

Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation National Workshop 19 December 2019, Kathmandu

1. **Background.** The Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) has conducted a country strategy and programme evaluation (CSPE) in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal in 2019. The main in-country mission was fielded in June 2019 and the draft report was shared with IFAD and the Government of Nepal in early October 2019. The revised final report incorporating the comments is expected by November 2019.
2. The IFAD Evaluation Policy envisages that a national workshop be organized at the end of each CSPE. Accordingly, as the final step of the Nepal CSPE, a workshop will be co-organized by the Government of Nepal (represented by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development) and IOE, in close collaboration with IFAD's Asia and the Pacific Division. All offices will be involved, at different degrees of effort, in the practical and substantial arrangements for the roll-out and success of the event.
3. The main **objectives** of the workshop are to: (i) discuss the main findings, recommendations and issues emerging from the CSPE to jointly reflect on the way forward; and (ii) reflect on opportunities and challenges in the IFAD-Government partnership, taking into consideration the evolving global, regional and country context, as well as the evolving IFAD corporate context.
4. It is planned that an "agreement at completion point" (ACP) will be signed by the Government (represented by the Ministry of Finance) and IFAD (represented by the Associate Vice-President of the Programme Management Department) after the workshop. The ACP is a short document containing the CSPE recommendations and proposed follow-up actions thereon, as agreed between IFAD and the Government. The ACP will be drafted prior to the workshop, which will serve as an opportunity to validate and fine-tune its content with main stakeholders. IOE will facilitate the preparation of the ACP, which will be included in the final Nepal CSPE report.
5. **Venue and date.** The workshop on CSPE will take place in Kathmandu on Thursday, 19 December 2019 at the Himalaya Hotel. This will be a whole-day event. An IFAD delegation will conduct field visits prior to the workshop as explained further below.
6. **Agenda and process.** A provisional workshop agenda is provided in annex I. It will be a mixture of plenary and group sessions. The opening session will involve statements by IOE, IFAD and the Government. IOE will present the key findings, conclusions and recommendations from the evaluation, followed by a questions and answers plenary session.
7. About two hours will be allocated for group discussion. There will be three groups, depending on the final number of participants and feasible conference facility setup. It is proposed that each group discuss one of the following themes emerging from the Nepal CSPE.
 - **Theme 1. Adapting to and supporting the federalization process in Nepal.** According to the evaluation, the current strategy, mindset and organizational arrangements of the IFAD-funded programme in Nepal need to be adapted to the new federal system. The challenge is not only to adapt project design, it is also to help develop the capacity of new system, particularly at the state (Province) and Palika level, to support to smallholder agriculture, rural poverty reduction and rural transformation. The thematic group will discuss what should be the priorities for IFAD in this regard, and the partnerships to be developed with government agencies, international organizations and non-governmental organizations.
 - **Theme 2. Rebalancing the portfolio composition between support to inclusive value chain development and community-based basic infrastructure and services development.** The evaluation found that both projects supporting inclusive access to market and value chain development, as well as more 'traditional' project focusing on basic needs in more remote areas have contributed to poverty reduction, in different ways and according to different contexts. However, no recent IFAD-funded project has focused on community and household basic needs in zones that are less connected to markets. Given IFAD's focus on very poor communities and marginalized groups, the evaluation argues that there is scope to consider projects of this type in the future, with particular attention to support to the capacity of local governments. How can focus on commercial agriculture and basic needs be combined and articulated in the future strategy? What are the geographic and thematic priorities in supporting basic needs? What can we learn from experience in community-based projects? Who could be the main development partners?

- Theme 3. Improving the implementation pace and efficiency of the portfolio. The CSPE finds that projects have experienced considerable implementation delays. While exogenous factors played a role, a large part of the problem lay in gaps in design, implementation readiness and project management. How can the Government and IFAD learn from experience and improve in the future? What are the priority areas of action and the mutual responsibility? What instruments can be used to enhance implementation capacity?

