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IFAD's Contribution to the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit

Addendum

Management's Response to Member States' Comments

Executive Board — 132nd Session
Rome, 19-21 April 2021

For: Information

Comments from Japan	Management response
<p>Japan appreciates IFAD for its contribution to the discussion in the UN Food Systems Summit process. In particular, we acknowledge the maximum use of IFAD's comparative advantage in knowledge and political inputs and food systems reform in rural areas as well as empowerment of youth, women and indigenous peoples and rural finance. In this regards, we look forward to the 2021 Rural Development Report with tangible proposals.</p> <p>IFAD's role as a Co-Convenor of the Group of Friends for the FSS is very visible and facilitation and activation of the discussion is highly valued. Moreover, Japan notes IFAD's efforts of listening to the voices from vulnerable people around the globe through its support to individual Food Systems Dialogues, which is an essential factor to make the FSS a truly "people's summit".</p> <p>In paragraph 18, it is mentioned that "IFAD is working to harness digital technology and the near-universal presence of mobile phones in rural areas to bring in new financial service providers and create innovative financial products designed specifically for rural people". We understand that IFAD is working hard to contribute to the FSS discussion aiming at the pre-Summit and the Summit in September. We would like to clarify if IFAD plans to make its own commitments including a concept relevant to paragraph 18 at the pre-Summit and/or the Summit.</p>	<p>Management appreciates Japan's recognition of the efforts of IFAD to support the Food Systems Summit (FSS). IFAD is hopeful that the independent producer dialogues will provide those hardest to reach with an opportunity to participate in the Summit process. IFAD is working through the Farmers' Forum and Indigenous Peoples' Forum and will have more details on the resulting dialogues in the coming weeks.</p> <p>IFAD has determined that its most effective and supportive role in the Food Systems Summit is that of focusing on the game-changing propositions that will be championed by the FSS Secretariat as a part of the official process. IFAD has provided input into various propositions for multiple Action Tracks, in particular for Action Track 4, in which we have focused on solutions related to access to finance.</p> <p>Given the importance of supporting the formal process, IFAD is currently reviewing all game-changing propositions that have been submitted to identify where its support is most strategic moving forward. Given that these propositions are currently undergoing refinement, expansion and consolidation between the five Action Tracks, IFAD will be better positioned to identify specifics in the coming weeks. We hope that the Group of Friends for the FSS briefings held recently were informative.</p>