

# THE RURAL DIALOGUE GROUPS

The Cases of Colombia and Ecuador

Rome, October, 2013





# GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Membership - diversity of actors (social, geographic, political).
- ▶ Agenda driven by country specificities and context.
- ▶ Capacity to discuss emerging issues.
- ▶ Sounding boards for discussion of public policies before enactment.
- ▶ A place where IFAD can consult on investing priorities.





# GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Decisions by consensus.
- ▶ Evidence-based dialogue, supported by policy analysis or targeted research commissioned by RDG.
- ▶ Independent from government, but RDGs include high-ranking government officials.
- ▶ RDG Executive Secretaries are respected individuals that can interact (and convene) broadly across social and political sectors.





**COLOMBIA**



# CONTRIBUTION OF COLOMBIAN RDG

- ▶ Enhancing visibility of rural issues in the public policy agenda (paying back a historic debt).
- ▶ Emphasizing that rural development must be built from the territories, with their actors and from their visions, interests and dynamics.
- ▶ Making a case that better asset distribution contributes to more equitable and dynamic growth of rural areas.
- ▶ Highlighting the importance of increasing human, social and physical capital (public goods) in rural areas, overcoming a purely sectorial agricultural approach (agriculture).
- ▶ Emphasizing the need for significant institutional reforms, strengthening governmental and nongovernmental organizations, at national and territorial levels.



## SPECIFIC RESULTS

- ▶ Land and Rural Development Law project includes:
  - ▶ Territorial focus
  - ▶ Income generation through comprehensive programs in poor communities
  - ▶ Emphasis on public investment on public goods and social capital
  - ▶ Participatory approach, involving social organizations and civil society
- ▶ Supporting the rural and agrarian agenda in the ongoing Peace Negotiations
- ▶ Colombian Rural Development Institute (INCODER) – new vision and strategy, emphasizing income generation, organizational strengthening and capacity building for communities endowed with land
- ▶ Rural strategy of National Agency for Overcoming Extreme Poverty (ANSPE)



# THE RDG HAS ALSO HELPED TO

- ▶ An informed debate on agriculture, rural development and poverty reduction (seminars, symposia)
- ▶ Convening meetings between actors that usually do not talk to each other (association of large farmers, SAC, meeting with peasant organizations)
- ▶ Bringing these issues to the regions (RDGs and forums in the Caribbean region, Huila and Boyacá)





**ECUADOR**





# CONTRIBUTION OF ECUADOREAN RDG

- ▶ Discussion and recommendations about specific policies before presenting to the President's Office: Seeds Law, Competitive Agricultural Plans, Rural Development Bank, Land Law, Rural Education.
- ▶ Issue-specific discussion with Ministers of Economic Policy, Social Policy, and Trade, and with Chief Presidential Agricultural Advisor.
- ▶ Bringing together actors from agricultural sectors of different regions to discuss: (a) government initiatives, and (b) concerns of small farmers.
- ▶ Targeted studies, e.g., on coastal small farmer productivity, used by Agricultural Trade Undersecretary to define specific country positions on trade and trade negotiations.



# THE RDG HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO

- ▶ The recognition of the importance of providing public goods, e.g., Seed Plan for corn, rice and potatoes (USD 10 million)
- ▶ Analysis and debate on productivity of small farmer rice production, leading to the Plan for Competitive Development of Rice Production
- ▶ Bringing together public and private actors to discuss food sovereignty and food security, leading to a new milk support system based on dairy exports
- ▶ Bringing together Rural Development Bank and Savings and Loans coops, leading to joint proposal submitted to Office of the President





## **LINKS WITH IFAD COUNTRY PROGRAMS AND NEXT STEPS**



# REGARDING IFAD

- ▶ RDG does not have responsibility or authority in relation to IFAD projects or other grants. However, IFAD contributes to IFAD's operations through:
  - ▶ Creating linkages with non-traditional partners, including private sector but also government agencies.
  - ▶ Providing a fora for identification and/or discussion of issues and objectives during COSOP preparation
  - ▶ Sustaining key IFAD issues and priorities during changes in government staff
  - ▶ Generating information, analysis and contacts that can be used in the design of IFAD projects





# NEW EMPHASES FOR 2013 - 2016

- ▶ Increased participation of IFAD staff in RDGs and their activities and improved coordination with IFAD country programs (taking advantage of decentralization and country offices)
- ▶ Increased participation in RDGs of leaders of organizations of smallholders and other sectors of the rural poor
- ▶ Focusing on issues of greater strategic importance related to high-level priorities of governments and of the rural poor



THE RURAL DIALOGUE GROUP EXPERIENCE  
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