co-host these events. Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa strongly supported the proposal. IFAD is a strategic partner that can help facilitate this policy dialogue. In this regard, participants from South Africa were interested in exploring partnership between CORPOFAM and MERCOSUR.

The following South-South learning events were recommended:

- Conference in India: Conference on Dynamics of Rural Transformation in the Emerging Economies, 14-16 April 2010
- Event in Brazil in which case studies on family agriculture for Brazil, China, India and South Africa will be presented and discussed, September 2010
- Organization of a session on South-South cooperation during the Annual Performance Review Workshop of the Asia and the Pacific Division, 1-5 November 2010.

IFAD will explore instruments other than loans to develop a model for smallholder and family farming. Some countries (e.g. India) recommended that IFAD help develop policies and approaches that will encourage the private sector to invest in agriculture and find other mechanisms for financing agriculture.

C. Adapting management of water resources to climate change in the Near East, North Africa and Central and Eastern Europe

Questions to guide discussion:

- How can investments in agricultural research be significantly increased to improve the resilience of smallholder farmers to the effects of climate change, raise their productivity in a context of risk and uncertainty, and contribute to rewarding communities for the environmental services they provide?
- What is needed to sharpen the international research focus on the challenges of the regions that are most vulnerable to climate change, which are also the least prepared in terms of institutional capacity, and which are for the most part in Africa? How can the concerns of marginalized rural communities be voiced and influence the research agenda?

Moderator: Mr Nadim Khouri, Director, Near East and North Africa Division, IFAD

Panellists:

1. **Ms Lucka Kajfež-Bogataj**, Professor of Climatology, Ljubljana University (Slovenia)
2. **Mr Safwat Abdel-Dayem**, Executive Secretary, Arab Water Council
3. **Ms Mylène Kherallah**, Regional Economist, IFAD NEN Division
4. **Mr Tawfiq El-Zabri**, Country Programme Manager, IFAD NEN Division
5. **Ms Ala Overcenco**, Consultant, Agro Inform (Moldova)
6. **Mr Kamil Shideed**, Assistant Director-General, ICARDA

Climate change poses an increasing threat to the resilience and sustainability of agricultural production systems and livelihood strategies. This is particularly true in dry areas, where climate change is increasing risk and vulnerability in already fragile systems, and where rural households must contend with severe water scarcity, land degradation and desertification, low and highly erratic rainfall and frequent drought. Adapting to climate change requires adjustments and new approaches at various levels: community, local, national, regional and international.

About 115 people attended this meeting, which was structured around four presentations and discussions following each presentation. A summary of the meeting follows, and includes three components:

- the context of water scarcity and climate change, highlighting the major issues and the relationship with food insecurity;
- key points raised during the discussions;
- recommendations.

Presentations

Regional impacts of global warming on weather, climate and sea-level

Ms Lucka Kajfež-Bogataj, Lubiana University, Slovenia (former chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group 2)

Implications of the findings of the report of the Arab region for investments by donors/international development community*

Mr Safwat Abdel-Dayem, Executive Secretary, Arab Water Council

Adaptation-driven water management as a regional priority for Near East and North Africa Division in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) and Central and Eastern Europe (CEN) regions**

Ms Mylène Kherallah, Regional Economist, IFAD

Innovative and up-scalable solutions/methods used as means of adaptation to climate change in the NENA and CEN region

Mr Tawfiq El-Zabri, Country Programme Manager for Jordan and Somalia, and Ms Ala Overcenco, Researcher, Agro-Inform (NGO), Moldova

The Executive Summary of the background paper prepared for this side event can be found at: http://intradev:8015/events/gc/33/roundtables/pn/bg_e.pdf

Water scarcity and climate change

Water scarcity is the main source of vulnerability in most dry areas. Water availability is typically measured in terms of actual renewable water resources (ARWR) per capita, which is declining in most dry regions. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is the world's most water-scarce region with ARWR of 1,100 m³ per capita, compared with 8,000 m³ in sub-Saharan Africa and 2,700 m³ in South Asia. As populations grow, ARWR in the region is projected to fall to 550 m³ per capita in 2050.

Natural scarcity of water is compounded by very high withdrawal rates. The MENA region withdraws 73 per cent of its ARWR each year – the highest globally. By comparison, South Asia withdraws 26 per cent, and sub-Saharan Africa only 2.2 per cent.

The other important dimension is the very low water-use efficiency in agriculture. Irrigation efficiency is estimated at 48 per cent. Studies by the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) show that on-farm water-use efficiency in wheat production is as low as 40 per cent, highlighting the excessive use of scarce water resources.

