

MOLDOVA COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATION
Concept Note on the National Roundtable Workshop
Chisinau, Moldova, 14 November 2013

A. Context

1. The Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE) of IFAD conducted a Country Programme Evaluation (CPE) in Moldova in 2012/13. As a usual step in the evaluation process, a national roundtable workshop is held at the end of each CPE undertaken by IOE. The Moldova CPE national roundtable workshop will be co-organized by the Government of Moldova and IOE, in close collaboration with IFAD's Near East, North Africa and Europe Division (NEN).

B. Objectives

2. The objectives of the Moldova CPE national roundtable workshop are to: (i) discuss the main issues emerging from the CPE; (ii) provide inputs for the preparation of the evaluation's Agreement at Completion Point (ACP); and (iii) provide an opportunity for reflecting on key issues for the forthcoming Moldova Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP).

3. The ACP is a short document summarizing the main CPE findings and recommendations, which the Government of Moldova (represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry) and IFAD (represented by the Programme Management Department) would agree to adopt and implement within specific timeframes. IOE's role is to facilitate the preparation and finalization of the ACP, which will be included in the final Moldova CPE report.

C. Proposed Organisation for National Roundtable Workshop

4. **Place and timing.** The workshop is scheduled to take place in Chisinau on Thursday, 14 November 2013. The workshop will be held at Leogrand Hotel. The provisional workshop agenda is provided in Annex 1.

5. **Workshop invitations and documentation.** The invitations will be sent to all participants by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, in the joint name of the Government of Moldova and IFAD. The Moldova CPE report will be the main background document for the workshop and will be shared with all participants ahead of the event. In addition, a PowerPoint presentation will be delivered by IOE during the workshop with a focus on the three key themes emerging from the Moldova CPE, which will serve to guide the discussions at the event.

6. **Key issues for discussion.** The workshop will focus on the following three key issues emerging from the CPE:

- **Issue 1:** What should be the comparative advantage of IFAD and its role in terms of contributing to rural economic growth and employment generation for the benefit of the rural poor in Moldova considering it is classified as a lower middle-income country?
- **Issue 2:** What strategies are needed to enhance rural and microfinance services delivery and value chain development for rural poverty reduction?
- **Issue 3:** What are the key policy issues with important implications on rural development and poverty reduction that should be part of the policy dialogue between the Government of Moldova and IFAD?

7. **Participants.** The workshop will involve the participation of representatives from the Government of Moldova, IFAD, the Consolidated Unit for the Implementation of IFAD Programmes (or Consolidated Programme Implementation Unit, CPIU), implementing partners, private sector, academics, NGOs and civil society, and development partners. It

is expected that the event will be attended by around 70 persons. A provisional list of institutions and persons to be invited to the workshop is provided in Annex 2.

8. **Proposed programme.** The workshop's provisional agenda (Annex 1) has been developed in such a way to allow for ample opportunity to exchange views and perspectives among participants and panel members throughout the event.

9. An opening statement will be made by Honourable Vasile Bumakov, the Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry, from the Government of Moldova, followed by statements by Ms Khalida Bouzar, NEN Director and Mr Fabrizio Felloni, IOE Officer-in-Charge. Thereafter, Mr Basil Kavalsky, consultants' team leader and Ms Fumiko Nakai, lead evaluator will make a PowerPoint presentation on the Moldova CPE. The presentation will be followed by comments thereon by a representative of the Government. These will be followed by plenary and panel discussions.

10. After a coffee/tea break, the working groups will convene. The participants will be divided into three working groups. Each group will consider one of the three key issues (see paragraph 6). The facilitator for each working group will be identified prior to the workshop and the groups will nominate a rapporteur. Over one hour is allocated for group discussions, after which the plenary session will re-convene to hear and discuss the feedback from each of the three working groups.

11. Following the plenary session, Ms Khalida Bouzar, the NEN Director, and Mr Abdelkarim Sma, the Country Programme Manager for Moldova will share their reflections on the future directions for the IFAD country strategy. The workshop will be closed by the Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry, covering the key points arising from both the plenary and working group discussions, as well as summarizing the main issues to be included in the ACP. After the closure, the participants are invited for lunch.

