

IOE



Investing in rural people

Independent Office of Evaluation



122<sup>nd</sup>  
Evaluation  
Committee

## Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation (CSPE) China

5 September 2023

## ► Objectives

- To assess the results and performance of the IFAD strategy; understand the factors that contributed to the outcomes.
- To identify practices and lessons that could be shared beyond the China Programme.
- To generate findings and recommendations to inform the future partnership between IFAD and the Government of China.

## ► Scope

- IFAD-supported projects and activities in China since 2014 (loans, grants, non-lending activities)
- Focus on country strategic and programme level

**Desk review,  
portfolio data  
analysis  
(June 2022)**

**E- survey to  
stakeholders  
(July/August  
2022)**

- 70 responses, 46 per cent response rate
- Includes 12 provincial government, 6 central government

**Interviews  
(remote)  
(August 2022)**

- Implementing partners: 7 provinces and 6 counties
- Cooperating partners, consultants etc.

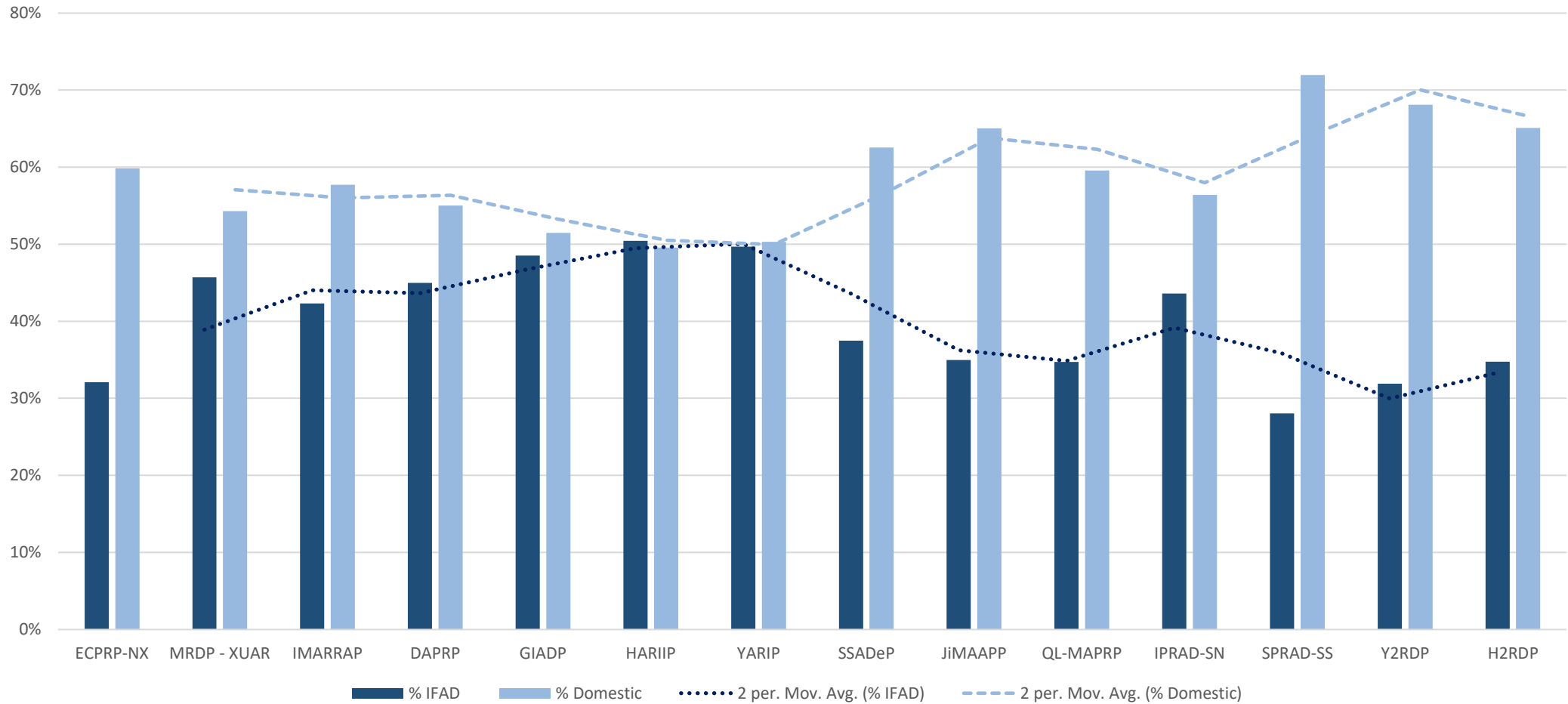
**Wrap-up  
meeting hosted  
by MoF  
(September  
2023)**

