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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Report of the Chairperson on the 2013 annual country visit of the Evaluation Committee

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For: Review

Report of the Chairperson on the 2013 annual country visit of the Evaluation Committee

1. **Summary.** The Evaluation Committee undertook its 2013 annual country visit to Viet Nam from 20-24 May following the completion of a country programme evaluation by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE). The visit gave Committee members a unique opportunity to see IFAD-supported project activities on the ground, hold discussions directly with beneficiaries, project staff, government officials (at both central and local levels), and development partners, as well as strengthen dialogue and communication among Committee members, IFAD Management and IOE.
2. In a nutshell, members found the visit extremely useful in improving their knowledge and understanding of the opportunities and challenges IFAD operations face on the ground and the important role the Fund plays in recipient countries to support governments in their efforts to reduce rural poverty. Members believe that such country visits are therefore crucial to enable them to better discharge their function of providing strategic guidance to the Executive Board, IFAD Management and IOE.
3. Moving forward, the Committee recommends that the programme for future country visits include stronger evaluative content, a greater focus on lessons and a better balance in the sites and communities visited, to include not only projects that are performing well but also those encountering difficulties. The country visit programme should therefore be more closely linked to IOE evaluation activities. Moreover, it is also recommended that future country visits of the Executive Board include a minimum number of members drawn from the Evaluation Committee. The specific proposal of the Committee on this matter is presented in paragraph 48.
4. **Background.** In line with the decision taken by the Evaluation Committee at its sixty-sixth session held in March 2011, the Evaluation Committee's 2013 annual country visit was to Viet Nam. The visit was held from 20-24 May 2013 with the participation of seven Committee members, namely the representatives of Brazil, Egypt, Finland, Germany, India, Indonesia (Chair) and Nigeria.¹ The Board members for Canada and China also took part.
5. IFAD was represented by the Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department (PMD); the Director, Asia and the Pacific Division (APR); the Acting Director, IOE; the Viet Nam country programme manager; and staff from the IFAD country office in Hanoi and the Office of the Secretary. The full list of the visiting delegation is provided in appendix I.
6. The Committee believes the decision to conduct this year's visit to Viet Nam was timely for a variety of reasons, including the fact that IOE had recently completed a country programme evaluation for Viet Nam (in December 2011), which was followed by the adoption of a new country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP) for 2012-2017. This gave the Committee the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the important role that independent evaluations at IFAD play in learning and shaping future country strategies and programmes.
7. **Country context.** Viet Nam has witnessed rapid economic growth and poverty reduction in recent years. According to government figures, the incidence of poverty fell to under 10 per cent in 2010. Poverty rates nevertheless remain high among ethnic minorities (45 per cent in 2010), and poverty is overwhelmingly concentrated among rural populations (91 per cent of the poor live in rural areas).
8. IFAD's partnership with Viet Nam began in 1993, and the programme has the longest-serving outposted country programme manager (CPM) in Asia. In Viet Nam,

¹ Committee members from Japan and Norway were unable to join the 2013 annual country visit.

IFAD loans are managed by the national government (primarily the Ministry of Planning and Investment). Funds are then allocated to provincial and local authorities as grants. IFAD carries out a critical supervision and implementation support function in the implementation of projects.

