

Angola
Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation (CSPE)
National Roundtable Workshop

IFAD

Luanda, Angola
22 May 2018

Honourable Mr xxx

Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am pleased to be here in Luanda with you today, representing IFAD's senior Management at this important Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation Workshop, co-organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, in coordination with the Ministry of Fisheries and the Sea, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Finance, and the Independent Office of Evaluation, in close collaboration with IFAD's East and Southern Africa Division(ESA).

For those of you who may not be as familiar with IFAD, let me begin by giving you a brief introduction of IFAD. The international fund for agricultural development (IFAD) is both a specialized United Nations agency and an international financial institution working on agriculture and sustainable rural development to enable rural poor people overcome poverty. IFAD works with the most vulnerable rural poor communities, promoting sustainable and productive rural development and strengthening resilience to contribute to improved livelihoods. Currently IFAD is working in over 90 countries with over 200 active projects across Latin America, Near East and Europe, Asia and Africa.

I know you are all more familiar with Angola's journey which has been remarkable since it emerged from civil war in 2002. Angola is set to be Africa's fastest growing economy, to eventually become Africa's biggest oil producer. Oil and diamonds account for over 90% of exports and 60% of GDP.

However, due to declining oil prices since 2014 revenues from oil also declined causing GDP growth to decelerate from an annual average of 10.3% (from 2004 to 2014), to only 1.5% (since 2015). The heavy reliance of Angola's economy on oil has led to Angola's current economic strain. This underscores the need to diversify its economy and reduce its dependency on oil revenues. Despite enormous potential to increase the amount of area under cultivation and crop yields, and diverse agri-climate regions in the country, the agriculture sector only represents about 11% of GDP. The Government of Angola is committed to promote agricultural development in the

country as a key pillar of its national strategy and IFAD is committed to providing financial and technical support to the Government in doing so.

Angola and IFAD have a very strong and strategic partnership that goes back almost three decades to when IFAD first collaborated with Angola in 1989. Since then IFAD has co-financed 7 operations with a total cost of around US\$134 million, of which IFAD itself contributed just under US\$82 million. Together the operations reached a total of around 268,600 households. Angola has also played a vital role in contributing to IFAD's mandate by being the largest contributor to the replenishment of IFAD's resources from East and Southern Africa since 2005 for which we are particularly grateful.

The partnership between IFAD and Angola is not limited to project financing only. Our strategy and approach to partnership-building have evolved and diversified, from searching for opportunities for co-financing and partnering with organizations that could complement IFAD's experience and expertise in investment projects, to broader partnerships outside the investment portfolio for policy engagement. I am particularly pleased to note that this has also been recognized in this independent evaluation report.

Another indication of the importance of IFAD's programme in Angola is the President of IFAD, Gilbert Houngbo's visit last month to your country. During his visit he had the opportunity to engage with the honorable Vice President and other senior ministers in addition to visiting the provinces of Bie and Huambo to see first-hand the impact of the IFAD/WB development assistance on rural women and farmers.

We are pleased with the conclusions and recommendations presented in the evaluation report. Overall the programme is performing well, although of course, we recognize there is room for improvement. At the same time we are pleased to note that the recommendations made are well aligned with IFAD and the Government of Angola's priorities and will therefore be reflected in the new country strategy to be finalized next year and in the ongoing and upcoming investment portfolio in the country.

We need to pay close attention to the main challenges identified in the portfolio and work collectively to address them including: issues of climate change; integrating gender equality and youth involvement and assisting with institutional and capacity building support.

These issues I just mentioned are central IFAD's evolving business model which aims to ensure that IFAD is "fit for purpose", and can therefore more effectively and efficiently support its partner countries achieve the objectives of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. For instance and as mentioned before, to complement financing of investment projects and programmes, IFAD plans to devote greater attention to "non-lending activities", such as knowledge sharing from its global experiences, provision of reimbursable technical assistance, policy dialogue, south-south and triangular cooperation, and deeper attention to transparency and results measurement to inform evidence-based policy and programme development.

We are also redoubling our efforts in our financing to improve the assistance IFAD can provide on women's empowerment and gender equality, youth inclusion, climate change and nutrition; all of which are particularly important in Angola given the findings of this evaluation. We are also pleased to see that two IFAD supported projects from Angola will be participating in IFAD's flagship capacity building Programme in Rural M&E.

Additionally, we must work in partnership with the government and other actors – Angola is a good example of this kind of work, as IFAD has developed deep and meaningful partnership with actors such as the World Bank and FAO, co-financing projects and implementing them jointly through methods such as the Farmer Field Schools.

Another dimension of the evolving business model relates to IFAD's organizational decentralization. IFAD is further consolidating and strengthening its presence in East and Southern Africa through its hub in South Africa, to further enhance the proximity of our assistance and strengthen coordination, knowledge sharing, partnerships and dialogue within the region.

Before I conclude, I would like to note that, for us, the work of our Independent Office of Evaluation – or IOE -- is essential. It collectively gives us an opportunity to take stock of our country programme in Angola, draw lessons learned, scale up good practices and tailor our engagement going forward. I personally look forward to the rich discussion that is expected from today's workshop which will help us to reflect on the key challenges, priorities and way forward. Therefore, I would like to thank Mr. Oscar Garcia and his team for this evaluation and for bringing us together at this important workshop to discuss the future direction of IFAD's and Angola's partnership. I would also like to appreciate the strategic role of your Government's representation in Rome and their role as an active member of IFAD's evaluation committee and Executive Board to help IFAD become more effective and efficient in the results it achieves through its operations in Angola and elsewhere.

Finally, let me take the opportunity to thank the Government of Angola in particular all our partners from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and the Sea, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Finance, for their hospitality and continued support to IFAD not only through Angola's replenishment contributions but also through the commitment of the Government in promoting sustainable rural development in the country and beyond.

Thank You.