



Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty

THE PRESIDENT

15 July 2010

Dear Mr. José María Ceberio,

I would like to acknowledge receipt of your email message, dated 12 April 2010, and the accompanying request letter from 27 organizations, signed on 24 March 2010 (in New Delhi, India), in which IFAD is being requested to support the declaration by the United Nations of an International Year of Family Farming (IYFF).

I am glad to confirm IFAD's full and unwavering support for family farms, especially those in the developing countries of the world. As you know IFAD's mandate is to mobilize additional resources for agricultural development in its 165 developing Member States. In fulfilling that objective the Fund provides financing to introduce, expand or improve food production systems and to strengthen related policies and institutions within the framework of national priorities and strategies, taking into consideration: the need to increase food production in the poorest food deficit countries; the potential for increasing food production in other developing countries; and the importance of improving the nutritional level of the poorest populations in developing countries and the conditions of their lives.

We at IFAD, therefore, consider it our honour to be given the responsibility by the international community to support the approximately 500 million smallholder farms across the globe, which are in fact all family farms, so that they can help themselves and continue to support the livelihoods of about 2 billion people worldwide.

We will, therefore, gladly support your Campaign. Considering the complex and sometimes quite lengthy process and procedure for choosing the International Year topic, we stand ready to consider any specific requests on how IFAD can best help that process to its successful conclusion. Once that is done I will inform you of the specific steps IFAD will take to facilitate the process.

Meanwhile, allow me to wish you and all the 27 organisation co-signatories of the request letter every success in your campaign.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kanayo F. Nwanze', written over a grey arrow-shaped graphic pointing to the left.

Kanayo F. Nwanze

Mr. José María Ceberio  
Executive Secretary, World Rural Forum  
FAX +34 945 28 14 22  
[jzeberio@ruralforum.net](mailto:jzeberio@ruralforum.net); [wrfsecretary@ruralforum.net](mailto:wrfsecretary@ruralforum.net); [www.ruralforum.net](http://www.ruralforum.net)