

# Major initiatives and new programmes

## Major initiatives

### IFAD and the global context

The year 2014 saw IFAD stepping up advocacy to build support for greater investment to propel a transformation of rural areas. In particular, the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) and the consultative process regarding new, post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provided opportunities for us to highlight our mission of investing in rural people to improve food security and nutrition and combat poverty. A year-long process of supporting Member States in incorporating the need for rural transformation into the design of draft SDGs led to positive results, including strong references to the role of smallholder agriculture in the draft goals prepared by the Open Working Group (OWG) on the SDGs.

The concept of rural transformation recognizes that for development to be sustainable and inclusive it requires more than just economic growth. Development efforts must support social change, the empowerment of the most disadvantaged and marginalized, and the creation of an enabling environment for smallholders and other rural people. IFAD has consistently advocated for this holistic, people-centred approach both in policy forums and in our work on the ground.

### Rural transformation and the post-2015 agenda

In February, IFAD issued four policy briefs articulating four key entry points through which a new, universal agenda for sustainable development may help bring about sustainable and inclusive rural transformation:

- leveraging the rural-urban nexus for development, promoting better connectivity and the flow of services, finance and goods between rural and urban areas, thus reducing rural-urban inequalities

- empowering poor rural women and men, both as individuals and through their organizations
- increasing investment in smallholder agriculture
- raising the resilience of poor rural households, particularly to climate change and market-related shocks and stresses.

IFAD injected these messages into our engagement with Member States and other stakeholders around the post-2015 agenda, particularly in the OWG. Especially influential was a joint effort by the United Nations Rome-based agencies, which was initiated by IFAD to identify possible targets and indicators to help address food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture in a holistic manner. This proposal received strong support among Member States and influenced the work of the OWG, which proposed an SDG on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, largely echoing the Rome-based agencies' proposal. All other target areas identified in IFAD's post-2015 policy briefs were also more or less directly reflected in the outcome of the OWG. Emphasis on the importance of smallholder farmers in achieving food security through the proposed second goal of the SDGs is an important achievement not just for IFAD and the Rome-based agencies but also, and more importantly, for smallholders themselves.

IFAD provided a US\$500,000 grant over 18 months to the International Institute for Environment and Development to explore rural-urban transformations and food systems. A successful launch event was held in London in December.

## **The International Year of Family Farming**

During 2014, IFAD engaged actively in the International Steering Committee for the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) while directly supporting the advocacy work of selected partners at the country and regional levels. An IFAD grant of US\$500,000 to the World Rural Forum supported civil society engagement in IYFF-2014, the creation of IYFF national committees and tracking of their work in more than 50 countries. A further grant to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supported global facilitation and monitoring of the IYFF; organization of a global dialogue building on the regional dialogues held in 2013; establishment of a knowledge platform on family farming; and collation of information on national-level progress in policy change in favour of family farming. The knowledge platform has been retained as a resource after the end of the international year to maintain momentum.

A number of opportunities were leveraged to draw attention to the role of smallholder family farmers in feeding the world, and the need to direct more support towards helping them to meet a range of challenges. The 37<sup>th</sup> IFAD Governing Council (held in February 2014) brought together high-level participants from government, civil society, farmer organizations and the private sector to address the theme of “investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want”.

The fifth global meeting of the Farmers’ Forum, held in conjunction with the Governing Council, brought together more than 80 farmers’ leaders representing millions of smallholders and rural producers from all over the world. Forum participants explored opportunities for new operational partnerships between producer organizations, governments and IFAD, and renewed their commitment to work together.

IFAD actively participated in the Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming in Budapest hosted by the Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development in March; International Encounters on Family Farming and Research held by the International Cooperation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development in Montpellier, France, in June; the IYFF event hosted by the M.S. Swaminathan

Research Foundation in August in Chennai, India; and the Global Dialogue on Family Farming organized by FAO in October in Rome. In addition to actively participating itself, IFAD also sponsored the participation of farmers’ leaders from developing countries in the IYFF closing event in Manila, the Philippines, which endorsed the IYFF legacy and way forward document.

During the year, IFAD published a major comparative analysis of family farming in Latin America, *La agricultura familiar en América Latina*. This publication was launched at two major events, in Mexico (July) and Brazil (November), and broadly discussed by different audiences – farmer organizations, governments, academia, development practitioners and others.

As a contribution to the IYFF, IFAD launched the AgTalks online lecture series to present the human face of family farming by sharing the latest policy research and findings and different viewpoints on smallholder agriculture. The aims of AgTalks are to influence policy frameworks in favour of family farmers and to generate global and national support to promote scaling up of successful policies and programmes. The first two sessions were held in October and December, focusing on trade and fertilizers respectively.

