



China Country Programme Evaluation

Eighty-sixth session of the Evaluation Committee

Rome, 27 November 2014

IFAD – China Partnership

- Total projects approved: 27 (since 1981)
- Total amount of IFAD funding: US\$ 775.1 million
- Counterpart funding (contribution from the Government): US\$ 908 million
- COSOPs: 1999, 2005, 2011
- Main thematic areas: rural finance, agricultural production and marketing, natural resources management, cooperatives and SMEs

Storyline

- IFAD - GOC partnership is satisfactory and has been highly valued and mutually beneficial
- The persistence of large numbers of rural poor provides the imperative for IFAD's continued engagement in China
- IFAD's financing resources are comparatively small, but crucial to rural poverty alleviation

Storyline (cont.)

- The country programme has contributed to better livelihoods in rural areas but efforts in some areas can be enhanced
- The priorities of the future cooperation between IFAD and China need to be adjusted, with increased attention to non-lending activities

Main Findings - Portfolio Performance

- The performance of the IFAD-financed portfolio between 1999 and 2013 is assessed as *satisfactory (5)*
- Most significant outcomes:
 - Overall high achievement of objectives
 - Valuable contributions to sustainable improvements in beneficiaries income, food security, agricultural productivity

Main Findings - Portfolio Performance (cont.)

- The impact on developing sustainable rural organizations is less prominent
- Innovations emerging during implementation were not systematically captured
- Projects have not benefited from co-financing in recent years

Main Findings - COSOP Performance

- Overall COSOP performance is *satisfactory (5)*
- The strategic objectives in three COSOPs are relevant and in line with Government's strategies and development priorities
- The evolution of the socioeconomic landscape in the countryside, including rural outmigration, is not sufficiently taken into account in COSOPs and project design

Main Findings - Programme Management

- Establishment of ICO in 2005 and direct supervision since 2008
- Good attention to results measurement and evaluation
- Insufficient resources for policy dialogue, knowledge management and partnership building

Main Findings - Non-lending Activities

- Performance of non-lending activities is assessed as *moderately satisfactory (4)*
- Knowledge management was weak in the past, but is being strengthened, especially since 2011
- Scaling up of innovation beyond provinces has been limited
- Strong partnerships with MOF, NDRC and sub-national authorities. Limited coordination with other in-country stakeholders

Main Recommendations

1. Targeting in a changed rural context
2. Strengthen knowledge cooperation
3. Sharpen focusing on scaling up impact

Main Recommendations (cont.)

4. Promote South-South and triangular cooperation
5. Strengthen partnership with government institutions and other in-country stakeholders
6. Enhance IFAD presence and capacity in country, including out-posting the country programme manager for China