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Dear Mr Tika Dhoj Bhandary,

Thank you very much for your message informing the FAO Director-General about the launch of the Global Youth Forum for Food, Agriculture & Land (GYFAL). FAO welcomes this initiative, particularly in light of the strong support FAO has shown towards rural youth and young agricultural producers over the last four decades. This support has been in the form of strengthening and expanding young people's capacities, knowledge and skills (through education and training), as well as rural employment creation. Engaging youth in major policy debates at global level is also an important action. In FAO's current Strategic Framework 2010-2019, there is recognition under Strategic Objective Three "Reduce Rural Poverty" that youth should be treated as a priority group when it comes to accessing decent employment opportunities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight a recent publication entitled "Youth and agriculture: Key challenges and concrete solutions", which has been jointly prepared by FAO, the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The publication provides real life examples and successful initiatives on how youth can engage in agriculture, earn a sustainable living in rural areas and find innovative ways to increase their participation in the sector. We would encourage you to share this publication in the GYFAL and within your respective networks.

We would look forward to strengthened youth involvement in agriculture, including in relevant policy dialogue processes, to support achievement of global food security and sustainable agricultural development.

Yours sincerely,


For Rodrigo Castañeda Sepúlveda
Chief, Partnerships Unit

Office for Partnerships, Advocacy, and Capacity Development

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