

Submission by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

United Nations Inputs to the Thematic Review of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), July 2023

Background: The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2023, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible, and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), will review in-depth Goals 6 on clean water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy, 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. The General Assembly in resolution 75/290 B defined the theme of the 2023 HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC to be “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”.

The following document provides inputs from the [International Fund for Agricultural Development \(IFAD\)](#), a United Nations Specialized Agency, to the July 2023 HLPF on its review of the above five SDGs and its theme, bearing in mind the preparations for the SDG Summit. Please see ANNEX 1 for examples of progress/case studies/experiences arranged by their relevant SDGs.

Progress, experience, lessons learned, challenges, and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17 from the vantage point of IFAD:

- IFAD supports small-scale rural producers and connects them to markets and services so they can produce more, earn more and, in doing so, sustainably transform rural communities. This comprehensive impact reflects IFAD’s integral role in development, providing broad and sustainable finance. IFAD monitors, reports on and maps direct and indirect contributions to the SDGs through the [Results Management Framework \(RMF\)](#) and the [Sustainable Development Finance Framework](#).
- Relating to Goal 17 on partnerships, a 2020 survey of farmer organisations (FOs) concluded that, according to participants, **the most significant crisis they faced was not COVID-19 but climate change**. Therefore, whatever the short-term political and economic developments, the COVID-19 crisis should perhaps be viewed as a laboratory. In light of the upcoming crises caused by climate change (relating to Goal 6), farmer organisations are likely to play an even greater role tomorrow and must be prepared. Regarding the multiple roles of FOs in responding to the COVID-19 crises and increasing future resilience, see lessons/recommendations for farmer organisations in Annex 1.
- **The economic and financial consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing crises have negatively impacted the investment capabilities of governments and the private sector**, particularly small-scale producers, and small and medium enterprises, who are the backbone of food systems across

the developing world. Public debt burdens are rising, with approximately 60 percent of low-income countries now in, or at risk of, debt distress.¹

- Relating to Goal 17, but also to Goals 6, 7 and 9, to create an enabling environment for climate-smart agriculture within a country, it is necessary to think of the specific policy and financing partnerships needed.
- A key component of closing funding gaps is the deployment of novel financial instruments to catalyse private sector engagement in the space. **There are substantial pools of resources ready to be invested in climate adaptation however we need to match investors and projects.** Partnerships will be key to success and should be based around:
 - **Assembling** more technical assistance grant support
 - **Designing** bankable projects
 - **Structuring** blended finance and other financial instruments
 - **Risk-sharing** by crowding-in public financiers through credit enhancement mechanisms
 - **Greening** financial systems such as agricultural banks to advance low-emission and climate-resilient development within rural economies
 - Roles of Farmers' and Producers' organisations in responding to the COVID-19 crisis

Please see **ANNEX 1** for examples of progress/case studies/experiences arranged by their relevant SDG.

Key areas where transformative actions for accelerated progress have been successful and key areas where support is needed with regard to the cluster of SDGs under review in July 2023

This section focuses on cross-cutting SDG17 but other examples of transformative actions are found in ANNEX 1 arranged by separate SDGs.

Successful transformative actions for accelerated progress:

- IFAD launched the multi-donor **COVID-19 Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF)** that aligned with the UN socio-economic response framework, ensuring coordination and complementarity with partner UN responses. IFAD initiated the Facility with US\$40 million of seed funding from grant resources and mobilized more than US\$50 million with donors, namely Government of Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland to scale up support. It sought to improve the resilience of rural livelihoods in the context of the crisis by ensuring timely access to inputs, information, markets and liquidity. The RPSF facility was completed in September 2022 with the following results:
 - RPSF targeted nearly US\$89 million for 55 single-country and 9 multi-country projects, with US\$22 million in cofinancing, reaching over 4 million households.
 - In-country partnerships were critical for the facility and proved to be key determinants of projects' achievements or challenges. IFAD implemented through 50 governments (usually existing PMUs of other IFAD Projects), 15 NGOs, Farmers organizations or other third-party entities, and collaborated with RBAs in eight projects. Additionally, all RPSF projects undertook consultation with UN country teams, and third-party entities still often worked alongside governments, which helped to ensure their buy-in. These partnerships were critical for the success and learning of the RPSF – IFAD found that utilizing existing implementation partnership structures was key to responding quickly, and also increases sustainability or scalability for emergency responses.
 - In the context of providing access to inputs, information, financial services and maintaining access to markets – the RPSF also contributed to improving water, energy, and small-scale infrastructure. For example, in Lebanon, a stand-alone project implemented through the Climate Smart Agriculture:

¹ IMF Blog. 2022. Restructuring Debt of Poorer Nations Requires More Efficient Coordination.

