



Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty

THE PRESIDENT

18 December 2013

Invitation to the Governors' Round Table
"Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want"
19 February 2014
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Distinguished Governor,

I have the honour of inviting you to the second *Governors' Round Table*, which will be held from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the first day of the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council of IFAD, 19 and 20 February 2014. This exclusive forum is being held again this year in response to the suggestions of Governors attending last year's event. In addition, the forum has been expanded this year to provide Governors with more time to engage in a dynamic discussion on the future of smallholder family farmers.

The round table is organized for Governors only¹ and will focus on the theme - *Investing in smallholder family farmers for the future we want*. Governors are encouraged to share their experiences around this theme and present their vision for family farmers in their own countries. The discussion will provide a valuable opportunity to gain fresh insights into how best to improve the livelihoods of this pivotal group who produce food for one in every three of the world's inhabitants.

Today, the benefits of investing in smallholder family farmers are greater than ever before. As leaders in food production and overseers of natural resources, smallholders have the potential to be a driving force for poverty reduction, pro-poor growth, food and nutrition security, and the attainment of climate goals - if given the tools to do so. However, smallholders are paradoxically still among the world's poorest and hungriest groups, a situation that must be overturned. Today the renewed interest of the global community in agricultural development, specifically smallholder farming, is providing exciting development opportunities for smallholder family farmers across the globe. Governors are invited to share their vision for translating these trends into action.

The attached discussion note is provided to inform the dialogue. Lead discussants will be identified from among the Governors from each of the Lists to guide the exchange of ideas and facilitate the finalization of a Governors' statement to be issued on the following day of the Governing Council session.

It is my sincere hope that you will be able to participate in the round table, along with your distinguished peers, to deliberate on an important topic that will help chart IFAD's work moving forward. To prepare for the session, may I ask you to confirm your participation by Tuesday, 28 January (email: MS-Liaison@ifad.org).

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

Kanayo F. Nwanze

¹ The person designated by a Member State as its principal representative at a session of the Governing Council (Agreement Establishing IFAD, article 1).