## **The Committee on World Food Security**

The Rome-based agencies work together on a continuous basis in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Secretariat and the CFS Advisory Group. The CFS aims to guide conceptual and technical work and help achieve convergence among the various stakeholders on policy development to improve food security and nutrition. IFAD stepped up its engagement in this global policy forum by doubling our annual contribution towards the Secretariat costs to US\$400,000 for the 2014-2015 biennium.

At the CFS forty-first session in October 2014, the voluntary Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems were endorsed. This was the culmination of a two-year consultation and negotiation process in which we played an active role. IFAD was a member of a technical team set up under the CFS Secretariat to support elaboration

of the principles. We focused on bringing our operational experience to bear in helping produce a document of practical value for investors at all levels, including institutional investors such as IFAD and many of our partners. The principles provide a comprehensive map of the key areas where stakeholders involved in investment in agriculture and food systems should focus their attention, to maximize the positive impact of their activities on food security and nutrition.

IFAD also contributed to another ongoing CFS process: development of an Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises, which began in 2012. After intensive regional and global consultations, it is hoped that the CFS plenary will endorse a final version in 2015.

### **IFAD's work with indigenous peoples**

A recent report published by two major indigenous peoples' organizations in Asia called IFAD "a global pioneer" among United Nations agencies, citing our sustained dialogue with indigenous communities on securing their rights. That dialogue advanced in 2014, with much of the effort centred on the first World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP), held in September at United Nations headquarters in New York as a high-level meeting of the General Assembly. The outcome document called on the Secretary-General to develop a system-wide action plan for implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and underscored the right to free, prior and informed consent regarding all decisions that affect the lives, culture and identity of the world's 370 million indigenous people. The document makes reference to the IFAD Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility, encouraging Member States, the private sector and other institutions to contribute.

IFAD provided significant support for indigenous peoples' representatives, including a grant of about US\$1.0 million to cover their travel to preparatory meetings, the conference itself and country-level activities facilitating implementation of the outcome document and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The grant was administered in partnership with the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs and the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group. In a keynote address to WCIP delegates, IFAD

President Kanayo F. Nwanze noted that the Fund has financed some US\$1.8 billion in loans and US\$38.0 million in grants for participatory rural development initiatives with indigenous women and men.

IFAD also co-sponsored a WCIP side event on land and natural resource rights, which highlighted the deep cultural and spiritual significance of lands, territories and resources, and the need to protect indigenous peoples' rights to the lands they have traditionally occupied, owned or used. The momentum of the WCIP will be taken forward at the second global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD in February 2015, in conjunction with the Governing Council. In preparation for the Forum, four regional workshops were held in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific during the last quarter of 2014. These workshops focused on indigenous food systems and sustainable livelihoods as the selected overall theme of the global meeting in February. This theme falls within the framework of the SDGs of the post-2015 development agenda, which aims to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture".

### **Policy engagement, scaling up and South-South and triangular cooperation**

IFAD's agenda for mainstreaming policy engagement into the country programme and project cycle was further advanced in 2014. Design documents for projects and country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) were reviewed and structured to maximize the possibility of their contributing to policy processes at the national level. Support in the policy area was provided to missions in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Sudan, specifically in developing proposals that will enable IFAD-supported programmes and projects in these countries to facilitate national policy processes.

In addition, resources provided under the Initiative for Mainstreaming Innovation financed by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development were directed towards six policy-related activities under implementation: support to the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in developing an approach for

public policy consultations; strengthening of rural civil society organizations in the wool and mohair sector in Tajikistan; analysis of the rice development strategy in Côte d'Ivoire; public consultations around a proposed regional cooperatives act in Kenya and Uganda; support to the Government of Mexico for the design of a national programme to reduce rural poverty; and assistance to the Government of Viet Nam in revising the policy framework for the National Target Programme on New Rural Development.

Processes for learning lessons and stocktaking were completed, with the aim of improving understanding of the range, extent and main thematic areas of policy engagement currently being pursued by country programme managers. Externally, partnership-building for enhanced policy impact was pursued with a number of agencies, including FAO. IFAD's institutional capacity in policy engagement was increased with the recruitment of a senior technical expert.

South-South and triangular cooperation is another tool for sharing knowledge, resources and technology between countries in pursuit of their development goals. In 2014, IFAD continued to support a broad range of initiatives that bring together people from different countries at all levels, and to expand the pool of solutions and lessons learned.

