



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

**SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE; HON: SALLY KOSGEI EGH,  
MP. DURING THE KENYA COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATION (CPE)  
NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE WORKSHOP.**

**WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011 AT PAN AFRIC HOTEL, NAIROBI**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

A handwritten signature, possibly 'Sally Kosgei', enclosed in an oval shape.

I am pleased to join you today during this important Kenya Country Programme Evaluation (CPE) National Roundtable Workshop. Let me take this opportunity to welcome all participants to this workshop.

I particularly want to thank the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for carrying out the first country programme evaluation for Kenya, since IFAD started its operations in the country in 1979; I am informed that IFAD conducts evaluations in order to review performance of IFAD country programmes and strategies.

During this workshop, the Independent Office of Evaluation will present to the Government the scorecard of our Country Programme Performance in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency sustainability and other criteria. IFAD and the

Government will then deliberate and agree on recommendations which will shape the future Country Strategy and Opportunities Paper (COSOP)

As you all know, the importance of agriculture to our country and economy cannot be over-emphasized. Over 80% of the population is directly engaged in agricultural production and value addition. The close correlation between the growth of the agricultural sector and that of the economy has been clearly shown in the recent past by the improvement in performance of the economy from a low GDP growth rate of 0.6% in 2002 to 7.1% in 2007 in which period the agricultural sector performance mirrored that of the economy. After the post election violence of 2008 which impacted negatively on agriculture, the economy declined to a low GDP growth rate of 1.7% in 2008. The Agricultural sector grew at 6.3 percent in 2010

according to the economic survey of 2011, reversing the decline in the previous two years due to post-election violence and bad weather. This has contributed to the GDP growth rate of over 5 percent in 2010.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

IFAD development strategy focuses on improving the livelihoods of resource poor smallholder farmers, agro pastoralists and pastoralists; through projects in order to reduce poverty. In supporting the Agricultural sector through projects and programmes, IFAD is immensely contributing to our development blueprint - the **Agricultural Sector Development Strategy (ASDS)**. In this strategy, we have moved from the first phase of revitalizing agriculture to increasing agricultural



productivity and thus positioning the agricultural sector as a key driver in achieving the 10 percent annual economic growth rate envisaged under the economic pillar of our **vision 2030**. The vision of the ASDS is a food secure and prosperous nation, driven by an innovative, commercially oriented and modern agriculture targeted at achieving an annual growth rate of 7 percent.

The Country Strategy and Opportunities Paper (COSOP), which is a product of extensive consultations between IFAD and the relevant implementing agencies of the Government of Kenya, forms the framework for implementation of IFAD activities. So far, there have been two COSOPs for the country in 2002 and 2007. I am happy to note that the purpose of the CPE is to generate a series of findings and recommendations to serve as building blocks for formulation of the forthcoming

result-based country strategy opportunities paper (COSOP), which will be prepared jointly by IFAD and the Government of Kenya following the completion of the evaluation.

It is worth noting that IFAD has supported 15 Development projects since 1979 and its total loan investments for projects and programmes in the country to date amount to approximately USD 225 million or close to 20 billion shillings, making Kenya one of IFAD's largest country portfolios for rural poverty alleviation in Africa.

Currently there are five (5) on-going IFAD supported projects/programmes at various stages of implementation namely;-

- i. Southern Nyanza Community Development Project (SNCDP)

- ii. Mt. Kenya East Pilot Project for Natural Resources Management (MKEPP)
- iii. Smallholder Dairy Commercialization programme (SDCP)
- iv. Smallholder Horticulture Marketing Programme (SHoMaP).
- v. Programme for Rural Outreach of Financial Innovations and Technologies (PROFIT)

The Eastern province horticulture and traditional food crops Project which was also evaluated is already wound up.

As we receive the scorecard from both the on-going and completed programmes from the office of independent evaluation, we should take note of our success as

well as failures. Where we have succeeded, we should endeavour to excel even better while making efforts to learn from our mistakes so that we strategize to improve on our performance.

We should also not lose focus of the main goal of all these programmes;- that of impacting positively on the livelihoods of our people through improving performance of our Agricultural sector. It is therefore imperative that those charged with the responsibility of running the projects manage them efficiently in order to accord requisite value to the targeted beneficiaries

**Ladies and Gentlemen**



I am informed that IFAD opened a pilot Country Office on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008. Following this development, a Country Programme Management Team (CPMT) was established comprising of officials from the on-going projects, desk officers from implementing ministries, the IFAD office and relevant stakeholders.

The Country presence has considerably contributed to the implementation of Programme activities and cash liquidity as a result of closer consultations and speedy withdraw applications.

The Country Office has also been instrumental in promoting collaboration and partnerships among development agencies directly or indirectly contributing to the

implementation of the country projects/programmers through capacity building and provision of other support services.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

I want to conclude by commending IFAD for the noble role it plays in assisting the resource poor and vulnerable members of the society all over the world especially in developing countries. I also want to request our visitors from outside the country to take time off after this workshop; to tour our beautiful countryside and experience what our tourist industry can offer and have a feel of the hospitality of our people. I also wish you fruitful deliberations as you review the performance of the programmes and lay a sound foundation for the next Kenya COSOP.

**With these remarks, it is now my great pleasure to declare this workshop officially opened.**