IFAD Video News Release

**Rural Development Report 2019: Creating opportunities for rural youth**

Release Date: 18 June 2019

Languages: English, Vietnamese, Spanish

FOOTAGE SHOTLIST:

0:00 – 0:49 General views of rural youth: Vietnam, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Benin, Tajikistan, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Benin

0:49 – 0:54 Rural entrepreneurs using mobile banking in Nigeria

0:55 – 1:23 Street views of youths in rural areas

1:24 – 1:43 **Isamila Reza, Bankogi** Nigeria and his employees bag and weigh a certified rice seed he learned to produce through an IFAD-supported project.

1:43 – 1:59 **Gilbert F. Houngbo**, President, IFAD (English).

“If we do not take any special initiatives, we will have to continue facing those forced economic migrations and the risk of increased inequalities and the fragility that comes with all of that.”

2:00 – 2:54 **Paul Winters**, Associate Vice President, Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD (English) “A broad strong rural development policy, combined with a clear policy of including young people, addressing their constraints is the best way to go to address the issues of young people, the large cohort of young people coming up.”

“Productivity is referring to our ability to generate income, to have the basic skills necessary to improve our livelihoods. We all need that, we want that when we are entering the market as a young person, that we have opportunities. That’s not good enough though, we need to be connected. If we’re productive but don’t have any way to use that productivity then I’m not going to get ahead. But even that’s not quite enough, especially for young people. You have to have a sense of agency. You have to feel empowered. And it’s the three of those together that allow people to thrive and young people to take advantage of opportunities."

2:54 – 3:02 **Nong Thi Tao**, My Bang, Vietnam, Beneficiary of IFAD project (Vietnamese). "Being of the next generation means I have to take control.”

3:02 – 3:10 **Ismaila Reza**, Bankogi, Nigeria, Beneficiary of IFAD project. (English). “The challenge that we youths in this area face is the financial aspect”

3:10 – 3:19 **Diana Pineda**, El Salvador, Beneficiary of IFAD project (Spanish).

“Women in rural areas aren’t usually considered because of the machismo, honestly.”

3:20 – 3:34 **Tran Van Thung**, Vietnam, Beneficiary of IFAD project (Vietnamese).

“The challenge that young people face is how to raise income to support a family.”

INFORMATION:

Effective policies and investments are urgently needed if the world's poorest countries are to offer a future to hundreds of millions of marginalized young people living in rural areas, according to a new report released today by the United Nations' International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The 2019 Rural Development Report - Creating opportunities for rural youth shows that about 500 million young people, about half of the youth population of developing countries, live in rural areas. This number rises to 780 million when semi-rural and peri-urban areas are included. These young people are prone to poverty and inequality and are held back by a series of constraints, including lack of training and skills, limited access to land and credit, scarce availability of inputs and restricted links to social networks.

According to the report, the situation is of particular concern in sub-Saharan Africa, whose rural youth population is set to climb from 105 million in 2015 to 174 million by 2050 – a 70 per cent increase in countries that often lack the means to deal with the challenges ahead.

The report finds that among young people living in rural, semi-rural and peri-urban areas, 67 per cent live in areas with strong agricultural potential but many have limited access to markets.

With greater access to skills training, markets, financial services and technologies, the report points out that rural young people could become more productive, connected and in charge of their own future.

But policy-makers need to act quickly to avert a bigger crises, warns the report, pointing to the impacts of climate change on agriculture generally, the need to seize opportunities presented by a digital revolution spreading across the developing world, balanced with the growing aspirations and demands of young people themselves.

In particular, the report emphasizes that it is fundamental that youth policies are embedded in a broader rural transformation strategy and not be deployed in isolation.

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