



Investing in rural people

Date: 11 May 2023

### **MESSAGE**

As IFAD's Representative in India, I am delighted to welcome you to the 4th edition of the Global Organic Expo. Sustainability, in all its forms, is critical for agriculture, and for farmers. We know that organic farming can be particularly useful in environments where resources are scarce and cultivation is problematic. IFAD is committed to supporting smallholder farmers and promoting sustainable agriculture as a means of enhancing their livelihoods and resilience to shocks and adverse trends in India, and globally.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has worked to promote sustainable agriculture in India for over 40 years. IFAD has always focused on small-scale producers, helping them aggregate their production and to reach markets. We are also adopting climate-smart approaches that can enhance sustainable agriculture. We provide technical assistance and financial support to small-scale producers, increasing their knowledge and skills in sustainable farming practices. This includes, for example, promoting bio inputs, crop rotation and soil fertility management. IFAD also works with local governments, NGOs and other stakeholders to advocate for policies that support agro-ecological farming practices, promote biodiversity and provide better access to markets for such produce. As a result, farmers have been able to improve their livelihoods, reduce environmental impact and produce high-quality, nutritious food.

By investing in agro ecology, IFAD is promoting healthier soils, better yields and fairer prices for farmers, while also contributing to global efforts to combat climate change. Organic agriculture is a crucial tool in our effort to build more inclusive and sustainable food system that benefits everyone, especially those who are most vulnerable.

I hope this expo will be a platform to exchange knowledge, ideas and best practices towards achieving our common goals.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ulaş Demirag', positioned above the printed name.

Ulaş Demirag  
Country Director  
Asia and the Pacific Division