

## **COUNTRY STATEMENT TO THE 46<sup>th</sup> IFAD GOVERNING COUNCIL: RWANDA**

- **Chairperson,**
- **The President of IFAD,**
- **Distinguished Governors,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my great honour to attend this 46<sup>th</sup> session of IFAD Governing Council on behalf of Rwanda. I also have the pleasure to convey to you warm greetings from the people and the Government of Rwanda in general and from our President, **His Excellency Paul Kagame** in particular.

### **Chairperson,**

The theme: “**Accelerating action for food security**” is a very relevant topic globally but more specifically to my Country, Rwanda. Rwanda is a landlocked Country with a population density of slightly more than 500 per Km<sup>2</sup> and an average land size of about ha 0.33 per household. The Country is hilly with delicate soils and more than 70% of the population engaged in agricultural practices. Therefore, this makes investing in sustainable food systems very relevant and viable.

In view of the food systems transformation agenda, the Government of Rwanda will continue to invest in sustainable production and productivity of crops and livestock to ensure availability, accessibility, and affordability of safe and nutritious foods by leveraging science and modern technologies that enhance food nutrient content and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and land degradation.

The Country collaborates with various International Development Partners at different levels to promote social and environmental resilience through increasing the coverage of agricultural insurance and social protection programmes to enhance graduation from poverty and extreme poverty.

The Government of Rwanda has developed a wide range of strategies to guide the implementation of priorities under the Agricultural sector. These encompass numerous gender and youth mainstreaming actions in addition to other arrangements related to other mainstreaming themes such as environment, climate change and capacity building. For instance, the Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation-Phase 4, adopts a food systems approach for enhanced nutrition and household food security. It proposes different approaches and interventions to ensure the nutrient quality of commodities is preserved or enhanced throughout its different thematic areas such as improving productivity and production in order to improve the livelihoods and income generation among rural smallholder farmers, addressing gender imbalance, sustainable national resources management, climate change & malnutrition.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, through collaboration with its partners has formulated effective programmes and projects aimed at implementing sector strategic actions under the theme of **accelerating action for food security**. These include among others; (i) One cow per family programme aimed at stimulating an inclusive rural development whereby poor households within our communities are selected and given cows in order to stimulate their socio-economic development, alleviate the issue of

malnutrition especially among children; (ii) National Agriculture Insurance Scheme aimed at reducing vulnerability of farmers due to the effects of climate change; (iii) Agricultural guarantee fund targeting youth and women as well as other vulnerable groups in rural areas mainly to alleviate the issue of limited access to finance among rural women and youth due to the lack of collateral security; (iv) National Strategic Grains Reserve programme with the objective to ensure food security buffer stocks throughout the year, especially to the most vulnerable households; (v) Small Scale Irrigation development Schemes such that the smallholder farmers living in drought prone areas are provided with both technical and financial support in order to invest in Irrigation infrastructures and equipment.

Certainly, IFAD has been and is still an instrument towards food security in Rwanda through projects such as; (i) KWAMP which has significantly contributed to an inclusive rural development in Kirehe District; (ii) PASP which has considerably contributed to improving livelihoods and incomes among rural people through supporting investments in Post-harvest handling, processing and transformation in order to obtain a higher share of income from their produce; (iii) PRICE which has increased the level of resilience among rural people through linking them to export markets in order to earn a higher share of income from their cash crop production; (iv) RDDP which is also significantly increasing the level of dairy farmer resilience among rural communities; (v) KIIWP1 Project which is currently contributing to rural development in drought prone Kayonza District by improving food security and incomes of needy households on a sustainable basis and building their climate resilience and KIIWP2 that is out to promote climate-smart agriculture by Irrigation (highly pressurized Irrigation Schemes) and rain-fed land through Farmer Field Schools (FFSs), as well as disseminating good nutritional practices; (vi) RPSF Project which was designed to support the smallholder farmers to mitigate COVID-19 pandemic related shocks by improving their food security, resilience and livelihood status; (vii) PRISM Project that aims at improving food security and nutritional security and incomes of poor households through better performance of small livestock value chains and enhance their resilience. In addition to the above investments made, the Government of Rwanda is collaborating with IFAD to launch and design the new projects such as Promoting Smallholder Agro-export Competitiveness (PSAC) Project and Rwanda Dairy Development Project, phase II respectively.

**Chairperson,  
The President of IFAD,  
Distinguished Governors,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me conclude by thanking IFAD once again for organizing this 46<sup>th</sup> session and Member States who have come to bless this occasion with their presence. I take this opportunity to assure you of our continued cooperation for the well-being of our people and wish you all a happy new year and fruitful deliberations.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.