

Indonesia Country Programme Evaluation National Roundtable Workshop

**Reflections on the future directions and timelines
for the preparation of the forthcoming Indonesia
country strategy by Mr Ronald Hartman, IFAD
Country Programme Manager for Indonesia.**

**Jakarta, Indonesia
21 April 2013
16.30 – 16.50**

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be here today to participate in the national roundtable workshop for the independent country programme evaluation for Indonesia. It is pleasing to see so many of our partners: from government, civil society, farmer and indigenous people organizations, private sector, academia, and development partners here today.

I am also pleased to welcome staff from various project districts from throughout Indonesia to Jakarta. They critically important people in the IFAD family Indonesia and we will be meeting tomorrow to discuss many of the issues discussed today to identify a way forward.

This independent evaluation, which is the second undertaken by IFAD for Indonesia, has come at a critical juncture in the relationship between IFAD and Indonesia. As we have heard today, Indonesia has progressed to an ambitious lower middle income country with very different needs and opportunities than when the partnership between IFAD and Indonesia first started in 1980. Indonesia has changed dramatically and its expectations and demands of its development partnerships have also evolved along with this change. This necessitates that partners such as IFAD continually reflect on how to better serve Indonesia in its development efforts.

Agriculture is and will continue to remain a very important sector in the Indonesian economy and for the

Indonesian people. We have heard today that Indonesian smallholders face new threats from volatile food prices, erratic agricultural markets, growing insecurity of access to land, the degradation of natural resources upon which rural people depend, and the worsening effects of climate change. But they also have the prospect of greater opportunities from rapidly changing and growing agricultural markets will be an important prospect for smallholders. However to take advantage of these market opportunities Indonesia faces some challenges, particularly with increasing agricultural productivity.

The country programme evaluation has provided an important opportunity for critical reflection on how to respond to the evolving challenges and opportunities in the country and the needs of Indonesia's rural population. At times this has not been easy – and sometimes we have not agreed - sometimes when you hold up a mirror you don't actually like what you see. But this is important process if you are to actually learn, generate knowledge, adapt and improve. As we have heard from some of our project beneficiaries today IFAD can make a difference in the rural areas and to poor rural people – and we are therefore obligated on their behalf to ensure that we do everything possible to have a positive sustained impact on their lives and livelihoods.

The overall conclusion of the independent country programme evaluation is that the partnership between IFAD and the Government of Indonesia is important and there are significant opportunities to strengthen it for better results on rural poverty reduction. We concur with this strongly.

The independent country programme evaluation also indicates that IFAD should play a leading role in promoting productive, competitive and high value smallholder agriculture and to increase the efficiency of the agriculture sector in partnership with the Government and others, including through greater linkages with the private sector and enhanced collaboration with multilateral and bilateral development organisations. We also agree with this finding strongly.

As Indonesia responds to the need for increased agricultural productivity and growth the demand for new investment, technology, productive inputs, knowledge and infrastructure will increase. This will require not only more investment in public goods but also an increasing role of the private sector. In order to promote the role of private sector and PPP, there is a need to improve the policy and regulatory environment and to identify key opportunities and bottlenecks for the private sector. The CPE notes that IFAD has been piloting a number of PPP in its current country programme, including one under the READ programme in Central Sulawesi with MARS. We are now going to see a short film highlighting this partnership.

MARS FILM

The country programme evaluation highlights that the results of the country programme have been mixed and further improvement is needed in key areas. The CPE highlights that performance has improved – significantly in some areas. We acknowledge this and as the

evaluation highlights, we are already working with the Government of Indonesia and other partners on strengthening our performance on the ground to deliver stronger results. IFAD needs to better support government in informing policy based on stronger performance of our investment programmes and better management of knowledge. We are committed to achieving this.

We have been fortunate today to hear from some current IFAD project beneficiaries and how IFAD supported investments have changed their lives for the better. It is this commitment – to ensure that rural poor people have the opportunity to overcome their poverty – that drives us to improve and scale up our successes to achieve more.

In closing, I extend our sincere gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for their partnership over the past 33 years and for providing their guidance on how we can better support them in the future. I would also like to thank our IFAD colleagues from the Independent Office of Evaluation for their pragmatic and collaborative approach in undertaking this important country programme evaluation. Finally, a thank you to our IFAD team, which includes our on-going projects, grants and partnerships. I would like to specifically thank the IFAD country team both here and in Rome, and particularly Ibu Anissa for her dedication and hard work.

I am honoured to work with such a dedicated group of people and I am looking forward to working with you to achieve a

much greater sustainable impact on the rural people in Indonesia that we serve.

Thank you.