

IFAD CPE Workshop Remarks delivered by Mr. Madhu Kumar Marasini, JS,  
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**Senior Officials of the Government of Nepal,**

**Representatives from Development Partners, Officials from IFAD**

Ladies and Gentlemen!

1. It is my pleasure to congratulate you all on the successful completion of the very important Nepal Country Programme Evaluation Workshop. On behalf of MOF I would like to thank you all for your efforts and active participation throughout the workshop.
2. The workshop has provided an opportunity for us to focus on i) evaluating the performances and impact of the IFAD funded projects in Nepal and ii) the recommendations for time friendly activities to be carried out onwards through the forthcoming new Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) covering a period from 2013-2017. In this regard, the conclusions and recommendations from the Country Programme Evaluation will be very much guiding. We will try to direct the new COSOP to the extent feasible towards the direction as recommended by the Evaluation.
3. Economic cooperation between Government of Nepal and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) started in 1978 and the current year 2013 has been the 35<sup>th</sup> year of our partnership. These 35 years has been the years of our close collaboration and friendship, a period of cordial relationship and a joint efforts towards enabling the poor rural people to overcome their poverty. My heartfelt appreciation to IFAD, its officials and the officials of the Government of Nepal for this successful cooperation!
4. During these years, Nepal has been able to reduce the level of poverty and hunger significantly in the country with financial and technical support from the development partners. IFAD is one among them which focuses more on the people living in harsh conditions in the remote, isolated areas deprived of the basic needs of the life. I wish for a more successful cooperation with IFAD in the days to come in the

effort of halving the poverty and extreme hunger by 2015 to meet the Millennium Development Goal.

5. During our 35 years cooperation I find working with the IFAD team is all with comfort. Let me remind all you, irrigation facilities and roads constructed during the early stages of our economic cooperation in order to increase the agricultural production and productivity are still well functioning. The government and communities have invested a lot in maintaining these facilities after the completion of the projects. Programmes designed to reach the rural women such as Production Credit to Rural Women and to poorest such as Small Farmer Development Programme have been successfully mainstreamed into the national system. The former one covers all 75 districts these days. A separate national level development bank has been established to continue small farmer development programme.
6. The Government has directed IFAD's financing towards commercialization of smallholder agriculture in recent past, more specifically after the global food crisis of 2008. These initiatives follow value chain approach, engage private sector in a public-private-people partnership model and are guided by the market system.
7. We will sign the Agreement at Completion Point within March and will own and implement the agreed points. A mechanism will be established to review the implementation progress in this regard.
8. IFAD management has decided to outpost 50% of the CPM to the countries. Nepal portfolio, though small in size, is complex because of the ongoing political transition requiring more closer supervision. As Senior Management Level is representing in this meeting, I would like to request to include Nepal in the list of outposted CPM.
9. Finally, I take this opportunity to assure you all that the International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division is always there to support and provide necessary facilitation to the concerned ministries regarding any issue that needs interventions from MOF.
10. Once again I thank you all for your active participation and fruitful deliberations.

**Thank You**

