

Moldova Country Programme Evaluation
National Roundtable Workshop, Chisinau, 14 November 2013
Statement by Mr Fabrizio Felloni at Opening Session
Officer-in-Charge, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD

Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry,

--- [Other addressees]

--- Distinguished representatives of government agencies and partner institutions

--- Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to welcome all of you to this workshop to discuss the main findings and recommendations emerging from the Country Programme Evaluation of the IFAD-supported operations in Moldova.

This workshop is jointly organised by the Government of Moldova and IFAD. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Moldova, and in particular, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, for their excellent support.

I am also very glad to be in Moldova for my second time. The first was in early 2012 for the evaluation of one IFAD project, known as IFAD 3.

This Moldova Country Programme Evaluation has been conducted by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD.

Our Office of Evaluation is part of IFAD but independent in that it reports directly to the Executive Board of IFAD, not to the IFAD Management.

Thus, we conduct evaluations in independence in terms of analysing data but not in isolation, as we collaborate and consult with the main stakeholders.

The main mission for the Moldova Country Programme Evaluation was conducted in May 2103. We have now finalised the report taking into account, the comments from the IFAD operations and the Government.

We wish to thank both of them for their excellent collaboration and inputs in the process.

This has been the first Country Programme Evaluation for Moldova. The country and rural poverty contexts in Moldova are quite different from those of many other countries IFAD works (for example Southern Asia or Sub-Saharan Africa).

According to our evaluation it is very important for IFAD and the Government to analyse the specific constraints and opportunities when they agree on a strategy to alleviate rural poverty.

I will not go into details of the findings but let me say that the findings of the evaluation are overall positive. The long-standing support to rural lending and small-scale rural infrastructure contributed to stimulating economic activities and job creation in rural Moldova.

The programme has also been efficiently managed and coordinated, which stands out in our evaluations.

At the same time, the country economy has evolved. IFAD's operations in Moldova started in 1999. After 14 years of operations, it is time to review key

elements of the strategy, critically reflecting on how to phase out some mature elements of the programme sustainably, and at the same time emerging opportunities for scaling-up and innovations.

Today we are going to discuss the main findings and recommendations from this evaluation.

As a next step after this workshop, Government of Moldova and the Programme Management Department of IFAD will sign an agreement called “Agreement at Completion Point”.

It is a short document summarising the main recommendations, which the Government and IFAD agree to adopt and implement within specific timeframes.

This document will serve as a building block for preparing the next strategy which will be agreed between the Government of Moldova and IFAD. This document will also be presented to the Executive Board of IFAD together with the new country strategy.

I am sure that today’s discussion will be an important input in the Agreement and the next strategy. I look forward to your active participation and thank you again for being here.