

The forty-seventh session of the IFAD Governing Council Meeting General Statement of Japan

The international community is facing extremely complex challenges including more-than-ever aggravated climate change and the recent food crises. In this global situation, the stable implementation of IFAD's projects has contributed greatly to global food security.

With social and economic insecurity predicted to continue, increasing the income of small-scale farmers in poor rural areas, which is IFAD's core mandate, is essential towards the achievement of Agenda 2030.

Last year, Japan as G7 Presidency expressed its commitment to enhance its efforts to ensure food security and nutrition for all those in need, in cooperation with the international community including IFAD. In that context, Japan emphasized the importance of promoting a wide range of innovations and technologies that benefit all stakeholders including small-scale farmers.

At the G7 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Miyazaki, Japan emphasized the importance of promoting private sector investment in agriculture and food systems for sustainable and wide-ranging innovations. As a measure to facilitate this approach, Japan announced the launch of "Enhanced Linkages between Private sector and Small-scale producers (ELPS)" initiative, a joint project with IFAD, which was also highlighted in the Secretary General's report at the UN Food System Summit +2 held last July.

Through the consultation on the 13th Replenishment, the importance of addressing fragility, climate change, preserving biodiversity, and strengthening the cooperation with the private sector were recognized as IFAD's future priorities and Japan welcomes it.

Despite the difficult economic situation, Japan expressed its continued commitment to IFAD by pledging a higher amount of contribution in its own currency than IFAD12. Japan looks forward to the implementation of the projects aimed at improving the incomes of 100 million people.

Japan welcomes IFAD's plan to open the Asia and the Pacific Regional office in Bangkok this year. As the FAO and WFP regional offices are also located in Bangkok, Japan hopes that further cooperation among the Rome-based agencies will effectively

lead to the improvement of productivity, climate change resilience and access to food and nutrition of small-scale farmers.

Japan looks forward to a fruitful discussion at the 47th Governing Council for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Japan is also committed to continue its cooperation with IFAD and its Liaison Office in Japan for achieving SDGs such as goal 1 (no poverty), goal 2(zero hunger), goal 5 (gender equality), goal 6(access to water) and goal 13 (climate change).

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