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Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

## **President's memorandum**

### **Modifications of supervision arrangements**

**(Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and  
Democratic Republic of the Congo)**

Executive Board — Ninety-ninth Session  
Rome, 21-22 April 2010

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For: **Approval**

## **Note to Executive Board members**

This document is submitted for approval by the Executive Board.

To make the best use of time available at Executive Board sessions, representatives are invited to contact the following focal point with any technical questions about this document before the session:

### **Mohamed Manssouri**

Country Programme Manager for the Democratic Republic of Congo  
telephone: +39 06 5459 2330  
e-mail: [m.manssouri@ifad.org](mailto:m.manssouri@ifad.org)

### **Luyaku Nsimpasi**

Country Programme Manager for the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire  
telephone: +39 06 5459 2147  
e-mail: [l.nsimpasi@ifad.org](mailto:l.nsimpasi@ifad.org)

Queries regarding the dispatch of documentation for this session should be addressed to:

### **Deirdre McGrenra**

Governing Bodies Officer  
telephone: +39 06 5459 2374  
e-mail: [d.mcgrenra@ifad.org](mailto:d.mcgrenra@ifad.org)

## **Recommendation for approval**

The Executive Board is invited to approve the direct supervision by IFAD of the Small Horticultural Producer Support Project (Republic of Côte d'Ivoire) and the Agricultural Revival Programme in Equateur Province (Democratic Republic of Congo).



## **President's memorandum: Modifications of supervision arrangements**

### **(Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Democratic Republic of the Congo)**

#### **I. Small Horticultural Producer Support Project**

1. At its sixty-ninth session in May 2000, the Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 8.3 million (equivalent to approximately US\$11.17 million), on highly concessional terms, to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to finance the Small Horticultural Producer Support Project. The overall project goal is to enhance smallholder incomes, food security and agricultural productivity, particularly among poor women and youth. This objective will be achieved through four components: (i) grass-roots participatory planning and capacity-building; (ii) irrigation development; (iii) horticultural subsector development support; and (iv) project coordination.
2. It was originally established that the financing would be administered by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) as IFAD's cooperating institution. The completion date of this project was 31 October 2009. In view of the short implementation time remaining, it was decided to keep UNOPS as cooperating institution to support the completion and closing process of the project.
3. The political situation generated implementation delays. It has therefore been decided to extend the project until 30 June 2012 to ensure sustainability of results. In order to further improve the performance of this project, it is suggested that it be supervised directly by IFAD. Compared with supervision by a cooperating institution, direct supervision has greater potential to increase development effectiveness at the project level and, at the same time, it allows more attention to be paid to IFAD's broader objectives at the country programme level. In addition, direct supervision will encourage synergy building and yield economies of scale, as the new IFAD-financed projects in Côte d'Ivoire are directly supervised by IFAD.

#### **II. Agricultural Revival Programme in Equateur Province**

4. At its eighty-first session (in April 2004), the Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 10.0 million (equivalent to approximately US\$14.8 million), on highly concessional terms, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to help finance the Agricultural Revival Programme in Equateur Region. The overall programme goal is to contribute to enhancing food security and improving the livelihoods of the rural poor. The programme's development objective is to restore and improve sustainable livelihoods for rural communities. Specifically, the programme aims to: (i) restore and improve agricultural productive assets, promote equitable and sustainable access by farmers to markets and raise agricultural income; (ii) restore and improve the productive assets of the fisheries sector, promote equitable and sustainable access of fishers – men and women – to markets, and raise their income; and (iii) restore and improve the access of rural communities to basic social services. A special focus is placed on addressing the development constraints faced by the poorest rural categories, in particular widows, Pygmies and other vulnerable groups.

5. It was originally established that the financing would be administered by the United Nations Office for Project Services as IFAD's cooperating institution. The original completion date of this programme is 31 December 2010. However, the prevailing insecurity during the first three years of programme implementation and the difficulties in accessing the programme area hindered the achievement of all the expected results on time. An improvement in the security situation allowed a substantive review to be undertaken in 2009. As a result, the team realized that the programme had the potential to achieve substantial results in a region that had been seriously affected by political instability and structural constraints such as lack of infrastructure and weak governance. It was therefore agreed with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that the programme would be extended by 24 months. In this respect, direct supervision by IFAD is seen as a key instrument to ensure results both at the programme level and at the general country programme level, in terms of broader development effectiveness. This decision will also encourage synergy building and yield economies of scale, as the two other IFAD-financed projects in the country are directly supervised by IFAD.

