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President's report on a proposed grant under the global/regional window to PROCASUR Corporation for the Young Leaders for Rural Development in the SI CA Region Programme

Note to Executive Board representatives

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For: Approval

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation for the proposed grant as contained in paragraph 16.

President's report on a proposed grant under the global/regional window to PROCASUR Corporation for the Young Leaders for Rural Development in the SICA Region Programme

I. Background and compliance with IFAD Policy for Grant Financing

1. According to the IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025, investing in rural youth is a priority in overcoming rural poverty and achieving food security through remunerative, sustainable and resilient livelihoods.
2. It is expected that in 2018, 31.7 per cent of young people – 15-19 years old – in SICA countries¹ will live in rural areas. In alliance with PROCASUR Corporation (PROCASUR) and other partners, IFAD has incorporated a rural youth approach into its operations in the region and, during 2016, also the Regional Action Plan for Rural Youth in the SICA region (SICA Youth Plan), with the commitment of ministries of agriculture, youth entities and other relevant actors.
3. The programme's overall objectives are aligned with the Strategic Framework – targeting and innovation, learning and scaling up – and are focused on one of IFAD's priority target groups, rural youth. The programme aims to contribute to IFAD's goal of "achieving inclusive and sustainable rural transformation".
4. The programme is in line with the goal and objectives of the IFAD Policy for Grant Financing (2015), as it will contribute to its outcomes ii & iv. Finally, it is based on IFAD's approach and objectives for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) and contributes to strengthening IFAD's role as an intermediary in knowledge generation and management processes. This proposal will also contribute to the country strategic opportunities programmes and the strategies of IFAD operations in SICA region countries.

II. The proposed programme

5. The overall goal of the programme is to improve the social and economic inclusion of rural youth in the SICA region through dialogue, construction of targeted policies and initiatives, and mobilization of young people at regional, national and territorial levels. The objectives are to: (i) promote and strengthen informed, inclusive policy dialogue processes, and expand the capacities of government, civil society and the private sector to design and implement strategies for the social, economic and land access inclusion of rural youth, in the framework of the SICA/SECAC² Youth Plan and IFAD projects in Central America and the Dominican Republic; (ii) strengthen and build rural youth networks – including capacity-building, leadership, participation in policy dialogue and effective advocacy – to improve the social and economic inclusion of young people and their access to land; and (iii) promote knowledge management, development of evidence in support of policy dialogue,

¹ SICA: Central American Integration System (Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana): Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

² SECAC: Executive Secretariat of the Central American Agricultural Council.

SSTC, and scaling up of best practices and innovations on priority themes for the rural youth agenda in Central America and the Dominican Republic – including their diffusion in other contexts in SICA, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Africa and/or Asia.

6. The target group will consist of at least 4,438 rural youth from the eight SICA countries, of which at least 40 per cent will be women and 20 per cent indigenous peoples. Within these, 40 young people will be trained in territorial rural development (DRT) issues and policy dialogue, and 100 young local champions will be identified and mobilized. In addition, the programme will reach 1,995 IFAD project staff, key decision makers and key actors from public and private institutions at various levels, regional bodies and other regional and international organizations. Regarding access to land, 50 representatives from farmers' institutions and land rights organizations and 48 rural youth will participate in platforms for dialogue and training.
7. Indirectly, through the use of information and communications technologies and means of expanded dissemination, the programme should reach a potential audience of some 7,000 people. Finally, it is expected that it will indirectly benefit about 10,000 households.
8. The programme will be implemented over three years and will have the following components: (i) promotion of democratic, participatory spaces for policy dialogue on rural youth issues and capacity-building of multilevel key actors; (ii) support for the construction and strengthening of youth networks at territorial, national and regional levels; (iii) knowledge management, multilevel exchange, SSTC and scaling up of best practices and innovative solutions for the inclusion of youth in rural development at the regional level; and (iv) grant management, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and communication.

