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Investing in rural people

## **President's report**

### **Proposed grant**

## **IFAD's Contribution to the Food Systems Summit (2021)**

Project ID: 2000003324

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

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**For: Approval**

## **Recommendation for approval**

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation for the proposed grant as contained in paragraph 16.

### **I. Background and compliance with IFAD Policy for Grant Financing**

1. In 2021, the Secretary-General of the United Nations will convene the Food Systems Summit (FSS). The three Rome-based agencies (RBAs) – IFAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) – have committed to provide full support for the organization of the Summit. The FSS will offer a catalytic breakthrough moment for large-scale public mobilization around food systems, which is expected to result in actionable commitments to foster and invest in food systems that are sustainable, inclusive, resilient and climate-adapted. A multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee, to be chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, will be established to provide guidance in preparation for the event; the President of IFAD will be one of its members. The Summit will be led by the Secretary-General, with a strong and equal role for all of the RBAs.
2. The proposed grant is in line with the goal and objectives of the IFAD Policy for Grant Financing (2015). The Summit will be action-oriented and will feature country and regional dialogues, with stakeholder engagement, including by producer organizations, civil society and the private sector. It will clearly contribute to IFAD's corporate priorities by: (i) enabling advocacy and policy engagement to link agriculture with food systems (inclusivity, sustainability and nutrition); and (ii) generating knowledge and lessons learned to serve policymakers and farmers' organizations in identifying opportunities to support family farming in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The focus on food systems approaches is critical for overcoming trade-offs in agricultural and rural development, and to support wide engagement of multiple stakeholders in food innovations and policies.
3. In accordance with the agreement between the Rome-based agencies and the Office of the Secretary-General, WFP will be the administrative host and will be responsible for managing funds and human resources for the Summit secretariat. For this reason, WFP was selected, through direct selection, to be the grant recipient.

### **II. The proposed project**

4. The objective of the grant is to contribute to the organization of the FSS in support of the Summit's overall goal of generating consensus, knowledge and tools to help stakeholders manage trade-offs and unleash the benefits of food systems for all people in a sustainable manner. The FSS will offer a catalytic moment for large-scale public mobilization and actionable commitments to invest in diverse ways in making food systems sustainable, climate-adapted, inclusive, nutritious, resilient and efficient.
5. Through this grant, IFAD will gain increased visibility among Member States and a broad range of other food system stakeholders, raising the profile of the people and issues at the heart of IFAD's mandate to the highest possible level. The timing of the Summit and its outcomes will provide a strong political basis and new opportunities and approaches for the work to be undertaken during the implementation period (2022–2024) of the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD12).
6. This grant will also contribute to the recently approved IFAD Partnership Framework by offering a means to further advance IFAD's efforts to deepen strategic

partnerships and to engage with new partners that are aligned with IFAD's vision and objectives. IFAD's new Partnership Framework (approved by the Executive Board in September 2019) – which is focused on promoting synergies between IFAD's resources and those of the Fund's partners in order to create an enabling environment for poor rural people to move out of poverty – will guide the organization's approach. Additionally, as part of IFAD's revised guidelines for country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs), a partnership annex has been drawn up through which teams will develop the strategic partnerships to be pursued in a country to achieve the objectives of the COSOP. These partnerships could also reflect specific FSS outcomes going forward.