This combination of natural scarcity, high withdrawal rates and low on-farm water-use efficiency has resulted in severe water poverty in most dry areas, and particularly in the MENA region. Arab countries are quickly moving from water stress to absolute water scarcity (and thus poverty). By 2025, their ARWR will fall below 500 m³ per capita. In addition, there is large-scale groundwater mining, leading to progressive depletion of groundwater, particularly from shallow aquifers. Water poverty contributes greatly to human poverty: poor countries in dry areas typically have low human development indicator scores. Likewise, access to water and food security are strongly linked.

With increased competition for water from other sectors, there is likely to be a substantial reduction in the share of water resources allocated to agriculture. This has been projected by numerous studies. Clearly, we need to produce more food with less water to meet the increased

* Presented to the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, March 2009.

** Drawing on the paper, 'Climate change and sustainable water resource management: IFAD experiences in the NENA and CEN regions' by A. Louca and M. Ismail (consultants).

demand for food. This will require more research investment to develop viable technical, institutional and policy options for efficient, sustainable and equitable use of water. Improving on-farm water-use efficiency will directly enhance the efficiency of food production: either by producing more food with the same amount of water, or by producing the same output but with less water.

Agriculture in the NENA/MENA region is predominantly rainfed, resulting in food instability and insecurity caused by rainfall variability. The region is classified as food-deficient, and imports of food – particularly wheat – are increasing. FAO projections indicate that NENA cereal imports in 2030 will be the highest among all developing regions. This situation will have major implications on government budgets.

Climate change is compounding the problems of water scarcity and food insecurity, and various climate models predict that climate change impacts will be most severe in NENA and sub-Saharan Africa. Climate change will lead to:

- temperature extremes (both heat and cold);
- greater water scarcity;
- loss of agro-biodiversity;
- increased vulnerability of production systems and rural communities and their livelihoods;
- lower and more erratic rainfall, and thus smaller and less reliable harvests;
- increased frequency of drought.

Some of these impacts can be quantitatively described. For example, rainfall in NENA will decline by 10-25 per cent, resulting in a significant decrease in crop yields. In the long term, precipitation along the Mediterranean coast will fall by 20 per cent. In Eastern and Central Europe (CEN), climate change is also expected to increase the vulnerability of rural communities. In Moldova, for example, available water resources will decrease by 16-20 per cent between 2010 and 2039. Weather extremes (drought) in 2007 in Moldova reduced cereal production by 70 per cent and caused a huge decrease in livestock production.

“How do we handle these problems today? Are we helping each other? Are we cooperating? If we superimpose on a graph [of climate change impact hotspots] those locations where there are recent armed conflicts, we can see strong correlation. Is it possible that climate change impacts will also be a huge multiplier of instability? Will we talk about water wars in the future? This is my greatest fear.” – Ms Kajfez-Bogata

In short, climate change is a risk and vulnerability multiplier in the form of increased water scarcity, demographic changes (migration), decline in crop production, increased poverty and hunger, coastal risks and conflicts. However, the impact of climate change on food security can be minimized in various ways. These include:

- integrating risk management strategies and adaptation measures into government development policy;
- creating enabling policies and political will;
- using opportunities provided by advances in science and technology;
- applying integrated approaches to the sustainable use of natural resources for economic growth;
- intensifying production systems sustainably;
- adopting an approach that combines adaptation, mitigation and ecosystem resilience;
- promoting awareness of the long-term benefits of conservation technologies (particularly zero and minimum tillage systems) which conserve soil moisture, reduce the risk of crop failure and reduce production costs;
- promoting capacity development, institutional support and partnerships.

Agricultural science provides ample opportunities to rationalize and optimize the use of scarce water resources and strengthen adaptation to climate change. For example, ICARDA's studies show that the use of improved irrigation technologies (supplemental irrigation) in wheat production has reduced the amount of groundwater that farmers in Syria use by 30-35 per cent compared with conventional practices. Similar water savings were achieved in cotton, sugar beet, potato and faba bean production by using sprinkler (or drip) instead of flood irrigation.

Research-for-development projects funded by IFAD, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and implemented by the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and ICARDA have clearly demonstrated the importance of integrated water management for climate change adaptation. Introducing supplemental irrigation in rainfed areas has substantially increased and stabilized crop yields. This is only one example of how technology can help effectively manage weather risk, including risk generated by climate change.

