

These paragraphs have been extracted from the Report of the sixth meeting of the *Ad hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty held in Rome from 13-15 October 2010, which reflect the positive response of IFAD to the invitation to partner with the Benefit-sharing Fund.

*“The Co-chairs [of the Ad hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy] invited Dr Shantanu Mathur, Grants Coordinator of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), to join the meeting via teleconference. Dr Mathur underlined that IFAD and the Benefit-sharing Fund exhibited the same objectives in prioritizing the conservation and use of biodiversity in addressing rural poverty reduction. The partnership was prompted by Dr Bhatti’s participation with Dr Nwanze, President of IFAD, in a high-level panel in the context of the International Year of Biodiversity and further discussed when Dr Mathur participated in the food security event hosted by the Spanish government in Cordoba. Since then the Secretary of the Treaty has been working closely with the President of IFAD and his colleagues to develop the announcement that followed.*

*Dr Mathur confirmed IFAD’s pledge on 1,5 million US\$ to fall under the Call for Proposals 2010 of the Benefit-sharing Fund. The expectation is that these funds would be made available to the Governing Body in the first week of March 2011 after a vetting and approval process by IFAD. Since objectives and criteria of both institutions are similar, no major impediments are expected.*

*In addition to its pledge, IFAD undertakes to support mobilization of co-funding by the European Commission, in particular objectives 3 and 4 of their thematic programme on food security.*

*Dr Mathur stated that IFAD plans to adopt and fund a subset of projects following the approval by the Bureau of the Governing Body. These projects should be technically robust, sustainable, provide added value and deliver clear outputs. He also emphasized the importance of the thematic focus of the Call for Proposals 2010 in the area of climate change adaptation. He closed by reaffirming IFAD’s interest in partnering with the Treaty and looked forward to continue working with the Secretary to develop the modalities for such partnership”..*