

What others say about IFAD



Investing in rural people

Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General

IFAD is unique in the very clear focus of its mandate, and this sharp focus that also gives IFAD great strength, your specialist knowledge of agriculture and rural development will be even more valuable in the years ahead.

Speech to IFAD staff, Chief Executives Board for Coordination meeting, May 2014



Marisa Lago, Assistant Secretary for International Markets and Development, United States Department of Treasury

By taking an innovative, community-based approach to investing in smallholder farmers - the most vulnerable members in rural societies - IFAD is an important partner in the global fight against poverty and hunger. I've witnessed first-hand the positive impact of IFAD's work in providing technical training, facilitating access to microfinance, and strengthening farmers' organizations in countries ranging from Uruguay to Tanzania to Morocco. The United States was a founding member of IFAD and proudly remains a strong supporter.



Luiz Carlos Ribeiro de Lima, farmer and Secretary of the Federação dos Trabalhadores na Agricultura do Ceará (FETRAECE), Federative Republic of Brazil

It is of paramount importance, of course, to recognize the support lent by IFAD to the organizations of workers and this is absolutely fundamental in order for people to feel strong at an international level and even domestically in our country. [...] I actually would like to say something to the current President of IFAD. You have already come to Ceará, you have visited a family, a school there and that is wonderful because I think it shows the engagement and commitment of this institution with our family agriculture, family farming. We do have other partnerships, of course, that we have established in Brazil but I do want to make a request to all. Please, please continue to believe in our potential. Please continue to believe in the potential that we have and please see to it, help us make the countryside a sustainable place and one that is profitable where people can live in good conditions.

Panel discussion: Spotlight on the International Year of Family Farming, 37th Session of IFAD's Governing Council, February 2014



Cielo Báez, farmer and active member of the Asociación de Productores Agroecológicos de la Cuenca del Río Anaimé (APACRA), Republic of Colombia

We hope that IFAD will invest three, four or five times more than it has so far because in my country, Colombia, we have seen that that works.

Panel discussion: Spotlight on the International Year of Family Farming, 37th Session of IFAD's Governing Council, February 2014



Fabrizio Saccomanni, former Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic

With its unique mission devoted to agricultural and rural development, and its support to local smallholders, IFAD's position in the development arena is bound to become even more crucial and strategic in the future. Since its establishment, IFAD has been investing in smallholder farmers through its non-capital intensive and environmentally sustainable projects, recognizing the high potential of the agricultural model based on family size producers for improving food security, creating jobs and promoting development.

Keynote address to the 37th Session of IFAD's Governing Council, February 2014



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia

IFAD has proved to be a crucial ally. [...] This organization has supported skills development for small farmers and building resilience and sufficiency at the community level. Under your much-cherished Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project, our farmers who participate in community-based organizations are reimbursed with replenishing seeds or livestock. This is creating a virtuous cycle of benefits in our rural communities, while at the same time ensuring strengthened community-based organizations.

Statement delivered on her behalf by Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia, at the 35th Session of IFAD's Governing Council, February 2012



Hui Liangyu, former Deputy Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China

We must [...] support international organizations such as IFAD in playing a bigger role in promoting agricultural development and poverty reduction in the developing world. We need to increase the resources of these organizations to enhance their financial capacity. All countries must work together, reject trade protectionism, improve market access, and build a fair and reasonable international order for agricultural trade, so as to create a sound external environment for developing countries to develop agriculture and reduce poverty.

Keynote address to the 36th Session of IFAD's Governing Council, February 2013



M. A. Mannan, State Minister for Finance of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

IFAD has always been at the forefront of the fight against hunger and poverty in poor developing countries. [...] It has made a significant contribution to poverty alleviation, rural infrastructure development and agricultural development in our country. I reaffirm my country's full support to IFAD and to its work towards strengthening partnerships among member countries.

General statements, 37th Session of IFAD's Governing Council, February 2014

Pope Benedict XVI

The Holy See has always regarded IFAD with esteem and continues to do so, seeing it as an intergovernmental institution capable of combining the principles of a just international order with effective solidarity.

