



A summary of **IFAD's Strategic Framework** 2007–2010

IFAD's Strategic Framework defines how the organization contributes to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) during the period 2007 to 2010. It describes IFAD's goal and objectives, the results we strive to achieve, the principles that guide our decisions and actions, the instruments we use and the strengths we apply in partnership with others to enable poor rural people to overcome poverty. This booklet provides a summary of the key elements of the Strategic Framework. To learn more about IFAD's strategic directions and to read the full document, visit www.ifad.org.

Enabling the rural poor to overcome poverty



IFAD is dedicated to fighting rural poverty

IFAD works with poor rural women and men and their organizations, and other partners to develop solutions that enable poor rural people to overcome poverty themselves. We work through developing country governments, following their lead to design programmes and projects that fit within national systems and respond to the needs, priorities and constraints identified by poor people in rural areas. We use a mix of low-interest loans and grants to support these initiatives. We promote the scaling up of lessons learned in order to strengthen the agricultural and rural development policies and investments of our partner governments and the international development community. We are fully committed to working with our partners in the United Nations system and other international financial institutions to deliver as one, and ensure coherent support for poverty reduction.

Building economic opportunities in rural areas

We focus on the poorest and most marginalized rural people: small farmers, landless people,

nomadic pastoralists, artisanal fishers and indigenous peoples. We work with them to develop new economic opportunities in rural areas. We recognize the centrality of agriculture in their livelihoods, helping them increase their food production, raise their incomes and productivity, and improve their quality of life, while sustainably managing their natural resources.

Advocating for poor rural people

We tackle poverty not only as a financier but also as an advocate for poor rural women and men. Our multilateral orientation provides a global platform for discussing rural policy issues and increasing awareness of the importance of agriculture and rural development to meeting the MDGs.

A successful global alliance

IFAD is a partnership between OECD, OPEC and other developing countries. It is a successful global alliance with a development agenda driven by its full membership.

Sharing knowledge about rural poverty eradication

We work with governments and other partners to test ideas and ways of working. We transform experience into knowledge and feed it into national systems, and we share it widely with our partners as a global public good. We promote the development of innovative pro-poor agricultural technologies and approaches by supporting research by international institutions, nongovernmental organizations and by farmers themselves. Globally, regionally and nationally, we work with others to develop new and innovative solutions to rural poverty that can be replicated and scaled up.

At the end of 2006, IFAD was financing 185 ongoing programmes and projects worth a total investment cost of US\$6.1 billion. Of this investment, IFAD has provided just under US\$3 billion and its partners about US\$3.1 billion.



Meeting the needs of poor rural people in a changing world

The Strategic Framework guides IFAD's operations. It defines how we contribute to achieving the MDGs during the period 2007 to 2010, particularly Goal 1 to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The Strategic Framework charts IFAD's new directions and new ways of working in response to the needs of poor rural people in a rapidly changing world, to the evolving international architecture for development and to the imperatives to increase both the size and effectiveness of investment in reducing rural poverty and hunger. Its purpose is to ensure that IFAD's operations deliver the greatest possible impact for poor rural people.

Our changing world

Three quarters of the world's 1.1 billion extremely poor people live in rural areas. Most depend on agriculture to survive. They are landless people, farmers whose plots are too small to provide for their needs, nomadic pastoralists, artisanal fishers and indigenous peoples. They lack access to the land, water, agricultural technologies, financial resources and markets they need to farm productively. Above all, they lack the organizational

power and influence required to advocate for their own needs and take advantage of emerging opportunities. Women are usually the most disadvantaged.

Worldwide changes in agricultural marketing systems and production technologies are opening opportunities for some poor people. But the poorest and most marginalized rural people rarely benefit. At the same time, they face new and growing challenges that make them all the more vulnerable to poverty, hunger and dislocation and their world more uncertain. These include conflict, climate change, environmental degradation and the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

Today, governments, civil society and international organizations are united in their commitment to achieving the MDGs. Countries worldwide are applying poverty reduction strategies to achieve them. The international community is responding by increasing aid and, through the Paris Declaration's commitment, improving the way it is delivered. Joint assistance strategies and sector-wide approaches are promoting government ownership of their development programmes and better

Between 2007 and 2009, IFAD will invest more than US\$2 billion in poverty eradication in the world's poorest rural communities. With cofinancing, this investment will inject about US\$4 billion into agriculture and rural development to reduce poverty sustainably.

coordination among donors. The United Nations reform process is encouraging agencies to work together as coherent teams in developing countries.

