



KEMENTERIAN KEUANGAN
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PRESS RELEASE

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LEADER GATHER FOR IFAD-BAPPENAS HOSTED HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON RURAL TRANSFORMATION IN INDONESIA AND THE PACIFIC

High-level representatives from Indonesia, six Pacific Island countries and Papua New Guinea will gather in Jakarta on 8 August, as the Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Ministry of Finance, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are celebrating the first anniversary of IFAD's Office in Jakarta. The office is serving as a Subregional Hub, covering the Southeast Asia and Pacific Region.

"We are very pleased that IFAD chose Indonesia as a location for this important office," says Minister of National Development Planning/Head of BAPPENAS, Bambang Brodjonegoro. "IFAD and Indonesia have a long history of close engagement and we consider IFAD as a key partner in achieving our development priorities, including the Sustainable Development Goals and enhancing Indonesia's role in international development," Minister Bambang Brodjonegoro explains.

Reflecting the subregional character of the IFAD office, in the morning ministers and high level officials from Indonesia and Pacific countries will come together for an IFAD-facilitated roundtable to identify common development priorities and challenges, exchange good practices, and explore possible collaborations.

The roundtable will be opened by Minister Bambang Brodjonegoro and feature interventions from:

- Inia Batikot Seruiratu (Minister of Agriculture, Fiji).
- Eko Putro Sandjojo (Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration, Indonesia),
- Hari Priyono (Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia),
- Vele Pat Ila'ava (Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Livestock, Papua New Guinea),
- Leuatea Polataivao Fosi Schmidt Laauli (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Samoa),
- Tevita Lavemaau (Minister of Finance and National Planning, Tonga),
- Seremaia Matai Nawalu (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity, Vanuatu),

The high-level roundtable will be preceded by a discussion among Project Directors of IFAD-supported project, which will provide the first hand experiences from the ground.

"Partnerships are at the heart of IFAD's operations. Events like this forum are an important opportunity to strengthen South South collaboration among IFAD partner countries. As Island states, the countries under the Jakarta office share a number of similar characteristics related to development opportunities and vulnerabilities. Supporting cross learning and exchange will be an important task of the office," says Perin Saint Ange, IFAD Associated Vice President Programmes.

The roundtable will be concluded with a reception hosted by IFAD and the Ministry of Finance. Minister Sri Mulyani will be delivering the opening remarks, followed by statement from Perin Saint Ange. They along

with other high level representatives will then symbolically cut a ribbon to mark past good works and the new collaborations ahead.

“We are looking forward to having a deepened partnership with IFAD. Our financial contribution to IFAD has been increasing over the last one decade and we intend to continue being an engaged member. In return, we do expect IFAD to respond to the specific development needs of Indonesia or other Middle Income Countries. This particularly includes diversifying IFAD’s financing instruments, reviewing terms and conditions, and mobilizing additional resources from sovereign entities,” Minister Sri Mulyani explains.

Indonesia is one of the largest IFAD portfolios in Asia and the Pacific Region. Since 1980, IFAD has financed 16 loan projects with a total value of US\$1,627 million (IFAD financing US\$510 million). The current ongoing programme includes four investment projects benefiting over 122 million people. With the establishment of its office in Jakarta, IFAD and the Government of Indonesia intend to take the partnership to the next level, particularly with a deepened engagement in partnerships and informing policy in support of inclusive rural transformation.

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