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Investing in rural people

Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
Country Strategic Opportunities Programme
2020-2025
Addendum

**Management's response to Member States'
comments**

Executive Board — 130th Session
Rome, 8-11 September 2020

For: **Information**

Comments from Canada	Management Response
<p>The COSOP is generally in accord and aligned with local priorities (PND 2016-2020, PNIA II, combatting climate change, etc.) and responds to some of Côte d'Ivoire's many needs in agriculture, targeting the poorest regions and most vulnerable populations.</p> <p>It is good that the COSOP 2020–2025 has taken recent developments linked to the COVID-19 pandemic into account. It is recommended that the document further elaborate on the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's coordination efforts and the coordination of technical and financial partners (TFP) (e.g. for the mapping of COVID-19 response activities). The reference to a new emergency project in the amount of US\$21.3 million in paragraphs 33 and 43 could also indicate how it fits within the global response of TFPs and the government's pandemic response strategy.</p>	<p>In its response to COVID-19, the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire has created a mechanism overseen by the Prime Minister to discuss agriculture sector development with technical and financial partners (TFP) whose leaders are the AFD and FAO. The discussions have taken place by value chain, and IFAD has committed to reprogramming US\$5 million from the Commodity Value-Chain Development Support Project (PADFA), implemented in the northern region of the country to support the rice and market garden product value chains (US\$3 million and US\$2 million, respectively). The discussions did not yield the support requested by the Government. The Côte d'Ivoire Ministry of Economy and Finance has therefore written officially to IFAD, requesting that the US\$21.3 million unutilized by PROPACOM-West be used to finance an urgent agricultural project (PUA-CI) to provide greater support for certain value chains such as rice, maize, market garden products, small ruminants and aquaculture. It should be noted that these resources were to be used to finance a rural entrepreneurship project, the request for which had received a favourable response from IFAD. Thus, the PUA-CI is part of the Government's overall COVID-19 response programme.</p>
<p>Gender equality, and specifically, the economic empowerment of women and youth at the heart of the interventions. The gender approach in the COSOP takes the form of targeted value chains, some of which are dominated by women (cassava, market garden products, maize). Thus, for certain value chains such as fruit (mangoes, etc.) and cashews, other bold targeted activities to benefit women and youth should be encouraged. Since the document mentions consideration of the gender issue, we suggest that a link be established with the "National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women in Côte d'Ivoire," finalized in December 2019.</p>	<p>This link will be established by citing the above-mentioned strategy, which is being finalized by UN WOMEN. IFAD will deploy all efforts to continue and intensify its collaboration with all organizations involved in women's empowerment.</p>
<p>It is suggested that the COSOP elaborate on how the agricultural research sector will be supported</p>	<p>IFAD-funded projects are already working with agricultural research in the area of seeds. For example, in the course of its implementation, PADFA is acquiring improved seeds for certain varieties</p>

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Comments from Canada	Management Response
<p>and how its studies – or those supported by other technical and financial partners – could be implemented by farmers.</p>	<p>of rice with AfricaRice. IFAD will also finance the National Centre for Agricultural Research (CNRA) to provide basic rice seed that AfricaRice lacks. These actions will be intensified by those of other research centres (e.g. CIRAD of France, Centre Suisse) that IFAD has met with on several occasions to introduce agricultural innovations that benefit farmers. The results of the agricultural research will be made available to farmers with the participation of management entities that will train farmers in field schools or through e-platforms based on the new technologies. Moreover, IFAD-funded projects will be based on the results of agricultural research financed by other technical and financial partners; these results will be made available to farmers through timesaving e-platforms.</p>

Comments from Japan	Management Response
<p>Japan supports the shift of focus in the country programme and the three strategic objectives are reasonable and well align with the needs of the country. In particular, we resonate with the idea that increased value addition in the agriculture sector is vital for revitalized rural economy and diversification of agricultural production contributes to improvement of food security situation in rural areas. We have been supporting the country through human capital development and promotion of rice production, and we wish good complement with this country programme.</p>	<p>Thanking Japan for the continuous support to IFAD, we intend to intensify our collaboration in the field with JICA in the rice value chain, where we can share knowledge and experience, particularly in post-harvest activities.</p>

Comments from France	Management Response
France welcomes the Country Strategic Opportunities Programme 2020-2025 for Côte d'Ivoire	IFAD is grateful to France for its support to the 2020-2025 COSOP for Cote d'Ivoire.
The strategic choice to concentrate IFAD's operations in the northern regions of the country is consistent with the resources deployed for the COSOP. Such a choice will imply reasonable ambitions for IFAD in terms of improving the design and implementation of national policies, particularly those aimed at combating deforestation	IFAD is keen on combating deforestation in any part of the country, particularly in the North. To this effect, IFAD is investing some ASAP resources in the new emergency project in which sensitization of beneficiaries on deforestation will play a significant role. In addition, IFAD has been deploying efforts to mobilize US\$ 30 million from the Green Climate Fund to help the project beneficiaries invest in climate-resilient activities. These funds will be used partly to partner with other technical and financial partners in order to design and implement national policies aimed at efficient natural resource management, particularly forest and water which feature prominently in the Agriculture and Environment Working Group co-chaired by AFD and FAO.
Finally, it will be important to capitalize on the experiences and lessons learned at the end of the projects, particularly those concerning the small producers' resilience and their access to markets.	IFAD will capitalize on the experiences and lessons learned from not only the projects it funds but also from those of other donors involved in smallholder farmers' resilience to climate change and shocks as well as their access to markets. To this end, AFD and IFAD have been deploying efforts since March 2020 to ensure that the AFD-funded FADCI and the IFAD-financed PADFA cofinance activities in northern Cote d'Ivoire to, among other things, share knowledge and experience during implementation, as well as draw lessons at the end of each project.