III. Expected outcomes/outputs

9. The programme's expected outcomes are:
 - (i) Regional and national policy dialogue agendas focusing on rural youth created or strengthened, with inclusive and effective spaces and mechanisms for the participation of youth, their networks and associations, and with the participation of key multilevel actors;
 - (ii) Capacities and tools of public institutions, IFAD projects, private entities and civil society strengthened to effectively promote the social and economic inclusion of rural youth, including issues of access to and secure tenure of land;
 - (iii) Territorial pilot initiatives and action plans created and implemented for the social and economic inclusion of rural youth: alliances, joint investments and commitments of regional actors, IFAD projects, and national and regional bodies;
 - (iv) Rural youth networks and young leaders strengthened and mobilized with strategic agendas and advocacy efforts at territorial, regional and national levels within the framework of DRT in the SICA region, including issues of access to and secure tenure of land;
 - (v) Knowledge, information and inputs regarding rural youth updated in support of: (a) informed policy dialogue; (b) advocacy for and follow-up on commitments; and (c) strategies generated and disseminated to key stakeholders, youth networks and strategic members of the public; and
 - (vi) Best practices, experiences and innovations disseminated and adapted for scaling up within the SICA Youth Plan and in other IFAD operational contexts in Africa and/or Asia.

10. The programme's expected outputs by component are:

Component 1: Eight national maps of stakeholders and policies for SICA countries (one per country) and one regional map; eight national platforms of inter-institutional dialogue and alliances and eight national action plans with agreements, commitments, goals and strategic actions (one per country); at least eight implemented and documented pilot initiatives for action on rural youth (at least one per country); one regional roadmap for implementation of the SICA Youth Plan; up to six action plans designed and supported technically and methodologically to mainstream the rural youth approach in IFAD projects in the SICA region; one diagnosis of capacities and interests in SICA countries, including IFAD projects and relevant regional stakeholders; one regional online training course for public policy operators and other development programmes in design, implementation and evaluation of policies/strategies for the social and economic inclusion of young people in rural development, including a module on sustainable land access and tenure for youth.

Component 2: At least 16 local workshops to map existing youth networks and associations, and promote socialization and dissemination (at least two per country); eight national meetings of rural youth with existing networks and youth associations at the national level; eight strategic plans for national networks (one per country); eight funds for strengthening each rural youth network (one per country); one regional meeting on SICA youth; one strategic plan for the regional youth network; at least six spaces for youth participation in meetings of intergenerational dialogue, advocacy and/or training with organizations specialized in land access and tenure in the SICA region at the national or regional level; eight meetings on innovation, employment and rural youth entrepreneurship (one per country); one training-of-trainers course in DRT and rural youth networks within the framework of ECADERT³-SICA semi-distance learning; one mobile application to access information, materials and virtual modules for youth networks.

Component 3: One online observatory for youth inclusion in DRT in SICA; one database system of indicators to monitor action plans; online case studies with documentation of at least 10 good practices of youth networks and models of public policies aimed at rural youth; dissemination of contents and news through social media, blogs and media sensitization; two regional studies and/or research on key issues; one regional diagnosis study on rights, access to and tenure of land for rural youth in the SICA region; up to three technical notes and toolkits on key issues for the design of policies and strategies for social and economic inclusion of rural youth – one to be focused on issues of land access; one online methodological guide to mainstream the rural youth approach in IFAD's project cycle based on outstanding experiences; one training and exchange workshop for IFAD projects and staff from SICA, including specialists of IFAD's LAC and Policy and Technical Advisory (PTA) Divisions; two learning routes (LRs) designed and implemented; two LR fieldblogs and two reports on each LR elaborated and disseminated; at least 10 innovation plans, follow-up on their implementation within the framework of national action plans and in the context of IFAD projects; up to three technical assistance missions, with IFAD projects and key stakeholders, to Africa and/or Asia; at least three SSTC action plans on youth inclusion, developed with institutional stakeholders, young national leaders and IFAD projects in East and Southern Africa (ESA) and/or Asia and the Pacific (APR).

Component 4: One regional coordination unit and technical staff; one M&E system; one communications strategy for the programme, including IFAD's visibility as a strategic partner in rural youth issues.