Enhancing Adaptive Capacity of the Rural Communities in Lebanon project, funded by the Adaptation Fund and supervised by IFAD, provided inputs for greenhouse producers, including plastic sheeting for rainwater harvesting.

● **Partnerships with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund (AF).**

- The AF, GCF and GEF recognize IFAD's comparative advantages and focus on adaptation and agriculture. An ambitious entity work programme for the three agencies aims to build capacities and totaling approximately US\$1.5–US\$2.0 billion. A pipeline development exercise aimed at maximizing the mobilization of funds under GEF8 and the AF is at an advanced stage of preparation. IFAD has also been selected as co-lead for the recently awarded GEF8 Food Integrated Program on Food Systems from 2023 which will further strengthen this partnership.
- GEF-supported projects are holistically embedded in IFAD-supported programmes with full complementarity between the social and environmental dimensions. IFAD often supports the sustainability of global environmental benefits flowing from GEF grants.
- For example, an IFAD grant to promote haze-free farming in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam is building on an initial GEF-supported regional project to protect peatlands.²

● **GGW/IGREENFIN** In 2021, IFAD announced it would launch an [umbrella programme](#) in partnership with the [Green Climate Fund](#); [UNCCD](#), which hosts the secretariat of the [GGW Accelerator](#) along with the GGW Agency to implement the transformational approaches needed to restore land, soil and agricultural production while building access to markets and improve nutrition.

- IFAD's Inclusive Green Finance project ([IGREENFIN](#)) uses an innovative approach, working with national banks, to remove the barriers that inhibit rural farmers from accessing finance and provide concessional credit lines for green agricultural investments.
- The GGW impacts all the Sustainable Development Goals as Africa's largest sustainable development initiative. In a context where the African continent has massive carbon storage potential, the realisation of the Great Green Wall could influence climate trends and have a lasting impact on the continent's development trajectory.³

● **Africa Rural Climate Adaptation Financing Mechanism (ARCAFIM)** is an example of how IFAD's climate financing can trigger mainstreaming climate change mitigation and adaptation in partners' national and international institutions, thus creating a multiplier effect in the agriculture sector and rural development

- The project has the immediate aim to mobilize US\$ 270 million in CCA investments to be deployed to support small producers and rural MSMEs involved in food systems through local financial intermediaries.
- Of this total budget, US\$ 135 million is expected to be provided by private sector partners from the financial sectors of the targeted eight countries in East and Southern Africa, which face severe climate risk. To substantially scale up and mainstream private sector climate adaptation financing, ARCAFIM provides catalytic financial resources to a selected Host Bank in each region. Thanks to a

² https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/40321041/ifad_gef_advantage_2.pdf/8d99b130-4746-4381-917a-4b890a29fe14?t=1555404805000

³ <https://www.undp.org/africa/stories/great-green-wall-homegrown-solutions-accelerate-climate-action-and-development>

well-established partnership framework with rural civil society partners (Farmers Forum, IP Forum), IFAD has the opportunity to listen to challenges on the ground and channel climate finance, building on existing operations.

- IFAD has implemented the [China-IFAD SSTC Facility](#) which was completely repurposed and dedicated to improving food security and resilience for poor rural people affected by COVID-19. IFAD's support to its target communities for post-crisis recovery and long-term resilience is built on the capacity of SSTC to enhance development effectiveness. SSTC is recognized by IFAD as an important component of its mandate to eliminate poverty and fight hunger and malnutrition in support of the SDGs. Recognizing the breakdown of food value chains and production systems as a result of the pandemic, the Facility targeted innovative solutions, approaches, and methodologies that could be shared to (a) repair and restore production systems, (b) strengthen the capacity for resilience among smallholder farmers and their organizations, (c) deliver updated, agriculture-related information to smallholder farmers through digital services, and (d) build trade capacities of smallholder producers to meet quality and sanitary standards for national and overseas markets. Almost \$2.0 million in grants have been approved for four projects in Rwanda, Tanzania, Cuba, and Tajikistan under this call; all of which strongly emphasize country ownership, local capacity development, the inclusive participation of all stakeholders, ICT for development, and stronger and innovative South-South cooperation.

