

**STATEMENT of Mr Oscar A. Garcia,
DIRECTOR OF THE INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF EVALUATION OF IFAD**

1. Honourable Ms Paula Coelho, Minister of Environment

**2. Honourable Ms Victória Correia da Conceição, Minister
of Social Action, Family and Women's Promotion**

**3. Mr Carlos Alberto Jaime, Secretary of State for
Agriculture and Fisheries**

4. Mr Amadeu Nunes, Secretary of State for Commerce

Distinguished authorities and Officials of the Government of
Angola and other Development Agencies; IFAD Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am truly honoured and pleased to be here in Luanda with you in
this National Workshop, co-organized by the Independent Office
of Evaluation of the International Fund for Agricultural
Development –IFAD and the Ministry of Agriculture.

I would like to express a heartfelt appreciation to the Government
of Angola, in particular the Ministry of Agriculture, for their
invaluable support and collaboration throughout this country
strategy and programme evaluation process, and especially in the
organization of today's workshop. I would also like to thank my

colleagues in the Programme Management Department. I am grateful to Mr Lisandro Martin, the Director for Operations, Policy and Results of the Programme Management Department, who honours us with his presence, and the IFAD Angola Country Programme Director, Ms Abila Benhammouche, for her valuable inputs, towards this country programme evaluation.

I would like to thank Ms Tullia Aiazzi, senior consultant who ably conducted this comprehensive evaluation.

This is the first country strategy and programme evaluation (CSPE) carried out by the Independent Office of Evaluation in Angola. In our view, this was the right time to carry out the evaluation. The relationship between the people of Angola and IFAD was ready for a leap in the quality of collaboration and the evaluation has provided the necessary impartial and rigorous assessment of performance that can assist the Government, IFAD and other concerned partners in this process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We will be discussing the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation.

The deliberations in this workshop will contribute to framing the next country strategy - COSOP - and will feed into the new projects financed by IFAD in the country.

The evaluated Country Strategy and Programme had been designed and partly implemented in a context of steady growth of macro-economic indicators, which have however, triggered less than expected reductions in poverty. The dramatic decline of oil prices on the world market since 2016 and a decrease of 3.3 per cent in the daily national production between 2015 and 2016, have caused a slowing down in the GDP growth to 1.1% in 2016. This situation has highlighted the need to address more forcefully the dependence from oil, by diversifying the economy and reducing vulnerabilities.

The agriculture sector contributes on average only 9.9 per cent to GDP, but it employs 44.2 per cent of the employed population according to the 2014 census. Moreover, 46 per cent of households engaged in some agricultural activity and 6 per cent engaged in fishing, with many rural households engaging in both to enhance their food security. However, a large share of the food consumed in the country is still imported.

The National Development Plan 2013-2017, and the Medium Term Development Plans for the Agricultural Sector (PMPDSA)

have indeed anchored the goal for agricultural development to the sustainable use of natural resources and the improvement of competitiveness, while aiming at the achievement of food security and food self-sufficiency and taking advantage of market potentials.

IFAD maintains a long-standing partnership with Angola in agriculture and rural development. The total portfolio cost since the start of IFAD operations in Angola in 1989 is US\$ 135 million.

The IFAD-supported programme in the country included so far investments focused on improving the production and productivity of beans, cassava, maize and potato and the development of small scale freshwater capture fisheries and aquaculture.

The newly starting projects will also focus on value chain development for the same agricultural crops and rehabilitation of livelihoods disrupted by the drought, that depend on livestock and pastoralism.

Later this morning, my colleague, Tullia Aiazzi, will present you the main findings and recommendations of this evaluation.

Hence, at this stage, I will limit myself to highlighting only a few findings.

The evaluation found a strong level of project alignment with Government priorities and IFAD's strategic frameworks and

mandate and IFAD supported projects have contributed to make progress towards poverty reduction for the rural poor.

Positive impacts in Angola outlined in the report include tangible results for participating farmers in the productivity and production of main staple crops, that allowed farming households to grow out of subsistence. In total, approximately 55,000 producers benefitted of capacity development through MOSAP I.

Capacities were significantly developed among staff of the National Agriculture Extension System. The Farmer Field School method was also adopted as the national methodology for agriculture extension.

The evaluation also identified issues that deserve further attention.

The dearth of national human resources, a consequence of the decades - long conflict, has not yet been fully taken into account in the design and implementation model of IFAD's projects in Angola. The national demographics show that youth can play a major role in the national development process. IFAD should work through the projects it supports and with the Government to contribute transforming agriculture into an attractive sector where young people can find opportunities for a dignified livelihood. Last but not least, women are among the main players in Angolan agriculture and projects should enable them to be

recognized for this in taking on leadership roles in farmers' organizations and associations.

To conclude, I would like to invite you to absorb the inputs provided by this independent evaluation and engage frankly and constructively in a dialogue to explore ways to enhance the collaboration between IFAD and the government of Angola for rural poverty eradication.

In light of the important achievements so far, and the challenges that confront us in the future, the IFAD-Angola partnership holds immense promise towards achieving a more inclusive and sustainable transformation of the rural sector.

Muito obrigado pela sua atencao!