9. Several other key donors are active in Viet Nam, including the World Bank (with a three-year strategy amounting to US\$4 billion focused on modernizing the economy and avoiding the “middle-income-country trap”); bilateral donors, many of whom are reducing their presence and/or focusing more on private sector development; and United Nations agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and others.
10. Viet Nam reached lower middle-income country status in 2010, and is experiencing the associated challenges, including decreases in official development assistance and increasingly harder loan terms; the visit therefore offered members an insight into how such challenges – shared by an increasing number of countries – are impacting development efforts and partnerships on the ground.
11. **Objectives of the country visit.** The main objectives of this annual country visit by the Evaluation Committee were to: (i) visit projects financed by IFAD to increase the Committee’s awareness of activities on the ground and allow members to meet different stakeholders; (ii) promote dialogue with government officials and other partners regarding, among other issues, IFAD’s role in Viet Nam; and (iii) gain deeper insight into key issues raised by the recent Viet Nam country programme evaluation by IOE, such as the opportunities and challenges in strengthening partnerships, adopting a market-oriented approach and addressing the credit environment for smallholders.
12. More generally, the aim of the visit was also to enhance the Committee’s knowledge and experience of IFAD’s work at the country level, to enable members to provide informed guidance on strategic, operational and evaluation matters to the Executive Board, IFAD Management and IOE. The specific terms of reference for the Viet Nam country visit are provided in appendix II.
13. **Overview of the country visit programme.** The programme for the 2013 country visit was divided into two parts. Part one included field visits to two IFAD-funded operations in the south of the country, namely the Developing Business with the Rural Poor Programme and the Programme for Improving Market Participation of the Poor in Ha Tinh and Tra Vinh Provinces. During the field visits, the Committee had an opportunity to hold discussions with beneficiaries (e.g. Khmer ethnic minorities, individuals involved in fisheries processing and flower production and exports, common interest groups, cooperatives engaged in basket production, the women’s union and others); provincial peoples’ committees (PPCs),² project staff, representatives of the private sector and Can Tho University, and others.
14. Part two of the country visit entailed discussions with high-level government authorities at the national level in Hanoi, development partners and the Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development. Meetings were held with the ministers/vice-ministers and staff in the Ministries of Finance, Agriculture, and Planning and Investment, which are IFAD’s three main government partners at the national level. The detailed programme of the country visit, including meetings held, is provided in appendix III.
15. **Field visits.** As mentioned above, Committee members visited programmes in two southern provinces in the Mekong Delta, namely Ben Tre and Tra Vinh for three days. The programmes address a range of issues, and are primarily concerned with linking farmers to markets and improving employment opportunities

² The PPCs oversee provincial-level departments and, under Viet Nam’s decentralized system, have a high degree of autonomy over budget allocation.

for the rural poor. Rural areas in this part of the country experience a high incidence of poverty and increasing vulnerability due to natural resource management issues and climate change (e.g. increasing salinization, flooding patterns). In Can Tho, the Committee interacted intensively with a think-tank to gain first-hand knowledge of the impact of climate change and other environmental challenges on rural livelihoods in the Mekong Delta region.

16. PPC representatives in Ben Tre province gave an overview of local challenges, including extreme weather, agricultural disease, and the need for research and analysis to inform planning, and for sanitation of water for drinking and irrigation. The IFAD-funded programme in the province (Developing Business with the Rural Poor Programme) is focused on rural farmers (skills development, productivity and linkages to markets), and on the landless poor (vocational training), with particular attention to labour-intensive value chains and public-private partnerships.
17. PPC members noted a high degree of appreciation for IFAD's partnership, and highlighted that as projects are actually implemented by the Government itself rather than IFAD, capacity is built locally, facilitating the scaling up of successes. Women's savings and credit groups and public-private partnership models were noted as particularly effective.
18. The Committee met with two private-sector project partners in the province, namely Betrimex, a coconut-processing company; and an ornamental plant business focused on export. The partnership had three general dimensions: farmers were linked to companies and trained to provide higher-quality output to meet company standards (increasing income and competitiveness); companies were receiving stable, good-quality supply (lowering risks of breaks in supply); and the processing elements of each company's work were providing employment opportunities for the rural poor. These examples demonstrated the benefit of conducting capacity-building work through private-sector partners who are the best acquainted with product standards and the needed skill sets.
19. Committee members also visited a basket-weaving facility where poor women, often those considered "too old" to work for larger companies, were engaged in paid labour, making baskets for export. This intervention also demonstrated how IFAD contributes to key outputs in communities, such as motorable roads that facilitate development and market access.
20. The next destination was Tra Vinh Province where discussions were held with the representatives of the Tra Vinh PPC. The IFAD-funded programme in the province focuses on increasing employment for the poor and near poor. Women's credit union groups are a key partner in the project, providing both access to finance and a platform for capacity-building and information-sharing regarding policies/programmes that could benefit members.
21. Members visited a seafood processing company which offers vocational training to target populations supported by the programme. The public-private partnership model, to which both the programme and the company contribute financially, allows greater access to employment among target populations and the training support provided encourages the company to hire among poorer, less educated communities. Committee members met with workers who had directly benefited from vocational training; however members wondered about the targeting practices used (i.e. through noticeboards and television) and to what degree the poorest populations were reached through these practices.
22. Thereafter, the Committee visited farmers in a primarily ethnic community that had recently organized into common interest groups (CIGs). Farmers spoke about the benefits of group membership (decreased costs of inputs due to bulk purchasing, better returns due to technical training, higher-quality product and increased outputs) and challenges (need for credit, increasing salinization of soils resulting in

