

IFAD Governing Council
Innovation for food-secure future
statement prepared by the Republic of Poland
Rome, 14th – 15th February

Mr President,
Distinguished Governors,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to present the statement as Governor of IFAD for the Republic of Poland.

First of all I would like to underline that supporting the innovation for food-secure future in rural areas is the issue that Poland particularly pays attention in development cooperation. This action is important for eradicating poverty and hunger in developing countries and also achieving rural indigence reduction.

The use of innovation, new technologies, and better agricultural production practices are crucial in pursuit of those goals. They can reduce pressure on the environment without harming production capacity, while leading to long-term improvements in productivity. Farmers need innovative solutions to produce more with less. The development and adaptation of new technologies creates opportunities to reconcile often-conflicting economic, environmental and social goals. The decrease of demand for non-renewable resources can reduce water eutrophication, soil degradation or greenhouse gas emissions, thus contributing to long-term resilience.

I would like to emphasize that the use of innovation is integral to adapting to changing market conditions and the demands or preferences of consumers. Thanks to modern technologies, sciences such as biotechnology, genetics, producers can provide consumers with new food products both in terms of appearance, taste, composition or shelf life. The implementation of new product, process, marketing or organizational solutions by agri-food entrepreneurs contributes to increased productivity, which in turn enhances food security. Transnational cooperation can be helpful in this regard. It is important to support and promote transnational initiatives. This should be done by activities under the Horizon Europe framework programmes for research and innovation, as well as European partnerships and initiatives such as the BIOEAST initiative.

Poland supports using new technologies to improve agricultural production efficiency but not at the expense of quality of food products. For example, the analysis of satellite data allows farmers to obtain important information on the development of their crops, including monitoring the harvest of crops, identifying crops, forecasting yields and estimating losses. In turn, AI algorithms can be a valuable tool for monitoring the production process and product quality. These technologies are more and more widely used in the Polish agriculture.

Poland is working on optimization of storage and transport of food products, which is crucial in prevention of errors in cold chain management. Modern technologies, models and applications used to monitor changes in the shelf life of a product ensure the maintenance

of optimal warehouse conditions and help in planning subsequent supply chain and logistics processes.

An excellent example of Polish initiative strengthening the transfer of knowledge and innovation for the green technologies was the establishment of the Innovation Network in Agriculture and Rural Areas in Poland and the establishment of innovation brokers employed in public agricultural advisory units throughout the country. A good example of initiatives supporting the digital transformation of the agri-food sector are national actions, in particular the construction of the innovative Satellite System for Monitoring Agricultural Crops.

At the same time, Poland realizes that it is a need to strengthen the existing resources in order to improve the efficiency and sustainability of food systems. This requires joint efforts of practice, science and public administration.

In conclusion, the activities carried out in Poland in the field of research and innovation play an important role and can lead to the effective transformation of food systems.

Thank you!