Areas where support is urgently needed

- The COVID-19 pandemic affected IFAD borrowing countries and target groups in multiple ways. **Communities suffered severe disruption to services, markets, and movement of people and goods.** To address such diverse impacts, IFAD worked with its partners to put in place a comprehensive set of demand-driven measures to support both borrowing countries and poor rural people. These spanned several areas, few included: a) repurposing ongoing investments with governments and implementing agents to provide immediate responses - over US\$170 million from its core portfolio; b) supporting other development partner's analyses and policy responses for food security and protecting the rural poor and vulnerable groups; c) Offering other COVID-19 support as needed and requested by governments, including two large emergency projects in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, and the ongoing third window of the China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility, with a focus on response to the pandemic; and d) establishing a rapid-response RPSF, to address the key immediate challenges faced by small-scale farmers.

Opportunities for transformative actions

- IFAD has successfully developed a participatory and inclusive approach to small-scale irrigation development. However, its leverage in irrigation can be further enhanced when additional financiers choose to partner up and pave this path to the intensification of food production. This will be necessary if we are to meet food needs by 2050.
- IFAD identifies the huge need for local mobility and, due to its limited financial means, is forced to carry out multifaceted prioritization. Great opportunities exist to increase access to markets and basic services with more financial partners for these rural roads.
- In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, IFAD worked through partners to **provide specific policy support** in 46 countries. The majority of these studies are being conducted in collaboration with United Nations country teams (UNCTs) and with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and other development agencies. Most of them focus on conducting rapid assessments of the situation in the agricultural or rural sector, often with an emphasis

on the challenges faced by women and youth. For example, in a recently [published study](#), IFAD, FAO, WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) joined forces to assess how investment in agriculture could improve health outcomes, provide livelihood alternatives for rural people, enhance food and economic self-sufficiency, and improve resilience to external shocks in the Pacific. As part of the United Nations' response to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on food systems across the Pacific Islands, this report offers a consolidated analysis of pre-COVID food security and nutrition challenges and outlines key actions needed to respond to the current impacts, inform medium- to long-term recovery planning, and better prepare for future crises.

- At the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, members of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development ([GDPRD](#)) established a task force on a possible coordinated donor response, to identify ongoing actions of members and coordinate their regional and thematic approaches. This brought Platform members to focus on two main key areas for the task team: (i) Analytical work: Sharing content and coordination of requests to institutions; and (ii) Country deep dives: Who is doing country studies, how to use them and which networks can be used for coordination? As the outbreak was in its initial stages, donors focused mostly on understanding how to process available data on the pandemic and grasping the need for urgent action, before fine-tuning their interventions through individual and coordinated COVID and crisis response initiatives.

Key messages for inclusion into the Political Declaration of the September 2023 SDG Summit.

- Even though there are clear improvements, we still don't have a comprehensive (?) programmatic approach, particularly in food system transformation and an approach to agriculture. Ad hoc solutions risk failure at generating larger systemic impacts. The transition requires a coordinated programmatic effort on a global scale. The Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP) that have recently been undertaken with South Africa, Indonesia, and Vietnam, and funding commitments from G7 and other countries may represent a model for financing similar just transition initiatives in agriculture. There is a great need for a strong convening power that outlines coordinated actions to unite forces at local, regional and national levels specifically around a National Food Systems Agenda.
- Not forming partnerships is no longer a choice – we must form partnerships to effect change on the scale required. Free-standing development projects won't, by themselves, eradicate poverty or secure the future of food security across the world. This realization is very relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that aims for the eradication of poverty – including rural poverty. To achieve the SDGs, it is key to put in place the enablers of change in terms of policies, programmes and resource mobilization