³ ECADERT: Estrategia Centroamericana de Desarrollo Rural Territorial 2010-2030.

IV. Implementation arrangements

11. The PROCASUR Corporation will be the recipient and implementing institution of this grant. PROCASUR was selected through a competitive selection process.
12. The National Development Foundation (Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo [FUNDE]) in El Salvador and CoopeSoliDar in Costa Rica are included as partners. Based on annual workplans and budgets (AWP/Bs), letters of agreement will be established with each partner for co-implementation. Close alliances will be established with IFAD projects in the SICA region, regional agencies (SECAC/Central American Agricultural Council [CAC] and other relevant agencies) and other national and regional specialized agencies. PROCASUR will partner with the network of organizations of the International Land Coalition (ILC) and the Rural Youth and Land Initiative coordinated by PROCASUR in LAC.
13. The programme will be supervised by IFAD's LAC Division. A programme coordinator from the PROCASUR team will be in charge of leading planning and delivery of the AWP/Bs. This coordinator will periodically communicate with IFAD, the country programme managers of the target countries and the land tenure and rural youth focal points within PTA, as well as with project coordinators from FUNDE and CoopeSoliDar. In addition, it will act as liaison with SECAC/SICA. Focal points for each country and for SECAC in Costa Rica will also be identified. In relation to ESA and APR, PROCASUR's regional offices will collaborate on the implementation of all SSTC activities. A programme steering committee will be established to provide overall guidance on implementation of the activities supported.
14. There are no deviations from the standard procedures for financial reporting and audits.

V. Indicative programme costs and financing

15. The overall cost of the programme amounts to US\$3.0 million (US\$2.5 million from IFAD and US\$500,000 in cofinancing from PROCASUR, FUNDE, CoopeSoliDar and other partners). Cofinancing will be mainly in-kind.

Table 1
Costs by component and financier
 (Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Components</i>	<i>PROCASUR, FUNDE,</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>CoopeSoliDar</i>	
1. Promotion of democratic, participatory spaces for policy dialogue on rural youth issues and capacity-building of multilevel key actors	818	177	995
2. Support for the construction and strengthening of youth networks at territorial, national and regional levels;	523	113	635
3. Knowledge management, multilevel exchange, SSTC and scaling up of best practices and innovative solutions for the inclusion of youth in rural development at the regional level	465	100	565
4. Grant management, M&E and communication	509	110	620
5. Overhead	185	-	185
Total	2 500	500	3 000

Table 2
Costs by expenditure category and financier
 (Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Category of expenditure</i>	<i>PROCASUR, FUNDE, CoopeSoliDar</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>IFAD</i>		
1. Consultancies	385	83	468
2. Salaries and allowances	669	145	814
3. Training and capacity-building	634	137	771
4. Travel and allowances	111	24	135
5. Workshops	516	111	627
6. Overhead	185	-	185
Total	2 500	500	3 000

VI. Recommendation

16. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed grant in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Young Leaders for Rural Development in the SICA Region Programme, shall provide a grant of two million five hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$2,500,000) to the PROCASUR Corporation for a three-year period upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

