

Document: EC 2009/56/W.P.3
Agenda: 4
Date: 19 June 2009
Distribution: Public
Original: English

E



Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

**Briefing on the Evaluation
Committee's provisional agenda for
2009 and options for the annual field
visit**

Evaluation Committee — Fifty-sixth Session
Rome, 23 June 2009

For: **Approval**

Note to Evaluation Committee members

This document is submitted for approval by the Evaluation Committee.

To make the best use of time available at Evaluation Committee sessions, members are invited to contact the following focal point with any technical questions about this document before the session:

Luciano Lavizzari

Director, Office of Evaluation

telephone: +39 06 5459 2274

e-mail: l.lavizzari@ifad.org

Queries regarding the dispatch of documentation for this session should be addressed to:

Deirdre McGrenra

Governing Bodies Officer

telephone: +39 06 5459 2374

e-mail: d.mcgrenra@ifad.org

Briefing on the Evaluation Committee's provisional agenda for 2009 and options for the annual field visit

A. Background on the provisional agenda for 2009

1. As per past practice, in the course of its fifty-fourth session in December 2008, the Evaluation Committee discussed and agreed on the provisional agenda items for its four sessions in 2009 (see EB 2008/95/R.6). The following sections summarize the decisions taken by the Executive Board on the Committee's provisional agenda for 2009:

Fifty-fifth session: April 2009

Procedures for the appointment and renewal of the Director of the Office of Evaluation

Fifty-sixth session: April 2009

- (a) Country programme evaluation of Nigeria
- (b) Interim evaluation of the Uplands Food Security Project in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- (c) Update to the IFAD Rural Finance Policy, together with the comments of the Office of Evaluation
- (d) Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, together with the comments of the Office of Evaluation

Fifty-seventh session: September 2009

- (a) Country programme evaluation of Mozambique
- (b) Preview of the Office of Evaluation's three-year rolling work programme for 2010-2012 and resource issues for 2010
- (c) President's Report on the Implementation Status of Evaluation Recommendations and Management Actions, together with the comments of the Office of Evaluation
- (d) Completion evaluation of the Rural Development Project for the North-Eastern Provinces (PRODERNEA) in Argentina

Fifty-eighth session: October 2009

- (a) Office of Evaluation's three-year rolling work programme for 2010-2012 and budget for 2010
- (b) Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations

Fifty-ninth session: December 2009

- (a) Corporate-level evaluation of IFAD's capacity to promote pro-poor replicable innovations
 - (b) Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness, together with the comments of the Office of Evaluation
 - (c) Completion evaluation of the Qinling Mountain Area Poverty-Alleviation Project in China
2. In addition to the above five formal sessions, the Committee decided to hold two additional informal sessions before the Executive Board in April 2009 to discuss the procedures for the appointment and renewal of the Director of the Office of Evaluation.
 3. It was also decided that in 2009 the Committee would discuss the external peer review of the Office of Evaluation, specifically to consider the approach paper/terms

of reference and the final report. Finally, it was agreed that, as per established practice, the Committee would undertake an annual field visit in 2009, based on a proposal to be made by the Office of Evaluation during the year.

B. Revised provisional agenda for 2009

4. Building on the decision of the Board in December 2008, this section contains the provisional agenda items for the remaining Committee sessions in 2009, together with several proposed adjustments and the rationale for these alterations.

Fifty-sixth session: 23 June 2009

- (a) Election of the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee
 - (b) Briefing on the Evaluation Committee's provisional agenda for 2009 and options for the annual field visit
5. This session, which will be held in the afternoon of 23 June, will follow the informal orientation session for new Evaluation Committee members taking place in the morning of the same day.

Fifty-seventh session: 21 July 2009

- (a) Preview of the Office of Evaluation's three-year rolling work programme for 2010-2012 and resource issues for 2010
 - (b) Completion evaluation of the Rural Development Project for the North-Eastern Provinces in Argentina (PRODERNEA)
 - (c) President's Report on the Implementation Status of Evaluation Recommendations and Management Actions, together with the comments of the Office of Evaluation
 - (d) Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, together with the comments of the Office of Evaluation
6. The fifty-seventh session was originally scheduled for 2 September 2009. In order to comply with the request of the Executive Board to allow Board members at least two weeks lead time to review the Report of the Chairperson of the Evaluation Committee following each session, the fifty-seventh session of the Committee has been brought forward to July 2009. This was done at the suggestion of the Office of the Secretary, who indicated that holding the fifty-seventh session in August would not be feasible for logistic reasons and that it was also possible a quorum would not be reached for the session.
 7. The Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, which was originally scheduled for discussion by the Committee in April 2009, has been added to this session. It was not possible to discuss this item at the April session as the policy was not ready at the time. It is now confirmed that the Management intends to present the policy for approval at the ninety-seventh session of the Executive Board in September 2009.

Fifty-eighth session: 9 October 2009

- (a) Office of Evaluation's three-year rolling work programme for 2010-2012 and budget for 2010
 - (b) Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations
 - (c) Country programme evaluation of Mozambique
8. The discussion of the Mozambique country programme evaluation has been added to this session rather than being considered at the fifty-seventh session in October. This is because, according to the established timeline for the evaluation, the Government will only be able to provide its comments on the draft report in time for consideration at the fifty-eighth session rather than at the fifty-seventh (which, under the current proposal, will be brought forward from September to July 2009).

Fifty-ninth session: (date to be determined)

- (a) Corporate-level evaluation of IFAD's capacity to promote pro-poor replicable innovations
 - (b) Corporate-level evaluation of the African Development Bank-IFAD joint evaluation of agriculture and rural development in Africa
 - (c) Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness, together with the comments of the Office of Evaluation
 - (d) Completion evaluation of the Qinling Mountain Area Poverty-Alleviation Project in China
 - (e) IFAD Policy on Grant Financing, together with the comments of the Office of Evaluation
9. This session will include the corporate-level evaluation of the African Development Bank-IFAD joint evaluation of agriculture and rural development in Africa, which is expected to be completed by year-end, in addition to the new IFAD Policy on Grant Financing, together with the comments of the Office of Evaluation. The latter will be presented by the Management to the ninety-eighth session of the Executive Board in December 2009. Therefore, in line with the scope of work of the Evaluation Committee as set forth in its terms of reference (see paragraph 47(iv) of the Committee's terms of reference approved by the Executive Board), the grants policy, together with the comments of the Office of Evaluation on the document, will be considered by the Committee during its fifty-ninth session.
10. Moreover, it is proposed that the Committee review the approach paper/terms of reference of the Office of Evaluation's external peer review at the July 2009 session. This is subject to the timeline for the task, which is currently being developed by the external peer review team, who will inform the Office of Evaluation of their proposal shortly. In addition, it is suggested that the Committee discuss the final external peer review report in December, subject to the agreement of the Committee on the overall approach and timelines for the review that are to be discussed with the Committee in July 2009.

C. Requested decision regarding the provisional agenda

11. The Evaluation Committee is therefore hereby requested to review and agree upon the proposed revisions to the provisional agenda for the remaining sessions in 2009.

D. Options for the annual field visit

12. As outlined in the terms of reference of the Evaluation Committee, the Office of Evaluation "...will organize field visits to be undertaken periodically by the Committee. These are considered useful instruments to allow the Evaluation Committee to exchange views on the ground and to enhance their ability to contribute effectively to Committee deliberations." The Office of Evaluation proposes the following two options for consideration by the Committee for their 2009 annual field visit.
13. **Country programme evaluation of India.** This evaluation is potentially of great interest to the Committee as it covers the largest IFAD-funded country programme in all regions. The Committee would also have the opportunity to participate in the country programme evaluation national round-table workshop, in which the evaluation's findings would be discussed with national policymakers and other stakeholders. The national round-table workshop and the field visit to an IFAD-funded project in India, to be conducted before the workshop, would also benefit from the fact that English is the working language at the national and state levels, eliminating the need for interpretation services. This would allow Committee members to interact more directly with national stakeholders and would also result in significant cost savings. Finally, the organization of a field visit to India by the

Committee in 2009 would be facilitated by the fact that the Office of Evaluation would be able to count on the collaboration of the largest IFAD country presence office, located in New Delhi. There is also a likelihood that costs for the overall organization of the annual field visit could be shared with the Government. Therefore, subject to the approval of the Committee, the Office of Evaluation will contact relevant authorities in the Indian Government accordingly.

14. **Country programme evaluation of Mozambique.** The Mozambique portfolio is unique in a country with a significant level of donor and government collaboration, especially in terms of sector-wide approach programmes (SWAp). The portfolio also provides an interesting case study in the evolution of IFAD's country programme, progressing from area-based rural development projects to national programmes with an important policy dialogue dimension. Again, as in the case of the India country programme evaluation, Evaluation Committee members would have the opportunity to participate in the national round-table workshop, and therefore be able to interact with national officials involved in policy formulation and implementation. A field visit to Mozambique would, however, require interpretation facilities (with cost implications), which would be necessary to ensure adequate interaction with local stakeholders.
15. The proposed dates for the Committee's 2009 annual field visit have been suggested by the Office of the Secretary, which has reviewed the calendar of meetings of the other two Rome-based United Nations agencies. Two options are available for the Committee's field visit, either: (i) from 24 November to 2 December; or (ii) from 7 to 11 December. A third possible period is from 26 to 30 October, but this option will only be confirmed by the Office of the Secretary before the fifty-sixth session of the Committee. The Office of Evaluation will inform the Committee during the fifty-sixth session whether the October timeslot is a viable option.

E. Requested decisions regarding the options for the annual field visit

16. The Office of Evaluation proposes that the field visit take place in India between 24 November and 2 December. This will allow Committee members to participate in both the country programme evaluation national round-table workshop and the field visit to an IFAD-funded project in the country.