- the need to diversify produce). Programme assistance included farmer field training, market awareness and access, and negotiation training. An interesting spin-off benefit of the groups was the sharing of new practices with non-members, whose yield also went up in the years following the establishment of CIGs (begging the question of the benefits of membership). Women's savings and credit unions were active in the village (eight groups, 125 members).
23. The Committee then travelled to Can Tho Province and met with Professor Le Quang Tri, Director of the Research Institute for Climate Change at Can Tho University, to discuss the potential impacts of climate change on agriculture in the Mekong Delta. Major threats to the region include abnormal rain and weather patterns, increased levels of salinization, increased pests, and water shortage and quality. Professor Tri noted that research was key to understanding potential impacts of changes in weather patterns and increased flooding and to developing new techniques to help farmers mitigate risks, for example, diversifying products to those more tolerant to higher levels of salinity. Members also discussed the degree to which challenges are related to climate change and/or issues of resource management (e.g. impacts of damming).
 24. **Presentations by IOE and IFAD Management.** In Can Tho, the Acting Director, IOE made a presentation on the recently concluded Viet Nam country programme evaluation. The evaluation assessed the country programme as satisfactory, highlighting the aspects of participatory planning, decentralized development, small-scale infrastructure, gender, savings and credit groups, and IFAD's promising value chain approach among other strengths. Recommendations included: a strengthened market-based approach; more streamlined geographic coverage to enhance effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability; addressing gaps in rural finance; increased government counterpart funding; a focus on natural resource management and climate change; more strategic use of grants; more strategic engagement in partnerships; and the need to strengthen policy dialogue and knowledge management. The Committee noted that the relevance of the Viet Nam country programme evaluation was clear, and that this was crucial for the development of the new Viet Nam COSOP and that all project-related recommendations were justified and in the process of implementation.
 25. Thereafter, the CPM for Viet Nam provided an overview of the IFAD country programme and the main elements of the new COSOP. Among other issues, he highlighted the added efforts being made in value chain development including promoting private-sector partnerships and linkages to markets for better incomes, food security and nutrition. He also noted the emerging climate change challenges that are constraining productivity and livelihoods in general. He noted that IFAD must work closely with the Government also to address issues related to improving rural financial and business development services.
 26. **Discussions with partners in Hanoi** revealed that IFAD was clearly a valued partner, particularly because of its focus on the rural poor and ethnic minorities and its work with public-private partnerships. As IFAD does not implement projects itself, government partners appreciated that local officials gain expertise from working on projects, which facilitates capacity-building. Government officials (in particular the Ministry of Planning and Investments) expressed a greater sense of ownership with IFAD projects.
 27. The main issues emerging from interactions with the Government and other partners include the following:
 - Reduction in concessional loans due to Viet Nam's status as a lower middle-income country: while the Government was committed to contributing more substantially to IFAD-supported projects, they underlined the need to manage carefully any transition to higher interest rates so as to avoid shocks.