Key points raised during the discussions

The discussions focused on water management, water scarcity and climate change, and highlighted the need for effective adaptation strategies and interventions. The following points were emphasized:

- Adaptation is the key to respond to climate change. However, adaptation solutions based on experience to date may not be effective against the new and emerging challenges. Current technologies are not always adequate to address climate change problems; new technologies are needed. Some technologies are already available for increasing food production despite climate change. These technologies need to be disseminated more effectively, and more public and private investment needs to be made in them.
- Technology alone is not sufficient. An enabling policy environment is needed. This is particularly true for dealing with the problem of non-sustainable use of shallow groundwater. More rational policies are also needed for water pricing and valuation, and better basin-level management to share water more equitably among riparian countries. Moreover, efficient and equitable cost-recovery systems must be established for water use, and a holistic approach to address water problems must be adopted.
- It is important to build on indigenous knowledge and experience for coping with water scarcity – for example, studying how traditional water-harvesting techniques can be modified and applied to resolve current problems.
- It is essential to make women and men farmers aware of the effects of climate change. Equally important is the investment in scientific research to find new processes and solutions to cope with climate change.

The Amman Declaration

The rapporteur, Mr Shideed, drew the attention of participants to another important event that was held in Amman Jordan on 1-4 February 2010: the 'International conference on food security and climate change in dry areas'. The event was organized by ICARDA and Jordan's National Centre for Agricultural Research and Extension, together with other partners: OFID, FAO, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Jordan's Scientific Research Support Fund, the Middle East Science Foundation, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), AARINENA, APAARI, CACAARI and Bioversity International. More than 200 policy-makers and scientists from 29 countries and 13 regional and international organizations attended the conference and recommended a clear action plan known as the Amman Declaration. The Declaration lists a prioritized set of actions to enhance food security and reduce vulnerability to climate change, to be implemented in partnership with farming and pastoral communities. The actions cover natural resources (land, water and biodiversity), food production systems, policies and institutions and regional initiatives.

- In allocating water for different uses, priority should be given to human consumption.
- Water dams are probably not an effective way to cope with climate change; they could make poor people even poorer because of water distribution issues. Dams are already creating problems in water sharing among riparian countries. Solar energy is another option for coping with climate change by reducing fuel use.
- It is not economically feasible to use desalinated water for irrigation. This could be addressed in two complementary ways: use solar energy to reduce the cost of desalinization, and conduct more research to develop salt-tolerant crop varieties.
- Careful spatial planning is needed for adaptation and mitigation measures in areas affected by rising sea-water levels.
- Climate change can be addressed and food security enhanced by combining mitigation, adaptation and production systems resilience; the latter two should be given priority in developing countries. In this regard, conservation agriculture (zero tillage) is an important option.
- To increase the total water budget, marginal water sources can be used, after they have been properly treated and after the health and environmental implications have been fully considered.

Recommendations

"IFAD plays a significant role in Moldova and the region, and current activities are concerned with climate change adaptation like investments including water saving irrigation technologies, grants for irrigation water infrastructure development and rural credit for new varieties adapted to Moldova's climate conditions. IFAD could enlarge its role in this region by means of other activities. It could be in awareness programmes on promotion of good agricultural practices and conservation agriculture; purchasing the genotypes which are best adapted to expected climate changes; agrotechnical machines for zero tillage; and special consultations and investigations of water and soil quality for prospective irrigation." – Ms Overcenco

A number of recommendations were made to address climate change and water scarcity:

- Support innovative approaches to reduce the vulnerability of poor rural communities to climate change.
- Create better linkages among research and development investments and policies on climate change, rural development, agriculture and food security.
- Enhance the productive and adaptive capacities of rural communities to climate change by improving their access to risk-reducing technologies, supported by enabling policies. Safety-net measures must be widely promoted by development investments and government policies. They are more cost-effective and sustainable for enhancing livelihood resilience (against drought and other weather risks) compared with relief and emergency programmes.
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures must be included in government development plans and poverty reduction strategies.
- The donor community (and IFAD) should assist developing countries and partner organizations in mobilizing additional resources for adaptation and mitigation measures.
- Focus water-related interventions on water-demand management and increasing on-farm water-use efficiency. In this regard, strengthen human capacity to manage water and land resources more efficiently, specifically with water-use efficiency, drought management, supplemental irrigation and water-harvesting techniques. In addition, climate change adaptation measures should be integrated into water policy reforms.
- Promote the use of supplemental irrigation and water harvesting and the adoption of improved irrigation technologies in rainfed agriculture. Equally important is the safe use of marginal water resources.

- Promote integrated and participatory approaches to natural resource management. One example is to involve (and gradually delegate responsibility to) water users' associations in managing water schemes.
- Develop and promote policy and institutional options to enhance the adoption of improved water technologies and the sustainable use of water resources.
- Increase research investments to develop improved water management practices that are robust enough to help rural communities cope with climate change.
- Build strategic partnerships and promote regional and international cooperation to jointly address water scarcity and ensure adequate access to water resources.
- Monitor the impact of climate change (at smaller scales) on food security, natural resources and rural livelihoods, and build related knowledge management systems.

