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IFAD Investments in capacity building in Africa¹

1. IFAD is a unique UN Agency, that is also an international financial institution (IFI), mandated to work exclusively on **rural and agricultural development**. IFAD's overarching development goal is to invest in rural people to enable them to overcome poverty and achieve food security through remunerative, sustainable and resilient livelihoods. For this IFAD pursues three closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing strategic objectives: (a) Increase poor rural people's productive capacities; (b) Increase poor rural people's benefits from market participation; and strengthen the environmental sustainability and climate resilience of poor rural people's economic activities.
2. IFAD's work adheres to five principles of engagement: targeting; empowerment; gender equality; innovation, learning and scaling up; and partnerships. These principles are at the core of IFAD's identity and values and cut across the delivery of all its development results. In turn, it will strive to achieve three main outcomes: (a) Enabling policy and regulatory frameworks at national and international levels; (b) Increased levels of investment in the rural sector; and (c) Improved country-level capacity for rural policy and programme development, implementation and evaluation.
3. Since 1978, IFAD invested about US\$15 billion in over 900 projects and programmes that have reached some 400 million poor rural people. Over half a billion US dollars of the total is dedicated as grant financing for agricultural research. Half of the total amount went to Africa, including North Africa. Governments and other financing sources in recipient countries, including project participants, contributed US\$12 billion, and other donors provided another US\$10 billion in co-financing. This represents a total investment of about US\$22 billion. IFAD tackles poverty not only as a lender but also as an advocate for rural poor people. Its multilateral base provides a natural global platform to discuss important policy issues that influence the lives of rural poor people, and to draw attention to the central role of rural development in meeting the Millennium Development Goals.
4. During the current replenishment cycle (2016-2018) IFAD shall invest US\$1.10 billion annually, of which six and half percent (6.5%), around US\$72 million, will be dedicated to research and development. It will also mobilise around US\$1.32 billion of co-financing from governments and others.

IFAD's Results and Impact Measurement Framework for closed and ongoing projects 2010-2015	
Number of people reached by IFAD	About 140 million
Number of people taken out of poverty by IFAD in 2014	Approx. 80 million
People trained in crop production	4.5 million (49% female)
People trained in community management	2.6 million (76% female)
People trained in business and entrepreneurship:	1.5 million (76% female)
Marketing groups formed/strengthened:	35 thousand
Rural roads constructed or rehabilitated:	20 thousand km
Savings, credit and financial services: Voluntary savers	27 million
Savings, credit and financial services: Active borrowers	Over 18 million
Value of gross rural financial services (loan) portfolio:	Over US\$2 billion
Land under improved management practices:	5.0 million ha

5. At IFAD, we strive to deliver in a **bigger, better and smarter way** when it comes to capacity and institutional building. Let me share a couple of examples as to what IFAD does specifically.

¹ Statement by Sana FK Jatta, Director East and Southern Africa, IFAD, at the 25th Anniversary Conference of the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), Harare, 3 May 2016.

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6. **[We] Contribute to food sovereignty by supporting women's capacity to produce safe, nutritious and culturally acceptable foods:** For instance, in Ethiopia, an IFAD-supported program (Rural Financial Intermediation Program - **RUFIP**) has enabled women members of the rural savings and credit cooperatives to improve their livelihoods and to achieve food sovereignty for their households. Building on the lessons and experiences of this Program, IFAD enhanced its support to the poor rural households, through the second phase of the program (**RUFIP II**) and delivers financial services for agriculture and livelihood activities, with a continued focus on empowering women.
7. **[We] Promote research in local seeds systems and farming techniques:** IFAD invests in research and development (R&D), by providing technical assistance to Middle Income Countries (MICs), through its **Reimbursable Technical Assistance (RTA)** mechanism, to promote the development of the seed sector. We have recently done this, for instance, in Mauritius. Furthermore, IFAD continues to promote innovation and best practices on farming techniques, such as the System of Rice Intensification (**SRI**) in its program in Madagascar. This project was highlighted at the 2015 Milan Exposition on "*Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life*" for introducing new rice-related agricultural farming techniques. These techniques have been successfully **scaled up** in Rwanda and Burundi. In the future IFAD will continue to increase its focus on the targeted introduction of modern inputs, combined with good agricultural practices and complemented by pro-poor agricultural research.
8. **[We] Ensure Access to natural resources by women farmers, fishers and pastoralist:** IFAD continues to prioritize **capacity and asset building** as well as access to natural resources, by the rural poor.
9. Through its program in Malawi (Program for Rural Irrigation Development - **PRIDE**), in Swaziland (Smallholder Market-led Project - **SLMP**), and in Ethiopia (Community-based Integrated Natural Resources Management Project - **CBINReMP**). These programs are all focusing on natural resources management systems, capacity building of farmers, producers and community organizations.
10. **[We] Act as a broker/facilitator between the private sector and smallholder agricultural producers** for agrifood system strengthening, focusing on major staples, livestock and horticulture. Much of what farmers need to respond to increasing demand for food and the agricultural products and services require private sector investments. In fact, at IFAD, we have added an additional and critical **"P" to public-private partnerships** i.e. the rural smallholder producers. We are intensifying our work in empowering and building the capacity of smallholders for them to partner with the private sector along agricultural value chains.
11. In Rwanda, IFAD has supported the successful implementation of the **public-private-producer partnerships (4Ps)** in two tea estates in the southern province of the country (Nshili, and Mushubi). This contributed in creating a tea value chain, which focused on developing tea grower-cooperatives as viable businesses, with reliable private sector supplier, who leased land from the government to operate tea factories.
12. **[We] Actively promote climate-smart agriculture:** IFAD strives to increase the rural smallholder farmers' resilience to unexpected climatic shocks (drought, floods...) and enhance food security, while being environmentally friendly.
13. IFAD is promoting **climate-resilient agricultural practices as well as post-harvest** technologies and infrastructures in Rwanda (Climate Resilient Post-Harvest and Agribusiness Support Project - **PASP**) and Ethiopia (Community-based Integrated Natural Resources Management Project - **CBINReMP**), through IFAD's Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Program (**ASAP**) and Global Environmental Facility (**GEF**) funding.
14. IFAD fully recognizes that **capacity dimensions** are intrinsically linked to understanding and successfully implementing Africa's Development Framework – Agenda 2063. But we all know that none of us can go it alone. **Partnerships and resource mobilization** are fundamental to promote

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synergies, knowledge and expertise in the capacity development agenda, in order to create a more enabling environment for poor people, notably in rural areas, to build their pathways out of poverty.