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Republic of Cameroon  
Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation  
FAO-IFAD-WFP Joint National Workshop

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For: Information

# Republic of Cameroon

## Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation

### FAO-IFAD-WFP Joint National Workshop

1. Introduction. In the course of 2017, the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) undertook a country strategy and programme evaluation (CSPE) in the Republic of Cameroon. During the same year, the evaluation offices of both the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) conducted an evaluation of their organization's programme in Cameroon. The possibility of conducting the three evaluations jointly was considered, but the country strategies and programmes of the Rome-based agencies (RBAs) had too little in common to warrant this. However, it was agreed with Cameroon's Government to organize a joint national workshop in Yaoundé to present and discuss the results of the three evaluations with national stakeholders. The workshop was organized with Cameroon's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and held on 1 and 2 February 2018 – the first national evaluation workshop ever jointly organized by the three RBAs. IOE took the lead in organizing the workshop, drafting the concept note, liaising with the Government and the two other RBAs, and coordinating all logistics for the event.
2. Objectives. The main objectives of the joint workshop were to: (i) share key findings and recommendations of the three RBAs' country-level evaluations; and (ii) reflect on issues relevant to the preparation of future country strategies and interventions in Cameroon. In addition, the event aimed to highlight examples of RBA collaboration, including key ingredients for success, and to discuss future opportunities for collaboration among the RBAs in Cameroon.
3. Participants. The workshop was attended by approximately 120 participants, including representatives of Cameroon's Government, IFAD, FAO and WFP; multilateral and bilateral development organizations including the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organization, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the European Union; academic and research institutions; NGOs; and individual resource persons. The workshop was formally opened by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and featured the participation of: Cameroon's Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family; Minister Delegate of Economy, Planning and Regional Development; Secretary of State of the Ministry of Forests; and Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in Cameroon.
4. RBA collaboration in Cameroon. The three evaluations concurred that RBA collaboration in Cameroon has been mainly limited to the agencies' participation in donor coordination forums related to agriculture and food security. FAO and WFP collaborate in generating national food security information. FAO's Investment Centre is contracted by IFAD to provide technical expertise for project design and supervision missions. WFP hosts the sub-national FAO office in Maroua (Extreme North region) and at the time of the workshop, the WFP country director was acting as interim FAO Representative. WFP and FAO have also collaborated on the design of joint projects (e.g. a school garden programme).
5. A review of other evaluations in the region conducted by the RBA evaluation offices, revealed that successful RBA collaborations were made possible by: the agencies' common objectives and ability to integrate their efforts; available – and in some case jointly mobilized – resources; clear added value in the collaboration; and strong complementarities among the agencies' contributions. Interpersonal relationships also played an important role in establishing collaborations. The main obstacles to collaboration identified by the evaluations were differences in mandates, execution modalities, intervention areas, funding mechanisms, programming cycles and national partners.

6. Workshop highlights. During the workshop, participants agreed that targeting and gender need to be better integrated into project design, starting from high-quality vulnerability and gender analysis. Targeting needs to go beyond geographic targeting, with more interventions specifically targeted to the most vulnerable groups and close monitoring of potential exclusion mechanisms.
7. Participants suggested a number of avenues for future collaboration between the RBAs were suggested, such as: strengthening government capacity in coordinating the National Rural Development Strategy; creation of a national system for food security information; promotion of rural youth entrepreneurship, especially in aquaculture; and seed production and multiplication.
8. Workshop discussions repeatedly highlighted the Government's critical role in both project performance and RBA collaboration. Since IFAD-financed projects are implemented by the Government, their performance is highly dependent on the capacity of government-appointed management teams and supervision by lead ministries. For the same reason, it is the Government's prerogative to involve FAO or WFP in IFAD-funded projects. Thus, any successful collaboration in Cameroon between IFAD and FAO or WFP must be led by the Government.
9. Lessons learned. The national workshop raised awareness about CSPE findings and recommendations, and enjoyed strong participation by government representatives. Holding a joint CSPE workshop with FAO and WFP undoubtedly increased the event's visibility and attention by the Government, development partners and the media. It was also a good opportunity to discuss RBA collaboration in Cameroon with a broad range of stakeholders and brought to light opportunities as well as obstacles to RBA collaboration.
10. Cost-sharing among the RBAs and the Government reduced the financial burden to IOE compared to similar events in other countries. The Government graciously contributed to the event by hosting a gala dinner and providing staff and security services during the workshop.
11. However, the joint nature of the event also meant that presentation and discussion time needed to be shared among the three evaluation teams, which reduced the focus on agency-specific issues. The event also required considerably more effort to organize since it required consultation and coordination with more partners compared to a single-agency workshop.