



Governing Council  
Twenty-First Session  
Rome, 11-12 February 1998  
Agenda Item 18

## REPORT ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF IFAD

1. In 1998 IFAD completes twenty years of operations. During the Twentieth Session of the Governing Council in February 1997, it was proposed that special activities be undertaken to mark this important milestone, a proposal that was endorsed by the Governing Council. The primary focus of the proposed Twentieth Anniversary Commemoration is to recognize and highlight the dynamism and the potential of smallholders and the rural poor, who are the key actors in the development process.

2. This document provides a brief update of the planned or anticipated activities that will be undertaken by the Fund, its Member States and its partners, such as cooperating institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

### A. Member States' Initiatives

3. Following endorsement by the Governing Council, on 8 May 1997 the President wrote to all Member States of the Fund to seek their views and suggestions as to how to commemorate the Twentieth Anniversary of IFAD. Within this context, a number of initiatives are being suggested that could provide an opportunity to create a receptive environment world-wide for the Fund's role and its programmes. Many of the responding Member States have already appointed a senior official or a small committee to develop its approach to the Anniversary. Some have also announced or suggested specific activities. IFAD is communicating with these national entities to exchange ideas on various events and initiatives that could be pursued by each country. In countries that have benefited from IFAD's programme of assistance, it is highly desirable that celebrations focus on illustrating and sharing with the public the positive effects of these programmes.

4. IFAD's commemoration of its Twentieth Anniversary is being launched in two phases:  
(a) before and during the Twenty-First Session of the Governing Council in Rome (February 1998); and  
(b) throughout 1998 in various locations. It should be emphasized that these activities will be planned and executed, bearing in mind the central objectives outlined in paragraph 1 above.

(a) Activities before and during the Twenty-First Session of the Governing Council

(i) The Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty: Launching of the Knowledge Network on Civil-Society Initiatives in Land Reform and Tenurial Security in Developing Countries

Regional, national and local level civil-society organizations, together with a team of experts and inter-governmental organizations, will launch the first knowledge network ever to focus exclusively on collecting, analysing and disseminating information and valuable experiences of civil-society initiatives aimed at safeguarding or enhancing the access of the poor to productive resources, primarily land and water. These include: land redistribution; land extension; land reclamation; formalization of land rights and entitlements; protection of access to common property resources; and equitable rights for indigenous populations and rural women. The network connects seven regions, three to five countries from each region, an ever-increasing number of grass-roots organizations and local communities, and interested international entities.

(ii) Colloquium for Journalists and Development Practitioners

A colloquium may be held which could provide a forum for the exchange of views and experiences among media representatives who have visited IFAD projects, IFAD staff, Member States and a number of development practitioners.

(iii) Exposition "From Hope to Harvest"

An exposition (the "Expo") has been organized on the Conference site, Palazzo dei Congressi (EUR, Rome) and is open to the public just prior to and to delegates during the Governing Council Session. Briefing sessions are available at the Expo for various audiences on the major themes. The possibility of a tour to other cities is also being studied. The Expo features Fund-supported agricultural research in such fields as: improved crop varieties and biological control of pests; a knowledge-network demonstration; institutional innovations encouraged by the Fund, such as credit delivery, extension services and training, and grass-roots self-help organizations; and technical innovations and improved practices presented and sponsored through IFAD projects, including traditional technologies and local know-how. The Expo also includes technologies that have proven effective in controlling land degradation and desertification.

(iv) Environmental Awards for Best Practices in Land Degradation Control

For the past three years, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has reviewed and evaluated various resource conservation projects and given awards for the best practices. In 1997, this exercise was carried out with a refined methodology benefiting from IFAD's technical assistance while maintaining its independent character. It is expected that the 1997 Saving the Drylands Award will be given by the President and a representative of the

Executive Director of UNEP during the Twentieth Anniversary Commemoration, marking the beginning of an IFAD/UNEP joint project for long-term collaboration in collecting and disseminating information on best practices for dryland conservation.