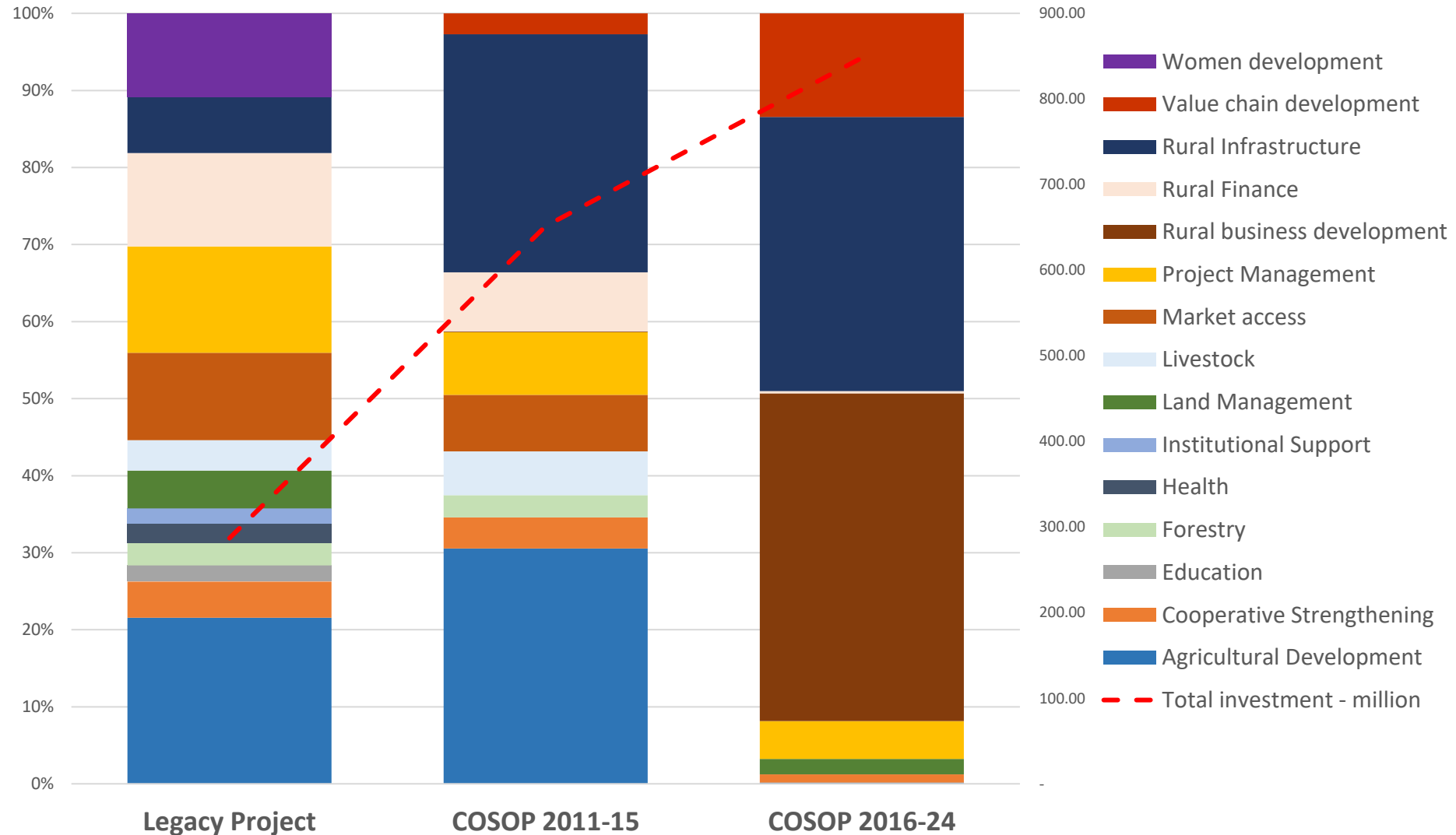
- 7 provinces participated

**Final CSPE  
workshop in  
Beijing  
(June 2023)**

- Field visits, bilateral consultations
- Workshop hosted in collaboration with MoF
- 13 provinces participated

IFAD vs Domestic Financing  
(Projects in chronological order)







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IFAD's support to China's efforts on **poverty reduction** was relevant and has yielded positive results

