France and IFAD share a commitment to ending poverty and hunger through sustainable rural development. France’s development priorities and IFAD’s mandate are strongly aligned: both place small-scale farmers and rural people at the heart of their work, and recognize the potential of agriculture as a key driver in increasing food security, reducing poverty and mitigating climate change. France is a founding member of IFAD and one of its top donors. Since IFAD’s inception, France has provided US$453.7 million to the Fund’s resources, US$12 million in supplementary funds and over US$212.2 million towards cofinancing of IFAD’s investment portfolio. A loan of €200 million from the Agence Française de Développement and a concessional partner loan of €50 million have provided IFAD with significant additional resources. In the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources (IFAD11), France contributed a total of US$70.6 million.

France is strongly engaged in the Fund’s governance, including as a member of the Executive Board, the Evaluation Committee, and the Working Group on the Performance-Based Allocation System (PBAS).
Support from France has been critical in strengthening agricultural risk management.

TACKLING POVERTY AND HUNGER TOGETHER

The partnership between France and IFAD delivers results in France’s priority areas. Regarding innovations in risk management, France has provided critical support to the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM), a key outcome of G8 and G20 discussions on food security and agricultural growth. Hosted by IFAD, PARM works with stakeholders in developing countries to strengthen agricultural risk management through knowledge-sharing and capacity-building activities. France has also supported the Weather Risk Management Facility (WRMF), established in partnership with the World Food Programme in 2008. The WRMF supports initiatives aimed at reducing small-scale farmers’ vulnerability to weather, and other agricultural production risks, in order to encourage and protect investments in small-scale agricultural production and contribute to food security.

In terms of support for farmers organizations France’s contributions to the Support to Farmers’ Organizations in Africa Programme (SFOAP), have helped strengthen the capacity of African farmers’ organizations, and their regional and pan-African networks, by enabling them to better advise their members and contribute to policy processes. SFOAP supports 68 national farmers’ organizations in 49 countries, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa. France has also provided important support to the Farmers’ Forum, a bottom-up process of consultation on rural development and poverty reduction among small-scale farmer and rural producer organizations from all over the world, as well as IFAD and governments. The Forum aims to strengthen partnerships between IFAD and farmers’ organizations, build their capacity and support policy dialogue initiatives.