
**Summary report of the informal consultation
between representatives of Indigenous Peoples,
small-scale farmers, food producers, youth, women,
persons with disabilities and nutrition-focused
organizations, and IFAD Management regarding
IFAD14**

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I. Background

1. This summary report of the informal consultation between representatives of rural civil society organizations and IFAD Management on the Fourteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD14), held on 14 September 2026, is being submitted to the IFAD14 Consultation for information. Building on lessons from the previous two IFAD replenishment cycles and consistent with IFAD's people-centred approach to development, a virtual consultation was convened with representatives of IFAD rural civil society partner organizations – including organizations of Indigenous Peoples, small-scale farmers and food producers, youth, women, persons with disabilities and organizations focused on nutrition. The objective was to: obtain feedback and concrete recommendations from IFAD's civil society organization constituencies on IFAD14 strategic priorities, enablers and delivery mechanisms; identify priorities for strengthening partnerships, meaningful participation and engagement; and increase awareness of IFAD14 among civil society organizations.

II. Feedback on IFAD14 priorities

2. IFAD Management emphasized the importance of engaging rural civil society organizations in shaping IFAD's priorities and highlighted how their contributions had informed previous replenishment commitments and operational approaches. Management then provided an overview of IFAD14, including proposed priorities, as discussed with Member States throughout the ongoing replenishment consultation. Management further emphasized the need to strengthen food security, economic opportunities and resilience for rural people against a backdrop of overlapping shocks and crises, while enhancing inclusion, participation and targeting of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups. Management highlighted the critical role of civil society organizations and rural institutions as strategic partners in rural transformation, emphasizing their contributions to shaping priorities, strengthening accountability toward rural people, reaching excluded groups and ensuring that investments respond to local realities.
3. Representatives from civil society organizations welcomed the opportunity to provide comments on the draft IFAD14 Report and expressed appreciation for the inclusive consultation process. Participants broadly supported the proposed focus on markets, rural employment and resilience, while emphasizing the need to keep IFAD's renewed approach firmly centred on the needs and priorities of rural people – particularly those who are marginalized, vulnerable or excluded from economic opportunities. Representatives highlighted the importance of rural stakeholders' meaningful participation throughout project cycles, from development and design, through implementation, to completion. They noted the need for stronger recognition of civil society and grassroots organizations' role, and called upon IFAD to ensure that investments, innovations and private sector engagement contribute to equitable and inclusive rural transformation. Each constituency also provided specific recommendations on the proposed priorities for IFAD14, as summarized below:
 - (i) **Indigenous Peoples.** Indigenous Peoples' representatives welcomed references to Indigenous Peoples in the draft IFAD14 Report and reiterated the importance of maintaining IFAD's longstanding commitment to Indigenous Peoples' rights and self-determined development. They raised the following main points:
 - (a) Representatives expressed concern regarding a perceived shift from IFAD's people-centred development model towards a market centred approach, cautioning Management to ensure that this approach does not overlook the capacities of rural households in the "first mile" – one of IFAD's key comparative advantages.

- (b) Representatives highlighted the importance of strengthening the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD (IPFI) as a platform for dialogue, accountability and participation, including through the provision of adequate financial resources.
 - (c) Representatives emphasized the need to maintain a strong focus on Indigenous Peoples within IFAD14, explicitly referring to the principles and commitments contained in IFAD's Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples.
 - (d) Representatives further called for stronger Free, Prior and Informed Consent, including adequate time and resources to ensure meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples in project design and implementation.
 - (e) Representatives welcomed commitments related to inclusion, differentiated approaches and disaggregated data, but stressed the need to ensure that market-oriented approaches do not exclude Indigenous Peoples and the most marginalized communities.
 - (f) Representatives stressed that the resilience of Indigenous Peoples and their practices strongly depend on the recognition and protection of their rights to their lands, territories and natural resources, and on full respect for the principle of self-determination.
 - (g) Finally, representatives emphasized the importance of directing greater resources toward Indigenous Peoples' communities and organizations, including through the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility, and ensuring that investments support traditional economies, Indigenous knowledge systems, biodiversity conservation and collective well-being.
- (ii) **Farmers' organizations.** Representatives welcomed IFAD14's focus on rural economies and acknowledged the growing recognition of farmers' organizations as key actors in rural development, market participation and local governance. They highlighted the following priorities:
- (a) Representatives emphasized the value of the Farmers' Forum as a unique platform for engagement with IFAD and called for stronger participation of farmers' organizations in IFAD governance, including consideration of observer status in the Executive Board. They underscored the importance of investing in strong, capable and inclusive farmers' organizations, recognizing their role as representative bodies, service providers, market intermediaries, innovation brokers and drivers of rural transformation.
 - (b) Representatives further emphasized that market development should work for smallholders and family farmers, and should be accompanied by investments in productivity, producer organizations, value addition, storage, processing, market access, public procurement programmes and local food systems.
 - (c) Additionally, representatives stressed the importance of resilience, particularly in climate-vulnerable contexts, while promoting youth and women's economic participation, agroecological transitions, innovation, technology transfer, entrepreneurship and access to markets and finance.
- (iii) **Youth.** Youth representatives welcomed the increased emphasis on rural employment under IFAD14 and recognized the importance of placing young people at the centre of rural transformation efforts. The following priorities were highlighted:

