



**IFAD**

**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Consultation on the Sixth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources – Fifth Session**

Rome, 12 December 2002

**ENABLING THE RURAL POOR TO OVERCOME THEIR POVERTY:  
REPORT OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE SIXTH REPLENISHMENT  
OF IFAD'S RESOURCES (2004-2006)**

The Consultation is hereby requested to consider the revised version of Part V – Section D of the report.

**Field Presence and In-Country Capacity**

69. IFAD's overall strategic goal is to sustainably reduce rural poverty. To enhance its development impact IFAD continues to search for new, innovative and cost-effective means to attain this goal, either directly through its investment activities, or indirectly, by playing a catalytic role. Often, more regular contacts with the field and enhanced in-country capacity are essential to enhance development impact. IFAD needs to assess, on a country-by-country basis, the main constraints to, and opportunities for, successful project implementation and catalytic action (policy dialogue, knowledge management, partnership building), and identify the most suitable and cost-effective approaches.

70. The experience of other donors and the lessons that IFAD has drawn from its own experiences in recipient countries have shown that:

- support mechanisms to strengthen in-country capacity and performance have to be matched to specific needs and purposes;
- the particular situation of each country has to be taken into account;
- maximum reliance on a country's internal resources and capabilities can enhance sustainability; and
- IFAD's role as pathfinder and pioneer in rural development calls for new and innovative approaches to enhancing in-country capacity and presence.



71. Both conceptually and organizationally, IFAD will not act in a vacuum but in relation to its partners. It will contribute to processes such as PRSP by providing links between the preoccupations of the rural poor and national policies. By the same token, the Fund will benefit from enhanced in-country capacity and closer involvement in policy dialogue when preparing its country strategies and its loan and grant projects. IFAD will identify synergies with other United Nations (UN) agencies in the light of the ongoing UN reform process and the related reflections on UN field presence.

72. The Consultation noted the discussions on the subject of field presence and in-country capacity by the Seventy-Seventh Session of the Executive Board. The Consultation further noted the decision to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group of the Executive Board to accompany the process of analysis of experiences and modalities of enhancing IFAD's field presence by strengthening in-country capacity; to proceed with a rapid analysis of 15 countries with pertinent activities in the different regions, and preparation of recommendations based on this analysis, for the Executive Board consideration in September 2003. The Consultation further noted that these analyses would be undertaken with existing budget resources and supplementary funding that can be mobilized.