

NEPAL COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATION

Concept Note on the National Roundtable Workshop

Kathmandu, Nepal, 23 January 2013

A. CONTEXT

1. The Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE) of IFAD conducted a Country Programme Evaluation (CPE) in Nepal in 2011/12. As a usual step in the evaluation process, a national roundtable workshop is held at the end of each CPE undertaken by IOE. The Nepal CPE national roundtable workshop will be co-organized by the Government of Nepal and IOE, in close collaboration with IFAD's Asia and the Pacific Division (APR).

B. OBJECTIVES

2. The objectives of the Nepal 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 Nepal Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP).

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

4. The workshop will entail the participation of representatives from the Government of Nepal, IFAD Management and Staff, NGOs and civil society organizations, directors of IFAD-funded projects and programmes, academics and research institutions, private sector and foundations, donors and selected resource persons. A provisional list of participants is contained in section C of this concept note.

5. In addition to participating in the workshop, the IFAD delegation from Rome on 20-21 January 2013 will conduct a field visit to observe IFAD-supported project activities (Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme (LFLP) and possibly Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF-II)). This will offer the IFAD delegation an opportunity to directly hold discussions with beneficiaries and their groups, project staff, district-level government authorities and others, as well as see project activities on the ground.

C. NEPAL CPE NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE WORKSHOP

6. **Place and timing.** The workshop will take place in Kathmandu on 23 January 2013 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The provisional workshop agenda can be found in Annex 1 of this concept note.

7. **Workshop invitations and documentation.** Invitations will be sent to all participants by the Ministry of Finance and IOE, in the joint name of the Government of Nepal and IFAD. The Nepal CPE report is 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 during the workshop on the three key themes emerging from the Nepal CPE, which will serve to guide the discussions at the event.

8. **Key themes for the workshop.** The workshop will focus on the following three key themes emerging from the Nepal CPE:

Theme 1. Strategies and approaches for developing viable rural enterprises to strengthen the economic development aspect of the next COSOP.

Theme 2. Partnerships and harmonization – how to avoid high fragmentation of aid for agriculture and improve coordination in the context of political uncertainty, while engaging civil society and private sector in implementation.

Theme 3. Project/Programme Management – dealing with challenges in the context of weak institutional capacity, high staff turnover, and general governance issues.

9. **List of participants.** The provisional list of institutions and persons to be invited to the workshop is provided below.

Government of Nepal

A. Ministries/Government Agencies

1. Ministry of Finance
2. Ministry of Agriculture Development
3. Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
4. Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
5. Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
6. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
7. Ministry of Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation
8. National Planning Commission
9. Ministry of Law and Justice
10. Financial Controller General Office
11. Office of the Auditor General

B. Projects and Programmes

12. Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme (LFLP)
13. Western Uplands Poverty Alleviation Project (WUPAP)
14. High Value Agriculture Project in Hill and Mountain Areas (HVAP)
15. Poverty Alleviation Fund II (PAF-II)
16. Improved Seeds for Farmers Programme (ISFP)

C. National institutions, civil society organizations, foundations, private sector, donors and NGOs

17. Agricultural Development Bank of Nepal (ADBN)
18. Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED)
19. Center for Integrated Agriculture and Cooperative System (COCIS)
20. Dalit Organization
21. Environment, Culture, Agriculture, Research and Development Society (ECARDS)
22. Agro-Enterprise Center (AEC) of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI)
23. Federation of Nepalese Indigenous Nationalities (FONIN)
24. Himalayan Grassroots Women`s Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI)
25. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
26. Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)
27. Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB)
28. NGO Federation
29. Norlha
30. Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal (SAPPROS)
31. Small Farmers Development Bank (SFDB)
32. Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture & Natural Resource Management. (WOCAN)

D. International Cooperation

33. AsDB
34. DFID
35. FAO
36. Finnish Embassy
37. ILO
38. JICA
39. SNV
40. Swiss Embassy (SDC)
41. UNDP
42. UNICEF
43. USAID
44. WFP
45. World Bank

E. IFAD Staff

46. Ms Lakshmi Menon, Head, Corporate Services Department
47. Ms Hoonae Kim, Director, APR
48. Mr Ashwani Muthoo, Acting Director, IOE
49. Mr Ganesh Thapa, Regional Economist, APR
50. Mr Konstantin Atanesyan, Senior Evaluation Officer, IOE
51. Mr Benoit Thierry, Country Program Manager
52. Mr Bashu Aryal, Country Program Coordinator
53. Ms Linda Danielsson, Evaluation Assistant, IOE
54. Ms Ximena Novoa, Evaluation Assistant, IOE

F. Nepal CPE Consultants

55. Mr Jakob Grosen, Consultant's Team Leader
56. Mr Binoy Sharma
57. Mr Netra Timsina
58. Mr Kumar Upadhyaya
59. Mr Nigel Roberts

10. **Workshop process.** 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.