D. The Rural Poverty Report 2010 – highlights and feedback on work in progress

Questions to guide the round-table discussion:

- Would a Rural Poverty Report based on the presentation be interesting, add value and contribute to improving the lives of the rural poor?
- Which audiences will find the report useful, which won't and why?
- Does the structure work, or could it be improved?
- Are the analyses, conclusions and recommendations convincing? How could they be improved?
- Is anything missing?

Moderator: Mr Henock Kifle, Chief Development Strategist, IFAD

Panellists:

1. Mr Ed Heinemann, Team Leader, Rural Poverty Report
2. Mr Andrew Shepherd, Lead Writer, Rural Poverty Report

The Rural Poverty Report is the flagship publication of IFAD. Its main aim is to present the state of rural poverty and to make recommendations not only to IFAD but also to national and international policy-makers, civil society organizations and the general public at large on policies and measures to reduce rural poverty. This meeting was held in order to obtain the views and a critical assessment of the participants on the publication in its current form in order to enrich the publication as it continues to be elaborated. About 45 people attended.

Presentation of the Rural Poverty Report

Before the discussions took place, Ed Heinemann gave a presentation of the context of the report and the progress made so far. The publications began in mid-2007 and work was carried out through 2008. In early 2009, a number of stock-taking exercises were held, during which it was decided that the central story would need to be re-thought, additional research in key areas would need to be conducted, and consultations with the development community would need to be broadened. These decisions were made owing to a number of factors:

- The food, fuel and financial crises had undermined many of the assumptions on which the chapters had been written.
- There was a rapidly growing understanding of climate change and its implications, which changed the nature of our understanding of the problems that many poor rural people face.
- In the past year a substantial number of authoritative books had been written on agricultural and rural development, and therefore it was important to contribute to this body of work with a publication that would add value.

Andrew Shepherd, the Lead Writer, then gave a summary of the key messages and contents of the publications, the first draft of which is divided into eight chapters.

- Ch 1 Introduction – Why tomorrow will be different from yesterday
- Ch 2 Another look at rural poverty today

- Ch 3 How bad could it get?
- Ch 4 Building the foundation – addressing risk, reducing vulnerability
- Ch 5 The changing role of markets in reducing rural poverty
- Ch 6 What sort of agriculture can help reduce rural poverty?
- Ch 7 Walking on two legs: opportunities in the non-farm economy
- Ch 8 What would success look like, and how do we get there?

Narratives from women and men farmers are interspersed throughout the publication.

Main points from the discussions

The main issues that emerged during the discussions are summarized below.

Smallholder agriculture. The issue of smallholder agriculture has traditionally been central to IFAD. However, in recent times it is not always clear whether IFAD simply targets smallholder farmers for rural poverty reduction or rather actively promotes and advocates for smallholder agriculture. In general, there is little solid data and analysis to make sound statements on this issue, and it is important that the report addresses the issue of the viability of smallholder agriculture and fills some of these research gaps.

Value chains. Value chains are very important to reduce rural poverty. The Report needs to explore in detail the workings of value chains in which poor rural people and small-scale farmers participate and identify very clearly their weak points. Often there are gaps in these chains that the state has to fill; otherwise, interventions (including by donors) on other aspects of the chains cannot yield positive results.

Education and training. The issue of education and training is rightly emphasized in the Report. However, it is important to consider and specify which kinds of training and education – those which do not exclude the poor, do not result in youth leaving the rural areas and emphasize education that is relevant to agriculture and to the concrete needs of farmers.

Cooperatives. The issue of cooperative organization of poor rural people is an important one. Cooperatives are the easiest way people can organize and also gain access to education and extension. As such, it needs to be addressed squarely in the Report. At the same time, it is important to present small-scale farmers as *actors* who can take responsibility for rural development – whether by organizing into cooperatives or otherwise.

Success stories. The Report addresses an overwhelming range of issues. For practical use in policy making, it is important, for example, that readers be given examples of success stories to learn from and cases of positive initiatives – especially those that are successfully scaled up – upon which to capitalize and build. Perhaps this could come in the form of regional annexes, which may provide guidance to policy makers.

The theoretical perspective of rural poverty and hunger. The report may help fill a gap among the three Rome-based agencies in terms of their ability to step back from their work to take a “theoretical” look at the issues of rural poverty and hunger. Doing so may stir up controversy or even open up questions about the relevance of their mandate or the value of their work. However, it is important to do this, no matter what controversies may ensue. The Rome-based agencies need to be able to capture the same attention that other agencies achieve with, for example, annual development reports.