7. The IFAD grant will be an important foundational element towards all of the above.

### **III. Expected outcomes/outputs**

8. Key outcomes of the FSS that will support the transformation of systems along sustainable paths include:
  - (i) A set of significant commitments and partnerships to action with measurable outcomes.
  - (ii) A policy framework and a diverse set of practical tools to manage trade-offs, especially related to nexus issues; to design food system transformation strategies; and to develop multi-stakeholder platforms or governance models for food systems.
  - (iii) Agreement on a voluntary political declaration outlining principles for sustainably transforming food systems.
  - (iv) A voluntary system of follow-up and accountability that would allow for continued sharing of experiences and results and incorporate new metrics for impact analysis.
9. While having a central connecting node, the Summit will be preceded by a decentralized preparatory process that will allow many stakeholders to engage and enable the best ideas to come forward. Underpinning this outward-looking approach will be a set of planned pre-Summit gatherings at regional and global levels to provide focus and direction. The process will include a major pre-Summit event, roughly six months in advance of the Summit, to further build momentum and begin to consolidate outcomes. Regular progress reports will be circulated between IFAD's External Relations and Governance Department, Programme Management Department, and Strategy and Knowledge Department. Potential external leverage points on the road to the Summit include the Nutrition for Growth Summit to be held in Japan in 2020 and the planned intergovernmental meetings on biodiversity. Other leverage points include work already under way within the Committee on World Food Security to develop voluntary guidelines in this area, as well as other ongoing processes across the United Nations system.
10. Meanwhile, a variety of tools and ideas for enhancing food systems transformation at the local and national levels in multiple settings will be developed in part through a set of coordinated action tracks (or workstreams). The action tracks will promote an integrated approach that includes taking stock of the relevant sectoral policies, and mapping and analysing synergies and trade-offs between the economic, social and environmental spheres with a view to developing new actions and initiatives to

accelerate the realization of sustainable, inclusive and resilient transformation of food systems.

11. The Summit will conclude just before the implementation of IFAD12 begins. Therefore, there is a strategic opportunity to embed Summit outcomes into IFAD's Results Management Framework and programme of loans and grants.

#### **IV. Implementation arrangements**

12. The implementation of the arrangements for the FSS will be carried out by its secretariat, which will be administratively hosted by WFP, in close coordination with the other RBAs, which will work in synergy with one another. Tools and capacities already existing within the RBAs will be leveraged to the fullest extent possible to support the process.
13. There are no deviations from the standard procedures for financial reporting and audit under the memorandum of understanding for collaboration among the Rome-based agencies, signed by the RBA principals in June 2018.

#### **V. Indicative project costs and financing**

14. The total cost for IFAD is estimated at US\$1,5 million, to be financed by a grant, which will contribute to a much larger budget that will also be supported by FAO and WFP (estimated at about US\$15 million), as well as by governments and philanthropic donors that have expressed a strong interest in supporting the FSS. The Executive Board will be updated on relevant developments in this regard throughout the lifespan of the Summit process.
15. The IFAD grant is designed to provide early support to the Summit, given that IFAD and the RBAs promoted the convening of the FSS. The funds will enable WFP, on behalf of the Summit secretariat, to finance start-up activities.

#### **VI. Recommendation**

16. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed grant in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to contribute to the success of the Food Systems Summit 2021, shall provide a grant in the amount of one million five hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$1,500,000) to the World Food Programme (WFP), as the administrative host of the Summit, upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

Gilbert F. Hougbo  
President

## Results-based logical framework

Objectives-hierarchy		
Goal	<b>The goal of the FSS</b> is to generate the consensus, knowledge and tools to help stakeholders manage trade-offs and unleash the benefits of food systems for all people in a sustainable manner.	<p>The implementation of the FSS will be monitored according to the outputs defined in the Action Plan of the summit, with data collection scheduled to support the measurement of impact</p> <p>IFAD Senior Management (particularly the President, AVP ERG and AVP SKD and AVP PMD) will be monitoring this issue closely throughout the process. In addition, a supervision mission will be undertaken to Nairobi during the preparation process.</p> <p>An updated Result-based logical framework with indicators of performance and timelines results will be shared as soon as ready.</p>
Objectives	<b>The objective of the FSS</b> will be to empower people to maximize the co-benefits of food systems across the entire 2030 Agenda by leveraging them as accelerators of progress towards the SDGs, and as a means to meet the challenges of climate change	
Outcomes/ Outputs	<b>Summit outcomes</b> to support the transformation of these systems along sustainable paths will include:	
	1. A set of <b>significant commitments and partnerships</b> to action with measurable outcomes.	
	2. A <b>policy framework and a diverse set of practical tools</b> to manage trade-offs, especially related to nexus issues, to design food system transformation strategies, and to develop multi-stakeholder platforms or governance models for food systems	
	3. Agreement on a <b>voluntary political declaration</b> outlining principles for sustainably transforming food systems.	
	4. A voluntary system <b>of follow-up and accountability</b> that would allow for the continuation of sharing experiences and results, and incorporate new metrics for impact analysis	