

Document: EB 2015/115/R.22
Agenda: 10(b)
Date: 12 August 2015
Distribution: Public
Original: English

E



Investing in rural people

Country visits of the IFAD Executive Board 2016-2018

Note to Executive Board representatives

Focal points:

Technical questions:

Ra it Pertev
Secretary of IFAD
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2254
e-mail: r.pertev@ifad.org

Lisandro Martin
Senior Portfolio Manager
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2388
e-mail: lisandro.martin@ifad.org

Dispatch of documentation:

Alessandra Zusi Bergés
Officer-in-Charge
Governing Bodies Office
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2092
e-mail: gb_office@ifad.org

Executive Board — 115th Session
Rome, 15-16 September 2015

For: Approval

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve one of the two proposed dates for the 2016 Executive Board country visit, the destination thereof and the draft rolling plan for the next three years.

Country visits of the IFAD Executive Board 2016-2018

1. In December 2012, the Executive Board approved a new modality for country visits, which requires the Board to decide on the destination of future annual visits. As per the new procedures, country visits will be open to participation by Executive Board members who are not members of the Evaluation Committee, and will comprise nine members: four from List A, two from List B and three from List C. The Lists will decide on the participation accordingly. The visits will be fully funded by IFAD. The Board also stipulated that a maximum of three additional members of the Executive Board who are not members of the Evaluation Committee may join the country visits on a self-financing basis. These new rules were to be applied for the annual country visits from 2014 onwards.
2. In December 2013, Management presented a rolling plan for the Executive Board's country visits for 2014-2016. In September 2014, the Executive Board approved Morocco as the destination for the 2015 country visit and proposed a visit to a country in the Latin American and the Caribbean region for 2016.
3. In identifying the destination, two criteria will determine country selection: (i) the presence of a relatively large country programme; and (ii) whether the country has been subject to a recent evaluation. The application of these criteria results in a very limited set of potential countries for the country visit in a given year.
4. In light of the above, this note provides a rolling plan for country visits for 2016-2018.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Recent evaluation</i>	<i>IOE remarks</i>
2016	Latin America and the Caribbean	Brazil	Country programme evaluation (CPE) (2015)	The Brazil CPE will be completed by end-2015 and ready in time for a visit in 2016.
2017	West and Central Africa	Nigeria	CPE (2016)	The Nigeria CPE has just started and will be completed in the middle of 2016, therefore available for a visit in 2017.
2018	Asia and the Pacific	Philippines	CPE (2016)	Suggestion that the possibility of a visit be looked at again closer to 2017, based on the CPEs done by then.

5. Of the countries proposed in the table above, Brazil has the following characteristics: (i) it has a large country programme; (ii) a country programme evaluation will be under way and will be completed by end-2015; and (iii) the overall political and security situation is stable. The IFAD country programme comprises six ongoing projects focusing on rural and business development and is the largest programme in the region, with commitments of US\$141.2 million. Consequently, IFAD Management seeks the Board's approval for Brazil to be the destination of the 2016 country visit.

6. The common calendar of meetings of permanent representatives¹ has been consulted and the following two periods are possible for the visit:
 - (i) 9 to 13 May 2016
 - (ii) 21 to 25 November 2016
7. For the 2017 visit, efforts will be made to undertake a visit to a country in West and Central Africa region – possibly Nigeria – depending on the country's political and security situation, and the state of development and stability. Nigeria has the largest country programme in the West and Central Africa Division, with a current portfolio of four ongoing projects totalling US\$202.9 million. Nigeria is also a fragile state and, according to agreed guidelines, Least Developed Countries and fragile states should be prioritized. A country programme evaluation by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD has just been launched in Nigeria, which will be completed by the middle of next year.
8. For 2018, it is proposed that Board representatives return to the Asia and the Pacific region. A country programme evaluation for the Philippines is scheduled for 2016, which will provide the necessary background for a visit to this country. The IFAD country programme in the Philippines comprises three ongoing projects and two under design for approval in 2015, amounting to US\$118.7 million.
9. Accordingly, the Executive Board is invited to approve one of the two proposed dates for the 2016 Executive Board country visit, the destination thereof and the draft rolling plan for the next three years.

¹ Maintained by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, IFAD and the World Food Programme.