

IOE



Investing in rural people

Independent Office of Evaluation



Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation (CSPE) in the Republic of Argentina

Presentation of the evaluation report

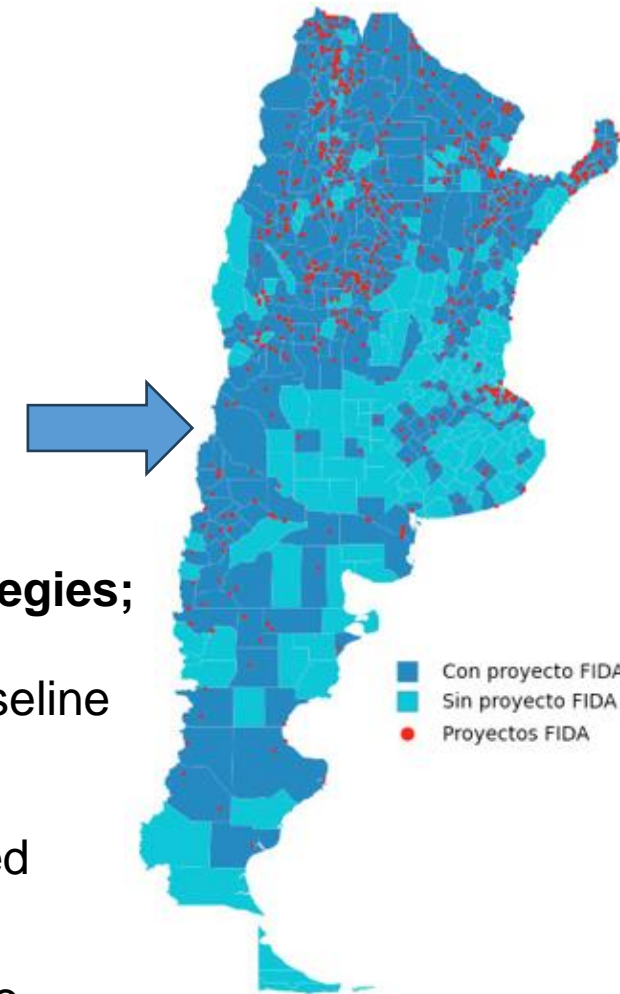
127th
Evaluation
Committee

31 October 2024

- **Relevance of objectives** remained, except in 2016-2019 (limited COSOP ownership);
- **IFAD financing** even more relevant due to increased needs of small rural producers;
- **Good focus** on the poorest population, but **risks of exclusion** were identified;
- Lack of a **long-term strategic approach** between lending and non-lending activities;
- **Strategy objectives and programmes** were too ambitious:
producer conditions + low budgets + investment instruments used ~ objectives
- No partnerships with **other areas of government outside the agriculture sector**;
- Informal and non-strategic coordination with **other donors** (WB/IADB), occasional collaboration with **FAO**, **international co-financing** for PRODERI and PROSAF;
- **SSTC** efforts and **partnerships with the private sector** did not materialise;
- **Knowledge management** limited to specific products;
- **Influence on public policy dialogue** weakened at the end of the period (COPROFAM donation, dialogue spaces at provincial level).



- Over **70,000 producer households** and **1,300 producer organisations/indigenous communities** served (duplications identified by CSPE team);
- There was an evolution of **approaches/strategies to promote gender equality** in the period, all **targets achieved** (self-reported figures);
- GIS analysis of actual targeting : PROCANOR/PRODECCA beneficiaries are located in **poorer departments** than the rest of the country, adjacent to native forests and areas with higher **deforestation rates**;
- Calls/funds for **specific population groups** use but did not entail **differentiated strategies**;
- **Gender Transformative Gender Project** Concept (PROSAF) still not understood; baseline (empowerment indicator pilot) not realised;
- The **environmental risk** of investments has been considered moderate (programs used eligibility criteria and **specific funds**),
- Some improvements in **agricultural practices** (water/soil management), contribution to **environmental resilience** (reduced scale due to inflation).



Findings along the three impact pathways identified by the CSPE team:

1. Producer incomes.

Few cases of increase (or projected increase) in temporary **income** or improved **access to value chains/markets**.

→ low amounts per family + inflation lowered real investments;

2. Capacities of producers' organisations / their influence in RD policies.

Most POs have a (very) low level of organisational/commercial development. The programmes have dynamised the River Basin Committees and some provincial fora, with links to territorial strategies (in some cases);

3. Capacities of provincial institutions for rural development.

Mixed results. Centralised calls for proposals diminished (provincial) learning compared to decentralised implementation foreseen in designs.

Weak evaluability and M&E systems
+
Difficult economic and sanitary context



Persistent challenges: efficiency, innovation and sustainability

- Adverse economic **context** and **institutional changes** negatively affected implementation;
- Longer **delays** between effectiveness (entry into force) and 1st disbursement than in the region;
- **Programme administrative costs** improved, but are higher than in the region;
- High **financial execution** of closed programmes (exception PRODERI), under-execution of ongoing portfolio;
- Complex **administrative processes** and serious weaknesses in the **monitoring and evaluation system**.
- Few **innovations** were implemented, some were new at the beginning of the period;
- Risk that **investments** are not sustainable;
- There is no evidence of **scaling up of results or approaches**.



- IFAD seen as a **reliable** partner; **flexible** vis-à-vis political-institutional and economic volatility (changes in implementation modalities, in geographic targeting, among others);
- IFAD provided detailed monitoring of the portfolio, but **human capacity** is overstretched due to lack of country presence (coupled with the simultaneous change of all staff assigned to the country);
- Highly trained and committed **Government staff**;
- Government **counterpart financial resources** lower than those agreed at the start of the programmes, although there are indications of under-reporting of the contribution of government agency staff;
- Limited participation through **provincial borrowing** (5 out of 23 provinces)
- There were communication challenges about the requirements and procedures in **centralised calls**.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation systems** show serious limitations to timely assess the advance in execution and include corrective measures, if needed.

- **Complex period politically, institutionally and economically** (swings in economic policy, institutional restructuring, fiscal crisis, high inflation, COVID-19, droughts, poverty quadrupled from 2010 to end 2023);
- Most of the **targets of the COSOP objectives** were not met or the results were impossible to quantify;
- **Persistent challenges**: portfolio efficiency, sustainability and limited scaling up of investments;
- IFAD's role in raising the **visibility of family farming** was appreciated by all interviewed, but limited **strategic and operational partnerships** with other international partners;
- Lack of a **strategic approach to targeting** and implementation modalities **not tailored** to the various types of producers 'organizations in the territory;
- Overstretched **IFAD's human capacities** to deal with the portfolio and support nonlending activities in a country with complex governance and a very vast territory;
- The deteriorating socioeconomic situation and institutional strides made around family farming suggest that IFAD support will **continue to be relevant in the future.**

1

Strengthen the **value added** offered by IFAD in Argentina.

2

Prepare IFAD's intervention to cope with country volatility through **planned flexibility** and enhanced **operational and strategic support**.

3

Deepen IFAD's contribution to rural poverty reduction by **tailoring interventions** to the needs of different target population groups.

4

Strengthen the **monitoring and evaluation** system .

[https://ioe.ifad.org/en/Argentina CSPE workshop](https://ioe.ifad.org/en/Argentina_CSPE_workshop)



Thank you for your attention / Gracias por su atención