

**REMARKS BY MR RATOHIARIJAONA SUZELIN,  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR**

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-Your Excellency, President of IFAD,

-Excellencies, distinguished members of the Board of Governors of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), distinguished guests,

I am honored to stand before this assembly on the occasion of the forty-seventh session of the Governing Council of IFAD. Allow me to express my gratitude for the opportunity to share perspectives on a theme of vital importance: "Innovation for a secure food future".

The Malagasy Government's General Policy is based on three major pillars, and we are resolutely committed to realizing our vision of food self-sufficiency.

The first pillar, that of human capital, remains at the heart of our concerns, as we are convinced that qualified human resources are essential to ensure the success of our agricultural initiatives.

The second pillar, focused on industrialization and economic transformation, forms the basis of our efforts in the agricultural sector.

As for the third pillar, that of good governance, we are determined to strengthen our institutions and public policies to guarantee an environment conducive to sustainable agricultural development.

We are committed to ensuring food self-sufficiency for every Malagasy citizen. To this end, we are stepping up our efforts to develop an additional 100,000 hectares of irrigated rice-growing perimeters.

At the same time, we are working closely with the private sector to build new fertilizer plants in several regions of Madagascar. This initiative aims to boost agricultural production capacity by providing farmers with the necessary inputs.

We are also actively promoting innovative production methods, while improving marketing channels for agricultural produce. Our aim is to create value at every stage of the chain, fostering sustainable and prosperous agricultural development for all involved.

We firmly believe that sustained growth in our agricultural GDP, up to 5%, is likely to catalyze major economic transformations, reducing poverty and improving the living conditions of our fellow citizens.

However, to meet these ambitious challenges, we must stimulate innovation at every level of our agricultural sector.

Digitalization is a central lever in our development strategy. We fully recognize the importance of agricultural data and information systems in guiding our public policies and strengthening our resilience in the face of the challenges of the 21st century. We are therefore committed to establishing inclusive digital services, offering players in the agricultural sector relevant tools to increase their productivity and sustainability.

In 2023, we distributed around 35,000 producer cards. For 2024, our ambition is to multiply these efforts, aiming to at least double this number.

Developing human capital and digital skills is also a top priority. It is important to work together to facilitate the adoption of digital solutions and prepare future generations to take full advantage of them.

Furthermore, we aspire to foster innovation and digital entrepreneurship in agriculture, convinced that the most innovative solutions will emerge from the private sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are at a pivotal moment in our history, where challenges compete with opportunities. By pooling our efforts and encouraging

innovation at all levels, we can realize our vision of a secure food future for generations to come.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to IFAD for its tireless commitment to agricultural development in Madagascar. Together, we can shape a future where food security is not just a goal, but a tangible reality for all.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.