Linking the issues. The Report links different issues usually dealt with separately. Such linkages – both intellectual and practical – are important, especially to enable development practitioners to identify a good working model to connect the needed actions on all issues, and to work from the grassroots up and vice versa.

Locating IFAD in the historical and current context. The Report needs to take into account how IFAD has changed since 2007 and what has happened in the field in these past few years. Farmers' voices and those of their organizations are crucial for this, and they need to feature in the Report. It is also important to firmly locate the Report in the context of the role IFAD has played in global debates on food security and poverty in the past three years and what the Report's findings will mean for IFAD in the future.

Role of the Executive Board. The Executive Board should be involved in the finalization and early presentation of the Report. To this end, an informal seminar on the Report should be held.

Publicity. It is important to have not just a book but also some user-friendly products such as policy briefs on specific issues that policy makers can easily use, including research findings and clear indications as to what action needs to be taken regarding a given issue.

Annex I

Profiles of moderators and panellists of the High-Level Panel Discussion

Mr Jim Clancy, *Moderator, award-winning journalist and CNN anchorman*

As a CNN reporter and anchor for over three decades, Mr Clancy has covered many of the major international events that have shaped history. He has hosted several panels featuring some of the world's most prominent figures. Mr Clancy played a key role in bringing *Inside Africa* on CNN International, giving the world a more balanced and accurate view of the problems and the progress being made on the continent.

Sir Gordon Conway, *Professor of International Development at the Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London*

Sir Conway is considered a pioneer of sustainable agriculture. In the 1970s and 1980s he worked extensively in Asia and the Middle East for the Ford Foundation, World Bank and USAID. He directed the Sustainable Agriculture Programme at the International Institute for Environment and Development. From 1998-2004 Sir Conway was President of the Rockefeller Foundation, and prior to that he was Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Department for International Development and President of the Royal Geographical Society. He is the author of "The Doubly Green Revolution: Food for all in the 21st Century".

Dr Nahed Mohammed Taher, *Founder and CEO of Gulf One Investment Bank*

Dr Taher is the first woman leading a Gulf investment bank. In 2006, Forbes listed her among the World's Most Powerful Women. She has extensive experience in the field of economic and financial analysis and has held senior positions both in academia and the private sector. Dr Taher was the first woman to be hired in a Senior Management position among 4,000 men in the National Commercial Bank (NCB) as Chief Economist and Chairman of the Risk and Portfolio Management Committee.

Mr Ajay Vashee, *President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)*

Elected in June 2008, Mr Vashee is the first IFAP President from a developing country. The organization represents farmers at an international level. A dairy and crop farmer in Zambia, Mr Vashee has been involved in organized agriculture for over 23 years. He served as President of the Zambia National Farmers Union, where he united diverse national farming interests for the first time in the history of the nation.

Ms Haydée Castillo Flores, *Coordinator of the Women's Forum for Central American Integration*

Beyond issues on gender, Ms Castillo Flores is an expert on food security challenges and an active promoter of rural development programmes in Nicaragua and in Central America. She worked with a number of NGOs to identify alternatives and opportunities to promote rural development, poverty, gender inequality and rural-urban disparity reduction.

Mr Kevin Cleaver, *Associate Vice-President, Programmes at IFAD*

As IFAD's newly-appointed Associate Vice President, Programmes, Mr Cleaver manages the department that handles IFAD's operations worldwide. He has a long and distinguished career in agriculture and rural development. Prior to joining IFAD in 2006, he worked in several key positions at the World Bank, including Director for Agriculture and Rural Development and Director for Sustainable Development in the Bank's Europe and Central Asia Region.

Annex II

Profiles of moderators and panellists of the side events

Side event 1: Natural resource management in sub-Saharan Africa: successes, challenges and future directions

Mr Alex Puissant, *TV journalist and independent conference moderator*

A multilingual communications professional, Mr Puissant has extensive media experience as a news anchorman and European affairs correspondent. He worked with the public broadcasting company VRT from 1989-2007, and has conducted interviews with such well-known personalities as Pervez Musharaff, Nicolas Sarkozy, Mouammar Khadafi, Umberto Eco and Mohamed El Baradei. Mr Puissant has also moderated sessions and organized interactive debates at conferences organized by leading global corporations and international organizations, including the European Union and the United Nations. He has chaired sessions that included speakers as diverse as Václav Havel, Margaret Thatcher and Bill Gates.