- (a) Representatives emphasized that employment targets should go beyond the creation of jobs and focus on decent work, sustainable livelihoods, entrepreneurship opportunities and meaningful economic participation. They highlighted the importance of investing in rural entrepreneurship ecosystems, youth-led enterprises and partnerships that create pathways for young people to remain and thrive in rural areas.
 - (b) Representatives also encouraged IFAD to strengthen institutional mechanisms and channels for youth engagement in project development and design, implementation, monitoring and policy dialogue at the local, national and global levels, and in the implementation and review of IFAD14.
 - (c) Finally, representatives highlighted persistent barriers faced by rural youth, including access to land, finance, markets, productive assets, technology, business support services and decision-making. They called for integrated support systems that combine skills development, mentorship, incubation, access to finance, market linkages and investment opportunities.
- (iv) **Women's organizations.** Women's organizations recognized IFAD as a leading organization committed to women's empowerment. Areas highlighted for further engagement include financial mechanisms that recognize and reward women's contributions to rural economies, climate resilience and natural resource management. Representatives emphasized the importance of outcome-based approaches, improved measurement of women's empowerment and increased access to financing for women's organizations and collective initiatives.
 - (v) **Organizations of persons with disabilities.** Representatives welcomed the stronger attention given to disability inclusion in IFAD14 and emphasized the need to move beyond pilot initiatives toward systematic inclusion across IFAD-supported programmes. They highlighted the importance of: involving organizations of persons with disabilities throughout project design, implementation and monitoring; ensuring inclusive digital innovation; strengthening employment opportunities for persons with disabilities; and developing a successor framework to the current Disability Inclusion Strategy to guide implementation during IFAD14.
 - (vi) **Nutrition-focused organizations.** Representatives welcomed the report's recognition of food security and resilience, while emphasizing the importance of agroecology, food sovereignty and access to natural resources. They highlighted the need to: promote nutritious, culturally appropriate and locally produced foods; strengthen links between family farming and public procurement programmes (such as school feeding initiatives); and ensure that nutrition outcomes, food quality and access are adequately reflected in results frameworks. Representatives also emphasized the critical role of civil society organizations in connecting public policies with territorial development and sustainable food systems.
4. IFAD Management thanked participants for their constructive engagement and welcomed the detailed feedback provided. Management emphasized that inclusion and participation are at the core of IFAD14, and acknowledged the importance of strengthening the visibility of organizational policies and frameworks throughout the IFAD14 Report.
 5. Management further emphasized that IFAD's approach to markets, rural employment and resilience is intended to benefit rural people – particularly the most vulnerable. Management clarified that inclusive markets remain central to IFAD's vision and that private sector engagement is intended to strengthen

opportunities for small-scale producers, local rural enterprises and agricultural value chains. Regarding rural employment, Management stressed that IFAD's objective extends beyond job creation to include decent work, entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods. Similarly, resilience involves not only coping with shocks, but also adapting, recovering and building long-term sustainability. Finally, Management noted that the shift from mainstreaming to integration does not imply reduced attention to specific target groups or priorities, but seeks to ensure that multiple dimensions of rural development are addressed simultaneously.

III. Conclusion

6. All representatives expressed support for the proposed IFAD14 priority areas of markets, employment and resilience, with private sector and innovation as enablers. However, they emphasized the need to retain a people-centred approach within the IFAD14 framework.
7. A common priority for civil society representatives is the need for predictable support and engagement with IFAD, with increased participation in policy and decision-making throughout the project cycle – from design to implementation and reporting.
8. These discussions will be taken into consideration by IFAD Management in updating the draft IFAD14 Report, which will be presented to Member States at the second session of the IFAD14 Consultation, to be held in October 2026.