Gilbert F. Houngbo
 President

Results-based logical framework

Hierarchy of Results		Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Purpose	Improve the social and economic inclusion of rural youth in the SICA region.	Number of households increasing their assets and income from rural youth inclusion initiatives and policies; Number of youth in social and economic entrepreneurship initiatives; IFAD project impact indicators participating in this area - RIMS	Project RIMS indicators; Portfolio Review; S&E systems; SKD and PTA case studies	
Goals	<p>1. Promote and strengthen informed and inclusive policy dialogue processes, and expand the capacities of government, civil society and the private sector to design and implement strategies for social, economic and land access inclusion for rural youth.</p> <p>2. Strengthen and build rural youth networks at regional, national and territorial levels, to improve their social and economic inclusion and access to land.</p> <p>3. Promote knowledge management, development of information, and evidence for policy dialogue, South-South cooperation, and scaling of best practices and innovations in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CA and DR), as well as within other contexts in SICA, LAC, Africa and/or Asia.</p>	<p>At least ten (10) IFAD projects in the SICA sub region, LAC, ESA and/or APR will benefit from the initiative, at least three (03) ESA/APR;</p> <p>1,995 representatives from public and private institutions and IFAD projects will participate in policy dialogue, training and articulation;</p> <p>4,638 rural youth will participate in training, dialogue and advocacy, networking and exchange (40% and 20% indigenous);</p> <p>At least 40 young people trained as instructors on DRT issues and policy dialogue;</p> <p>At least 50 representatives of farming institutions and 48 rural youths participate in spaces for dialogue and training on issues of Access and Tenure of Land;</p> <p>At least 100 young local champions identified and linked to peer technical assistance processes, advocacy training and communications (40% women and 20% indigenous);</p>	<p>IFAD supervision missions; Baseline reports and periodic surveys to allies and participants; Case Studies; Electronic monitoring via ICTs; Surveys and databases; PROCASUR S&E system.</p>	
Outcomes	<p>R1. Created and strengthened regional and national policy dialogue agendas focusing on rural youth (RY), with inclusive and effective spaces and mechanisms for the participation of youth, their networks and associations, and with the participation of key multilevel actors;</p> <p>R2. Capacities and tools of public institutions, IFAD projects, private entities and civil society strengthened to effectively promote the social and economic inclusion of RY, including issues of access to and secure tenure of land;</p> <p>R3. Created and implemented Territorial Pilot Initiatives and Action Plans for the social and economic inclusion of RY from alliances, joint investments and commitments of regional actors, IFAD projects, and national and regional bodies;</p> <p>R4. Rural Youth Networks and young leaders strengthened and activated with strategic agendas and advocacy efforts at the territorial, national and regional levels within the</p>	<p>At least 70% of the national platforms (countries) design and implement policies and programs for rural youth, at different levels;</p> <p>50% of participating IFAD projects develop strategic actions and/or positive measures for the inclusion of youth in their operations;</p> <p>70% of institutional actors and rural young people participate in training and exchange processes to improve their capacities and tools for inclusive and RY-focused policy dialogue;</p> <p>80% of young participants improve their skills and tools for policy dialogue on DRT and land;</p> <p>60% of Youth Networks (national and/or regional) strengthened in terms of associativity and advocacy processes and operate autonomously;</p> <p>40% of institutional actors and participating rural youth improve their capacities and tools for dialogue</p>	<p>Information collected through the PROCASUR S&E System; Activity evaluation guidelines; Registries of regional coordination; Case studies; Reports of Workshops and RAs; Database with Monitoring and Advocacy Indicators of the Observatory; Website and stories from the field.</p>	<p>Relative stability of the institutional environment and willingness of institutional actors. Availability of national resources for public policies and programs for RY. IFAD projects and teams sensitive to the RY theme and having the resources available. Rural youth with motivation and</p>

