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Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

## **Proposed provisional agenda of the Evaluation Committee for 2011**

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Evaluation Committee — Sixty-fifth Session  
Rome, 25-26 November 2010

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**For: Approval**

## Proposed provisional agenda of the Evaluation Committee for 2011

1. **Background.** As per the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Evaluation Committee<sup>1</sup> approved by the Executive Board in December 2004, this document contains the proposed provisional programme of work (hereafter "provisional agenda") for the Evaluation Committee in 2011.
2. It is to be noted that rule 2 of the Committee's rules of procedure provides that "the Committee retains the prerogative to revise by adding, deleting, defining or amending items on the agenda during the course of the year".
3. **Dates of Evaluation Committee sessions.** The document also proposes dates for the five Committee sessions planned for 2011. The dates have been defined in consultation with the Office of the Secretary in order to avoid overlap with the planned governing body meetings of the two other Rome-based United Nations food and agriculture organizations.
4. **Objective.** The proposed provisional agenda ensures that the Committee has, as in the past, the opportunity to review and comment on the main evaluation reports produced by the Office of Evaluation (IOE) and IFAD Management. These reports fall into four categories:
  - (a) Evaluation reports produced annually by IOE and Management, as called for by the Committee's terms of reference and rules of procedure. This category includes the Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations (ARRI), the Work Programme and Budget of IOE, the Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness (RIDE), and the President's Report on the Implementation Status of Evaluation Recommendations and Management Actions (PRISMA);
  - (b) A variety of evaluation reports prepared by IOE, including all corporate-level evaluations and a selected number of country programme and project evaluations. A description of the types of evaluations undertaken by IOE is provided in annex I;
  - (c) All corporate operational policy and strategy proposals arising from evaluation lessons and recommendations, including IOE's comments on the proposals before they are considered by the Executive Board;
  - (d) Progress reports on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Findings and Recommendations of the Peer Review of IFAD's Evaluation System, as decided by the Evaluation Committee at its sixty-third session, as well as the two main deliverables to be produced in this context, namely the revised IFAD Evaluation Policy and the Evaluation Committee's new terms of reference and rules of procedure.
5. **Criteria for the selection of evaluations to be presented to the Evaluation Committee.** IOE reviewed past Committee agenda, particularly those of 2009 and 2010, and found that each year the Committee considered all corporate-level evaluations prepared by IOE, two country programme evaluations, and two or three project evaluations produced by IOE. These figures have been taken into account in preparing this provisional agenda. With regard to country programme and project evaluations, the agenda proposes both those to be completed in 2010 and some to be completed in 2011.
6. **Decision.** The Committee is requested to consider the information contained in the following table, and decide on the proposed dates and agenda for its five planned sessions in 2011.

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<sup>1</sup> See document EB 2004/83/R.7/Rev.1.

## Dates and provisional agenda of the Evaluation Committee in 2011<sup>2</sup>

<b>66<sup>th</sup> session (Friday, 25 February 2011)</b>	
Item 1	Minutes from the 65 <sup>th</sup> session
Item 2	Progress report on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Findings and Recommendations of the Peer Review of IFAD's Evaluation System
Item 3	Draft revised Evaluation Policy
Item 4	Draft approach paper on the Corporate-level evaluation on efficiency
Item 5	IFAD's engagement with Middle Income Countries
<b>67<sup>th</sup> session (Tuesday and Wednesday, 19-20 April 2011)</b>	
Item 1	Minutes from the 66 <sup>th</sup> session
Item 2	Progress report on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Findings and Recommendations of the Peer Review of IFAD's Evaluation System
Item 3	Revised Evaluation Policy, to be submitted to the Board in May 2011 for approval
Item 4	Corporate-level evaluation on IFAD's Private-Sector Development and Partnership Strategy
Item 5	Draft Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Evaluation Committee
Item 6	IFAD Country Presence Strategy with IOE's comments
<b>68<sup>th</sup> session (Thursday and Friday, 12-13 July 2011)</b>	
Item 1	Minutes from the 67 <sup>th</sup> session
Item 2	Progress report on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Findings and Recommendations of the Peer Review of IFAD's Evaluation System
Item 3	Preview of IOE's results-based work programme and budget for 2012 and indicative plan for 2013-2014
Item 4	Revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Evaluation Committee, to be presented to the Executive Board in September for approval
Item 5	Interim Evaluation of the Dom Helder Camara Project in Brazil
Item 6	President's Report on the Implementation Status of Evaluation Recommendations and Management Actions (PRISMA) with IOE comments
Item 7	Costed Action Plan for Further Development of the Self-Evaluation System
<b>69<sup>th</sup> session (Friday, 7 October 2011)</b>	
Item 1	Minutes from the 68 <sup>th</sup> session
Item 2	IOE's results-based work programme and budget for 2012 and indicative plan for 2013-2014
Item 3	Country Programme Evaluation in Yemen
Item 4	One project performance assessment (PPA), the new form of project evaluations by IOE as recommended by the peer review, to be selected by the Committee once the list of PPAs to be carried out is available in early 2011.
Item 5	Evaluation synthesis on direct supervision and implementation support.
Item 6	IFAD Gender Policy with IOE's comments