(v) Special Guests

The Governing Council will be inaugurated by His Excellency Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, President of the Italian Republic. Other guest speakers are His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konaré, President of the Republic of Mali, Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Lamberto Dini, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic, the First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, Mrs Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings, His Excellency Raymond Barre, former Prime Minister of the French Republic, Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, Ms Catherine Bertini, Executive Director, WFP, Mr Abdelmuhsin M. Al-Sudeary, First President of IFAD, and Mr Idriss Jazairy, Second President of IFAD. IFAD's Governors may use this opportunity to express their views regarding IFAD's 20 years of operations.

(b) Year-Long Activities after the Twenty-First Session of the Governing Council

(i) Regional Fora

Indonesia has already organized a Workshop in Bogor on 22 July 1997 to commemorate IFAD's work in their country over the past 20 years. This included a field trip to Tapos on 23 July 1997. During the course of 1998, a number of fora and workshops in commemoration of IFAD's Twentieth Anniversary will be organized in major cities in various regions, primarily as a channel of communication and exchange with the private sector and civil society. India and Pakistan have suggested workshops that they could organize, and another was suggested for the African continent in Nigeria. A Workshop to focus on Public and Private Partnerships in Combatting Rural Poverty is being planned for Washington, D.C. A programme in New York on 17 October (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty) is also under consideration. Similarly a seminar is being planned by Nordic countries in commemoration of IFAD's Twentieth Anniversary, entitled "IFAD's Role in Poverty Alleviation" (presently scheduled for May 1998).

(ii) A new IFAD logo for the Twentieth Anniversary has been designed. Its use commenced with the invitation letters for the Governing Council. Desk agendas bearing the IFAD logo on the cover and containing IFAD's Vision Statement inside have also been sent to all Governors, other participants and observers who will be attending the Governing Council. Other copies will be used for promotional purposes.

(iii) Agreement has been reached with Telecom, the Italian telephone company, to have them sell telephone calling cards in 1998 with IFAD's Twentieth Anniversary logo and slogan on them, thereby generating publicity and attention for IFAD and its activities. About three million cards are to be sold, and some will be available at a Telecom booth at the Council site.

- (iv) Stamps commemorating IFAD are to be issued by a number of Member States. Italy has also indicated that it will issue a special ITL 500 coin with the IFAD logo.
- (v) A wall calendar has also been designed and will be widely distributed, including field staff/country project managers and projects.
- (vi) Greeting cards with the Twentieth Anniversary logo have been designed and have replaced the normal holiday greeting cards.
- (vii) The Annual Report will be produced in two volumes, the first is being made available in printed form at the Governing Council. It will contain a special chapter on the evolution of IFAD's operations over 20 years.
- (viii) Special publications already available in 1998 are:
  - Meeting Challenges in a Changing World - IFAD's Strategic Framework for 1998-2000
  - Partners in Success
  - Rural Women in IFAD's Projects: The Key to Poverty Alleviation
  - NENAMTA - Near East and North Africa Management Training in Agriculture
  - Introducing the Popular Coalition to Combat Hunger and Poverty
  - Drylands: Sustainable Use of Rangelands into the Twenty-First Century
  - We just want what belongs to us (a Latin America publication)

#### B. Initiatives by IFAD Partners

5. Various UN agencies, IFAD cooperating institutions and NGOs have indicated that, in commemoration of the Twentieth Anniversary of IFAD, they will either publish a special report highlighting the history of IFAD operations, including collaboration between IFAD and that particular agency, or they will devote part of their annual report to this purpose. Some NGOs with whom IFAD has extensive collaboration will be undertaking special initiatives locally or at the regional and international level. At the suggestion of NGOs, this matter was included in the agenda of the Eighth IFAD/NGO Consultation on 13-14 October 1997. A major contribution from the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Centres is included in the Expo (paragraph 4(a)(iii)).

#### C. Organization and Coordination

6. During the Twenty-First Session of the Governing Council, four members of the task force (designated for countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean) will be available for consultation with the Governors or members of their delegations.