

## Innovation talk 9 June

Topic: How to deliver agile sustainable procurement through innovative approaches?

### **Closing remarks: Dina Saleh**

First of all, I would like to thank all of our panellists for their excellent inputs and for sharing their success stories but also the challenges they encountered with innovations in procurement.

I think we can all take new impulses and insights away from this session. What stood out to me is how important it is to think about innovations not only in terms of project design but to also in terms of their implementation through procurement to achieve the impact and transformation in the markets that we work in. This needs a good procurement strategy that is developed holistically and as part of project design. Without market development, innovative approaches are doomed to fail as bidders might not be ready to provide or accept the new technology or innovation and the impact will be severely limited.

I observe in our projects that procurement officers are often not involved in the strategic planning phases of the project and therefore the value achieved by strategic procurement planning is very limited. We should use the strategic value that procurement offers to maximize our impact, not only in terms of innovations but also in terms of social and environmental standards. As we work mostly through national procurement systems at IFAD, these innovations and standards become relevant for local markets and therefore have a lasting impact.

Overall, we have made great progress in the reform of project procurement at IFAD but this discussion shows that still much can be achieved by harnessing the strategic value of procurement in transforming local markets. To this end, I am very happy that IFAD is rolling out our large-scale capacity building programmes with BUILD PROC for procurement and SUSTAIN for safeguards that are open to all IFIs working in agricultural and rural development.