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IFAD programme focussed on **improving the position of the rural poor in value chains**

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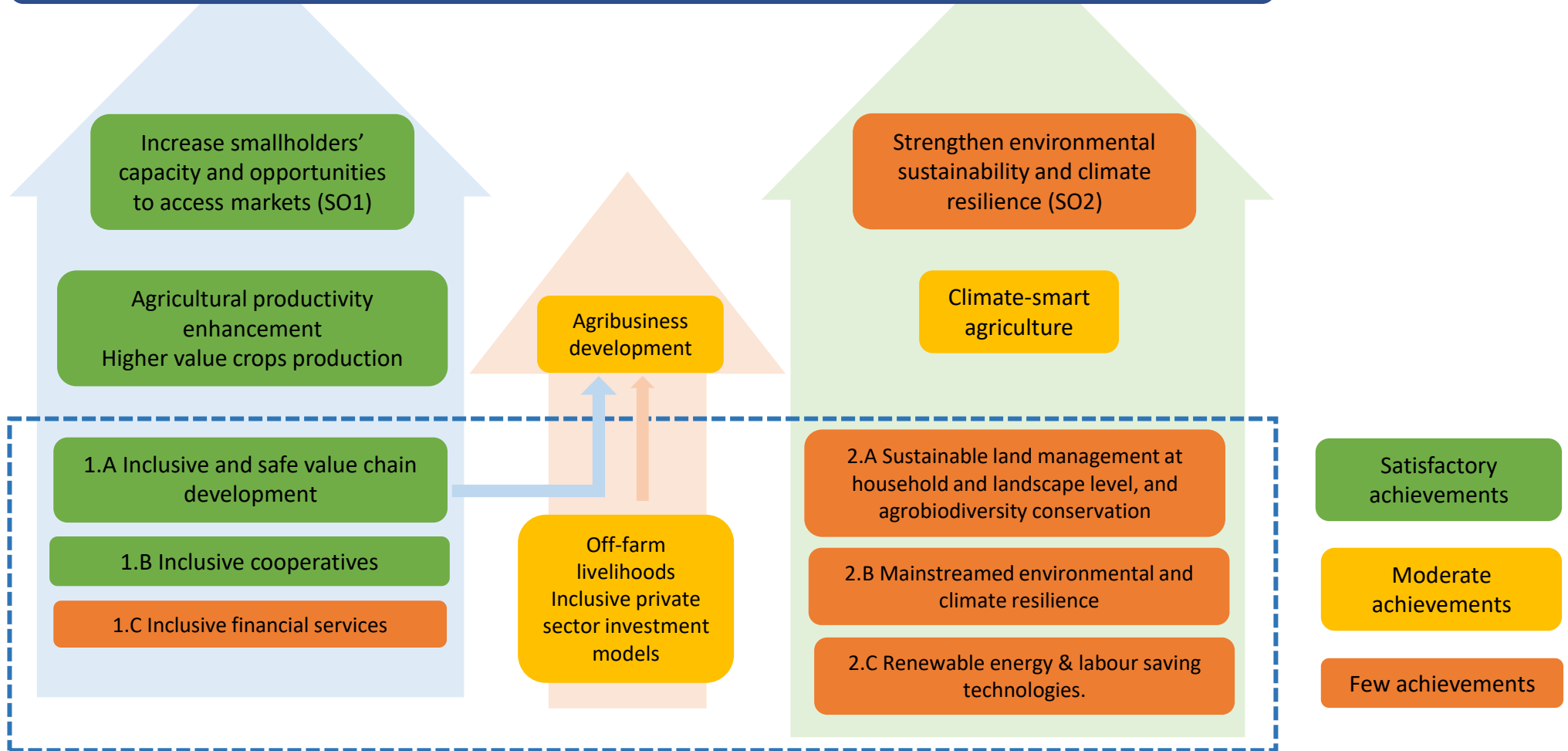
IFAD has missed the opportunity to align with China's **new environmental agenda**, through dedicated climate smart agriculture activities