- Increasing work through public-private partnerships was seen as critical in a number of respects, including: accessing and leveraging resources in a time of global economic turbulence and decreasing official development assistance; developing and improving value chains; increasing investment in rural areas; and supporting vocational training to help provide opportunities in rural areas and temper rural-urban migration.
 - A need for rural finance models that help to stimulate investment in rural areas and farms.
 - Evaluation recommendations were noted as helpful (Vice-Minister of Planning and Investment).
 - There is clear appetite for knowledge-sharing and exchange. The Vice-Minister of Finance suggested meetings between officials involved in IFAD projects of a similar nature (pointing towards a convenor role for IFAD), and the Minister of Agriculture suggested exchanges among farmers (inbound and outbound) to enhance techniques and share knowledge.
 - Officials recognized that scaling up successes is key, but noted that resources remain a critical constraint.
28. Meeting with representatives of the World Bank, and with the UNDP and FAO (in relation to the “One United Nations” initiative) were also held during the country visit.
29. “One United Nations” efforts in Viet Nam are focusing on leveraging genuine synergies (rather than forcing collaboration where there may be little value-added). Major challenges to United Nations coordination are marrying project management units and managing different reporting lines. The Director, Asia and the Pacific Division noted that United Nations coordination efforts tend to operate based on thematic area (e.g. health, education), yet agriculture is not defined as its own “theme”, leaving a critical gap. Given IFAD’s different funding modalities (loans), United Nations organizations are a less easy fit for partnerships, aside from obvious synergies with FAO; however, there are opportunities to contribute through its work on subthemes (e.g., work with ethnic minorities). IFAD chooses its engagement with United Nations partners strategically.
30. The World Bank is a very large development partner in the country. While Viet Nam is currently eligible for blend loans, terms are hardening. Opportunities for World Bank-IFAD collaboration are opening as the World Bank looks to working increasingly with ethnic minorities and rural populations; prospects also exist in relation to the restructuring of the role of the state in the private sector (state owned enterprises, etc.).
31. **Important topics that have wider policy implications for IFAD operations. The country visit has raised a number of interesting issues that have implications both for the Viet Nam country programme and for IFAD operations more broadly. Some of the main issues that deserve further reflection and discussion by the Board are summarized in paragraphs 32-39.**
32. The country visit further reinforced the Committee’s notion that IFAD needs to sharpen its role in middle-income countries (MICs) in general, in addition to its work in other country contexts. In this regard, it is noteworthy that some MICs still have a large number of rural poor people. Viet Nam serves as a good example of cooperation with MICs as there is a high degree of overlap between the development goals and approaches of IFAD and the Government. At the same time, the Government of Viet Nam needs to increase the provision of counterpart funding and scale up with its own resources in support of successful innovations promoted in the context of IFAD-funded projects. In view of the above, key questions remain

