

IOE



Investing in rural people

Independent Office of Evaluation



Evaluation  
Committee

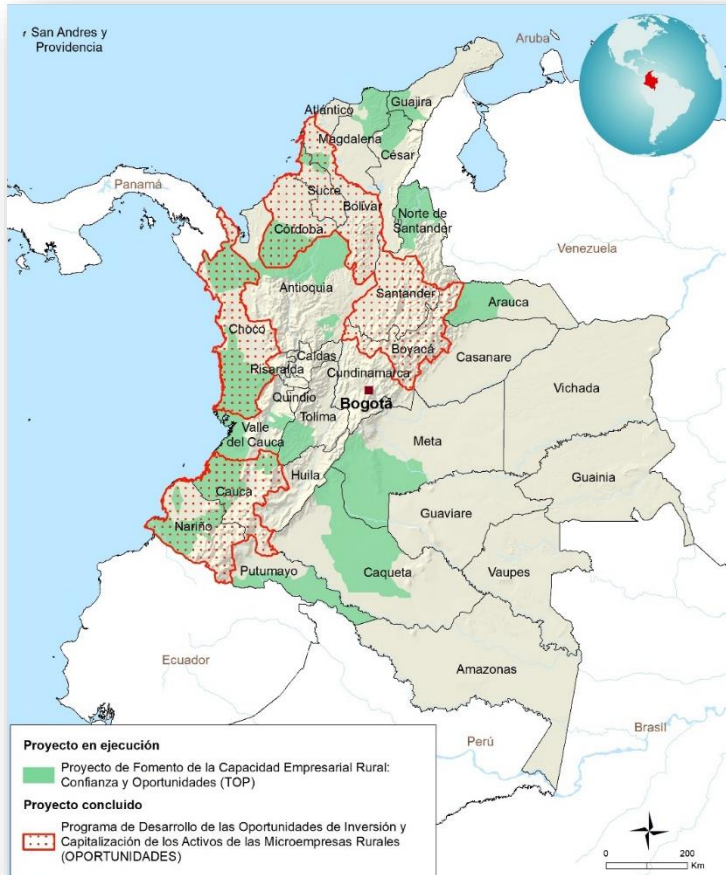
121<sup>st</sup> session

## Republic of Colombia: IFAD Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation

*Key findings and recommendations*

21 June 2023



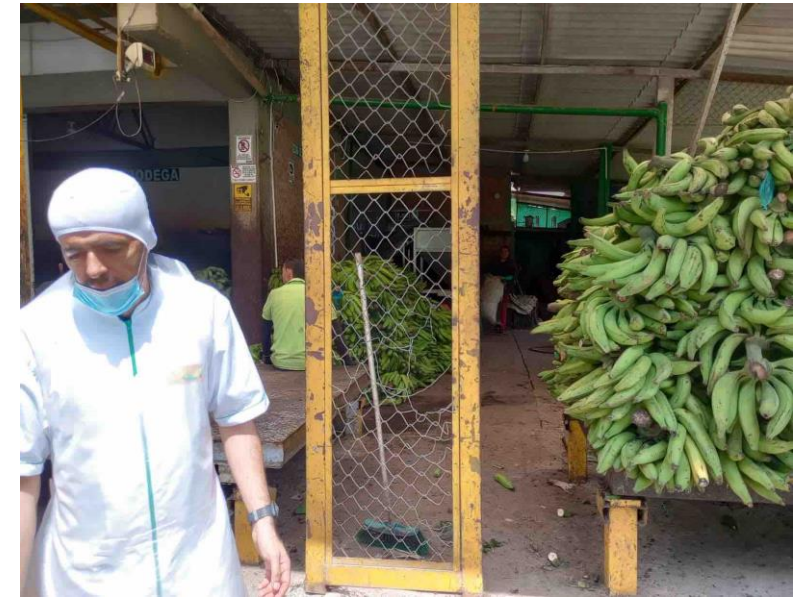


- Period covered: **2008-2022**, two projects
- COSOPs: 2003 and 2017
- Total costs: **US\$125.1**, US\$50.3 financed by IFAD
- National and international grants: 14

## CSPE included a country mission (July 2022)

- Field visits (9 municipalities; 4 departments)
- Meetings with farmers groups (260 farmers, 35 producer associations)
- Interview with key government actors and development partners

- ✓ **Relevance of IFAD support** in Colombia
  - Pioneer in addressing rural development, poverty reduction and inequalities in post-conflict areas of the country
- ✓ **Original approaches** (in Colombia) to resilience and engagement of people and communities
  - Mobilization of producer group TA proposals through calls and competitions; local awarding committees
  - Adaptation (albeit slow) to evolving Latin-American rural socio-economic context: emerging non-farm income and jobs ('tertiarization', e.g., services, rural tourism, gastronomy, green businesses)
  - Recuperation of local knowledge and local talent exchanges ("*campesino a campesino*", "*aprender haciendo*")



- ✓ Effective **targeting** of small-scale rural producers and entrepreneurs, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, women and youth, with strong ownership
- ✓ **Contribution to positive change** in intervention areas:
  - **Increase of income, physical assets:** hh annual income +10%; and hh physical assets +95% (project-1). Preliminary results (project-2) show an average total family income rise by between 62 and 72 %
  - Some evidence of quantitative and qualitative improvement of **household diet**
  - Greater rural communities' **trust in public institutions**
  - **Empowerment of women and youth**, within associations, rural territories, towns and intermediate cities

- ❖ **Financial and economic sustainability** of business plans limited by:
  - Insecure land tenure
  - Non continuity and low quality of technical and financial services
  - Exogenous factors (e.g., COVID – 19)
- ❖ **Environmental sustainability** constrained by:
  - The absence of a territorial and agroecosystem vision (limited, localized interventions)
  - Limited interaction and coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Sust. Development
- ❖ **Institutional sustainability** limited by:
  - Shortfall in establishing cooperation / partnership with local governments of targeted territories



- ❖ Results **affected by shortfalls**, such as:
  - Weak articulation between loans and grants (e.g., studies, action research, piloting targeting approaches)
  - Intermittent dialogue on public policies
  - Limited portfolio financing (only two projects between 2008 and 2022)
  - Delays in starting loan operations
  - Limited M&E to capture development results and limited use of knowledge management products



# Summary of main findings

1. Relevant strategy in a complex country context, addressing rural poverty through support to agriculture and non-ag production, with some adaptation to the changing rural context
2. Effective targeting of marginalized population
3. Gaps in partnerships and knowledge management constrained programme results
4. No comprehensive approach for natural resources management and climate change adaptation

## Recommendation 1

- Increase internal and external resources (cofinancing) to expand and dynamize IFAD's country strategy and programme

## Recommendation 2

- Elaborate new agenda for cooperation with Colombia: (i) national priorities; (ii) structural changes in rural context; (iii) territorial development approach; (iv) strengthening the support to indigenous groups, Afro-descendant groups, women and youth

## Recommendation 3

- Step up IFAD's technical support to design and implementation, notably KM, policy engagement and natural resource management and climate change



## Recommendation 4

- Scale-up project results by engaging local public institutions, technical education organizations and universities to support communities and the territories

## Recommendation 5

- Design a communication and KM strategy with dedicated resources to disseminate the experience achieved for policy advocacy