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International Fund for Agricultural Development

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Why in News

Recently, **IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)** has committed to **focus 30% of its climate finance to support nature-based solutions** in rural small-scale agriculture by 2030.

- Ahead of the **IUCN** (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) **World Conservation Congress (WCC)**, it calls for more investment to protect **biodiversity**.
- The IUCN convenes WCC **every four years**. The Congress brings together its various members, who vote on recommendations and **set the agenda for the global conservation efforts**.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - IFAD is **an international financial institution** and **specialized United Nations agency** working in the field of poverty eradication in the rural areas of developing countries providing grants and loans with low interest for allied projects.
 - It **works with marginalized and vulnerable groups** such as farmers with small holdings, foresters, **Pastoralists**, **Fishermen** and small scale entrepreneurs by giving them disaster preparedness, access to weather information, technology transfer and social learning.
- **Formation:**

It was created in 1977, which is the outcome of the World Food Conference of 1974.
- **Headquarters:**

Rome, Italy
- **Members:**

It has 177 member countries.
India is also a member country.

- **Objectives:**
 - To increase the productive capacity of poor people.
 - To increase benefits for them from market participation.
 - To strengthen the environmental sustainability & climate resilience of their economic activities.
- **Reports:**
 - It brings out the **Rural Development Report** every year.

Source: DTE