Since 2011, a jointly funded IFAD-China grant programme has organized workshops that bring together participants from around the world for capacity-building and knowledge-sharing. The sixth workshop, held in Maputo, Mozambique, in August 2014, was attended by senior officials from Africa, Asia and Latin America. It focused on Chinese agricultural policy and impacts, agribusiness reform and mechanization, and research and development. The workshop produced a number of conclusions on how Africa could better take advantage of South-South and triangular cooperation.

Among the many actions supported by IFAD to promote South-South and triangular cooperation was a seven-day "learning route" during which officials from the Lao People's Democratic Republic visited the Republic of Korea as a model for good practice in participatory policy development. In the Near East, North Africa and Europe region, an

IFAD grant is supporting an initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security, in partnership with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. The initiative supports sharing of innovative agricultural practices among young people and women in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

### **Nutrition-sensitive agriculture**

In 2014, IFAD began to scale up its approach to nutrition, which has been increasingly prominent on the international development agenda. More than three quarters of undernourished people live in low-income, rural areas, meaning that the people who grow food are often the very ones who go hungry.

Nutrition has always been an integral part of IFAD's mandate. After building a core nutrition team, we raised awareness of our renewed focus on nutrition at the global staff meeting and through high-level corporate communications. Subsequently, we built capacity through joint training workshops and seminars. Two videos on IFAD-supported nutrition projects in Bangladesh were produced. The videos were picked up by global television news agencies including Reuters, the Associated Press and the *Agence France Presse*, and distributed to thousands of broadcasters worldwide.

Nutrition-sensitive agriculture can lead to more diverse production and improved diets. It also takes other underlying causes into consideration, such as "caring capacity" (including gender aspects) and "environmental health" and the impact they have on nutrition.

Funding from Germany will allow IFAD to research nutrition-sensitive value chains to provide better guidance for projects. Canadian support has enabled IFAD to continue mainstreaming nutrition by building nutrition-sensitive teams to develop programmes, incorporate explicit objectives related to nutrition and ensure an enabling policy environment. In further demonstrating our commitment to nutrition, IFAD has undertaken to specify in each country strategy how the strategy will contribute to improving nutrition. One third of IFAD-supported projects will be nutrition-sensitive by the end of IFAD's Tenth Replenishment

(IFAD10). We have also established a separate thematic window for complementary contributions for nutrition interventions.

### **IFAD's work with youth**

Young women and men can play key roles in rural transformation, socio-economic progress and community stability. However, young people generally have inadequate access to the inputs they need to succeed: knowledge and information, decent jobs, land, financial services, markets and representation in policy dialogue. IFAD continues to promote approaches for tapping the energy, creativity and desires of young people as part of rural development.

In West and Central Africa, IFAD's focus is on encouraging young people to stay in rural areas by supporting agroentrepreneurship, such as through the Creating Opportunities for Rural Youth Consortium (see page 10).

Peer-to-peer learning allows young people to learn lessons from others living in similar circumstances. In August, 20 IFAD field staff from nine countries in Africa, Europe and Latin America met through an IFAD-supported learning route in Kenya, which focused on innovative ideas and approaches for integrating rural youth into agriculture. At the end of the visit the participants developed action plans for specifically targeting young rural people in their projects, giving value to good practices learned during the route.

In the Near East and North Africa, where youth unemployment is the highest in the world, IFAD works with communities to ensure fair employment opportunities. In Egypt, for example, young people have been given reclaimed land to farm, along with training and access to finance. In Europe, IFAD is supporting work in the Republic of Moldova on providing financial services for young people to enable them to stay in their rural home regions (see page 26).

Strengthening young people's abilities to influence development in their communities is a major focus in Asia and the Pacific. In Viet Nam, an IFAD-supported project is helping young people create common interest groups specializing in agriculture, small industries and services (see page 16).

Most IFAD-supported projects in Latin America and the Caribbean target young people, focusing on income generation and entrepreneurship. In 2014, IFAD launched an entrepreneurship programme targeting young people in six Caribbean countries that had been hit especially hard by the global economic crisis (see page 21).

### **The Platform for Agricultural Risk Management**

In 2014, the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM) focused on three of the nine sub-Saharan selected countries: Ethiopia, Niger and Uganda. PARM is a G8 and G20 initiative hosted by IFAD and designed to build on existing agricultural risk management initiatives in each country.

