

IFAD13 replenishment consultation between IFAD Management and Member States

20 June, 9 am (Rome time), hybrid

Distinguished representatives of IFAD's member states, IFAD's President Mr Alvaro Lario, and IFAD's Senior Management:

On behalf of the Farmers Forum (FAFO) Steering Committee, which include global farmer organizations INOFO, LVC, WFO, global fishers organizations WFF, WFFP and regional organizations AFA, PAFO, ROPPA and my organization, COPROFAM, I would like to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to all of you for allowing our participation and contributions to the International Fund for Agricultural Development's (IFAD) official consultation in the context of the 13th replenishment (IFAD13).

We, the representatives of food producers' organisations from around the world, appreciate your commitment to investing in rural development and supporting farmers in the world's poorest countries.

During the informal consultation last week, we had the opportunity to hear about how the work of IFAD is positively impacting on the lives of millions of our constituency family farmers and our rural communities and also about effective examples of cooperation with Farmers Organisations (FOs), at all levels, reinforcing the perception of how relevant the collaboration between IFAD and Governments is with FOs for the benefit of the world's rural communities.

We appreciate this opportunity, however, much has to be done yet as the world's poorest and hungriest are in the rural areas of the world, and are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, and conflicts.

Thus, we call upon IFAD and Governments to:

- Recognise that we, women, men and young family farmers, including fishers, pastoralists, family farmers, and their Organisations and cooperatives - are key solution providers in helping IFAD fulfil its mission of enhancing rural development, fighting poverty and hunger and thus achieving the 2030 Agenda.
- Apply a strengthened farmer-driven approach in implementing IFAD projects by: reinforcing national and regional FAFO processes; integrating specific needs and priorities of FOs in IFAD's Country programmes engaging FOs from the design to the implementation and evaluation of programmes, in all regions, including Latin America and the Caribbean that is lagging behind; leveraging on farmers' local solutions and bringing them to the international discussions to help close the gap between the global and local level.
- Create a dedicated financing mechanism for FOs to invest in family farming, increasing support to farmer driven national and regional action plans and projects for the implementation of the UNDRR Global Action Plan. This will strengthen climate-resilient agriculture and women and young farmers' empowerment and inclusion in agriculture,
- Enable FOs to access finance for sustainable self-governance of their autonomous spaces e.g. national, regional, and global Farmers Forum platforms. Also, secure a budget for regular meetings of FAFO members and facilitate their participation in important regional-global dialogues, as well as ensuring a systematic engagement of FOs with IFAD's governance (Governing Council, Executive Board, replenishment processes).

- Strengthen farmer-managed capacity development -with FOs, by FOs, for FOs so that they can function as independent and autonomous bodies and are able to further engage farmers on the ground in research, co-innovation, policy analysis, and evidence-based advocacy/recommendations in various policy discussions with diverse stakeholders at national, regional and global levels.

On behalf of the FAFO Global Steering Committee and the world's farmers, let me reiterate our gratitude for the opportunity to participate in and provide our inputs to the IFAD13 replenishment process. We look forward to continuing our collaboration in the future to create a world where no one is left behind.