

21 July 2016

Distinguished Representatives,


As you may know, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will launch its *Rural Development Report 2016: Fostering Inclusive Rural Transformation* on 14 September 2016 at 10.30 a.m. at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic.

The Rural Development Report 2016 is a key knowledge product. It aims to stimulate debate and reflection among policy makers, development practitioners, private sector, civil society, academics and others about the opportunities and challenges in promoting prosperity among the rural poor through investments in smallholder agriculture and rural development.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the launch of the report and participate in the planned interactive dialogue with the participants. More than 200 people are expected to attend the launch, including senior officials from the Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Programme, as well as several prominent figures from Italy and other countries.

In closing, I would like to thank you once again for your continued cooperation and look forward to an engaging debate at the launch of the Rural Development Report 2016.

Accept, Distinguished Representatives, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Kanayo F. Nwanze

To all Representatives
of IFAD's Member States