	<p>framework of the DRT in the SICA region, including issues of access to and secure tenure of land; R5. Updated knowledge about RY, information and inputs for informed policy dialogue and follow-up/advocacy of commitments and strategies generated and disseminated to key stakeholders, youth networks and strategic members of the public; R6. Best practices, experiences and innovations disseminated and adapted for scaling up within the SICA Rural Youth Plan and in other IFAD operational contexts in Africa and/or Asia;</p>	<p>and strategies on issues of Youth Land Access; 80% of participating institutional and young rural actors access and use information on best practices and monitoring/advocacy indicators through the Observatory; 30% of IFAD projects, institutions and networks participating in the Learning Routes (RAs) utilize and/or adapt best practices and innovations disseminated and promoted through the RAs.</p>		<p>willingness. Existence of best practices and practical solutions and willingness of its leading actors to share their learning and tools.</p>
Outputs	<p>Component N° 1: Eight (08) National Maps of stakeholders and policies for SICA countries, and one (01) Regional map; Eight (08) National Platforms of inter institutional dialogue and articulation and (08) National Action Plans with agreements, commitments, goals and strategic actions; Up to eight (08) implemented and documented Pilot Initiatives for Action on Rural Youth, in prioritized areas; One (01) Regional Roadmap, with agreements, commitments, goals and strategic actions for the implementation of the Regional Programme for Rural Youth (PRJR), in dialogue with the national platforms and action plans, with technical, methodological and communicational support; Up to six (06) designed and supported technically and methodologically in their implementation Action Plans to mainstream the Rural Youth Approach in IFAD projects in the SICA region; One (01) Diagnosis of capacities and interests for SICA countries, including IFAD projects and relevant regional stakeholders; One (01) Regional on-line training course for public policy operators and development programs, on design, implementation and evaluation of public policies-strategies for the social and economic inclusion of young people in rural development, Including a module on Sustainable Land Access and Tenure for Youth. Component N° 2: At least sixteen (16) Local Workshops to Map existing youth networks and associations, and socialize and dissemination (at least 2 per country); Eight (08) National meetings of Rural Youth with networks and youth associations existing at national level; Eight (08) Strategic Plans of National Networks, with advocacy plans and thematic proposals to be promoted by networks at various levels; Eight (08) Strengthening Funds for each Rural Youth Network, one per country, technically and financially supported; One (01) Regional Meeting on SICA Youth with participation of at least 60 young leaders of national and local networks, and key stakeholders and allies at national and regional level; One (01) Strategic Plan of the Regional Youth Network within the framework of the Action Plan and ECADERT; At least six (06) spaces for youth participation in meetings of intergenerational dialogue, advocacy and /or training with organizations specialized in land access in the SICA region at national or regional level; Eight (8) Meetings on Innovation, Employment and Rural Youth Entrepreneurship (one per country); One (01) Training for trainers Course on Local Rural Development (DRT) and rural youth networks within the framework of ECADERT-SICA, semi-distance learning and with the participation of at least 48 young people from national and local networks; One (01) mobile application from which to access information, materials and virtual modules for the construction, strengthening and incidence of Youth Networks. Component N° 3: One (01) On-line Observatory for Youth Inclusion in the DRT in SICA, with information for monitoring and dissemination of progress of the national and regional Action Plans, experiences and good practices exchange and information-evidence for the Dialogue and policy design; Database with baseline and system of indicators to monitor; On-line case studies with documentation of at least ten (10) good practices of youth networks and models of public policies aimed at rural youth, systematized/documentated in field under a participatory approach; Dissemination of content, news and themes through social media, Blogs, and media sensitization; Two (02) regional studies and/or research on key issues; One (01) diagnostic study on the rights, access and tenure of land by rural youth in the SICA region; Up to three (03) Technical Notes and Toolkits on key issues for the design of policies and strategies for social and economic inclusion of rural youth; One (01) of these Technical Notes will be focused on issues of Access to Land; One (01) On-line methodological guide to mainstream rural youth approach in IFAD's project cycle, based on outstanding experiences; One (01) Training and exchange workshop for IFAD teams from CA and Dominican Republic, IFAD staff at sub regional level (CPMs, consultants), and other projects-IFAD initiatives from the LAC region, including participation of PTA specialists on Youth and Land; Design and implementation of two (02) Learning Routes (LR); Training logbook (02) and Report (02) of each LR available on- line and disseminated; Follow-up on the implementation of at least ten (10) Innovation Plans, within the framework of the National Action Plans and IFAD Projects; Up to three (03) Technical Assistance missions with IFAD projects and key stakeholders for the adaptation of good practices in the dialogue of rural youth policies and networks, aiming at the inclusion of youth in rural and local development processes; At least three (03) South-South Cooperation Action Plans on Youth Inclusion, developed with institutional stakeholders and young leaders of countries and IFAD projects for Africa (ESA) and / or Asia (APR). Component 4: (01) Regional coordination unit and technical staff; (01) Monitoring and evaluation system; (01) Communicational Strategy for the Programme including IFAD visibility as strategic partner in rural youth issues.</p>			