



MINISTÉRIO DO DESENVOLVIMENTO AGRÁRIO

Secretaria-Executiva

Esplanada dos Ministérios Bloco "A" Ala Norte - CEP: 70054-900

Telefone - 314-8002 ou 8003 - E-mail - gab@mda.gov.br

Ofício nº 627/SE - MDA

Brasília, 30 de agosto de 2004.

Mr. Jim Carruthers
Assistant President,
The International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD

Dear Sir:

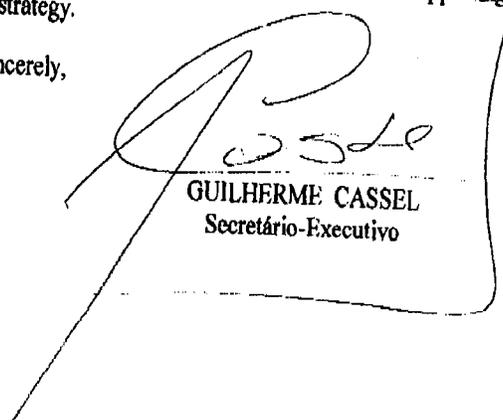
On behalf of the Government of the Federative Republic of Brasil. I would like to express the commitments of the Ministry of Agrarian Development (MDA) regarding the implementation of the proposed Sustainable Land Management in the Semi-Arid *Sertão* Project (from now on GEF *Sertão*)

The Government, through MDA, has established a strong policy agenda which reflects national priorities that address the development-related dimension of land degradation, through supporting a number of programmes which are valuable efforts primarily aimed at promoting sustainable development, poverty alleviation and land tenure security. Two of these programmes include the Sustainable Development Project for Agrarian Reform Settlements in the Semi-arid Northeast PDHC, with support from IFAD (IFAD Loan N° 494-BR), the National Smallholder Agriculture Program PRONAF. MDA is committed to implement the activities foreseen under the proposed GEF *Sertão* Project in full complementarity with these initiatives, in particular with the associated PDHC Project, which will co-finance part of the GEF *Sertão* Project.

The co-finance of the GEF *Sertão* Project with resources from the PDHC includes cash contributions from both the IFAD loan and the Government Counterpart funds already committed for this loan. This contribution consists mainly of resources to be use in training, productive on-the-ground investments, project management and monitoring and evaluation activities.

We also expect to bring to the GEF proposal MDA's large experience in supporting sustainable development in the context of smallholding agriculture, in particular with the rural agrarian settlers and communities target by the PDHC, thus supporting to the proposed GEF *Sertão* Project's overall strategy.

Sincerely,



GUILHERME CASSELE
Secretário-Executivo