

Speech of H E Minister of Agriculture  
At the Board of Governors of IFAD

Speech to be delivered  
By H E Professor Ezzaldin Abusteit  
Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation  
During the 42nd Session of the Board of Governors  
Of the International Fund for Agricultural Development  
14-15 February 2019

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H E Mr. Gilberangbo, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

H E Mr. Chairman of the Board of Governors

His Holiness Pope Francis

Governors, Ladies and Gentlemen

At the beginning of my word, I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to H E President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development for his kind invitation to the Arab Republic of Egypt to participate in the proceedings of the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the Board of Governors of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. That has a main theme "**Innovation and Rural Entrepreneurship**". Which includes importance of developing value chains and their observance of healthy nutrition considerations, gender differentiation and the impact of modern technology on the future of agriculture.

On behalf of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, I would also like to express my regards to all countries participating in this session and to seize this opportunity to pay tribute to the role played by the Fund in eradicating poverty in rural areas, supporting smallholders worldwide and providing a better life for rural families.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

There is no doubt that agriculture is one of the main pillars of the Egyptian economy and that agricultural development strategy in Egypt 2030 is concerned with the advancement of the agricultural sector and the implementation of SDGs, the recommendations of the United Nations conference on comprehensive investment and poverty eradication by 2030. Requiring injection of new investments in agriculture so that development efforts could become more inclusive, reach the poor and marginalized groups, and exploit them optimally for sustainable development to fulfill maximum agricultural growth rate, strive to attain self-sufficiency and increase exports of agricultural crops.

Egypt's agricultural development strategy, which is consistent with IFAD's strategy, as it supports and promotes rural development and contributes to achieve socioeconomic renaissance based on agricultural investment, where it includes six main objectives:

1. Using the natural resources in a more sustainable manner by enhancing water use efficiency and development of irrigation systems.
2. Increase crop productivity from land and water units, leading to increase living standards and enhanced sustainable food security.
3. Promote self-sufficiency with regard to strategic commodities.
4. Improve the economic climate of agricultural investments and support marketing and agriculture processing.
5. Promote and create employment opportunities for young people and facilitate the financial services to small farmers.
6. Application of modern technologies resulting from agricultural research.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the Arab Republic of Egypt will carry on its efforts to contribute to the implementation of the continued comprehensive investment programs in rural areas in order to achieve the goals of sustainable development and push policies towards achieving more efforts to raise the standard of living of the rural area.

**Thank You,**

**Peace, mercy and blessings of God,**