

China CPE NRTW – Mr Tuinenburg's Statement

Honourable Vice Minister,

First of all, I would like to welcome all of you and to thank you for participating in today's national round table workshop on the China Country Programme Evaluation. In effect this is the first country programme evaluation of the IFAD supported programme in China. As you know China is one of IFAD's largest borrowers, but apart from this China is a key partner and one of IFAD's most important supporters. I am pleased to see so many participants and am looking forward to rich debate on the findings and recommendations of our evaluation.

Today's workshop marks the culmination of the evaluation process undertaken by IFAD's Independent Office of Evaluation.

Please allow me to say a few words on the Independent Office of Evaluation. In 2013 the Office celebrated its 10-th anniversary of independent evaluation in IFAD. Ever since 2003, when the Evaluation Policy was approved by the Executive Board of IFAD, the Office is completely independent from management and reports directly to the Executive Board. This in line with good practice and the institutional arrangements of other international financial institutions such as the World Bank, the European Development Bank and the Asian Development to name a few.

The Independent Office carries out several types of evaluation: Corporate Level Evaluations, two important and recent evaluations include the Evaluation on IFAD's replenishments and the evaluation of IFAD's engagement in Middle Income Countries, the last one being of particular relevance to China.

Apart from these corporate level evaluations, the Office carries out project evaluations, as well as Country Programme Evaluations, such as will be discussed today.

I will now turn towards the objective of the workshop today, when we will discuss the main findings and recommendations from the China Country Evaluation. The objective is to reflect on these findings and recommendations and on the implications for the future cooperation between China and IFAD. The main purpose of today is learning rather than accountability. And in particular to provide inputs towards the preparation of the Agreement at Completion Point.

Let me come back to this Agreement at Completion Point. In accordance with the IFAD evaluation policy, each evaluation is concluded by such an agreement. This agreement will contain the way forward and will specify how IFAD management and the Government of China will implement findings and recommendations. It will also include a specific time- frame for the implementation of those recommendations agreed upon.

At this stage of my introduction, I do not intend to present you with a detailed presentation of findings and recommendations. This will be done later today by Mr Ashwani Muthoo, Deputy Director of IFAD's independent office of evaluation, who was the lead evaluator for this important evaluation. Actually the evaluation team consisted of several national and international consultants, including two Chinese consultants, Professor Shuai Chuanmin and Mr Xiaoying Jian, who are with us today.

The recommendations are related to a number of subjects, including knowledge cooperation, South-south and triangular cooperation, a strengthened partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, targeting and in particular scaling up by other parties, e.g. by the National Government, donors and the private sector, the latter in the eyes of the evaluation being a priority.

Concluding, I would like to express a heartfelt appreciation to the Government of China, in particular the Ministry of Finance for their invaluable support and collaboration during the entire process, and the organisation of today's workshop. I also thank the authorities in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and the project authorities who welcomed us and make excellent arrangements, to enable our delegation to conduct a field visit to selected project activities earlier this week. It cannot be underestimated how important these field visits are to better understand the reality of our work. A special word of appreciation is also due to Mr Zhang Zhengwei, China's representative in the Executive Board, and observer of the Evaluation Committee, for his interest and support.

I am grateful to IFAD's programme management, the Asia and Pacific Division, its Director Ms Hoonae Kim, the former CPM Sana Jatta, the current CPM Matteo Marchisio and the IFAD country office staff for their valuable inputs, openness and constructive collaboration, during the entire process, and I am very pleased to acknowledge the presence of Mr John McIntire, IFAD's new Associate Vice President for Programme Management, who made China the first country to visit in his new function.

Lastly, I would like to thank Mr Ashwani Muthoo and his team, and many others who have contributed to this evaluation for their hard work and commitment.

With this, Excellences, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your attention, and wish you a very productive day.

Thank you