11. During the inaugural session, Honorable Barsha Man Pun, Finance Minister of Nepal, Ms Lakshmi Menon, Head, IFAD Corporate Services Department, and Mr Ashwani Muthoo, Acting Director of IOE will make introductory statements. Thereafter, Mr Konstantin Atanesyan, Lead Evaluator and Mr Jakob Grosen, consultants' team leader, will make a PowerPoint presentation on the Nepal CPE. The presentation will be complemented by a short contribution from Mr Nigel Roberts (Director, World Bank's World Development Report 2011(WDR) on "Conflict and Development").

12. After the coffee break, a question and answer session will follow. The morning session will conclude with an introduction to the workshop working groups and the working groups will convene briefly before lunch. The participants will be divided into three working groups. Each group will consider only one of the three workshop themes. The facilitator for each working group will be identified prior to the workshop and the groups will nominate a rapporteur.

13. After lunch, the working groups will re-convene, continue and conclude their discussions. Thereafter, the plenary will re-convene to hear the feedback from each of the three working groups. This will be followed by an open plenary discussion, to be facilitated by the workshop chairperson.

14. Following the plenary, the Director IFAD-APR and the Country Programme Manager for Nepal will share their reflections on the future directions for the Nepal country strategy.

15. The workshop's salient conclusions will be set forth in a closing statement to be delivered by Mr Madhu Kumar Marasini, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, 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 (to be signed between IFAD and the Government of Nepal).

D. FIELD VISIT

16. Prior to the workshop, the IFAD delegation will undertake a field visit to observe activities supported by the Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme (LFLP) and Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF-II). The field visit will take place on 20-21 January. A detailed programme of the field visit to the project is being developed in close collaboration with the IFAD Nepal Country Office and project authorities.

Key Events

19 January	IFAD Delegation arrives in Kathmandu
20-21 January	Field visit
22 January	Bilateral meetings of IFAD delegation; finalization of workshop preparation
23 January	CPE National Roundtable Workshop
24 January	Departure to Rome

National Roundtable Workshop - Nepal Country Programme Evaluation (CPE)

23 January 2013, Hyatt regency Hotel, Kathmandu - Draft Workshop Agenda

09:00-09:30 Registration of the participants

Session One

Chairperson: Mr. Shanta Raj Subedi, Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance

09:30-09:45 Statement by Mr Ashwani Muthoo, Acting Director, IOE, IFAD

09:45-10:00 Statement by Ms Lakshmi Menon, Head, Corporate Services Department, IFAD

10:00-10:15 Address by Honorable Finance Minister Mr. Barsha Man Pun

10:15-10:45 Presentation of Findings and Recommendations of the CPE by Konstantin Atanesyan, IOE, IFAD and Jakob Grosen, consultant team leader

10:45- 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00- 11:15 Presentation on “Development in conflict – case of Nepal” by Nigel Roberts

11:15-12:15 Questions and Answers with the audience

12:15-12:30 Overview of break-out working group discussion by Jakob Grosen

12:30 – 12:45 Session Chair’s remarks and closing of session 1

12:45-14:00 Lunch hosted by Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal

14:00-15:45 Break-out working groups discussion

Group 1: Strategies and approaches for developing viable rural enterprises to strengthen the economic development aspect of the next COSOP. (Facilitators – Binoy Sharma/Jakob Grosen, IFAD consultants)

Group 2: Partnerships and harmonization – how to avoid high fragmentation of aid for agriculture and improve coordination in the context of political uncertainty, while engaging civil society and private sector in implementation. (Facilitators - Nigel Roberts, IFAD consultant; Hari Upadhyaya, CEAPRED)

Group 3: Project/Programme Management – dealing with challenges in the context of weak institutional capacity, high staff turnover, and general governance issues. (Facilitators – Kailash Pokharel, Under Secretary, MOF; Benoit Thierry, Country Programme Manager, IFAD)

15:45-16:00 End of working group discussion – Coffee break

Session Two

Chairperson: Mr Madhu Kumar Marasini, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance

16:00-16:30 Report of the work group rapporteurs to the plenary session

16:30-17:00 Plenary discussion

17:00-17:45 Reflections on future strategic directions of the Nepal country strategy – COSOP, by Hoonae Kim, Director APR, and Benoit Thierry, Country Programme Manager, APR

17:45-18:00 Session Chair’s remarks and closing of session 2

18:00-19:00 Cocktail reception