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IFAD has yet to position itself more clearly on key themes that will remain relevant in China: Environment, natural resource management; climate change adaptation and mitigation; South-South Cooperation.

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**ENDGOAL: REDUCE RURAL POVERTY AND ENABLE SMALLHOLDERS IN POOR PRIORITY AREAS TO BENEFIT FROM THE RURAL TRANSFORMATION PROCESS**





The portfolio was set in a context of overall rapid progress in poverty reduction

Improved **crop and livestock productivity, value addition and off-farm income**

**Community-level organisations** contributed to human and social capital

**Combined support of infrastructure, technical assistance and marketing** highly effective



**Infrastructure and micro-credit** activities particularly benefitted women

Involvement of **women's federations** led to enhanced focus on business-minded women





**Increased country presence** has made IFAD more visible among the UN agencies in China

**Demand for knowledge** is high; space for policy engagement and influence is limited

**Academic and research institutions acted** as beneficiaries, undertaking relevant policy-oriented activities

**SSTC resources and partnerships** insufficient to raise IFAD's profile on SSTC in China

**Lack of clarity** on link between SSTC and IFAD-supported programme in China



IFAD has been able to meet government's interest in **inclusive rural value chains and climate-smart infrastructure**.

Scaling up of experiences would have required **more strategic partnerships**.

The current COSOP, issued in 2016 and extended in 2021, has not been agile enough to adapt to the **changing policy framework and socio-economic context**.

Given the country's growing interest and role in international development, IFAD could have defined the **strategic dimension of SSTC for the evolving partnership** with China more clearly.

Progress on project pipeline has been slow; transition to **Borrowed Resource Access Mechanism (BRAM)** needs to be managed within the current practice of on-lending to counties

China will remain an important partner; IFAD will have to redefine and step up its role for a longer-term partnership at eye-level.

*COSOP (2025) focus:*  
*(i) effective and sustainable rural institutions;*  
*(ii) global public goods;*  
*(iii) innovations.*

**Recommendation 1 :** In preparation for the 2025 COSOP, position the China programme for strategic support to inclusive agricultural value chains through different modalities (lending, non-lending, SSTC).

**Recommendation 2 :** The 2025 COSOP should clearly establish IFAD's comparative advantage on environmental sustainability and climate change resilience, with focus on marginal areas and smallholders.

**Recommendation 3:** The 2025 COSOP should clarify how IFAD will expand the pool of strategic partners, with focus on innovation, scaling up and knowledge sharing in clearly identified thematic areas.

**Recommendation 4:** In preparation for the 2025 COSOP, develop a strategic vision and clarify the role for IFAD in China on SSTC.

**Recommendation 5:** Facilitate China's access to IFAD's borrowed resources (BRAM).