- as to how IFAD could still gainfully be engaged while the country moves to middle-income status but continues to have a sizeable number of people living in poverty. There is no doubt that the new strategy must encourage greater government partnership (and financing), and address the need to manage the transition to harder loan terms in the future. However, the case for continued engagement appears very strong, particularly given the high impact of and demand for IFAD's work (public-private partnerships, value chain approaches), and, in this case, the Vietnamese Government's high level of engagement, learning and enthusiasm.
33. In this regard, the Committee has requested IOE to prepare early next year a synthesis report based on the numerous evaluations done in MICs in order to highlight in a coherent manner the opportunities and challenges faced by IFAD in such country contexts. The Committee recommends that this report be discussed during the Consultation on the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, as the topic is of wider interest to IFAD Member States, and could eventually form the basis for a revised strategy for IFAD's engagement in MICs.
 34. With regard to targeting, the Committee was not able to exhaustively review IFAD's work in Viet Nam, especially because the focus was on the poorer populations of south Viet Nam, which are vulnerable to climate change. However, the Committee was of the view that it would be interesting to see the impact of IFAD-funded operations in the poorer northern and central region of the country. This raises interesting questions regarding who best to target and with which interventions (e.g. which intervention for which element of the population). However, the Committee was impressed with the degree of labour market participation among women, as well as their representation at high levels in key government bodies (e.g. PPCs and national ministries).
 35. Opportunities exist to strengthen partnerships with other multilateral and bilateral organizations. Donors are reducing their presence in MICs, which is resulting in fewer resources but a less crowded space that could be beneficial to maximizing synergies. Therefore, the Committee believes IFAD could pursue more aggressive donor contact, especially with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, which could eventually lead to higher cofinancing for strategic activities.
 36. Several value chain approaches in the three visited provinces are still experimental. As mentioned above, the Committee did not see absolute poor people and felt that IFAD's focus should be definitely on the active poor, which seemed to be the case. As a follow-up, it might be useful for Committee members to receive an update on the results achieved in 12 months from now. Considering the Government's interest in knowledge management, a national workshop on value chain approaches in Viet Nam could be organized at an appropriate time (e.g. 12 months from now) which could also review best practices from other countries.
 37. The value of a strong IFAD country office and outposted country programme manager was clear. The country office has enabled closer dialogue with key partners and more intensive supervision and follow-up during project implementation. The IFAD country team has very good knowledge of the ground realities, opportunities and challenges for IFAD to make a difference to the country's efforts in rural poverty reduction.
 38. With regard to policy dialogue (which is good at the provincial level but less so at the national level), the country office in Viet Nam needs strong backing from top Management (not only from the Director, APR but also from the Associate Vice-President, PMD, and even the President) considering the small size of the office and the magnitude of the challenges. Finally, it is important that staff have adequate infrastructure to ensure that they can play an effective and efficient role in achieving the objectives of the country programme. As part of the knowledge-sharing exercise, it would be important for the country office to have its own

website where it can highlight its achievements and allow other country offices to benefit more easily from IFAD's experience in Viet Nam.

39. The Committee members were of the view that agriculture in southern Viet Nam was well developed and that other countries in the region would benefit from adopting these best practices. The Committee recommends that IFAD formulate a programme through which farmers, particularly smallholders, could learn from their counterparts in other countries to their mutual benefit.
40. **Organizational aspects of the country visit.** On the whole, the Committee is highly appreciative of the excellent arrangements made by IFAD and the Government of Viet Nam. Special acknowledgment is due to the IFAD country team in Hanoi for their efforts in putting together the programme and taking care of all logistics. The Committee is also grateful to the Government of Viet Nam for agreeing to the country visit and for their valuable time, attention and generous hospitality.
41. The Committee wishes to underscore the following organizational aspects of the country visit:
 - The programme offered limited opportunity for Committee members to reflect among themselves on substantive issues emerging during the field visits or during meetings held.
 - The Committee appreciated the presentations by IOE and APR (see paragraphs 24-25). However, it may be worth reflecting on whether such presentations should be made at the beginning of the country visit, to enable members to obtain a broader picture of the IFAD-Government programme, its related results and lessons learned.
 - Taking into account the remit of the Committee, it would be useful if the programme had included a stronger evaluative content, with greater focus on lessons and a better balance in the sites and communities visited, to include not only projects that are performing well but also those encountering difficulties.
 - Preparation and briefings for the country visit should start as soon as possible, taking into account the busy schedule of Committee members. The second briefing provided at IFAD headquarters was on 8 May, leaving less than two weeks before departure in an extremely busy period: this was insufficient for the group to organize itself or to review documentation. In general, it would have been useful if IFAD had assisted the Committee in its preparation through more thorough briefings (on both substantive and organizational aspects) in Rome, before the commencement of the country visit.
 - Standard terms of reference stating the purpose, programme of activities and expected outcomes of the trip and providing a concise summary of the country situation and IFAD activities in the countries; executive summaries of evaluations of IFAD's work in the countries, etc. should be circulated to the Evaluation Committee members one month before departure, if possible.
 - The permanent representative of the country to be visited should be invited to and involved in briefings organized by IFAD in Rome.
 - To provide members with a better understanding of the visited countries, especially IFAD activities in the countries, the briefing in Rome should include, if possible, the IFAD country team via videoconference and should kick off with an introduction by the country team of their staff and the draft programme of the field visit. Plenty of time should be allowed for reactions/questions by the team. Brief presentations on major technical

activities (with technical officers at headquarters, if needed) could follow, focusing on issues related to the programme for the visit.

