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Investing in rural people

Republic of Rwanda

Support Project for the Strategic Plan for the
Transformation of Agriculture

Project performance assessment
Management response

Note to Evaluation Committee members

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For: Review

Republic of Rwanda Support Project for the Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture

Project performance assessment Management response

1. IFAD Management welcomes the Project Performance Assessment (PPA) of the Support Project for the Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture (Projet d'appui au plan stratégique pour la transformation de l'agriculture [PAPSTA]). In general, it agrees with the key findings and recommendations of the PPA report.
2. Management is pleased to note that the PPA has confirmed the satisfactory performance of PAPSTA, which achieved the project goal of improving the income and nutritional levels of the rural population in targeted areas. It is also pleased to note that the rural poverty impact was assessed as satisfactory owing to improvement in the small farming systems operated by subsistence farmers. As noted by the PPA mission in Rwanda, the project coordination arrangements put in place by the Government of Rwanda (Single Project Implementation Unit) and strong collaboration with the IFAD team resulted in effective implementation of PAPSTA, which achieved a positive impact through enhanced food security and increased household incomes.
3. Management would also like to highlight the innovations that led to the project's achievements (including the system of rice intensification, irrigation water users' associations, livestock insurance scheme and livestock solidarity chain), and that have been embraced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources. IFAD Management is pleased to note that the innovative practices documented by PAPSTA are now being scaled up by other agricultural projects supported by other development partners, including the World Bank.
4. With respect to the weaknesses of farmer organizations, Management agrees that this issue was not fully addressed by the project. Indeed, while PAPSTA was implemented from 2006 to 2013, the public institution in charge of promotion, registration and regulation of cooperatives in the country (Rwanda Cooperative Agency [RCA]) was constituted through law 16/2008 of 11 June 2008. With the late establishment of RCA, PAPSTA faced challenges in identifying the most effective ways to support these rural farmers' organizations. Management is pleased to report that all ongoing IFAD-supported projects in Rwanda now maintain a strong partnership with the RCA to support cooperatives and enable them to become well-organized, independent and transparently operating collective enterprises.
5. With regard to the recommendations, Management would like to highlight the following issues. Adoption of the recommendations related to sustainability also depends on government approaches and priorities. Similarly, facilitating access to secondary and tertiary education would be a government-initiated action. This is also the case for the Government developing a set of "principles of engagement" between the Government, private-sector equity and the target group. While IFAD will partner the Government in such new developments, follow-up will be implemented in the context of national/government priorities, institutional contexts and constraints, and the issues noted above. This is important to note, as PPA responses and subsequent commitments are submitted by IFAD Management, but not by the respective governments.
6. Management looks forward to a continuous, fruitful collaboration with the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD.