Corporate-level evaluation on IFAD’s support to innovations for inclusive and sustainable smallholder agriculture

105th Session of the Evaluation Committee
19 June 2019
Corporate level evaluation (CLE) approved in December 2018 to be conducted.

Rationale:
- 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals (SDG).
- Innovation contributes to fulfilling IFAD’s mandate
- Increasing importance of the theme within IFAD.
- IFAD innovation strategy being implemented since 2007, is yet to be assessed.

Coverage of the diversity of innovations promoted.
The CLE objectives are to:

1. Assess the effectiveness of IFAD’s support to promote innovations for inclusive and sustainable smallholder agriculture;

2. Identify key lessons and recommendations to enhance IFAD’s approach and performance in promoting agricultural innovations.
Key concepts

• **Innovation**: A process that adds value or solves a problem in new ways.

• To assess IFAD’s support to innovation, needs to apply a **System approach**, entailing: Stakeholders - Innovation process and products - Institutional factors – Results & change.

• **Scaling up**: Expanding, adapting and supporting successful policies, programmes and knowledge, to leverage resources and partners for larger results.
Key milestones of IFAD’s innovation agenda

- **2002**: Innovation and scaling up are highlighted in IFAD Strategic Framework 2002-2005.

- **2005 (IEE)**: Major finding: “Innovation is a raison d’être for IFAD, but they are major shortcomings.”

- **2007**: IFAD Innovation Strategy developed; Innovation & Scaling up as one of IFAD engagement principles.

- **2009**: Corporate level evaluation of IFAD’s capacity to promote innovation and scaling up.

- **2019**: Corporate level evaluation of IFAD’s support to innovation for inclusive and sustainable smallholder agriculture.
Key features of IFAD’s innovation agenda

- IFAD instruments for promoting innovations are:
  - Loans and Grants
  - Non-lending activities

- IFAD’s innovation agenda requires a diversity of stakeholders.

- IFAD’s promoted innovations are incremental, rather than radical.
Overarching questions

• Overarching questions:
  ➢ To what extent has IFAD promoted innovations that:
    - Responded to smallholder farmers’ needs;
    - Were inclusive;
    - Replicated and scaled up; and
    - led to positive outcomes?
  ➢ To what extent have corporate instruments and tools been successful in creating innovation systems for a sustainable and climate-resilient smallholder agriculture?

• Theory of change developed, to help answering.
Evaluation criteria and analysis level

• Main criteria for CLE: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability;
• Additional themes: scaling up, inclusiveness, environment and climate change;
• Three levels of analysis:
Main data collection steps

Desk review to collect qualitative and quantitative data/information

Sampling of loan- and grant-funded projects and programmes for in-depth analyses

IFAD’s Management self-assessment

Implementing an electronic survey with stakeholders

Implementing case studies in selected countries

Data/information analysis and reporting
## Timelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion of approach paper with IFAD’s Evaluation Committee</td>
<td>June 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-assessment workshop with Management</td>
<td>June 2019</td>
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<td>Implementing field missions</td>
<td>June to September 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drafting the report</td>
<td>October 2019 to Jan. 2020</td>
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<td>Sharing the draft report with Management</td>
<td>March 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Report finalisation</td>
<td>May 2020</td>
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<td>Evaluation Committee discussion</td>
<td>September 2020</td>
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Thank you for your attention