- The programme should ensure a balanced distribution of field visits and meetings with representatives of the government, civil society, the private sector, United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and donors. Most importantly, sufficient time should be allocated to meetings with IFAD staff and debriefing at the end of the trip in the country.
42. **Conclusions.** Taking into account that this was the first time most members had the opportunity to participate in an Evaluation Committee country visit, there is unanimous agreement among participants of the tremendous value for money and overall usefulness of such visits. It offered the delegation an opportunity to see what IFAD is actually doing on the ground, and observe at first hand the opportunities and challenges facing the organization in carrying out its mandate.
 43. Moreover, the visit served to strengthen dialogue among members, including on issues of importance to the Fund beyond the Viet Nam country programme, and create a stronger team spirit within the Committee. Another noteworthy feature of the visit was the participation of representatives from IFAD Management and IOE, which gave members a unique possibility to analyse and discuss different perspectives and opinions on the country programme. All in all, there is a firm belief that such visits are essential for members to be better informed and able to properly perform their functions, in line with the terms of reference of the Committee as approved by the Board.
 44. Furthermore, members who took part in the country visit noted that they had obtained an enhanced technical understanding of smallholder agriculture and rural development issues, and that the visit had also served as a useful relationship-building exercise among Committee members. The insight that such visits afforded into IFAD's work in the field, the contribution of independent evaluation activities, and the key issues facing the Evaluation Committee was considered significant.
 45. **Recommendations for the organization of future country visits.** In line with the above points, three specific recommendations for future country visits are proposed as follows:
 46. First, the Committee is of the opinion that country visits would be even more useful if the programme were more oriented towards highlighting the reality of the country being visited, in particular by showcasing not only success stories, but also the challenges and constraints faced by IFAD operations. This would provide Committee members with a more comprehensive perspective on the country situation.
 47. Second, and in relation to the previous recommendation, the Committee recommends that future country visits be more closely linked to independent evaluation activities. This would allow members to review the adequacy and quality of IFAD's operations and also its independent evaluation methods and function more thoroughly. In this way, members would also be better positioned to fulfil their critical oversight and strategy role and, advise the Board, IFAD Management and IOE accordingly. This recommendation and the one in the previous paragraph should be implemented in the framework of future visits by the Executive Board (see next paragraph).
 48. Third, as per the Executive Board's decision, nine Member States on the Executive Board will take part in country visits from 2014, financed through IFAD's administrative budget. Moreover, up to three further Members States may join the visit on a self-paying basis. Given that dedicated visits of the Evaluation Committee will be discontinued from 2014, the Committee recommends that future country visits of the Executive Board include the participation of a selected number of Evaluation Committee members on a standing basis. In this regard, although there

was no consensus on the number of participants from the Evaluation Committee, one option would be to enable four Evaluation Committee members to participate in the country visits of the Executive Board (one each from Lists A, B and C), funded by IFAD, and one more member to participate on a self-paying basis.

49. **Concluding remarks.** The Committee would like to once again express its sincere gratitude to all those at IFAD headquarters and in Viet Nam who worked so hard to ensure a successful outcome:

Thank you!

cảm ơn bạn

obrigado

danke

terima kasih

kiitos

dhanyavad

syukron

xie xie ni

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Terms of Reference for 2013 Evaluation Committee Annual Country Visit to Viet Nam

Background

1. In line with its terms of reference and rules of procedure, the IFAD Evaluation Committee (EC) decided at its 66th session in March 2011 that it would undertake its 2013 Annual country visit to Viet Nam. Prior visits of the Committee since 2000 took place in Syria, Indonesia, Mexico, Mali, the Philippines, India, Mozambique, Brazil and Ghana. The members of the EC are Brazil, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, India, Luxembourg (Japan will take over at the 108th session of the Executive Board, in April 2013), Norway and Nigeria.

