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Farmers are the main target of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). In this respect, the World Farmers' Organisation, WFO, is looking very closely to the consultation for the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD11), which is being undertaken throughout 2017 and will end with a final pledging session taking place on 14-15 December 2017.

There is concrete evidence of the results of IFAD's experience in addressing the twin scourges of rural poverty and hunger and contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. Namely, the 24 million people that have raised themselves out of poverty over the last five years as a result of IFAD's investments. Yet, the number of people living in extreme poverty, at 836 million, and experiencing food insecurity, at 793 million, is still unacceptably high, particularly in rural areas where 80 percent of extremely poor and food-insecure people reside. Most of these people are farmers and that is why WFO is making this appeal to you.

IFAD needs the continued engagement efforts of borrowing member states both as contributors – to diversify risks and dependency on few large donors - and as advocates for the rural smallholders – to convince large donors to continue channeling ODA resources through IFAD if we are to sustainably meet the food demand of a growing world population. Contributions to the Replenishment of IFAD's resources, and the level of counterpart funding to co-finance IFAD-supported programmes, are indicators of Government's strong commitment to inclusive rural transformation as a means to achieving global food security.

Governments' support to IFAD is also one of the most effective and efficient channels for achieving the SDGs, and addressing many cross cutting challenges such as climate change, gender inequality, malnutrition, and youth unemployment. This year, when the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report (SOFI) shows that hunger is once again on the rise, it is essential to show Governments' commitment to achieving the SDGs by increasing funding support to organizations like IFAD. We, farmers, need more support from partners like IFAD, and hope for a significant increase in the funding available from IFAD over the coming years.

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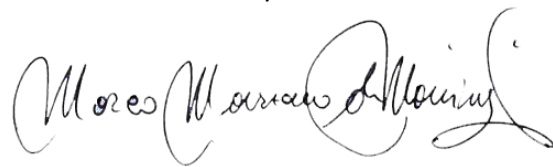
While pledges to IFAD11 can be communicated at any time during and after the consultation (i.e. 2017 and 2018) or during the replenishment cycle (2019-2021), an announcement of the intended increased contribution between now and the December consultation meeting, would be crucial to create momentum from all of IFAD's Member States. This is the wish that WFO, as the representative organization of the world's farmers, is strongly cultivating to see the global agricultural sector flourish on the path of the Zero Hunger.

Yours truly

Theo De Jager  
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