

Document: EB 2015/114/INF.7
Agenda: 6
Date: 23 April 2015
Distribution: Public
Original: English

E



Investing in rural people

Summary of project and programme proposals discussed by the Executive Board

Note to Executive Board representatives

Focal points:

Technical questions:

Brian Baldwin
Senior Operations Management Adviser
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2377
e-mail: b.baldwin@ifad.org

Dispatch of documentation:

Deirdre McGrenra
Head, Governing Bodies Office
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2374
e-mail: gb_office@ifad.org

Executive Board — 114th Session
Rome, 22-23 April 2015

For: Information

Summary of project and programme proposals discussed by the Executive Board

I. Project and programme proposals

1. The following project and programme proposals were approved at the 114th session of the Executive Board, and are in line with the Debt Sustainability Framework (DSF).

A. West and Central Africa

Niger: Family Farming Development Programme (ProDAF) in Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder Regions (EB 2015/114/R.8/Rev.1)

2. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 17.25 million, a grant of SDR 17.25 million and a grant under the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) of SDR 9.25 million to the Republic of Niger to finance the Family Farming Development Programme (ProDAF) in Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder Regions. The Executive Board representatives for Switzerland and France sought clarification on implementation modalities and the country programme manager (CPM) responded to the Board's satisfaction.

B. East and Southern Africa

Kenya: Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme – Climate-Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Window (KCEP-CRAL) (EB 2015/114/R.9)

3. The Executive Board approved a highly concessional loan of SDR 43.85 million, an ASAP grant of SDR 7.10 million and a grant of US\$2.0 million through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to the Republic of Kenya to finance the Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme – Climate-Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Window (KCEP-CRAL). Constructive comments and feedback were provided by Board representatives for the United Kingdom, Italy, Liberia and Nigeria. The representative for the United Kingdom had shared comments prior to the session to which appropriate responses had been provided. The main queries pertained to the exact amount of the World Food Programme (WFP) contribution to the programme. Italy made a specific request that IFAD continue working in synergy with WFP programmes in targeted areas.

C. Asia and the Pacific

India: Odisha Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme (EB 2015/114/R.11)

4. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 36.40 million on blend terms towards the financing of the Odisha Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme to the Republic of India. In the course of the Board's deliberations, it was clarified that the programme design had been subject to a detailed gender analysis and that this had resulted in gender being mainstreamed throughout all components, with some components being exclusively focused on women, for example through drudgery reduction activities and the formation of self-help groups. Further, it was acknowledged that while there were risks associated with working in the conflict-affected areas of Odisha, these were considered manageable due to IFAD's long experience and lessons learned from projects implemented in similar situations both in Odisha and elsewhere. It was agreed that a critical element of the project would be a bottom-up planning approach with tribal communities making the decisions on project implementation at village level. It was clarified that the project would seek convergence with other Government programmes including those focused on employment generation. It was also clarified that the approach to social empowerment and the federation of self-help groups over time would contribute to post-project sustainability, including in relation to input supply and marketing. Furthermore, the approach to land titling would be matched by attention to environmental sustainability with improved management of sloping land, promotion of horticulture and piloting communal management of forest land. A final query was raised related to the impact of a new Indian Government policy on the payment of taxes for

projects financed by international financial institutions. This issue would be examined over the coming weeks.

Myanmar: Eastern States Agribusiness Project (EB 2015/114/R.12/Rev.1)

5. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 20.0 million on highly concessional terms and a grant of SDR 1.1 million towards the financing of the Eastern States Agribusiness Project in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. In the course of the Executive Board's deliberations, clarifications were provided regarding the project's linkages with the country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP), the mitigation of political and social risks, the status of cofinancing, the gender and inclusion strategy, and dialogue with partners. Prior to the session, written responses had also been provided to queries by several Board representatives about technical aspects of the project.

Nepal: Samriddhi – Rural Enterprises and Remittances Project (EB 2015/114/R.13)

6. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 15.50 million and a grant of SDR 11.95 million under the DSF to the Republic of Nepal to finance the Samriddhi – Rural Enterprises and Remittances Project. In approving the project, representatives commented on the importance of aligning development with remittances to enhance the incomes of migrant and non-migrant households. Representatives also requested clarifications on the (i) level of consultation with Government and development partners; (ii) synergies to be built with other projects to avoid redundancies and duplications; and (iii) focus on business development rather than on building small enterprises. The CPM provided clarifications in writing and during the Board session, confirming that both the Government and development partners had been fully consulted at different stages during design and that the design had built on the analysis of various donor interventions in enterprise development and remittances with a view to maximizing the benefits of the investment. It was clarified that the project approach was holistic in that it targeted households with no business experience and built their acumen, provided them with access to financing, and helped them start enterprises that could be consolidated into larger businesses and, in the process, used the experience gained to identify the needed policy changes to ensure mainstreaming of the approach.

Pakistan: Economic Transformation Initiative - Gilgit-Baltistan (EB 2015/114/R.14/Rev.1)

7. The Executive Board approved a loan of SDR 48.55 million on highly concessional terms to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the Economic Transformation Initiative - Gilgit-Baltistan. Clarifications were provided as to the ownership of provincial and federal government during the design phase and how gender, private-sector engagement, governance, environmental issues and local government-capacity building had been addressed.