Following a national workshop on integral agricultural risk management in Niger, co-organized with the World Bank in June 2014, PARM is collaborating with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) on leading the next steps of the process in Niger. In Uganda, the PARM Secretariat, in collaboration with NEPAD, held a workshop in Kampala to finalize its risk assessment work and identify capacity-building needs. In Ethiopia, at a kick-off workshop held in November and led by FAO with the participation of NEPAD and PARM, a Steering Committee was established to guide the next steps in supporting PARM.

During the year, a PARM Secretariat was established at IFAD headquarters and a Steering Committee meeting was held to discuss ongoing activities and the action plan for 2014-2017. An Advisory Committee was also established, composed of technical and private-sector partners, and beneficiaries. The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development is committed to contributing to PARM in 2016 and is currently an observer on the Steering Committee.

### **The Financing Facility for Remittances**

In 2014, more than 230 million migrants sent a total of US\$435.0 billion home to their developing countries through formal channels, with 40 per cent going to rural areas. This was more than four times official development assistance, and exceeded foreign direct investment inflows in most of the countries.

Since 2006, IFAD's multi-donor Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR) has been pioneering innovative instruments to provide migrants, their families and their countries with better options for economic and social development. Nearly 50 projects have been piloted in more than 40 countries. The FFR has brought many largely unknown constraints to the attention of governments and development institutions, and is now recognized as a leading actor in the area of migration and development.

In 2014, the Facility strengthened its scaling-up approach by mainstreaming remittances into IFAD-supported operations and addressing larger innovative programmes in close cooperation with our regional divisions. As a result, IFAD's first loan with a strong remittance component – the innovative Rural Enterprises and Remittances Project in Nepal – has been designed.

In the Philippines, the FFR financed the second phase of Scaling up Initiatives in Mobilizing Migrant Resources towards Agriculture Development, one of its most successful pilot projects. It also designed the large grant-funded Regional Programme on Remittances and Diaspora Investment for Rural Development, which will be financed by IFAD and implemented in Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

The FFR launched its first country-specific call for proposals, encouraging the Haitian diaspora to support local entrepreneurship and local community development opportunities in Haiti. Other activities included fostering diaspora investment in agriculture in Djibouti and Somalia, and promoting the role of postal operators in leveraging remittances for development in Africa.

In 2014, IFAD joined the G20's Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion as an implementing agency of the Markets and Payment Systems subgroup. A process was also begun to proclaim an International Day of Family Remittances in order to recognize and raise global awareness of the fundamental contribution of migrant workers to the well-being of their families and communities back home, and towards the sustainable development of their countries of origin. The proposal to establish this observance was approved by IFAD's Executive Board in December 2014.

## **The International Land Coalition**

The International Land Coalition (ILC) is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organizations hosted by IFAD. In 2014, the ILC mobilized more than 300 organizations in 20 countries to promote land governance with and for people. Bringing together various stakeholders to debate policy, through its National Engagement Strategy, the ILC assists civil society and policymakers in working directly with communities to implement land-related laws.

In 2014, the ILC held training sessions that led to the adoption of a gender evaluation tool by five African, three Asian and five Latin American countries. It also helped to obtain approval of a gender justice charter for ILC Africa, with commitments to developing action plans across ILC operations and organizations. Through the Land Policy Initiative, civil society encouraged the African Union's member states to develop and implement land policies that respect women's rights. The ILC worked in partnership with IFAD, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and a wide range of civil society organizations in the Sustainable Rangeland Management Project, which successfully piloted new approaches for securing land and resource rights for communities in semi-arid rangelands.

The ILC also continued to promote open access to data on land governance through the Land Portal and the Land Matrix, which have both entered a second phase of implementation. The Land Portal presents comprehensive country and thematic pages with linked open data on land governance from diverse sources around the world. The Land Matrix Global Observatory recorded about 1,000 large-scale land deals during the year, up by 27 per cent since June 2013.

## **New programmes and projects West and Central Africa**

### **Harnessing the pride of youth in Mali**

Every year in Mali, nearly 180,000 young rural people enter the labour force. Many leave their communities, gravitating to urban areas in search of better opportunities. However, decent work with decent pay is hard to find.

In 2014, IFAD launched the eight-year Rural Youth Vocational Training, Employment and Entrepreneurship Support Project known as “FIER” (which translates as “proud” in English) to provide vocational training and microenterprise development to 100,000 young people in rural areas. The project aims to give young women and men the skills they need to find well-paid jobs in agriculture and related enterprises in their own communities, and to create their own small businesses. It gives priority to young people, particularly women, who lack technical skills and access to financing for income-generating activities.

