

## **Rural Youth, priority for the development of Latin America and the Caribbean**

**WHAT:** *International Workshop on Economic Integration and Social Participation of Rural Youth in Latin America and The Caribbean*

**WHERE:** *San Salvador, El Salvador*

**WHEN:** *November 17-19, 2013.*

**SAN SALVADOR, November 17, 2013** – The International Workshop on Economic Integration and Social Participation of Rural Youth in Latin America and The Caribbean gathers almost a hundred of young people from rural areas and practitioners dedicated to the development of those territories.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)'s Latin America and Caribbean Division and the Rural Youth Entrepreneurship Program from Procasur Corporation organize the event.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, approximately 120 million people are young. Of these about 30 million live in rural areas and represent more than a quarter of the total rural population.

Systematic work and investment for rural youth has been IFAD's LAC Division ongoing priority to strengthen the capacity of people in poor rural areas to improve their living conditions.

According to IFAD's President Kanayo F. Nwanze, "putting young rural people first is not an option, it is an obligation. [...] Young people are the most precious resource a rural community can have. But today, many rural communities are losing their young people because there are often so few incentives for them to stay.

"Young people have power and persistence. In the right conditions, a substantial young generation offers countries a priceless resource for economic development and social progress. [...] We need to listen to them. But we also need to do more – we need to respond to the issues they are voicing."\*

The workshop aims to promote a space of dialogue and reflection among rural youth, technical teams of rural development projects, and decision makers, in order to identify and analyze strategies, approaches and tools that can foster inclusion and participation in both development projects financed by IFAD as well as other rural development initiatives.

IFAD and its partners have permanently promoted the creation of an environment that encourages and enables young men and women to stay in their communities based on opportunities to improve their own lives, get a decent job and seek prosperity. Hence it is required to offer rural youth better training and real access to finance in order to guarantee them sustainable self-employment or support the creation of enterprises employing waged workers.

Supporting livelihoods of young people contribute to the development and economic growth of their communities. Governments and development institutions increasingly recognize this, assume commitments and act upon, to leverage the impact of education, training and funding.

The workshop is the starting point of a support and backstopping system to facilitate putting cardinal concepts into practice and deliver both actions and products for Latin

American and Caribbean rural youth within the framework of IFAD projects and other rural development efforts.

It is an ample space for dialogue from which key ideas arise to set strategies and operational tools to promote concrete actions within productive projects aimed specifically at young people. It seeks especially to voice the experience of many young rural entrepreneurs who are promoting development in their territories. ♦

### **Media Contact**

Carlos E. Cortes  
Global Communications Coordinator  
Procasur Corporation  
+1-724-964-4346  
ccortes@procasur.org

### **About IFAD**

*IFAD is an international financial institution and a specialized agency of the United Nations. It was established in 1977 as a partnership of the member states of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and other developing countries. Its membership currently comprises 168 countries. IFAD's goal is to enable poor rural people to improve their food and nutrition security, increase their incomes and strengthen their resilience. It provides concessional financing to developing countries and works directly with poor rural people, including poor women and indigenous peoples. It works in partnership with its Member States and multilateral and bilateral partners in the global effort to achieve global food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.*

### **About Procasur**

*Procasur Corporation is a global organization specialized in harvesting and scaling-up homegrown innovations. The organization's mission is to foster local knowledge exchange to end rural poverty. By sharing innovations through customized local knowledge-management tools and methodologies, the organization connects global institutions with local talents, providing the structured learning platforms necessary to spread innovation. Procasur has facilitated learning opportunities in over 30 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, affecting the lives and livelihoods of thousands of rural talents across the globe. To learn more, visit [www.procasur.org](http://www.procasur.org).*

\* Kanayo F. Nwanze (2011). *Putting young people first—Creating opportunities in rural areas for young women and men*. Rome: IFAD – Viewpoint 2.