8. **Key background documentation.** The final Nepal CSPE report will be the main background documentation for the workshop. In addition, IOE will prepare a PowerPoint presentation on the main findings and recommendations of the CSPE and key issues emerging from the CSPE.
9. **Communication and media coverage.** IOE will prepare an evaluation profile and insight containing information on key issues emerging from the evaluation. A profile is a two-page brochure summarizing the main findings and recommendations from the CSPE. The insight will present key lessons from IFAD-supported operations in Nepal that merit a wider debate among policy makers and development practitioners.
10. IOE's Evaluation Communication Unit will collaborate with IFAD's Asia and the Pacific and Communications Divisions, and the Government to determine and conduct specific communication activities to better disseminate information on the national workshop and key issues identified by the CSPE, through local and international media, to a wide and targeted audience. The main communication tools envisaged will include: (i) a media advisory sheet; (ii) a press release; (iii) workshop and press kits; and (iv) fact sheets and explanatory summaries. In addition, media coverage will be monitored and media clippings gathered. Workshop information will be posted on IFAD's website and may also be posted on social networks. Selected IFAD/IOE publications will be displayed at the workshop as well. Dedicated slots for interviews to the IOE evaluation team, IFAD, and Government representatives will be scheduled during the event.
11. **Field visit.** It is planned that the IFAD delegation will undertake a field visit to the former *High value agricultural project in hill and mountain areas* and the current *Agriculture Sector Development Programme* from 16 to 18 December 2019, in the Karnali Province, Surkhet District, prior to the workshop. A detailed programme of the field visits will be developed in close collaboration with the IFAD country office and Government authorities.
12. **List of participants.** Participants/invitees will be drawn from relevant government agencies, local government units, IFAD loan and grant financed projects and their partners, farmer organizations, indigenous peoples organizations, non-governmental organizations, development partners, among others. The number of participants is expected to be around 70. Below is a proposal to be finalized with the support of the Government of Nepal and IFAD's Asia and the Pacific Division.

a) Government of Nepal

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development

Ministry of Finance

National Planning Commission

Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supply

Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Forests and Environment

Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation

Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security

National Agriculture Research Council

Representative from a State Government (Provinces 1, 2, 5, 6)

Representative from a Palika where an IFAD-funded project is implemented.

b) IFAD funded project teams

Poverty Alleviation Fund

Kisankalagi Unnat Biu-Bijan Karyakram/Improved Seeds for Farmers Programme (KUBK/ISFP)
Adaptation of Smallholders in Hilly Areas Project (ASHAP)
Samriddhi-Rural Enterprises and Remittances Programme (SRERP)
Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP)

c) Non-governmental organizations, private sector, civil society organizations

Helvetas

SNV

Heifer International

d) International Organizations (Nepal Country Offices)

The World Bank

The Asian Development Bank

UN Resident Coordinator

UNDP

FAO

WFP

SDC

DFID

USAID

EU

ICIMOD

e) IFAD

Mr Donal Brown, Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department, IFAD

Mr Oscar Garcia, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE)

Mr Nigel Brett, Director, Regional Division for Asia and the Pacific, IFAD

Mr Fabrizio Felloni, Deputy Director, IOE-IFAD

Mr Tarek Kotb, Country Director for Nepal, Regional Division for Asia and the Pacific, IFAD

Mr Bashu Aryal, Country Programme Officer, Regional Division for Asia and the Pacific, IFAD

Ms Maria Cristina Spagnolo, Evaluation Assistant, IOE-IFAD

Ms Kanta Singh, Consultant, IOE-IFAD

Mr Netra Timsina, Consultant, IOE-IFAD

f) Media [to be confirmed] – local and international

Nepal Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation - National Workshop

Kathmandu, 19 December 2019, Himalaya Hotel

Provisional agenda

Time	Item
08:30-09:00	Welcome coffee; registration of participants
	A. Plenary Session 1 Chair: Representative from the Ministry of Finance of Nepal (to be confirmed)
09:00-09:10	Welcome remarks from the Chair
09.10-09.20	Remarks by Mr Oscar Garcia, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD
09.20-09:30	Remarks by Mr Donal Brown, Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department of IFAD
09:30-09:40	Statement by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development of Nepal (to be confirmed)
09:40-10:05	Presentation of CSPE findings and recommendations by Fabrizio Felloni, Deputy Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD and lead evaluator
10.05-10:40	Questions and Answers session
10.40- 11.10	Group Photo and Coffee Break <i>Interviews with the Media</i>
11:10-11:20	Introduction to group discussion
11.20-12.30	B. Group Sessions 1. Adapting to and supporting the federalization process in Nepal 2. Rebalancing the portfolio composition between support to inclusive value chain development and community-based basic infrastructure and services development 3. Improving the implementation pace and efficiency of the portfolio Adapting to and supporting the federalization process in Nepal
12.30-13.40	Lunch
13.40-15.10	Continuation and conclusion of group sessions
15.10-15.30	Coffee break
	C. Plenary session 2 Chair: Representative from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development of Nepal (to be confirmed)
15.30-16.00	Presentation by the three group rapporteurs Questions and Answers
16.00-16.30	Overview of the key elements of the next strategy of cooperation of IFAD in Nepal By Mr Nigel Brett, Director, Regional Division for Asia and the Pacific, IFAD Mr Tarek Kotb, Country Director for Nepal, Regional Division for Asia and the Pacific, IFAD Q&A with the participants
16:30-16:40	Final remarks by: -Mr Oscar Garcia, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD - Chair of the session
16.40	Closure of the workshop