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Extract from Press Release

SPEAKERS IN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL CITE

INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING MILLENNIUM GOALS

LENNART BÅGE, President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), said that, globally, extreme poverty continued to be overwhelmingly rural. Of the world's 1.1 billion people living on less than one dollar a day, 74 per cent lived in rural areas. Of the 815 million people suffering from chronic hunger, 80 per cent lived in rural areas. In sub-Saharan Africa, agriculture contributed 30 per cent to the GDP, 40 per cent to exports, and 70 per cent to employment.

At the country level, there was a clear link in investment in agriculture and results. In that regard, infrastructure was an issue that needed to be addressed. In India, for instance, it cost \$30 to move one ton of fertilizer, while in sub-Saharan Africa it cost \$100. Attention to the area of rural development and agriculture had grown over that past two years, but more was needed. Nothing could be more important in increasing the development progress than focusing on rural development and agriculture. That was why review was important. The draft outcome document for the September Summit did not adequately address the role of rural development and agriculture. In conclusion, he suggested a more comprehensive review of progress in implementation of the Ministerial Declaration in 2008.