



**IFAD**  
**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**Consultation on the Sixth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources – Fifth Session**  
Rome, 12-13 December 2002

**ENABLING THE RURAL POOR TO OVERCOME THEIR POVERTY:  
REPORT OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE SIXTH REPLENISHMENT  
OF IFAD'S RESOURCES (2004-2006)**

The Consultation is hereby requested to consider the revised version of the text on the Independence of the Evaluation Function, in paragraphs 89–92 of Part VI “Measuring Results and Impact” of the report.

89. The Consultation discussed a paper presented by the Fund on strengthening the effectiveness of the evaluation function at IFAD in the light of international experience. The paper was in response to a proposal made by a member state that the Office of Evaluation and Studies (OE) report directly to the Executive Board, independently of IFAD management. The paper covered international principles for evaluation of development assistance, and a survey of how selected multilateral development organisations handle the issue of independence of their evaluation functions. The paper also explained IFAD's current approach to evaluation, the pros and cons of independence from management and ways to enhance further the independence of the evaluation function at IFAD.

90. The Consultation expressed broad support for many of the concepts developed in the paper. The paper contains a proposal which aims both to enhance independence and improve the evaluation learning loop. The Consultation confirmed the need to formulate an Evaluation Policy for IFAD and provided guidance on elements to be considered in such policy formulation. These include:

- a. The need to nurture and protect the independence of mind of OE Evaluators
- b. The role of OE in the evaluation learning loop and that of IFAD Management in ensuring follow up on evaluation recommendations and that evaluation findings contribute to learning within IFAD.
- c. The implication for potential increased burden and cost for the Evaluation Committee and IFAD .
- d. The definition of OE's role in promoting Evaluation Capacity Building in developing countries.



91. In addition, the Consultation specified that the policy will include the following provisions related to the independence of the OE function:

- a. The President will nominate a candidate to the Board for endorsement, as recorded in the Executive Board Minutes, whereupon the President will appoint the OE Director for a fixed term, which may be renewed. Similarly, the President will remove the OE Director upon and only upon the endorsement of the Board, as recorded in the Executive Board Minutes.
- b. The OE Director shall not be re-employed by IFAD upon completion of his/her term (s).
- c. The OE Director will have the authority to issue final evaluation reports directly and simultaneously to the Executive Board and the President without prior clearance from anyone outside the OE. IFAD Management may receive, comment on and respond to the draft and final evaluation reports, but the President and other members of IFAD Management will not have the right to approve, hold back, request changes to or otherwise modify such draft or final evaluation reports.
- d. The OE Director shall formulate independently from Management the Annual OE Programme of Work and Budget and transmit it to the President, who shall submit it unchanged to the Board and Governing Council for approval. Any change requested by the Board to the Programme of Work and Budget will be conveyed by the President to the OE Director without further changes by the President, and resubmitted by the OE Director to the Board via the President, as described above. The Board will also have the authority to amend or supplement OE's Programme of Work by separate decision during the year. The levels of the OE component and the remainder of the budget of IFAD shall be determined independently of each other.
- e. The President shall delegate his authority to make all personnel and operational decisions concerning OE staff to the OE Director, in accordance with IFAD Policies and Procedures.

92. Based on the discussions and guidance provided by the Consultation, and incorporating the foregoing the Fund will prepare a detailed proposal on IFAD's future evaluation policy. This proposal will be submitted to the Seventy-Eighth Session of the Executive Board in April 2003. In considering this proposal, the Executive Board may want to consider a transition period for the implementation of paragraphs 91a and b, taking into account the current contractual arrangement between IFAD and the incumbent.