ANNEX 1: IFAD Examples of Contribution to the SDGs Under 2023 HLPF Review

Below are examples of progress/case studies/experiences for the 2023 HLPF review processes arranged by their relevant SDGs

Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

- 13 % of the current IFAD-supported portfolio is devoted to the rural water sector, for a total of US\$2.85 billion.
- In the water sector, every dollar invested by IFAD leverages an additional 2.2 dollars.
- 20 % of the international co-financing of the portfolio supported by IFAD is devoted to water.
- 70 % of IFAD financing for water is devoted to irrigation development (infrastructure and its management), mobilizing a total investment in irrigation of US\$2.06 billion.
- Consider the effects of climate change to increase local resilience: Since 2019, IFAD resources have contributed US\$1.462 billion to climate-resilient interventions (9% for mitigation and 91% for adaptation).
- Among the significant achievements, IFAD's ongoing portfolio has empowered around 46,400 groups globally and built and rehabilitated water infrastructure serving nearly 600,000 ha of agricultural land. Around 220,500 households worldwide learned new practices through the IFAD-supported project and increased their resilience to climate change, and around 162 Mt of greenhouse gas emissions (tCO₂e) were avoided and/or sequestered.
- Joint publications such as the Handbook for Scaling Irrigation Systems⁴ between IFAD and [IFC](#) on how to develop and scale innovative solutions to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and increase crop productivity.
- **Case Study:**
 - Ethiopia's Participatory Small-Scale Irrigation Development Programme⁵ had 3 components:
 - The institutional component involved forming WUAs in each community participating in the project. The project's extension agents trained WUA leaders and members in how to manage and distribute water efficiently and effectively. The beneficiaries received capacity-building and skills training to increase their knowledge and awareness of agricultural technologies and improved practices.
 - Catchment area planning of SSI systems was improved. With a well-functioning irrigation system in place, project beneficiaries would obtain a more constant supply of water, substantially more water overall, and a timely water supply for agricultural production over the course of the cultivation seasons.
 - The agricultural development component strengthened agricultural support services; improved farming practices, particularly in seed production systems, postharvest management, watershed-based soil management, and water conservation; and promoted home gardens for women.
 - This case study is directly relevant to **SDG Objective 6.4** "By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity" and

⁴ https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/-/handbook-for-scaling-irrigation-systems?p_1_back_url=%2Fen%2Fweb%2Fknowledge%2Fpublications%3Fmode%3Dsearch%26keywords%3Dwater

⁵ https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/39155702/small_irrigation_handbook.pdf/ec3fb02a-42c0-4bbc-9938-7fa3aabc575b?t=1664959344964

- **SDG Objective 6.B** “Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management”
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Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

- Over the last decade, IFAD has deployed renewable energy activities in 23 countries.
- IFADs RESA approach of powering smallholder agriculture with renewable energy directly relates to SDGs: 1 no poverty; 2) zero hunger; and 7) affordable and clean energy, and indirectly relates to SDGs 8, 9, 12, 13 and 17).
- IFADs goal to Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the smallholder agriculture and rural development sector is directly aligned with SDG7 target 7.2.
- The Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) programme has introduced energy-efficient processing and storage technologies such as solar heating, cooling, drying and energy-saving appliances into 15 projects in including; Mali, China, Mozambique and Rwanda, Kyrgyzstan and India.
- US\$ 2.2M million grant awarded to Sundanzer for solar refrigeration technologies in sub-Saharan Africa, has reached over 10,000 beneficiaries.
- IFAD has facilitated the rollout of improved cookstoves and biogas digesters in Bolivia, Mali, Nigeria and Kenya benefiting over 620,000 small producers.

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

- 22% of the ongoing IFAD-supported portfolio is dedicated to infrastructure, totaling US\$4.85 billion, and every dollar invested by IFAD leverages an additional US\$2.1.
- 33% of the international cofinancing of the portfolio supported by IFAD is devoted to infrastructure.
- 65% of the ongoing IFAD-supported infrastructure portfolio is devoted to either irrigation development (infrastructure and its management, 44%) or rural roads (21%), mobilizing a total investment of US\$3.12 billion.
- In 2021, hydraulic infrastructures serving nearly 600,000 ha of agricultural land have been built or rehabilitated worldwide, and 11,650 km of roads of different classes have been developed, mainly access roads and farm tracks.
- In addition, IFAD investments strive to secure the basic needs and services (drinking water, energy and sanitation) of poor rural people, protecting their natural resource base and working with them to develop more value addition locally and for better access to markets.

Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities

- IFAD IP Project working on mitigating the negative effects of COVID-19
 - While migration to urban centers in search of income-generating activities often results in informal economy employment, poor condition living, limited access to basic services and an overall increase of their social and economic vulnerability and exclusion, indigenous peoples led initiatives in rural areas, that build on their traditional knowledge, contribute to sustaining communities and their environment, including enhancing resilience and biodiversity.
 - A relevant example is the contribution provided by IFAD's [Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility](#) to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 through the empowerment of indigenous peoples' grassroots organizations, as appraised in the [Assessment of the implementation of IPAF 5th cycle](#). The outbreak of the pandemic had a disproportionately negative impact on indigenous peoples globally. It has intensified underlying structural inequalities, increased hardships for indigenous peoples regarding their access to food and water, and disrupted their local and traditional

economies. Also, indigenous peoples largely fall outside any formal social protection systems and experience poor access to health. Consequently, they were left behind in prevention and protection measures in many countries. IPAF projects, being based on community governance and self-identified priorities, were instrumental to help communities address the pandemic. This particularly happened through community solidarity, awareness raising, advocacy actions, and the promotion of indigenous governance and indigenous food systems anchored in sustainable livelihood practices.

- The three Regional Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (RIPOs) co-managing and coordinating IPAF were effective in reorganizing their activities, innovating their system of communication with sub-grantees, finding innovative solutions to conduct monitoring missions, and launching new initiatives in support of their partners. For example, they organized both assessments and learning exchanges on the impact and strategies to address the pandemic. Particularly successful examples of IPAF funding helping Indigenous Peoples mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic are found in [Pakistan](#) and [India](#).

Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- The IFAD11 period saw significant achievements in terms of **mobilization of supplementary funds and joint initiatives** forging key partnerships contributing to the SDGs. The third phase of IFAD's flagship climate finance programme, the [Enhanced Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme \(ASAP+\)](#), was formally launched in 2020. Approximately USD 66 million have been mobilized as of the end of December 2021 from a range of bilateral donors (Austria, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, Qatar), with further resource mobilization underway to achieve the ASAP+ target of US\$ 500 million. Furthermore, IFAD leveraged almost USD 300 million from the Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund, and Global Environment Facility between 2019-2021 (a considerable increase from the USD 95 425 million leveraged from these sources in IFAD10).
- Another promising initiative is the [Gender Transformative Mechanism](#) in the context of Climate Adaptation" (GTM), it aims to support and incentivize IFAD partner governments to increase investment, capacities, and activities to achieve gender transformative results at scale in rural areas. The initiative has mobilized US\$16 million in 2021.
- As the outbreak was in its initial stages, donors focused mostly on understanding how to process available data on the pandemic and grasping the need for urgent action, before fine-tuning their interventions through individual and coordinated COVID and crisis response initiatives
- IFAD also secured resources of 10 million Euro from BMZ and 3.5 million US\$ from Visa Foundation to launch the **agribusiness hubs initiative** in nine countries in Africa focusing on delivering comprehensive support packages for start-ups/acceleration of businesses and improving labour market employability for youth.
- In 2021, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) provided NOR 60 million (approx. USD 6.9 million) to enhance the quality and sustainability of nutrition-sensitive interventions. These funds are channeled through the programme **Nourishing People and the Earth** through Inclusive and Sustainable Agriculture.
- Regular **grants** also play a key role in the identification of relevant innovations for smallholder agriculture and offer a more flexible way of addressing mainstreaming priorities. On **policy engagement**, IFAD supported policymaking in Kyrgyzstan through a livestock sector analysis, conducted in partnership with FAO and funded through ASAP2, which identified key measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These measures were included in the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). IFAD was a member of the Gender Lever created during the UN Food Systems Summit to mainstream gender considerations in all action tracks, dialogues and subsequent national pathways. The Gender Lever was instrumental in mobilizing the voices of women,

men and other groups from across the globe to engage with the Food Systems Summit. A notable achievement, of 35 African countries included in UNFSS, at least 24 addressed gender, women or girls in their National Pathways for food systems transformation.