D. Tentative Schedule

12. The tentative schedule for key events around the workshop is as follows:

- 10-12/11/13 Arrival of IFAD delegation in Chisinau; workshop preparation
- 13/11/13 (Wed) Field visit to Calarasi rayon; bilateral meetings between the IFAD delegation and senior government officials
- 14/11/13 (Thu) CPE National Roundtable Workshop
- 15/11/13 (Fri) Departure of IFAD delegation from Chisinau

13. Prior to the workshop, it is proposed that the IFAD delegation undertake a field visit to selected activity/activities under IFAD-financed project(s). A detailed programme of the field visit to the project will be developed in close collaboration with NEN and the CPIU. This will offer the IFAD delegation an opportunity to directly hold discussions with beneficiaries, project staff, implementing partners and other stakeholders.

14. Furthermore, it is proposed that the IFAD delegation hold bilateral meetings with senior government officials before the workshop.

**Moldova Country Programme Evaluation (CPE)
National Roundtable Workshop, 14 November 2013
Workshop Agenda (Leograd Hotel)**

- 09:00-09:30 Registration of the participants
- 09:30-09:40 Opening statement by Honourable Vasile Bumakov, Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry, the Government of Moldova
- 09:40-09:50 Statement by Ms Khalida Bouzar, NEN Director, IFAD
- 09:50-10.00 Statement by Mr Fabrizio Felloni, IOE Officer-in-Charge, IFAD
- 10:00-10:25 Presentation of findings and recommendations of the CPE by Basil Kavalsky, consultants' team leader and Fumiko Nakai, IOE, IFAD
- 10:25-10.40 Comments by the Government of Moldova on the presentation (Mr Viorel Gutu, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food Industry)
- 11:40-11:00 Plenary discussions (questions/comments from the participants)
- 11.00-11. 20 Panel discussions (partners/resource persons)
- 11.20-11.25 Overview of break-out working group discussion by Fumiko Nakai, IOE
- 11:25-11:45 Coffee/tea break
- 11:45-13.00 Break-out working group discussions (3 groups)
- 13:00-13:45 Report of the work group rapporteurs and discussions in plenary
- 13:45-14:00 Reflections on future strategic directions of the Moldova country strategy by Khalida Bouzar, Director NEN and Abdelkarim Sma, Country Programme Manager, NEN
- 14:00-14:15 Closing statement by Honourable Vasile Bumakov, Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry, the Government of Moldova
- 14.15 Lunch

National Roundtable Workshop, 14 November 2013
Proposed list of invitees

Ministries/Government Agencies (approx. 12 persons)

1. Ministry of Finance
2. Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
3. Agency of Intervention and Payments for Agriculture (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry)
4. Ministry of Transport and Roads Infrastructure
5. Ministry of Environment
6. Ministry of Economy

Consolidated Unit for the Implementation of IFAD Programmes (CPIU) (11 persons)

7. Director and the team

National stakeholders, implementing partners (approx. 20 persons)

8. National Bank of Moldova
9. National Commission of Financial Market
10. Organisation for SME Sector Development (ODIMM)
11. Rural Finance Corporation
12. Central Association of Savings and Credit Associations
13. Central Union of Savings and Credit Associations
14. Moldinconbank
15. Moldova Agroindbank
16. Mobias Banca
17. Victoria Bank
18. Energbank
19. Banca Societa
20. MicroInvest
21. Procredit Bank
22. National Farmers Federation Moldova
23. Chamber of Commerce
24. Consolidated Agricultural Projects Management Unit (CAPMU – for the World Bank financed projects)

Beneficiary representatives

25. (approx. 5 persons)

Development partners (approx. 8 persons)

26. World Bank
27. UNDP
28. USAID
29. European Union
30. Millennium Challenge Corporation
31. Denmark / DANIDA
32. Sweden / SIDA
33. FAO
34. Swiss Development Agency

IFAD Staff (6 persons)

35. Ms Khalida Bouzar, Director, NEN
36. Mr Fabrizio Felloni, Officer-in-Charge, IOE
37. Mr Abdelkarim Sma, Country Programme Manager, NEN
38. Ms Fumiko Nakai, Evaluation Officer, IOE
39. Ms Lucy Ariano, Evaluation Assistant, IOE
40. Ms Cecile Berthaud, Evaluation Officer, IOE

Moldova CPE consultant

41. Mr Basil Kavalsky, Consultant's Team Leader