

IFAD Country Program Evaluation (CPE) Workshop Chairman's Concluding Remarks delivered by Mr. Shanta Raj Subedi, Finance Secretary

Honorable Finance Minister, Mr. Barsha Man Pun

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Senior Officials of the Government of Nepal,

Representatives from Development Partners, Officials from IFAD

Ladies and Gentlemen!

1. I'm indeed pleased to chair this very important workshop today.
2. Nepal and IFAD's partnership reaches to 35 years where IFAD has supported in various areas of our important sectors such as agriculture, leasehold forestry, irrigation, poverty alleviation, rural/community development, and commercialization of smallholder agriculture. In a less than two decade time, poverty level has come down to 25 % from 43% in 1995 in Nepal. IFAD supported operations have also contributed in this reduction.
3. I have just heard the evaluation's findings and recommendations which are very important lessons for next country programming, which is under preparation now. Further, Nepal's upcoming three year's plan and Agriculture Development Strategy will be the guidelines for IFAD's next country programming. Besides funding, we also need knowledge and technology transfer, particularly in agriculture sector where IFAD can help Nepal. I request IFAD team to pay attention on this matter too.
4. We know one third of the Nepalese GDP rely on agriculture. Government always put emphasis on the qualitative and quantitative development of this sector. Government is trying to improve the investment environment. We are increasing investment in agriculture sector. This year we have half dozen new projects in agriculture sector with the support from development partners along with recently signed IFAD funded "Improved Seed Project". Besides, government also launching some new projects in agriculture sector from our own resources. However, we need to work differently. Program level

coordination, reducing fragmentation are important areas to focus on while we talk about funding in various sectors in Nepal including agriculture.

5. I am happy to note that Nepal Country Programme performance during the past 10 years has been rated as moderately satisfactory by the evaluation, rated 4 out of 6. I hope that the performance will further improve in the next evaluation period with the introduction of new partnership strategy.
6. You know that we have NPPR meeting tomorrow, where IFAD is a new core member this year. I see you all tomorrow morning as well.
7. Finally, this afternoon discussions areas – next strategies, partnership and harmonization and improving project management- are very important for IFAD's future strategy. I hope participants will concentrate on discussion in these areas and come out with concrete suggestions.

Thank you.