

Document: EB 2012/105/R.49  
Agenda: 13(i)  
Date: 3 April 2012  
Distribution: Public  
Original: English

**E**



Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

## **Statement of intent between Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the International Fund for Agricultural Development**

### **Note to Executive Board representatives**

#### Focal points:

#### Technical questions:

**Kevin Cleaver**

Associate Vice-President, Programmes  
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2419  
e-mail: k.cleaver@ifad.org

#### Dispatch of documentation:

**Deirdre McGrenra**

Head, Governing Bodies Office  
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2374  
e-mail: gb\_office@ifad.org

Executive Board — 105<sup>th</sup> Session  
Rome, 3-4 April 2012

---

**For: Information**

# Statement of intent between Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the International Fund for Agricultural Development

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the Gates Foundation) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) share a common focus in helping smallholder farmers increase their productivity in a sustainable manner to overcome rural poverty.

This shared focus reflects our concern at the high poverty burden of rural areas and understanding that seventy-five percent of those living in extreme poverty globally depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Agriculture constitutes a significant portion of overall GDP and employment in most poor countries.

Our work contributes to efforts toward achieving the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG) – to reduce hunger and poverty in half by 2015 – since increases in smallholder productivity will provide more access to food and enable large-scale poverty alleviation.

Given the strong strategic alignment between the Gates Foundation and IFAD, and their role as funders of agricultural development in the poorest regions of the world, we would like to forge a stronger partnership between our two institutions.

Our partnership will help increase smallholder productivity growth across the agricultural value chain from the discovery of solutions and practical application of these solutions to achieve poverty reduction.

We have already begun to work together on specific proposals to develop new technologies and partnerships to help poor farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. We have joint investments to develop drought-tolerant maize, stress-tolerant rice, micronutrient-fortified staples and drought-tolerant tropical legumes. We also jointly support the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), which aims to transform African agriculture.

Going forward, we will coordinate investments in key countries that have a high poverty burden and significant smallholder agriculture. Our joint objective in these collaborative ventures is to achieve impact at scale through innovative and integrated delivery.

Our partnership will be guided by the following priorities:

- Support generation of new technologies to create the possibility of sustainable intensification of agriculture;
- Support delivery and adoption of these technologies to achieve sustainable smallholder productivity growth and reduce rural poverty;
- Support value chain development for key staple crops and livestock in countries of shared interest to improve food security;
- Support the establishment of market linkages, empowerment of rural women, and capacity-building for local rural communities and farmers' organizations;
- Support learning, research, data, monitoring and evaluation activities to create an evidence base that helps us improve the efficiency and effectiveness of agricultural development investments.

Moving forward, we will expand cofinancing beyond the several projects already under way. A joint Gates Foundation-IFAD working group will guide this process and review partnership arrangements periodically. We will begin by identifying projects most suited for our partnership. Some immediate possibilities include:

- Partner on funding the CGIAR system, including support to the CGIAR's reform process;
- Partner on value chain development for staple crops and livestock in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.
- Joint learning about what interventions achieve the most impact for smallholder agricultural productivity growth. We will also explore support for impact assessment work.
- Collaborate on communications and advocacy activities in support of smallholder agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

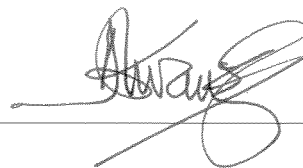
We look forward to the further collaboration of our organizations to increase assistance to smallholder farmers to improve productivity and food security.



---

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*

Bill Gates  
Co-Chair, Bill & Melinda Gates  
Foundation



---



Kanayo F. Nwanze  
President, International Fund for  
Agricultural Development

## ANNEX

Project	Gates Foundation contribution	IFAD- managed contribution
<b>Water Efficient Maize for Africa (AATF)</b> – to develop drought-tolerant maize for small farmers in Africa.	US\$42M	US\$4M
<b>Stress-Tolerant Rice for Africa and South Asia (IRRI)</b> – to develop and disseminate of rice varieties that can survive flood, drought, and other stresses in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.	US\$20M	US\$10M
<b>HarvestPlus (IFPRI)</b> – to reduce micronutrient deficiencies in developing countries by breeding higher levels of essential micronutrients into staple crops.	US\$45M	US\$3M
<b>Wheat Rust (Cornell University)</b> – to develop improved rust-resistant wheat varieties to protect resource-poor farmers.	US\$27M	US\$1.5M
<b>Tropical Legumes II (ICRISAT)</b> – to enable small farmers in drought-prone areas in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia to increase yields of tropical grain legumes.	US\$21M	US\$7M