Filling the gap

Despite these improvements, the ability of national governments and the international community to meet the needs of poor rural people lags behind. Agriculture and rural development are yet to be fully addressed in many national poverty reduction strategies. In many developing countries, agriculture ministries have only limited capacity to carry out crucial policy reforms. And, while organizations of poor rural people are finding their voice, they are still far from being equal partners in shaping the policies that affect their livelihoods. IFAD recognizes this gap and through the implementation of its Strategic Framework will better meet the needs of poor rural people today and tomorrow.





Key features of IFAD's Strategic

Our goal

IFAD's goal is to empower poor rural women and men in developing countries to achieve higher incomes and improved food security.

Our objectives

IFAD will ensure that poor rural people have better access to, and the skills and organization they need to take advantage of:

1

Natural resources, especially secure access to land and water, and improved natural resource management and conservation practices

2

Improved agricultural technologies and effective production services

3

A broad range of financial services

4

Transparent and competitive markets for agricultural inputs and produce



Framework

5

Opportunities for rural off-farm employment and enterprise development

6

Local and national policy and programming processes

Our results

- ▶ Participants in IFAD-supported agriculture and rural development programmes and projects have increased productivity and incomes, and better food security
- ▶ Countries have stronger capabilities to reduce rural poverty through:
 - enabling policy frameworks, including poverty reduction strategies and sector policies that respond to the needs of poor rural people
 - efficient government institutions that focus on poverty reduction
 - strong organizations of poor rural people
 - increased private sector investment in rural economies
 - enhanced capability of governments, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector and organizations of poor rural people to develop and implement rural poverty reduction programmes

...Key features of IFAD's Strategic Framework

Our principles of engagement

1 Focused and selective

We focus on our strengths in agriculture and rural development, while working with partners to meet other needs of poor rural communities.

2 Targeted

We target the poorest and most marginalized and vulnerable rural people with the capacity to benefit from IFAD-supported programmes and projects. We give special consideration to gender differences, and focus on women in particular. We recognize the special needs of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, especially in Asia and Latin America.

3 Empowering

We empower poor rural women and men to take advantage of economic opportunities and achieve higher incomes and better food security for themselves by building their individual capacities and helping them develop and strengthen their own organizations and communities.

