



IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Executive Board – Sixty-Ninth Session

Rome, 3-4 May 2000

IFAD'S YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE PROGRAMME

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Under the leadership of IFAD's Vice-President, IFAD successfully completed a comprehensive programme to ensure a smooth transition into the new millennium. The start of the Year 2000 and, later, the passage from February to March 2000 did not create any particular problems within IFAD systems. Further monitoring will be carried out throughout the year as cycles are completed.
2. In December 1998, an information paper on the various initiatives undertaken and the approach adopted by IFAD was presented to the Executive Board. Subsequent reports on the level of preparedness were presented to the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Board in December 1999 and to the Governing Council in February 2000. This report to the Executive Board of May 2000 closes the cycle with an examination of the impact of IFAD's Year 2000 Compliance Programme.

II. YEAR 2000 IMPACT WITHIN IFAD

Methodology

3. The programme, which was launched in the latter part of 1998, involved a three-phase planning approach comprising risk assessment, remedial action and validation testing, and contingency plans.
4. Early in the project, Y2K activities were promoted as a functional issue rather than as an information-technology issue. Throughout each phase, IFAD staff and partners were kept informed about the status of the project and any potential Y2K problems.
5. Besides the successful passage to the Year 2000, each phase of the programme achieved tangible results on which IFAD can capitalize to implement a comprehensive information security programme to ensure continuity and to minimize the risks due to information-technology failure.



Risk Assessment

6. While assessing IFAD's vulnerability to Year 2000 problems, IFAD evaluated the possible impacts of the failure of components on business activities. The dependency on information-technology was evaluated, and IFAD identified priorities among its business processes.

7. A complete list of IFAD partners and information-technology components was drawn up, and IFAD has gained a comprehensive view of their impact and reliability.

Remedial action and validation testing

8. Action was taken in a number of vulnerable internal areas to ensure compliance.

9. This activity represented an opportunity to replace software and hardware or to upgrade to the latest versions certified by vendors. It therefore encouraged technology improvements. In addition, information-technology infrastructure was streamlined. For example, hardware that had become obsolete was retired, maintenance contracts were reviewed, and anti-virus software packages were updated to take advantage of more systematic solutions.

Contingency Plans

10. To reduce the Y2K risks, contingency measures to guarantee the most critical IFAD functions were developed by the IFAD's Year 2000 Task Force and relevant organizational units. Teams were trained and ready to implement the necessary measures in the event of emergency.

11. The Y2K contingency plans constitute a model for the development of disaster-recovery plans to be used in case of problems in critical IFAD functions.

12. Throughout the organization, staff have gained a better understanding of functions and of the linkages among divisions. The project has also created an opportunity for interdivisional teamwork.

13. IFAD participated actively in United Nations inter-agency groups and cooperated with local authorities and others. It participated fruitfully in partnership efforts and coordination at various levels. This led to a comprehensive year-end plan, which was implemented successfully.

III. CONCLUSION

14. The Executive Board is requested to take note of the successful outcome of IFAD's Year 2000 Compliance Programme. Although difficulties may yet arise during the year, the risk of a major failure in infrastructure seems to have been addressed. IFAD will remain alert and be ready to respond to any problem that may occur.