Mr Laurent Sédogo, *Minister of Agriculture, Water and Fisheries, Burkina Faso*

Mr Sédogo was employed as a land surveyor and teacher of topography and cartography for the national army of Burkina Faso in September 1980. From 1984 to 1987 he occupied several high administrative and political positions, and was among the pioneers who set up the national committee for desertification control in Burkina Faso. From 1988 to 1990 he held the appointment of Minister of Farmers' Cooperatives. From 1991 to 1993 he was the manager of the desertification control programme at the Ministry of Environment. In the 1990s he also worked as a GIS expert for the Ministry of Environment and the National Land Use Planning Programme (PNGT).

Mr Stephen Masato Wasira, *Minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, United Republic of Tanzania*

Mr Wasira served as Deputy Minister of Agriculture in the first-phase Government under President Julius Nyerere and also served as the Deputy Minister for Local Government. Later he served as the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development under second-phase President Ali Hassan Mwinyi. He was appointed as Minister of Water on 4 January 2006, when Jakaya Kikwete, who had been elected President, named his new cabinet. He was then moved to his current position of Minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives on 15 October 2006. On 12 February 2008, he was named Minister in the Prime Minister's Office for Regional Administration and Local Government.

Dr Youba Sokona, *Executive Secretary of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), Mali*

Dr Sokona has been in his current position since 2004. His work focuses on the environment and sustainable development nexus, and he has broad experience in Africa in policy development through a combination of research and analysis, and organizing and leading multi-stakeholder participation. The thematic focus of his work covers conceptual as well as practical issues in sustainable development. Dr Sokona has served several national and international public policy institutions. Prior to his current position, he was Coordinator of the ENDA-TM Energy Programme; he was also Professor of Hydrology, Statistics and Hydraulics at the Ecole Nationale d'Ingénieurs de Bamako, Mali.

Ms Mary Allen Ballo, *Executive Secretary Sahel Eco (English NGO based in Mali)*

Ms Allen Ballo has been with Sahel Eco since 2005, where she also served as a Country Programme Director. Prior to that, she was a Technical Advisor and Director of the Bankass Environment Project (BEP) for SOS Sahel UK in Mali. Her key areas of expertise are in: rural development in the Sahel; decentralization and natural resource management; sustainable land management; organizational assessment and capacity building; participatory research, planning, monitoring and evaluation; small-scale irrigation and water management; proposal development for institutional donors and trust funds; project management and reporting; and workshop design and facilitation.

Mr Chris Reij, *Senior Advisor on Natural Resource Management at the Vrije Universiteit (VU) in Amsterdam*

Mr Reij has been a senior natural resource management specialist at the Centre for International Cooperation VU University Amsterdam since 1992. He is also the Facilitator of African Re-greening Initiatives, currently operational in Burkina Faso and Niger and likely to expand in 2010 to Ethiopia. He was also Coordinator of a Sahel study that identified and analysed long-term trends in agriculture and environment in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal. From 2006-2008, Mr Reij held consultancies with CTA to train research and extension staff in the methodology of farmer innovation. He has also coordinated action research on farmer innovation in Africa, which identified and analysed spontaneous innovations by farmers in a number of countries. Mr Reij has also held a number of consultancies with IFAD.

Side event 2: The role of smallholder agriculture and family farming in Asia and Latin America and options for South-South cooperation

Mr Carlos Mermot Salvino, *Technical Manager REAF/Mercosur and Consultant for IFAD*

Mr Mermot Salvino holds degrees in agronomy and economics from the Universidad de la República of Uruguay. He regularly consults for IFAD and MERCOSUR on agro-industrial production and regional integration. He is also an expert on microfinancing in Latin America. Mr Mermot Salvino regularly teaches courses on the formulation and evaluation of agro-industrial integration. He has consulted on numerous subjects, including livestock production, agro-industrial integration, microfinancing and forestry.

Dr Ganesh Thapa, *Regional Economist, IFAD*

Dr Thapa is the Regional Economist of the Asia and the Pacific Division of IFAD. He has a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University, USA. He has also worked as Country Director/Programme Leader for Winrock International in Nepal and as Senior Economist for the Ministry of Agriculture, Nepal. He has undertaken research and published articles on such topics as: risks, vulnerability and poverty reduction, sustainability of microfinance, indigenous peoples and poverty reduction, effects of new agricultural technologies on income distribution, constraints on agricultural marketing, and food security and environmental policies.

Professor Abhijit Sen, *Member, Planning Commission (India)*

Prof. Sen is currently a Member in the Planning Commission, with the rank and status of Union Minister of State. He has a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Cambridge and joined the Planning Commission as a Professor of Economics in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has also held teaching posts at the Universities of Sussex, Oxford and Cambridge and is currently on the Senate/Executive Committees of a number of universities and institutions. Prof. Sen has been an Adviser/Consultant with many international organizations. Prof. Sen has authored or co-authored more than 30 papers in the areas of agriculture, employment, economic reforms and poverty.

