

India

Country programme evaluation 2010-2015

Independent Office
of Evaluation

IFAD
Investing in rural people



Population: 1.3 billion (2014)

Rural population: 940 million; 72% of total population (2014)

GDP growth: 7.3% (2014)

Poverty headcount ratio: 21.9% of population (2011-12)
(at national poverty line)

Life expectancy at birth: 66 years males; 69 years females (2015)

Human development index: 0.609; ranking: 130 out of 188 countries (2013)

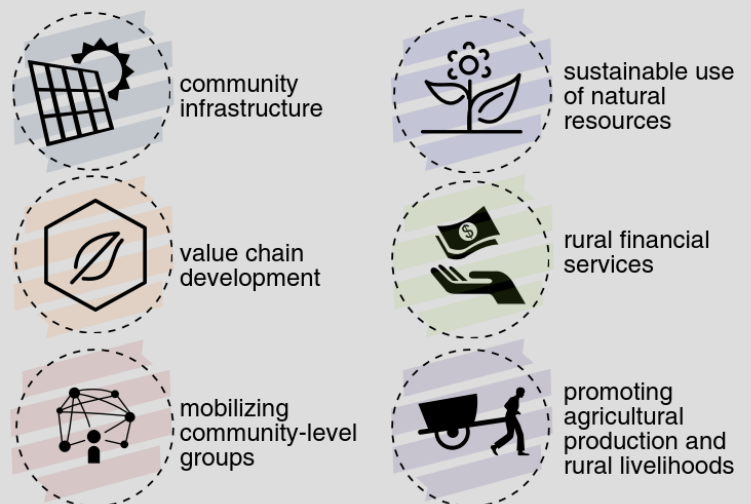
Sources: IFAD Flex Cube, United Nations Development Programme,
World Bank Development Indicators

IFAD operations

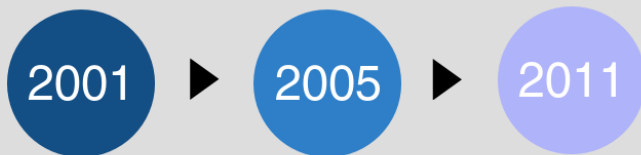
(since 1979)



Main areas



IFAD country strategies



Evaluation storyline



Focus on disadvantaged groups, including scheduled tribes and castes, women and the landless

Projects have tackled structural issues such as socio-cultural exclusion, access to natural resources and agricultural land, limited presence of public institutions

Consolidated results in community mobilization and infrastructure serving basic needs

Results are emerging in the promotion of agricultural production and rural livelihoods; and enabling access to credit and financial services



Good progress on gender equity

One of the strongest elements in the portfolio, particularly as it pertains to making income sources available to women, drudgery reduction and women's access to rural institutions



Main evaluation findings



Credit expansion

IFAD-funded projects have established a solid operational basis for credit expansion in the rural areas



Lagging response from banks

The response from the public sector banks in extending credit support has been well below expectations

Good portfolio impact

Portfolio impact has been satisfactory in terms of household assets and income and human and social capital. Moderately satisfactory in other impact domains (natural resources and climate change, institutions and policies)



Implementation delays

Delays in project entry into force and slow implementation have been a common problem. This is explained by challenging physical and socio-economic conditions of project areas, and limitations in implementation capacity at the state level, reflected inter alia in high turnover of project staff and cumbersome contractual arrangements and procurement procedures

Good communication products

In recent years there has been increased attention to communication products and knowledge management activities



Gap in analysis and systematization of knowledge

Compared to the need and demand of government, there is still a gap between the promising experiences promoted by projects and the capacity to analyse and systematize them

Strong partnerships with state government agencies

Increased awareness of the importance of partnering with sub-state local governments and national non-governmental organizations



Low capacity in policy dialogue

The capacity to effectively participate and enrich policy dialogue is constrained by limitations in knowledge management, partnerships and country office resources

Recommendations

1 Differentiate approaches

Where communities are already organized, explore different approaches than self-help groups (e.g. producers' groups, mutually-aided cooperative societies and producers' companies)

3 Address portfolio efficiency

Designs need to be better calibrated to implementation capacity in state agencies. Government, state governments and IFAD should reassess, inter alia, compensation packages and recruitment procedures for project staff

2 Focus more prominently on rainfed agriculture

Agricultural development components need to concentrate on rainfed agriculture, support local and national applied research and extension, and the commercialization of smallholder farmers

4 Promote scaling up of results

By strengthening partnerships at four levels: state government, central government, private actors and the rural finance sub-sector, and South-South cooperation

5 Enhance non-lending activities

Embed knowledge management and policy dialogue in individual project financing; discuss sectoral/thematic issues and facilitate knowledge transfer across projects during periodic portfolio review meetings; and establish partnerships with think-tanks to increase credibility of policy analysis