

#IFADiNnovationTalk No. 12

Join us for a Special Session of the IFAD Innovation Talks
with Dr. Alvaro Lario, President of the United Nations
International Fund for Agricultural Development and
Alessandra Poggiani, Director of the Human Technopole:

INNOVATION FOR IMPACT: DELIVERING RESULTS FOR THE RURAL POOR

Date: Wednesday 11 January 2023

Time: 14.00-15.00 CET

Register here:

https://ifad.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Vi0AUyiARu2JkjCSqZnRhw

Background to IFAD Innovation Talk no. 12

Founded in 1977, IFAD has a unique role as both a specialised UN agency and an international financial institution, seeking to eradicate rural poverty by strengthening food security and resilience. In 2021, IFAD ranked as number one by the [Quality of Official Development Assistance Report](#), which evaluated the capacity of 49 countries and multilateral agencies to deliver impactful long-term assistance to countries in need.

In March 2022, IFAD adopted a new definition of and approach to innovation. IFAD now defines innovation as a new process, product or approach that adds value and delivers a sustainable, equitable, inclusive and/or new contextual solution to rural development challenges.

For IFAD, the most important innovations are those that impact rural poor people directly.

IFAD aims to catalyse the generation, testing and scaling up of solutions that have the potential to contribute to deliver equitable, better and greater impact for the rural poor by leveraging on learning, strategic partnerships, digitalization and the implementation of sustainable tools and guidelines.

In September 2022, [Alvaro Lario](#), Ph.D., a Spanish national, who has served as IFAD's chief financial officer since 2018, took office as IFAD's President. Since joining IFAD, Dr Lario has led efforts to harness private sector investment to boost the resilience of millions of small-scale farmers and rural communities who are among those affected by global shocks. Under Alvaro's stewardship, IFAD became the first United Nations Fund to enter the capital markets and obtain a credit rating, enabling IFAD to expand resource mobilization efforts to the private sector.

About the session

During this special session of the IFAD Innovation Talks, President Lario will engage in a fireside chat and share with the audience his vision of innovation for IFAD and how he expects this vision to leverage innovation to deliver transformational impact and results for the rural poor.

The event will aim to answer the following questions:

- Why has IFAD adopted a new definition and approach to innovation?
- What is IFAD's vision for innovation management?
- How is IFAD aiming to leverage innovation?
- What will success look like in the innovation space for IFAD?
- How is IFAD planning to monitor and evaluate progress on innovation?
- What will be IFAD's core priorities to foster and support innovation?

IFAD INNOVATION TALK #12:
INNOVATION FOR IMPACT: Delivering results for the rural poor.



FIRESIDE CHAT



ALVARO LARIO
President
IFAD



ALESSANDRA POGGIANI
Director of Administration
Human Technopole

Wednesday 11 January 2023
14:00-15:00 CET



SPEAKERS



Alvaro Lario is President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). A seasoned international development finance leader, he has more than 20 years of experience across academia, private sector asset management, World Bank Group and the United Nations, including as Associate Vice-President of Financial Operations at IFAD.

Under his stewardship, IFAD became the first United Nations Fund to enter the capital markets and obtain a credit rating, enabling IFAD to expand resource mobilization efforts to the private sector.

Before joining the Fund in early 2018, he was the Treasury Capital Markets Lead and Principal Portfolio Officer at the International Finance Corporation, part of the World Bank Group, where he focused on local capital markets development and emerging markets investments.

President Lario received a PhD in Financial Economics from the Complutense University of Madrid after completing a Master of Research in Economics at the London Business School and a Master of Finance from Princeton University.



Alessandra Poggiani is Director of Administration of the Human Technopole, Italy's international open research institute for life sciences. She is a Senior Executive and Director with extensive international experience in the management and development of innovative public and government-owned companies. Dr Poggiani is the former Director General and CEO of Venis s.p.a., an in-house ICT company of the City of Venice, and ex-Director General of AGID, Italy's National Government Digital Agency. Before joining Human Technopole, she was Director General and CEO of Lait s.p.a., an in-house ICT company of Italy's Lazio region. She was also Online

Communication Manager at Enel S.p.a, Information Manager at the Euro-Mediterranean

partnership of the European Commission, Head of Communication, Advocacy and External Relation at the Mediterranean Programme Office of WWF International. Dr Poggiani has also held several academic appointments, such as Visiting Lecturer of Digital Economy at the London Imperial College Business School and Adjunct Professor of Marketing and Digital Communication at Università di Roma La Sapienza and at Università Roma Tre. She is a Teaching Fellow at the Business School of the University of Venice Ca' Foscari and sits in several advisory boards and committees on digital economy, including the International Chamber of Commerce Digital Economy Commission and the Advisory Board on "Digital Italy" of the Innovation Group.

Hosting organization

IFAD is an international financial institution and specialized United Nations agency based in Rome, the UN's food and agriculture hub. Since 1978, the Fund has provided US\$23.2 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached an estimated 518 million people. At the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) we invest in rural people, empowering them to increase their food security, improve the nutrition of their families and increase their incomes. We help them build resilience, expand their businesses and take charge of their own development.

About Human Technopole

Human Technopole is Italy's open research institute for life sciences. Established by the Italian Government following Expo Milan 2015, the Human Technopole aims to foster collaboration and bring added value to the scientific research ecosystem across Italy and Europe. It does so through:

- (i) An interdisciplinary approach based on the creation and sharing of knowledge;
- (ii) Carrying out frontier research in the life sciences, aimed at developing innovative approaches for personalized and preventive medicine;
- (iii) Setting up and operating scientific services and facilities made available to global research communities;
- (iv) Organizing and offering development and career opportunities to the next generation of scientists;
- (v) Driving innovation and progress by promoting technology transfer and by engaging in relations with industry to foster the transformation of scientific discoveries into tangible applications; and
- (vi) Disseminating scientific activities and achievements to reinforce the message that science is a public good.

About the IFAD INNOVATION TALKS

IFAD Innovation Talks are a series of learning and knowledge sharing sessions, lasting one hour. They feature innovative approaches, tools, products and services developed by IFAD, its partners and the members of the IFAD Innovation Network in order to further the aims of the network. The Talks follow various formats: from interviews and panel discussions to TEDx talks and demonstrations of new technological tools.

About the IFAD INNOVATION NETWORK

The IFAD Innovation Network is an informal, democratic, non-hierarchical space to share ideas, good practices, tools and lessons learned on how members can use innovation to improve performance and better address the needs and challenges of our target groups and beneficiaries.

This group is open to IFAD staff, representatives of IFAD's members, fellow United Nations and Development Finance Institutions colleagues, representatives of academia, research centres, think tanks and the private sector, and those who wish to contribute to advancing innovation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Don't hesitate to get involved and share your ideas with us!

If you're not a member yet, apply to join us here: <https://ifad.dgroups.io/g/IFADInnovation>