

**Statement by the Hon. Minister of Finance, Planning and
Economic Development, Uganda
IFAD Country Programme Evaluation of Uganda
National Roundtable Workshop, Kampala, 12 July 2012**

Rt. Hon Prime Minister

Hon. Ministers

Distinguished Members of the IFAD Delegation,

Distinguished Representations of the Multilateral and Bilateral Organisations,

Government Officials, and

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I would like to welcome you to the IFAD Country Programme Evaluation National Roundtable Workshop. Our Government attaches great importance to this exercise as witnessed by prominence of Government representation in this workshop. IFAD to us is an invaluable partner in agricultural development and as an advisor to Government on agricultural issues; we take very seriously guidance from them.
2. IFAD has been an important partner for Uganda for more than 20 years. Uganda had its first IFAD loan-funded project approved in 1981 and since then IFAD has supported 14 projects. All these projects have been contracted on highly concessional terms. The support has stretched through all aspects of life, supporting traditional agriculture, value chain and value addition, PPPs, women empowerment and poverty reduction.
3. The objectives of these projects have been consistent with government's stated policies on Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), the precursor to

the National Development Plan (NDP), and support to the Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA). Some of IFAD's ongoing funded projects in the country include;

Project	Amount Committed in US\$
Vegetable Oil Development Project 1 (VODP 1)	21,525,000
Rural Financial Services Programme (RFSP)	17,400,000
District Livelihood Support Programme (DLSP)	61,965,000
Community Agricultural Infrastructure Improvement Programme (CAIIP)	31,275,000
Vegetable Oil Development Project 2 (VODP 2)	21,525,000
Agricultural Technology and Agri-business Advisor Services (ATAAS)	13,950,000
Total	167,640,000

4. This is the first Country programme evaluation and this evaluation covered the period 1997 – 2011. During this period, IFAD approved nine loan-supported projects. The evaluation process has been very participatory with the involvement of all beneficiaries; civil society Organizations; Ministries and Departments of Government including Development Partners. Ever

since joining the Ministry of Finance, I have personally had several rounds of discussion with the IFAD teams in this evaluation exercise. This interaction has no doubt laid ground for this workshop today.

5. GoU cooperation with IFAD has been evolving over the period with the first five projects approved during 1981 – 1994 being traditional agricultural projects. Nine projects, approved since 1997 (some of which have ended) can be placed in three categories, namely;
 - a) **Agriculture:** Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries as the implementing partner. Some of these projects are NAADs, ATAAS, and VODP 1 & 2.
 - b) **Local Government:** Ministry of Local Government as the national implementing partner. Some of these projects include District Development Support Project (DDSP), Area-based Agricultural Modernization Programme (AAMP), DLSP and CAIIP. DDSP was followed by DLSP and AAMP was followed by CAIIP.
 - c) **Rural finance:** Rural Financial Services Programme (RFSP) was supported under rural finance with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development being the implementing partner.
6. However despite the evolving nature of the portfolio, the focus of IFAD as an agricultural institution has not been lost. The operations have supported value chain in agriculture from research and development, infrastructure and microfinance all meant to ensure that the farmer adds value and can easily access markets for purposes of increasing incomes and poverty reduction.
7. Guest of Honour Sir, the evolving nature of the IFAD portfolio over the past 10 years, has also seen Uganda being included both in the Direct Supervision Pilot Programme (launched in 1997) and the Field Presence

Pilot Programme (launched in 2003), which provided useful insights for introducing direct supervision and implementation across the Uganda Portfolio in recent years. In April 2006, a Country Office, hosted in UNDP, was established. In 2009, the country office team was strengthened with an Associate Country Programme Manager. Short term consultants have been assisting in the country programme management.

8. Guest of Honor Sir, the portfolio has of course not gone without any challenges and some of these include:
 - a. Certain operations here have governance issues in terms of financial systems including Monitoring and Evaluation. The Monitoring & Evaluation operations have tended to focus on money and physical assets as a measure for accountability. There is need to put in place Monitoring & Evaluation systems in projects to ensure resources reach where they are intended. The reports from the Monitoring & Evaluation process should be able to inform the budget allocation process.
 - b. Sustainability issues.
 - c. Low absorption as a result of weak capacities of implementers and inadequate supervision.

9. Ladies and Gentlemen, without wasting much of your time, since the workshop is for exchange of ideas, I would like to thank all of you present for coming to this important workshop. I have no doubt the contributions by each of you in the discussions; will go a long way in enriching the cooperation between IFAD and Government. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank IFAD for the innovative idea of an evaluation workshop with all stakeholders and for its continued support towards agriculture and improvement of livelihoods.

10. IFAD has stood by its mandate and continues to grow from strength to strength with the support of member countries. In Uganda we will remain fully engaged and supportive of their mandate and operations. With these few remarks, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to invite the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to officially inaugurate this workshop.

For God and My Country