Chapter XV

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) continued in 2004 to promote the economic advancement of the rural poor by providing low-interest loans and grants.

The twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council (Rome, Italy, 18-19 February) focused on rural finance, rural enterprises, remittances, sector-wide approaches and access to markets. The Executive Board held three regular sessions (April, September, December) and approved loans for 25 programmes and projects, and 87 grants.

In 2004, IFAD membership remained at 163, of which 23 were in List A (developed countries), 12 in List B (oil-exporting developing countries) and 128 in List C (other developing countries). Of the latter, 49 were in Sub-List C1 (Africa), 48 in Sub-List C2 (Europe, Asia and the Pacific) and 31 in Sub-List C3 (Latin America and the Caribbean).

Resources

On 1 January 2004, IFAD entered the three-year period of its sixth replenishment. By year’s end, pledges equivalent to $505.7 million had been received, representing over 90 per cent of the sixth replenishment target of $560 million. The 2004 programme of work was approved for $462.5 million.

Activities

In 2004, loans approved and finalized through IFAD totalled $433.4 million, and grants worth $33.3 million were also approved. The total cost of the 25 new projects and programmes that were approved was estimated at over $928 million, of which $176.2 million would be provided by other external financiers, and $316.1 million by financiers in the recipient countries—primarily Governments.

Regular Programme lending was distributed as follows: Asia and the Pacific, $127.9 million for six projects (29.3 per cent); Eastern and Southern Africa, $92.5 million for five projects (21.2 per cent); the Near East and North Africa, $91.2 million for six projects (20.9 per cent); Latin America and the Caribbean, $75 million for four projects (17.2 per cent); and Western and Central Africa, $49.8 million for four projects (11.4 per cent).

During 2004, 27 programmes and projects were completed; 192 were ongoing at the end of the year.

Secretariat

As at 31 December 2004, the IFAD secretariat had 316 staff members, comprising 143 in the Professional and higher categories and 172 in the General Service category.

Income and expenditure

At the end of 2004, IFAD’s income from loans was $48 million and that from cash and investments was $115.2 million. Operating expenses for the year totalled $57 million.

NOTE: For further details on IFAD activities in 2004, see Annual Report 2004, published by the Fund.