Overall Objective

2. To gain knowledge and experience of IFAD's work in the field. In doing so, the EC will be able to provide general guidance related to evaluation matters to the Executive Board, IFAD Management and the Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE) on a more informed basis and be more competent in its duties.

Objectives

3. The main objectives of this Annual Country visit by the Evaluation Committee are: (i) to visit projects co-funded by IFAD and the Government of Viet Nam to increase the Committee's awareness of activities on the ground and allow committee members to meet stakeholders; (ii) to promote dialogue with Government officials regarding , among other themes, IFAD's role in Viet Nam; and (iii) to gain insight on the themes addressed by the recent Viet Nam Country Programme Evaluation, namely: opportunities and challenges in strengthening partnerships, the market-oriented approach and addressing credit environment for smallholders.
4. During the field trip, the EC will visit selected communes of the Viet Nam's southern provinces (Ben Tre and Tra Vinh); the EC will have the opportunity to meet programme clients, understand their constraints and appreciate and also seek their views on the support received.
5. Further at the central level, the EC will meet with the the Deputy Minister of Finance, who is the Governor for IFAD, and the Ministers of of Planning and Investment and Agriculture and Rural Development to discuss the Government vision and framework for IFAD activities for the next five years. Members will also hold discussions with selected multilateral aid agencies such as the World Bank, and the UN Country team on how contribute to more effective synergies and/or to the scaling up of the successful models supported by IFAD over the last 20 years.
6. The EC, through its chair, will report to the Executive Board from its experience during the Annual Country visit on its findings regarding the work and processes and give recommendations to IFAD Management and IOE for future field visits regarding the scope, content and logistical aspects.

Annual Country Visit of the IFAD Evaluation Committee to Vietnam – Agenda

Last updated on 18 May at 9am

A. Sunday morning 19th May – Welcome the EB members

- IFAD ICO will welcome the EB members and IFAD staff at Tan Son Nhat airport:
 - some members will arrive from Paris, with Air France at 06.55 am,
 - others from Bangkok, with Thai at 9.15 am, and
 - a last group from Hong Kong, with Cathai, at 10.20 am.
- A VIP lounge will be available at Tan Son Nhat airport while waiting for other groups and a visit folder will be distributed to the members.
- Leave Tan Son Nhat airport around 11.00am and have lunch in Ho Chi Minh City.
- Leave Ho Chi Minh City and travel to Ben Tre Province at 1.00pm.
- Arrive Ben Tre province around 3.30pm and check in Viet Uc hotel
- 16:30-18:00pm: An overview of 2011 CPE main recommendations
- 18:30: Dinner reception with the Provincial People's Committee (PPC), welcome the EB members by the Vice Chairman, Mr Tran Anh Tuan at Viet Uc hotel

B. 20th May 2013

7:00-8:00	Breakfast and check out Viet Uc hotel	Ben Tre province
8:00-9:30	Meeting with Provincial People Committee (Vice Chairman, Mr Tran Anh Tuan) and the Developing Business with Rural Poor (BDRP) Project (Project Director, Mr Nguyen Truc Son). Brief introduction of the provincial social economic development and Developing Business with Rural Poor (BDRP) Project.	Ben Tre Town
9:30-11:30	Visit the Coconut processing factory of Phu Hung Import and Export Coconut company. Visit the Dong Mai vocational training for the poor in Thanh tam commune, Mo Cay Bac (in partnership PPP with the project)	Thanh Tan Commune Phu Hung District