Mr Laudemir André Müller, *Special Advisor to the Minister of Agrarian Development, Chief of International Advisors and Trade Development (Brazil)*

The son of farmers from South Brazil, Mr Müller spent his childhood in agriculture. He graduated with a degree in Economics from the Universidade Federal of Rio Grande do Sul in 1997, and obtained a Masters Degree in Rural Development from the Universidade Federal of Rio de Janeiro in 1999. He worked for the Government of the State of Rio Grande do Sul in public policy for rural risk management, implementing systems of agricultural insurance for family farming. Since 2003 he has coordinated international policy of the Ministry of Agrarian Development and is Special Advisor to the Minister of State. He has also coordinated the Brazilian national section of the Specialized Meeting on Family Farming of MERCOSUR (REAF) since 2004. Mr Müller was a university professor from 2000-2002 in Economics and the Environment.

Mr Zheng Xiaosong, *Director-General, International Department, Ministry of Finance (China), and Alternate Governor for China to IFAD*

Mr Zheng has been Director-General, International Department of the Ministry of Finance since 2007. Prior to that, he held the positions of Executive Director for China for the Asian Development Bank (2005-2007); Deputy Director-General, International Department of the Ministry of Finance (2005-2007); Assistant to the Director, Liaison Office of the Chinese Central Government (1997-2000); First Secretary, Department of Western European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1995-1996); Assistant to the Vice Minister, Department of Western European Affairs (1993-1995); and Attache and Third Secretary, Chinese Embassy in Norway (1986-1989). Mr Zheng received his post-graduate degree in the Foreign Service Programme, Keble College, Oxford University.

Ms Thenjiwe Ethel Mtintso, *Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to Italy*

Ms Mtintso was appointed the Republic of South Africa's Ambassador to the Italian Republic in December 2008. Before her appointment, she served as the Republic of South Africa's Ambassador to Cuba. She also served as Deputy Secretary-General of the African National Congress (ANC) and as Chairperson of the Commission on Gender Equality. Ms Mtintso was a Member of the first democratically elected South African Parliament as well as a Member of the National Executive Committee and the National Working Committee. She held various positions within the ANC in exile and served as its Chief Representative in Uganda. She also participated in the negotiation process under the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) and sat on the Transitional Executive Committee.

Ms Susana Márquez, *Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Argentina)*

Ms Márquez has extensive experience in building and managing rural development projects. Currently in charge of Institutional Relations in the Rural Change Unit (UCAR) of Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture, Fish and Livestock, Ms Márquez has extensive experience in coordinating rural development projects tied to the public and private sectors, including work with multi-disciplinary teams – both technical and financial – in the preparation of multilateral operations. Among other tasks, she coordinated two IFAD-financed projects and one World Bank project. Ms Márquez has published more than 20 papers on food security, public policy, family farming and social organizations.

Mr Jorge Neme, *representative of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Argentina)*

Since 1972, Mr Neme has performed various executive and advisory functions at the national and local levels, including serving as the coordinator for roundtables on rural public policy. Currently the Executive Coordinator for all externally financed development projects of Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture, Fish and Livestock, under the Rural Change Unit (UCAR), he also works

as a university lecturer. Mr Neme has published numerous papers and technical analysis reports on industrial development, unemployment, industrial relations and Latin America and Mercosur.

Side event 3: Adapting management of water resources to climate change in the Near East, North Africa and Central and Eastern Europe

Dr Nadim Khouri, *Director, Near East and North Africa Division (NEN), IFAD*

Dr Khouri, a national of Lebanon, is Director of the Near East, North Africa, the Central and Eastern European and Newly Independent States Division for IFAD. Prior to joining IFAD, Dr Khouri worked for 20 years at the World Bank in agricultural operations. He has also held research and technical specialist positions at the American University of Beirut, the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and Dar al-Hadassah Consulting. Dr Khouri has a Ph.D. in Soil Sciences from the University of Massachusetts, USA; an MSc. in Agricultural Development from the University of London; and an MSc. and BSc. in agronomic sciences from the American University in Beirut.

Prof. Lucka Kajfež-Bogataj, *Professor of Climatology, Ljubljana University (Slovenia)*

Dr Kajfež-Bogataj has been a Professor of Climatology on the Chair of Agrometeorology at the Biotechnical Faculty at Ljubljana University since 1997. She has been involved in and has led several national and international scientific projects related to climatology and has been published in many scientific journals. In 2007, she served as vice-chair of the Working Group 2 Fourth Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - IPCC. She is currently a member of the Global Climate Observation System committee at WMO, and has been Chairman of WG3 for EC-COST 734 Project Impacts of Climate Change and Variability on European Agriculture since 2006.

