



## ADAPTATION FUND

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Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat

***Approval of Request for No-Cost Extension of Project Completion date: International Fund for Agricultural Development (Moldova)***

***Request type:*** Minor

***Summary of request***

On 11 February 2025, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) submitted the first request for a no-cost extension request of the project's completion date for the project, 'Talent Retention for Rural Transformation – Adapt (TRTP-Adapt)' implemented in Moldova.

According to the memo submitted by IFAD, the extension is necessary due to several reasons, including: i) delayed recruitment of key personnel, particularly the Project Coordinator, which affected the timely execution of project activities; ii) the procurement and contracting of service providers took longer than anticipated, with key contracts only being finalized in 2023; iii) termination of a major service provider in mid-2024 due to underperformance further exacerbated delays, requiring a re-tendering process to ensure the successful execution of conservation agriculture-related activities; and iv) technical and contextual challenges related to: a) the re-registration of peasant farms in 2023 which significantly reduced the number of eligible project beneficiaries, making it difficult to meet original training and grant distribution targets; b) limited availability of suitable water sources for irrigation (only 25 - 27% of the country's lakes meeting acceptable water quality standards); and c) the project's design did not account for the limited availability of irrigation infrastructure specialists, leading to increased costs and longer timelines for the development of off-farm irrigation systems.

***Secretariat's review of the request***

The Secretariat has reviewed the request and the reasons provided by IFAD and considers the request for an 18-month project no-cost extension to be justified. It also acknowledges that the Designated Authority has been duly notified, in line with the Policy for Project/Programme Delays (Amended, 2025).

***Conclusion***

*Following the review of the request for an 18-month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 21 March 2026 to 21 March 2027 submitted by IFAD for the project "Talent Retention for Rural Transformation - Adapt (TRTP-Adapt)" implemented in Moldova, this has been cleared by the Secretariat as per Decision B.44/44 and the Policy for Project/Programme delays.*

***Clearance: AFBSEC-2025-03***