Message delivered on his behalf by Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, Secretary for Relations with States, Holy See, at the 36th Session of IFAD's Governing Council, February 2013

Ayman Abouhadid, Minister for Agriculture and Land Reclamation of the Arab Republic of Egypt

The International Fund for Agricultural Development is one of Egypt's main partners in the fight against rural poverty and it does this through the many projects it has undertaken in Egypt. [...] Through this special relationship we have seen the financing of 11 projects in the agricultural sector and over one million rural families have benefited from these projects which have raised the income level and fostered development in this region. These projects are a model, which is followed by others and they are considered a model for the poorest villages and regions in Egypt.

General statements, 37th Session of IFAD's Governing Council, February 2014



Ibrahim Coulibaly, founder of the National Coordination of Peasant Organizations of the Republic of Mali

Nine years ago IFAD created the Farmers' Forum. This is a platform for IFAD to listen directly to farmers who are considered the beneficiaries of IFAD's projects. In the last nine years IFAD learned to know us better because they listen to us; they respect us because they have been listening. We cannot help someone we do not listen to, someone we do not respect. [...] We bear witness to the fact that if you invest in IFAD the great majority of those funds will come to us, but we will never achieve the same results if you invest elsewhere; that is a reality. We are the beneficiaries. [...] If you invest in IFAD you are making a good investment.

Panel discussion: Spotlight on the International Year of Family Farming, 37th Session of IFAD's Governing Council, February 2014

Nii Quaye-Kumah, Minister-Counsellor, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana to IFAD

Over the years, IFAD has continued to be at the forefront of changing the course of smallholder agriculture worldwide. This has been done mostly in collaboration with countries, but more importantly with the smallholder farmers themselves. [...] The years of operation of IFAD have confirmed the value of partnership and hence, the focus of this area of development. [...] Ghana's successful development path has a strong linkage with its partnership with IFAD, which is very much valued.

General statements, 36th Session of IFAD's Governing Council, February 2013

Radi Al-Tarawneh, Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

There is no doubt that IFAD's efforts during the past few years proved its vital role in implementing great projects and we look forward to further cooperation between Member States to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of IFAD.

General statements, 37th Session of IFAD's Governing Council, February 2014

Antonio Vargas Hernández, Director General for Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Development of the Dominican Republic

IFAD is an essential tool in the world's agricultural development. We therefore need to contribute to its expansion. In this spirit my country will take part in the Tenth Replenishment negotiations. The fight against hunger is the fight against social exclusion, a fight for a more prosperous world. The Dominican Republic, along with all the other stakeholders in the international community which are here in the thirty-seventh Governing Council, would like to renew its commitment to IFAD and its lofty objectives.

General statements, 37th Session of IFAD's Governing Council, February 2014

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, former Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Within the UN family, IFAD continues to be a leader in supporting indigenous peoples' development with culture and identity at all levels. The Indigenous Peoples' Forum which IFAD established facilitates direct engagement with IFAD staff and access to the Governing Council. I hope IFAD gets more resources to continue doing this and more.

Interview, 13th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, May 2014



Paul Polman, Chief Executive Officer of Unilever

IFAD is a very practical organization with a very great goal, specifically focused on the smallholder farmers. You have an enormous reach and capability on the ground. If we want to create sustainable supply as a company you have to really deal with the bottom billion and a half, two billion of the pyramid. For business it is very difficult to get to that. If we can do that together with IFAD, who has the knowledge, the capabilities, the people on the ground and we, on our side, can bring in the markets, guarantee supply, bring in quality standards, soil management techniques that we know for our crops, we can co-create an ecosystem and you can have a sustainable solution. [...] What I like about IFAD is that by having the right level of trust, mutual understanding, putting the smallholder farmer in the middle, we can solve a lot of the things."

Private sector panel: Small farmers, big business, 37th Session of IFAD's Governing Council, February 2014



Lynne Featherstone, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Along with all the donors supporting this programme we congratulate the IFAD team for this award. By investing in improved practices and technologies, ASAP is helping millions of smallholder farmers across the world to cope with the impacts of climate change. [...] This vital work is not only building resilience, it is also safeguarding farmers' jobs and livelihoods, especially those of women, and helping them to lift themselves out of poverty. [...] We look forward to other donors joining us and investing in this programme so it can benefit many more smallholder farmers.

Speech, 2013 Momentum for Change Award, November 2013



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