Dr Safwat Abdel-Dayem, *Executive Secretary of the Arab Water Council and Emeritus Professor (retiree) of the National Water Research Centre, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt*

Prior to joining the Arab Water Council and the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt, Dr Abdel-Dayem worked as Drainage Specialist in the Agricultural and Rural Development Department of the World Bank and as a Director of the Drainage Research Institute of Egypt. He also worked as a consultant to FAO and has worked in many Middle Eastern and African countries. He was lecturer of Irrigation and Drainage at a number of Egyptian universities and international institutes and was closely associated with ICID activities through his membership of ICID Working Groups. He is author of over 40 technical papers and has contributed to some books on land drainage. He was Vice President of ICID from 1992-1995.

Dr Mylène Kherallah, *Regional Economist, IFAD NEN Division*

Dr Kherallah is the Regional Economist for IFAD's Near East, North Africa, the Central and Eastern European and Commonwealth of Independent States Division. Prior to joining IFAD, Dr Kherallah was a research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), working mostly on agricultural market reform issues in Africa. She also worked as a long-term consultant in the Middle East and North Africa division of the World Bank.

Mr Tawfiq El-Zabri, *Country Programme Manager, IFAD NEN Division*

Mr El-Zabri, a national of Jordan, has been Country Programme Manager at the Near East and North Africa Division since 2001, during which time he managed IFAD's portfolio in Gaza, Macedonia, Romania and the West Bank and (currently) Jordan and Somalia. Prior to joining IFAD, Mr El-Zabri was a consultant to the World Bank, IFAD and the IMF on agricultural and financial programmes in Asia and in the Near East and North Africa region.

Ms Ala Overcenco, *Consultant, Agro Inform (Moldova)*

Ms Overcenco is a consultant on climate change at the National Farmers' Federation AGRO-Inform, based in Moldova. She is also a Research Associate of the Department of Socio-Hygienic Monitoring, National Centre for Scientific and Applied Preventive Medicine, at the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova. She is member of two other NGOs: the Moldavian National Association for Environmental and Quaternary Research (INQUA-Moldova) and the Deutsche Kulturzentrum "Hoffnung". Ms Overcenco also worked as Engineer-Climatologist in the Laboratory of Climatology in the Institute of Geography of the Moldavian Academy of Sciences.

Professor Kamil Shideed, *Assistant Director-General, ICARDA*

Dr Shideed is Assistant Director General of the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). He obtained his BSc and MSc degrees in Agricultural Economics from the University of Baghdad, and his Ph.D. from Mississippi State University. He then worked as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Georgia, and as Professor and Head of the Department of Planning and Economic Analysis at the Agricultural Research Centre in Baghdad. Dr Shideed served as the National Coordinator of ICARDA's Mashreq and Maghreb project on "The Development of Integrated Crop/Livestock Production Systems in the Low Rainfall Areas of West Africa and North Africa Region" from 1994 to 2002. He has held numerous positions during his tenure at ICARDA. Dr Shideed's record includes more than 60 publications, 31 studies and several awards.

Side event 4: The Rural Poverty Report 2010 – highlights and feedback on work in progress

Mr Henock Kifle, *Chief Strategist, IFAD*

Mr Kifle was appointed as the first Chief Development Strategist of IFAD in January 2010. Before joining IFAD, Mr Kifle served with the African Development Bank (AfDB) where he held several senior positions including Chief Economist. Prior to his career with the AfDB, Mr Kifle held various positions with the Government of Ethiopia, including Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Executive Director of the country's first integrated rural development project.

Mr Edward Heinemann, *Team Leader, Rural Poverty Report*

Mr Heinemann is the team leader for the Rural Poverty Report, and has overall responsibility for its delivery. He currently works in the Office of the Chief Development Strategist. Prior to joining this office, he worked in IFAD's Action Plan Secretariat where, among other things, he was the main author of IFAD's Strategic Framework 2007-2010. Before that, he worked in the Programme Management Department, in the Eastern and Southern Africa Division, both as a Country Programme Manager and as the Regional Economist. Prior to joining IFAD he worked with the African Development Bank.

Mr Andrew Shepherd, *Lead Writer, Rural Poverty Report*

Mr Shepherd works for the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in the UK, where he is the Director of the Chronic Poverty Research Centre and was the main author of the two last Chronic Poverty Reports. Prior to that, he was the Director of Programmes for the Rural Policy and Governance Group at ODI. Prior to joining ODI, he was a Senior Lecturer at the University of Birmingham and, before that, he worked with UNICEF based in Sudan.



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