

**Country statement of the Ministry of Agriculture, State of Eritrea
forwarded to the 46th Governing Council of IFAD.**

14 – 15 February, 2023 Rome

We would like to thank you for inviting us to participate in the 46th IFAD Governing Council Meeting. On behalf of our country and the line Ministries that are closely working with IFAD we forward our sincere appreciation to the support extended to us.

Eritrea is situated in the horn of Africa and it has a good partnership in the agricultural development. The Eritrea and IFAD partnership has started just after the country's independence circa 1994. A number of projects that focus on irrigation development, crop and livestock development and also in the natural resources protection and development like soil and water conservation and fisheries can be mentioned.

With IFAD support, the country has achieved, in areas pertinent to the above stated subsectors not forgetting its contributions towards the sustainable development goals. As Eritrea is situated in the sub Saharan peninsula which is characterized by frequent drought and erratic/unpredictable rains, the mitigation strategy and practice is obviously complex and needs concerted efforts with key stakeholders and partners such as IFAD.

The Eritrea IFAD partnership and the projects designed since 1994 have evolved to meet the demands and needs as well as to response the requirements set in the sustainable development goals of the UN. The results of the interventions have also contributed to the well being of the target communities that include vulnerable HHs affected by natural and manmade calamities. Timely response of IFAD is highly appreciated in Eritrea's case.

Currently, Eritrea is having IFAD supported projects under the Ministries of Agriculture and Ministry of Marine Resources that greatly are contributing to the food and nutrition security initiatives of the government. The outreach so

far has 90,000 HHs all over the country based on the development objectives to sustainably ensure agricultural production and productivity not only of the primary targets but also to affiliated communities that are expected to benefit through services provision to the primary targets.

Eritrea is also a victim of the climate change calamities and is prone to recurrent drought and floods. This situation calls immense efforts to design mitigation strategy and the government is mobilizing communities in afforestation, SWC and related activities. But this also needs to be brought to the attention of global organizations that have common interest to work together.

IFAD 13 replenishment

As briefly discussed above, Eritrea is keen to work with IFAD towards achieving the set goals and objectives and to achieve safe, sustainable food and nutrition security. Eritrea is, as usual, committed to combat desertification, loss of natural resources and soil degradation etc that have direct negative impacts on agricultural and marine resources and hence to the livelihoods of the communities whose livelihoods is dependent on these resources.