



IFAD
INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Governing Council – Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Session
Rome, 19-20 February 2003

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF IFAD

1. The year 2003 marks IFAD's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary. This is an opportune time to reflect on and articulate more clearly how rural poor people – if empowered and provided opportunities – can overcome their poverty and become agents of change in their environments.

A. Purpose and Expectation

2. This anniversary year is an opportunity to communicate: to reflect on the Fund's achievements over the last quarter century and to advocate IFAD's mission – *Enabling the Rural Poor to Overcome their Poverty*. It is also a time to look to the future and the challenge posed by the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving extreme poverty by 2015. It is expected that these activities will result in a *deeper understanding of IFAD's catalytic role in the reduction of rural poverty*.

B. Audience

3. In order to strengthen commitment and support for IFAD and at the same time influence thinking and policies on poverty issues, the Fund will continue dialogue with existing partners and reach out for new ones. Thus the proposed audience for anniversary activities will be IFAD's Member States, the host country, the development community at large – bilateral and multilateral agencies and non-governmental organizations – the private sector, academics, religious leaders and rural poor people. While IFAD enjoys a close relationship with this audience, it will seek to strengthen partnerships and build a stronger pro-poor coalition during this anniversary year.

C. Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Governing Council Format

4. This session of the Governing Council will mark the official opening of IFAD's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary. The President of the Italian Republic, His Excellency Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan, and IFAD's President will jointly inaugurate the work of the session launching the one-year anniversary period.

5. An interactive panel discussion will follow, on the theme *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals by Enabling the Rural Poor to Overcome their Poverty*. The discussion will look



at how IFAD can more effectively enable the rural poor to overcome their poverty and how it can contribute in coming years to the achievement of the MDGs.

6. The morning of the second day will feature four round-table discussions on the following themes:

- *Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development*
- *Promoting Market Access for the Rural Poor in Order to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*
- *Transforming Rural Institutions in Order to Reach the Millennium Development Goals*
- *Women as Agents of Change*

D. Activities and Products Supporting IFAD's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Year

7. **Anniversary publication.** This publication will be about the rural poor – IFAD beneficiaries – and will present the human face of development. Through testimonies and photographs, it will capture the voices and images of the rural poor, showing their dignity and the will to overcome their poverty and the ways the Fund has enabled them to do so.

8. **Documentary.** The well-known Indian film director and producer Ms Mira Nair (*Monsoon Wedding*) has agreed to produce a documentary on indigenous peoples based on IFAD's work. This advocacy documentary is expected to be ready by November 2003. To date, the Government of Japan has made a generous contribution of USD 150 000 towards production costs.

9. Exhibitions

- a photographic exhibition focusing on stories from the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary publication;
- an exhibition on the Fund's operational activities to provide equitable access to productive technologies and build on the knowledge of the rural poor;
- an archival exhibition highlighting IFAD milestones; and
- an exhibition based on the joint publication *Working Together*, highlighting the partnership of IFAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme. This exhibition will be displayed in the three Rome-based agencies.

10. **Host country.** The Italian Ministries of Post and Telecommunications and of Finance will be issuing a commemorative stamp and coin, respectively, for IFAD's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary. In addition, to strengthen its partnership with Italy and the City of Rome, and to build on the host country's interest in participating in anniversary events, IFAD will organize a series of joint events and activities.

E. Beyond the Governing Council

11. To make the most of this anniversary year, all IFAD-initiated and sponsored events will carry the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary imprint. The Fund will be organizing a number of regional workshops and conferences and using international forums to build greater awareness of its work. The following events are anticipated:

- A conference will be held in India on Women as Agents of Change.
- A conference will take place on Listening and Learning from the Indigenous Peoples of Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Other events and activities will be organized in Latin America and the Caribbean by IFAD projects. The countries concerned will decide the dates of these events and activities.



- A conference is proposed in the Gulf States on IFAD's partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). It could be organized as a side event at the annual meeting of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The conference would provide a forum for discussing past, present and future collaboration. A publication highlighting IFAD initiatives in all OPEC countries could be produced to support this event.
- Other events are being planned that focus on areas of the *Strategic Framework for IFAD 2002-2006*, such as market access and rural financial services. In Western and Central Africa, individual IFAD projects will organize activities on a specific day, to be decided by the countries concerned.
- A workshop would be desirable in an OECD country on Transforming Rural Institutions in Order to Reach the Millennium Development Goals.
- The documentary on indigenous peoples (paragraph 8 above) will premiere in New York, and the possibility of a special presentation before the United Nations General Assembly is being explored. The documentary will also be presented at seminars and programmes involving a number of United Nations agencies.

12. **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).** IFAD is exploring the adoption of 'rural development' as the theme of an ECOSOC session in 2003 and will look into similar possibilities at other United Nations forums.