<sup>2</sup> The below table containing the dates and provisional agenda for 2011 of the Evaluation Committee has been updated following the Committee's 65<sup>th</sup> session and reflects the decisions taken by members.

<b>70<sup>th</sup> session (Friday, 2 December 2011)</b>	
Item 1	Minutes from the 69 <sup>th</sup> session
Item 2	Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations (ARRI)
Item 3	Country Programme Evaluation in Ghana
Item 4	One project performance assessment to be selected by the Committee once the list of PPAs to be carried out is available in early 2011
Item 5	Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness (RIDE) with IOE's comments
Item 6	IFAD private-sector strategy with IOE's comments
Item 7	The provisional agenda of the Evaluation Committee for 2012

Note: As per the Evaluation Committee's request, the IFAD management and IOE will make a proposal for the Committee's consideration at its session on 25 February 2011 in relation to their annual country visits for the period 2011-2013.

## Types of evaluations undertaken by IOE

**Corporate-level evaluations** are intended to assess the effectiveness and impact of IFAD policies, strategies and approaches related to rural poverty alleviation. Insights and recommendations then feed into the formulation of new and more effective corporate policies and strategies.

**Country programme evaluations (CPEs)** provide an assessment of the performance and impact of IFAD-supported activities in a given country. CPEs provide concrete building blocks for reviewing and formulating new country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) in individual countries. CPEs also contribute to IFAD's policy dialogue with other development agencies and government representatives concerning rural and agricultural development.

**Project evaluations.** IOE has traditionally conducted two types of project evaluations:

- **Interim evaluations**, which are mandatory before starting a further project phase or launching a similar project in the same region. Findings and recommendations are used to assess the justification for a further phase in a given country and for improving the design and implementation of subsequent interventions; and
- **Completion evaluations**, which are normally conducted after the finalization of the project completion report prepared by the borrower and IFAD, with the aim of assessing results and generating lessons for future operations.

**New form of project evaluations.** As recommended by the Peer Review of IFAD's Evaluation System, starting from 2011, IOE will change its approach to project evaluations and will conduct two types of evaluations, which will fulfil the objectives of project evaluations conducted in the past in terms of accountability and learning:

- **Project completion report validations (PCRVs).** A PCRV is an independent assessment by IOE of each project completion report (PCR) prepared by PMD for a completed IFAD-financed operation. The PCRV will be based on a desk review of documents and interactions with IFAD operations staff and concerned government authorities. It will include an assessment of the overall quality and contents of each PCR, including validation of the ratings across the evaluation criteria.
- **Project performance assessment (PPA).** The PPA will be conducted on a sample of projects for which PCRVs have been conducted in a given year. It consists of further review of documentation and field visits involving meetings with key stakeholders and visits to selected project sites.

## Key data on projects evaluated by IOE

<i>Country and project/programme name</i>	<i>Project/programme objectives</i>	<i>Board approval</i>	<i>Loan effectiveness</i>	<i>Total project/programme cost</i>	<i>IFAD loan amount</i>
Brazil: Sustainable Development Project for Agrarian Reform Settlements in the Semi-Arid North-East (interim evaluation)	The overall project goal is the sustainable improvement of social and economic conditions of poor agrarian reform beneficiaries and neighbouring smallholders in the semi-arid zone of the North-East region. The project's general objective is to improve the beneficiary families' capabilities and their involvement in the local market in order to enable them to manage productive activities in agriculture, marketing, microenterprises and small-scale agro-industries more efficiently and sustainably, and use financial services within the normal market procedures. Its specific objectives are to: (i) provide access to educational and training programmes, marketing, agricultural and microenterprise support services, and financial resources; (ii) improve the social and production infrastructure of households and settlements; (iii) promote a gender-balanced approach to project activities, providing equal opportunities and access to women to production support programmes; (iv) consolidate rural development at the municipal level; (v) promote the rational use and conservation of natural resources; and (vi) validate strategies for the sustainable socio-economic development of agrarian reform settlements and smallholders in the semi-arid zone.	3 December 1998	21 December 2000	US\$93.5 million	US\$25.0 million
Ghana: Rural Enterprises Project – Phase II (interim evaluation)	The goal is to reduce poverty and improve the living conditions and income of the rural poor, with emphasis on women and vulnerable groups, through increased self- and wage-employment. The specific objective is to build up a competitive rural micro and small enterprise (MSE) sector, supported by relevant, good-quality, easily accessible and sustainable services. The project aims to create a more enabling environment;	5 September 2002	19 June 2003	US\$29.3 million	US\$11.2 million

