The participants in the Farmers’ Forum (FF) are all invited to the Governing Council (GC). They will have the possibility to participate in the three GC round tables on 16 February. The Farmers’ Forum statement will be presented in the Plenary either on 15 or 16 February.

During those two days, there will be opportunities to organize, upon request, bilateral meetings with IFAD staff. In addition, parallel meetings could be organized among representatives of farmers’ organizations and interested IFAD staff around particular initiatives and experiences. For example one meeting could be held between organizations of Central America and COPROFAM to reflect on the experience of REAF in the context of MERCOSUR.

Wednesday, 15 February

15:00 One farmer leader participates as panellist in the 17:30 Panel Discussion in the Plenary on the theme: “Innovation challenges for the rural poor”
20:00 Official Governing Council Reception

Thursday, 16 February

9:30 Thematic Round-table discussions
12:00 • Adaptive research in support of pro-poor innovations in rural development: Successes from IFAD’s grant programme
• Strengthening rural institutions for the poor
• Securing access to land for the rural poor
15:00 Meeting of the Steering Committee for assessment of the FF-GC results and preparation for next steps.
20:00 Informal dinner at Casa San Bernardo with FF participants and IFAD staff
13-14 February: Farmers’ Forum

Monday, 13 February

8:30  Departure from hotel by bus to Palazzo dei Congressi

9:00  Launch of the Farmers’ Forum
      Gunilla Olsson, Director, Policy Division, IFAD, opens the forum and chairs this first session.
      Tour de Table: all participants introduce themselves
      Mr. L. Bage, President of IFAD (10 minutes)
      Interventions by representatives of Farmers’ Organizations members of the Forum’s Steering Committee, IFAP, ROPPA, La Via Campesina, CONTAG and WFF. The purpose of these interventions is to explain briefly why they engage with this initiative and what they expect from it. (Maximum 8 minutes each)

10:00-10:15  Coffee break

10:15- Trends and developments in IFAD’s partnerships with, and support to, Farmers’ and Rural Producer’s Organisations (FOs)
      IFAD’s Engagement with FOs at local, country and regional level
      • IFAD: Evolving engagement with FOs and mapping of ongoing initiatives
      • Five national level FOs: Experiences in working with IFAD (including India, Mali, Brazil…)
      • General Discussion: Areas for improvement
      • Introduction to working group sessions

12.30-14.00  Lunch

14:00-16:00  Improving and institutionalizing IFAD/FO partnerships
      Working Group Sessions:
      Three groups will be formed on a regional basis:
      • Africa
      • Asia
      • Latin America
      Each group will have a facilitator/chair from IFAD’s operations divisions and a rapporteur from a farmers’ organization. (In session coffee break)

16:30- Plenary session: Feedback from the regional working groups and general discussion on conclusions and recommendations in plenary

18:00  Reception at Palazzo dei Congressi

19:00  Bus to hotel San Bernardo

20:00  Evening working session of the Steering Committee (IFAD, IFAP, ROPPA, La Via Campesina, CONTAG, WFF) on recommendations on institutionalizing IFAD/FOs partnership. A text needs to be prepared as input to the Forum’s final statement. It will include detailed proposals for the next cycle of the Forum process, 2006-2008.

Tuesday, 14 February

8:30  Departure from hotel by bus to Palazzo dei Congressi

9:00-10:15  Coffee break

10:15- Trends and developments in IFAD’s partnerships with, and support to, Farmers’ and Rural Producer’s Organisations (FOs)
      IFAD’s Engagement with FOs at local, country and regional level
      • IFAD: Evolving engagement with FOs and mapping of ongoing initiatives
      • Five national level FOs: Experiences in working with IFAD (including India, Mali, Brazil…)
      • General Discussion: Areas for improvement
      • Introduction to working group sessions

11:30- Plenary session: feedback and discussion

12:15- Report and recommendations of Group I

13:00- General Discussion

13:00-14:15  Lunch

14:15- Report and recommendations of Group II

15:00  General Discussion

15:00-16:00  Synthesis of issues and recommendations to IFAD

16:00-16:45  Coffee break and bilateral meetings with IFAD staff
      The Steering Committee meets to review the draft of the concluding statement of the Farmers’ Forum to be delivered to the Governing Council and to agree on the composition of the Steering Committee of the Farmers Forum for 2006-2008.

16:45-18:30  Final session chaired by Mr C. Enweze, Vice-President of IFAD (open to Executive Board Directors)
      • Presentation, discussion and approval of the conclusion and key recommendations of the Farmers’ Forum on the way forward in institutionalizing IFAD-FO partnership, including detailed process for the 2006-2008 Forum cycle.
      • Approval by FOs’ representatives of the composition of the Steering Committee of the Farmers Forum for 2006-2008.
      • Presentation and approval by FOs’ representatives of the statement that the Farmers’ Forum will deliver to the Governing Council. This will include a summary of key messages on themes I, II and III.
      • Reaction of IFAD management (President or Vice-President) and closing of the Forum.

Pre-registration at Hotel San Bernardo
Briefing session with Steering Committee members on the agenda of the Farmers Forum and on the farmer representatives who will participate as panellist at the Governing Council Plenary Panel and the Round-tables.

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