Local agricultural producers are active partners in all aspects of the project, from governance to facilitation and training. Their involvement will help ensure that training provides the skills needed by potential employers and the marketplace. At the same time, a cohort of well-trained rural youth will help modernize the agriculture sector and strengthen its resilience to climate change. The project will be piloted in two regions before being expanded across the country.

## **East and Southern Africa**

### **Facing climate change and cutting post-harvest losses in Rwanda**

Rising agricultural productivity has driven growth and poverty reduction in Rwanda over the past ten years, but progress has been hampered by post-harvest losses amounting to 30 per cent of important commodities. These losses are expected to increase as a result of the country’s dependence on rainfed agriculture and its vulnerability to climate change. Improved post-harvest processing and storage techniques are therefore needed.

The IFAD-supported Post-Harvest and Agribusiness Support Project, begun in March 2014, responds to this challenge. It aims to improve the viability of the country’s agricultural businesses and make them more resilient to climate change. Initially targeting 32,000 households in ten districts, it will support development of financial incentives and policies to bring climate risk management investments to scale.

The project will aid cooperatives, farmer organizations, small businesses and micro-enterprises in developing skills in marketing and value chain development. First, it will help participants to identify and address gaps in their business management and financial skills. Once these gaps have been filled, participants will develop business plans for managing their services more profitably.

The initiative will also promote and demonstrate climate-resilient innovations. It will facilitate investments in low-carbon post-harvest procedures, drying, processing and value addition, storage and distribution. The objective is to reduce product losses and increase smallholders’ incomes. The project will continue until 2019.

## **Asia and the Pacific**

### **Establishing best agricultural practices in Myanmar**

The first IFAD-supported project in Myanmar started work in 2014 as the country emerged from 50 years of isolation. Through the Fostering Agricultural Revitalization in Myanmar project, we are working to create a sustainable agricultural development model for the central dry zone, which is home to many of the country’s poorest people. The overall goal is to improve the economic status of these people.

In an area with exceptionally low rainfall, the project aims to provide more equitable access to irrigation water while also enabling farmers to diversify their crops. The initiative will help rural women and men to obtain access to agricultural inputs, technologies, services and markets, and create business and employment opportunities for them. Landless households and farmers whose crops are rainfed are also being supported.

The initiative introduces several innovations for Myanmar. These include a participatory approach to land development, and the provision of a range of services and knowledge resources for smallholders and landless people. The project focuses on building institutional, technical and operational capacity at the community, township and state levels. It is expected to reach more than 37,000 households, with a total of more than 180,000 people.

### **Latin America and the Caribbean Helping coffee producers in Nicaragua adapt to climate change**

Smallholder coffee and cocoa producers in Nicaragua already suffer from lower productivity than producers in other countries in the region. To make matters worse, studies show that expected temperature increases will shrink the area suitable for coffee cultivation. Farmers must adapt to the changing climate by producing coffee at higher altitudes, at higher temperatures, and with less water during critical periods.

In 2014, IFAD launched the Adapting to Markets and Climate Change Project (NICADAPTA), a new initiative that will work with 40,000 smallholder families to improve productivity and enable them to adapt to changing conditions. In addition to providing technical assistance to farmers and strengthening relevant public institutions and policies, the project will also improve weather information systems and help the public sector develop incentives for smallholder farmers.

The project, which is a partnership between IFAD, the Government of Nicaragua and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, will benefit about 200,000 people, many of whom are from indigenous communities or of Afro-Caribbean descent.

### **Near East, North Africa and Europe Innovative partnerships in Sudan**

Scaling up the results of an earlier project in Sudan, IFAD approved the Livestock Marketing and Resilience Programme in 2014. The new programme will help the government modernize the country's livestock industry and expand the rural economy in project areas as the key to reducing rural poverty.

It will also help increase beneficiaries' resilience to natural and other shocks. While IFAD is the core funder, the programme is expected to mobilize significant cofinancing of about US\$79.0 million from various public- and private-sector partners.

The initiative integrates several lessons learned from earlier IFAD-supported projects in Sudan. It also introduces some important innovations, including a direct approach to involving the private sector and developing public-private-producer partnerships. While it will benefit primarily poor rural producers, the programme will also seek to develop investment opportunities for private-sector partners in major livestock value chains.

Among its goals, the programme aims to double the average incomes of poor rural households, reduce chronic undernutrition in children by 25 per cent, help 60,000 rural people move out of poverty for good, and strengthen the climate resilience of 60,000 households.

For a complete list of programmes and projects approved in 2014, see <http://www.ifad.org/pub/ar/2014/e/8.pdf>.