4 Innovative

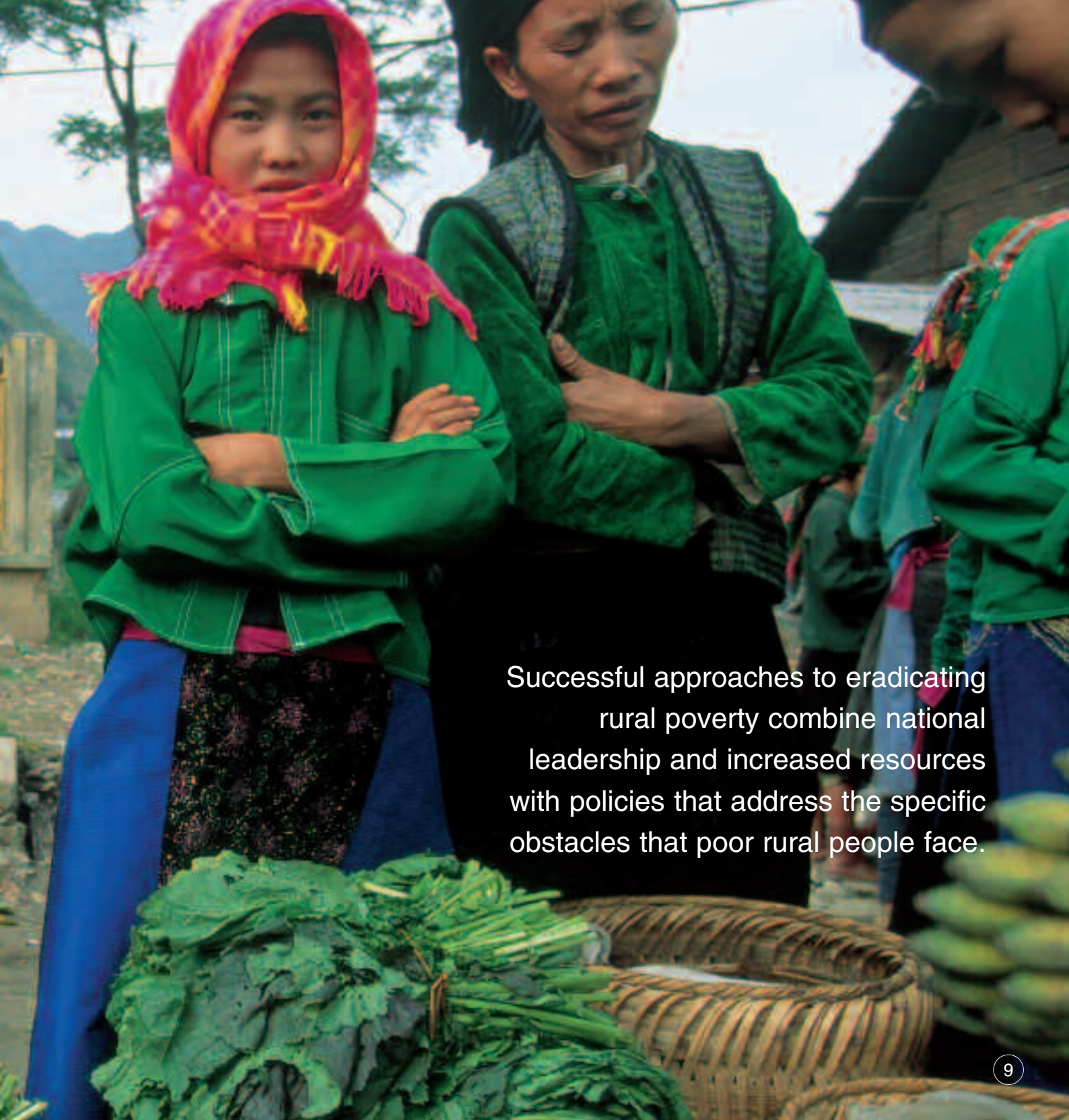
We encourage innovation, test new approaches and work with governments and other partners to learn from experience, and replicate and scale up successes.

5 In partnership

We work systematically to make development partnerships more effective, in concert with the Paris Declaration and UN reform. We work with developing country governments, poor rural people and their organizations, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector. We also work with partners in the international development community, combining the best available skills and knowledge to develop new and innovative solutions to rural poverty.

6 Sustainable

We design and manage programmes and projects for quality, impact and sustainability, following the lead of partner governments to ensure coherence with national policies and strategies. We ensure ownership and leadership by governments and poor rural people themselves.



Successful approaches to eradicating rural poverty combine national leadership and increased resources with policies that address the specific obstacles that poor rural people face.



Poverty can't be solved simply by developing new economic opportunities outside rural areas. It must also be addressed within rural areas themselves by focusing on agriculture – the basis of most poor rural people's livelihoods.

IFAD is meeting the challenge to increase development effectiveness

During the period 2007–2010, IFAD will meet the challenge of increasing its development effectiveness through a results-based approach. Managing for development results underpins our work at the country level, and aligns our financial and human resources with our corporate strategic priorities. IFAD is measuring and reporting on its performance and achievements. All managers and staff see how their work contributes to improving IFAD's development effectiveness, and they are accountable for the results they achieve.

We are strengthening our key management processes. We are containing our administrative costs, and exploring the options for sharing services with other Rome-based United Nations agencies. We are focusing on improving our efficiency and ensuring our operations are on the cutting edge of good practices. We are improving our ability to transform experience into knowledge and to share knowledge with our partners. In addition, we are strengthening our ability to help our member governments and partners create enabling policy environments for eradicating rural poverty.



Enabling the rural poor
to overcome poverty

International Fund for Agricultural Development
Via del Serafico, 107 – 00142 Rome, Italy
Tel.: +39 06 54591
Fax: +39 06 5043463
E-mail: ifad@ifad.org
www.ifad.org
www.ruralpovertyportal.org

February 2007