11:30-13:30 LUNCH at Ham Luong hotel

13:30-16:00	Visit Thanh La model Landscaped manufacturing facility model (linkage, create jobs and income for the poor) in Long Thoi commune, Cho Lach district. Visit the Hoang Duy company (produce flowers) in Hung Khah Trung B	Long Thoi Commune
16:00-16:50	Leave Ben Tre to Tra Vinh province Check in at Cuu Long hotel	Tra Vinh province

19:00-20:30: Dinner reception by the Tra Vinh PPC, at Cuu Long hotel

C. 21 May 2013

7:00-7:40	Breakfast and check out Cuu Long hotel	Tra Vinh town
7:50-9:30	Meeting with Provincial People Committee and Improving Markets Participation of the Poor (IMPP) Project Brief introduction of the Improving Markets Participation of the Poor (IMPP) Project	PPC Tra Vinh town
9:50-11:20	Visit the Sai Gon -Mekong Fishery company. (specializes in farming, processing, and trading of frozen seafood, especially Pangasius (Basa fish) and Clam frozen seafood. The company create jobs and income for the poor through IMPP project by provide training and purchase fish from farmers)	Tra Vinh province

11:30-12:30: Lunch at My Khanh restaurant

12:30-16:00	Visit the Phong Phu Commune, Cau Ke District Project activities: Market-Orientated Socio-Economic Development Planning, produce according to contract and develop various types of rices for farmers, creating non-agricultural employment and provide training in correction with private sector Visit Dou Power company (garment export company) and Dan Tien Cooperative (produce rice and provide agricultural services)	Phong Phu commune
16:00-16:50	Leave Tra Vinh province to Can Tho City Check in at Victoria resort	Can Tho city

19:00-20:30 DINNER on the board go along the Hau river with traditional musical performance.

D. 22 May 2013

6:30-9:00	Visit to farmer floating market in Can Tho	Can Tho city
10:00-11:00	Meetings with Can Tho University Prof. Dr. Le Quang Tri, Director of Research Institute for Climate Change, Can Tho University to have the update information on climate change issue in the Mekong Delta.	Can Tho University

12:00-13.00 LUNCH

13:00-14:30	An overview of 2011/2012 CPE main recommendations (Mr Ashwani Muthoo) and Vietnam Country Programmes (Mr Henning Pedersen)	Victoria resort
15.00	Check out and go to Can Tho the airport Flight VN1202, departure at 16:35 and arrive Ha Noi at 18:45	Can Tho airport
18:45-19-45	Arrive Noi Bai airport and check in Hilton hotel	Ha Noi

E. 23 May 2013

9:00-10:00	Meeting with IFAD Governor, Vice Minister, Mr Thuong Chi Trung	Ministry of Finance 28 Tran Hung Dao St
10:30-11:00	Meeting with Vice Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) on ARD national policies and programmes	MARD 2 Ngoc Ha St

12:00-13:00 LUNCH

14:00-15:00	Meeting with Vice Minister of Ministry of Planning and Investment, on Country Programme Evaluation, COSOP and feedback from the EC visit	MPI 6 Hoang Dieu Str
16:00-17:00	Meeting with Dr Dang Kim Son, General Director, Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Development (IPSARD)	IPSARD 15 Thuy Khe Str
16:00-17:00	Meeting with Ms. Louise Chamberlain, Country Director, UNDP Dr. Ken Shimizu, FAO	UNDP 72 Ly Thuong Kiet St

F. 24 May 2013

10:30- 11:30	Meeting with Ms. Victoria Kwakwa, Country Director of WB	WB 63 Ly Thai To Str
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12:00-13:00 LUNCH

13:30- 14:30	Meeting with the Mr. Hoang Xuan Luong, Vice Minister, Committee for Ethnic Minorities (CEMA)	CEMA 80 Phan Dinh Phung Str
15:30- 16:30	Meeting with Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Thuy, Vice President of the Vietnam Women's Union	WU 39 Hang Chuoi Str