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Investing in rural people

## Summary of project and programme proposals discussed by the Executive Board

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For: **Information**

## Summary of project and programme proposals discussed by the Executive Board

### Project/programme proposals

1. The following project/programme proposals were approved at the 112<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board, and are in line with the Debt Sustainability Framework.

#### A. West and Central Africa

##### **Côte d'Ivoire: Support to Agricultural Production and Marketing Project – Western expansion (EB 2014/112/R.8)**

2. The Executive Board unanimously approved the provision of a loan of SDR 11.28 million, a grant of SDR 11.28 million and a grant of SDR 4.52 million from the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) Trust Fund to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to finance the Support to Agricultural Production and Marketing Project – Western expansion. Executive Board members advised IFAD to (i) focus on risk factors; and (ii) collaborate with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which implemented activities in the country.

#### B. East and Southern Africa

##### **Burundi: National Programme for Food Security and Rural Development in Imbo and Moso (EB 2014/112/R.9+Add.1+Sup.1) (now EB 2014/112/R.9/Rev.1)**

3. The Executive Board approved the provision of a grant of US\$1.0 million and a grant of US\$30.0 million from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) to finance the National Programme for Food Security and Rural Development in Imbo and Moso. The Executive Board representatives for Belgium and Switzerland sought clarification on the role of each of the cofinanciers – GAFSP, IFAD and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) in light of the importance of closer cooperation among actors implementing projects in the Imbo region. The relevance of the programme was emphasized, in particular with respect to the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes and value chain development, given the increasing food insecurity and the level of malnutrition in Burundi, and the current low agricultural growth rate. Prior to the Executive Board, responses to queries from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Belgian Development Agency were provided. The Executive Board representative for Japan mentioned that technical assistance would be provided to Burundi by Japan to develop the rice value chain in the Imbo region, with the emphasis on opportunities for further collaboration with IFAD. Management clarified that GAFSP funds would be used mostly to finance capacity-building activities targeted at grass-roots organizations; institutional support; and the development of the two value chains (milk and rice). OFID would provide funds for the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes and water control activities, and IFAD would contribute to a basket fund that provided small-scale producers with fertilizers. Cooperation with the Belgium Fund for Food Security and the Belgian Development Agency was already ongoing in the field, particularly in the implementation of the Transitional Programme of Post-Conflict Reconstruction and the Project to Accelerate Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals funded by the European Union.

**C. Asia and the Pacific****Bangladesh: Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprises Project (EB 2014/112/R.10+Add.1+Sup.1) (now EB 2014/112/R.10/Rev.1)**

4. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 26.35 million to the People's Republic of Bangladesh to support the Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprises Project on highly concessional terms. Executive Board representatives noted that this project was aligned with IFAD policies and expressed appreciation for its innovative approach to value chain development and financing of microenterprises in Bangladesh.

**D. Near East, North Africa and Europe****Morocco: Rural Development Programme in the Mountain Zones – Phase I (EB 2014/112/R.13)**

5. The Executive Board unanimously approved the provision of a loan of SDR 16.5 million on ordinary terms and a grant of SDR 1.295 million from the ASAP Trust Fund to provide cofinancing for the project. With respect to the multitude of donors supporting the Green Morocco Plan – Pillar II, the Executive Board representatives for Belgium and Switzerland recommended (i) extra efforts to build synergies between this project and other donor-funded projects; and (ii) that the national steering committee include relevant members from, for example, the Ministry of Agriculture and the High Commission for Water and Forests. The Executive Board representative for Belgium pointed out that the data on poverty rates dated back to 2007 in the President's report, but, expressed appreciation that the project design foresaw a baseline survey during implementation to update information on these rates in the project area.