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Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

Proposed provisional agenda of the Evaluation Committee for 2012

Note to Evaluation Committee members

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Evaluation Committee — Seventieth Session
Rome, 9 December 2011

For: Review

Proposed provisional agenda of the Evaluation Committee for 2012

1. **Background.** As per the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Evaluation Committee¹ approved by the Executive Board in May 2011, this document contains the proposed provisional programme of work (hereafter "provisional agenda") for the Evaluation Committee in 2012.
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 four Committee sessions planned for 2012. 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 Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) and IFAD Management. These reports fall into three categories:
 - a. Evaluation reports produced annually by IOE and Management, as called for by the Evaluation Policy and 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, a selected number of country programme and project evaluations, as well as evaluation syntheses. A description of the types of evaluations undertaken by IOE is provided in annex I; and
 - 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.
5. **Criteria for the selection of evaluations to be presented to the Evaluation Committee.** IOE reviewed past Committee agendas, particularly those of 2010 and 2011, 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.
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 four planned sessions in 2012, as well as the venue of its annual country visit in 2012.

¹ See document [EB 2011/102/R.47/Rev.1](#).

Proposed dates and provisional agenda of the Evaluation Committee in 2012

Seventy-first session (Tuesday, 3 April 2012)	
Item 1	Minutes of the seventieth session
Item 2	Country programme evaluation for Ghana
Item 3	Country programme evaluation for Viet Nam
Item 4	Approach paper on the corporate-level evaluation of direct supervision and implementation support
Item 5	Status of agreements at completion point of evaluations undertaken by IOE
Item 6	Strategy on Partnership and Collaboration at IFAD with IOE comments
Seventy-second session (Tuesday, 17 July 2012)	
Item 1	Election of the chairperson of the Evaluation Committee
Item 2	Minutes of the seventy-first session
Item 3	Preview of the IOE's results-based work programme and budget for 2013 and indicative plan for 2014-2015
Item 4	Country programme evaluation for Jordan
Item 5	Project performance assessment of the Community-Based Rural Development Project in Kampong Thom and Kampot (Cambodia)
Item 6	President's Report on the Implementation Status of Evaluation Recommendations and Management Actions (PRISMA) with IOE comments
Seventy-third session (Tuesday, 2 October 2012)	
Item 1	Minutes of the seventy-second session
Item 2	IOE's results-based work programme and budget for 2013 and indicative plan for 2014-2015
Item 3	Corporate-level evaluation of IFAD's institutional efficiency and the efficiency of IFAD-funded operations
Item 4	Project performance assessment of the Rural Recovery and Development Programme in Burundi
Seventy-fourth session (Thursday, 22 November 2012)	
Item 1	Minutes of the seventy-third session
Item 2	Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD's Operations
Item 3	Evaluation syntheses on the country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP) as an instrument, including its structure, development and implementation process
Item 4	Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness (RIDE) with IOE's comments
Item 5	Country programme evaluation for Nepal
Item 6	Provisional agenda of the Evaluation Committee for 2013

2012 Annual Country Visit of the Evaluation Committee

- At its sixty-sixth session of 3 March 2011, the Evaluation Committee considered the document Annual country visits of the Evaluation Committee 2011-2013 (EC 2011/66/W.P.4), which proposed that the Committee undertake country visits to Brazil (2011), Ghana (2012) and Viet Nam (2013).
- The 2011 country visit was successfully undertaken between 29 May and 3 June. It is proposed that the country visit to Ghana be held from 25 to 29 June 2012, which does not coincide with any governing body meetings of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), IFAD or World Food Programme.

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. Starting in 2011, IOE has changed its approach to project evaluations. It now conducts two types of such evaluations, which fulfil the objectives of the 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 the Programme Management Department (PMD) on completion of an IFAD-financed operation. The PCRV is based on a desk review of documents and interactions with IFAD operations staff and concerned government authorities. It includes 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 is carried out on a sample of projects for which PCRVs have been conducted in a given year. It consists of further review of documentation and involves field visits to meet with key stakeholders and to visit to selected project sites.

Evaluation syntheses. This new product, introduced in 2011, aims to facilitate learning and the use of evaluation findings by identifying and capturing accumulated knowledge on common themes and findings across a variety of situations. Synthesizing existing evaluation material allows evaluation evidence to be packaged and fed into the decision-making process when time and resources are unavailable to undertake a full-fledged evaluation.