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	stimulate the establishment and expansion of self-employment and microenterprises, mainly through business and technology skills development; strengthen MSE production techniques and management practices; enhance the quality, design and packaging of the goods and services produced by rural MSEs; improve the marketing of MSE products; introduce environmentally friendly production techniques; increase MSE access to working capital and investment funds; and empower trade associations and client organizations.				
Rwanda: Smallholder Cash and Export Crops Development Project (interim evaluation)	The project's specific goal is to maximize and diversify the income of poor smallholder cash crop growers by developing financially sustainable commercial processing and marketing activities related to coffee, tea and new cash and export crops. The project design is simple and focused, and aims at: (i) introducing mechanisms to secure the greatest possible price increases for growers, in line with financially sound processing and marketing; (ii) maximizing the quality and value of coffee and tea products sold on the international market; (iii) developing efficient, democratically managed spontaneously formed primary cooperative societies of coffee and tea growers, and securing their full participation and empowerment in processing and marketing enterprises; (iv) facilitating the participation of poor women heads of household in coffee and tea development activities; (v) developing efficient, cost-effective and financially sustainable processing and marketing enterprises in the private sector, to be ultimately run by the primary cooperative societies; and (vi) promoting diversification of the cash and export crops produced by SMEs and smallholder cooperatives, with particular attention to women and very poor households.	11 December 2002	19 September 2003	US\$25.1 million	US\$16.3 million

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United Republic of Tanzania: Rural Financial Services Programme (interim evaluation)	The main objectives of the programme are to: (i) support the design, development and implementation of a financial architecture with roots at the village or ward level in the form of microfinance institutions (MFIs) such as village banks or savings and credit cooperatives and associations, with emphasis placed on savings mobilization, the payment system, the extension of financial services and governance; (ii) enhance technical, operational and outreach capacity of MFIs for savings and lending operations to enable them to provide a broad range of financial services to the rural poor (consisting of both individuals and groups, including the landless and women) for potential production and income-generating activities, based on appropriate selection criteria, instruments and modalities; (iii) empower the rural poor by minimizing the legal, regulatory and social barriers preventing their active participation within MFIs and providing them with the opportunity to enhance their business and technical skills; and (iv) strengthen the financial instruments, skills and capital base of the grass-roots MFIs and the financial intermediaries (commercial/community banks) to enable them to ensure economies of scale, efficiency and operational viability and flexibility.	7 December 2000	12 October 2001	US\$23.8 million	US\$16.3 million
Dominican Republic: South Western Region Small Farmers Project – Phase II (completion evaluation)	The project's overall objective is to improve the incomes and living conditions of the rural poor and alleviate extreme poverty. Specific objectives are to: (i) create and improve income-generating opportunities in agricultural and non-agricultural production; (ii) improve households' access to local financial resources for investments and their capital resources for agricultural and microenterprise initiatives; (iii) improve the area's social and productive infrastructure, roads and market channels; and (iv) strengthen the ability of	3 December 1998	05 April 2000	US\$17.6 million	US\$12.0 million



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	local organizations and NGOs to provide communities with social and productive services.				
Lao People's Democratic Republic: Oudomxai Community Initiatives Support Project (completion evaluation)	The project's overall goal is sustained reduction in poverty and improvement of the economic and social conditions of the targeted population. Specific objectives are increased income, food security and returns to land and labour based on sustainable farming practices, natural resource management and improved living standards of the target population. The expected outputs are: (i) communities and their organizations mobilized and strengthened through participatory and gender-sensitive development, with government agencies and other service providers able to respond to farmers' (men's and women's) needs as expressed during the participatory planning process; (ii) increased awareness of alternatives to shifting cultivation and opium production and of ways to improve upland farming systems and natural resource management, and subsequent adoption of improved methods for a sustained increase in farm production and income; (iii) improved access to sustainable and gender-sensitive rural financial services; (iv) improved access to irrigation, safe drinking water, a school dormitory programme and road communications; and (v) a functioning system of decentralized and participatory development, with planning, financing and implementation established and project services delivered to a target group in a participatory, sustainable and timely manner.	23 April 2002	19 September 2002	US\$21.1 million	US\$13.4 million