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**IFAD**  
**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**Executive Board – Eighty-eighth Session**  
Rome, 13-14 September 2006

## **ENHANCED ASSOCIATE PROFESSIONAL OFFICER PROGRAMME**

1. The Executive Board expressed its support for an enhanced APO programme for candidates from developing countries. It will run parallel to the current APO programme that is funded by interested OECD countries for their own respective nationals. The candidates for the enhanced APO programme will be recruited, based on merit, from developing countries. Under the programme, at least four APOs will be taken for a period of two years each. The cost estimates will be carefully reviewed and kept to the absolute minimum. The relevant information on the costs will be shared with the Board.
2. The cost of the programme will be limited to US\$1 million and it will be treated as a three-year pilot programme, as was the case for the Field Presence Pilot Programme.
3. In this context, IFAD will also seek additional voluntary contributions from interested Member States and/or take other cost-effective measures to include additional APOs.
4. After the three-year pilot phase, an evaluation will be undertaken and the future of the programme will be decided in the light of the evaluation.