- **US Government and IFAD collaboration on Global Methane Pledge**⁶. As part of the Global Methane Pledge partnership, the U.S. and IFAD will work together to prioritize methane mitigation in upcoming IFAD projects currently in the pipeline. These projects are valued at an estimated US\$500 million and will apply low-methane techniques to what is often considered methane-emitting activities like livestock and paddy rice production. The work on the Global Methane Pledge goes towards SDGs 3, 7, 13, and 17.⁷
- Partnerships with like-minded initiatives and actors, such as the Global Adaptation Center, and the other UN Rome based sister agencies FAO and WFP. IFAD is also leading the Coalition of Agricultural Public Development Banks (PDBs), intending to increase green and inclusive investments in agriculture and across food systems. IFAD is also an official partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and contributes to task forces on monitoring, best practices, and finances such as the Partnership for Biodiversity Finance and Rio Conventions.
- Indigenous Peoples and their organizations and networks as fundamental partners in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Where strong and effective national mechanisms for dialogue, consultation and participation are in place, there is enormous potential for indigenous peoples to play a crucial role as agents and partners in development. The updated [IFAD's Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples \(2022\)](#), building on experience and lessons learned on the ground, considers partnerships with IPs organisation as a key instrument for policy implementation and calls for IFAD to work with Indigenous Peoples as equal partners who contribute to co-creating strategies and who design and monitor investments to improve their livelihoods based on their own perspectives.
- **Farmer Organisations and COVID-19**
 - As the COVID-19 pandemic spread worldwide in early 2020, giving rise to unprecedented restrictions that directly impacted the operations of agricultural systems, many FOs in developing countries were managing institutional strengthening programmes with support from IFAD, the EU and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).
 - These programmes included the Asian Pacific Farmers Programme (APFP) (2018-2023/US\$48.7 million) and the Farmers' Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Programme (FO4ACP) (2019-2023/EUR 42.7 million). These programmes, designed by farmers' organizations (FOs) for farmers' organizations, enabled these organizations to make critical choices to adapt the programmes to an ever-changing environment to better respond to opportunities and react more quickly to crises.
 - When the pandemic hit, FOs drew up a COVID-19 Continuity Plan for the FO4ACP programme based on consultations with all stakeholders, in order to ensure coordinated action and the efficient use of available resources for a swift response to the crisis.
 - In just a few months, most regional IFAD FO partners were able to quickly draft and submit proposals to the COVID-19 Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) set up by IFAD in June 2020. This was particularly the case for AFA and the Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO), which were the first regional institutions to submit such proposals. Thanks to FO4ACP's existing coordination facilities, the Support African Farmers in the 2020 Emergency (SAFE 2020) emergency project submitted by PAFO and AgriCord provided additional funding of US\$1.5 million to African FOs in response to the crisis. That same facility (RPSF) funded three other emergency projects that directly supported FOs in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Assuring Resiliency of Family Farmers Amidst COVID 19 project (ARISE/US\$2 million), designed and implemented by AFA in Asia,

⁶ <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/ministers-pledge-to-increase-efforts-to-reduce-methane-emissions/>

⁷ <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/ministers-pledge-to-increase-efforts-to-reduce-methane-emissions/>

is aimed at increasing the resilience of family farmers. The PASP2 (PAS2P/US\$1.5 million) project is designed to help livestock-farming families faced with the combined effects of the pastoral lean season, insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic and is implemented by Réseau Billital Maroobé (RBM) and its member FOs in the Sahel. The Pacific Islands Rural and Agriculture Stimulus project (PIRAS/US\$6.6 million) in the Pacific, co-financed by the Australian government, is implemented by Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON) and its members. PIFON used the modalities of the FO4ACP COVID-19 Continuity Plan to conduct much-needed studies on the impact of COVID-19 and related surveys among farmers. The results of the studies are now being put into action through the Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services (PIRAS) project.

- Recommendations: FO capacity building in crisis prevention and management; Strengthening the social mission of FOs; Strengthening members' resilience; Promotion of local consumption; Encouragement of rational digitalization of agricultural services