

**Evaluation methodology workshop**  
**Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD**  
**Beijing, 16 July 2014**

- I am happy to be here in my capacity as Chairman of the Evaluation Committee of the Executive Board of IFAD. In fact, it is my first visit to China, and therefore, I am very excited to be in your beautiful country.
  
- Before I say a few words about today's workshop, I would like to provide you some background information on IFAD's Evaluation Committee. The Committee was established in 1987 as a sub-Committee of the Executive Board, comprised of nine member states. The current composition of the Committee includes: Angola, Finland, France, Indonesia, India, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, and Norway. The mandate of the current Committee is for three years until April 2015. As a distinguished member of the IFAD Executive Board, China regularly attends the Evaluation Committee as an observer, and makes very incisive contributions to the debate on lessons learned, results and future policies and strategies.

- The role of the Evaluation Committee is to exercise oversight on the functioning and work of IFAD's Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE). In particular, we hold 4-5 meetings per year, to review selected evaluation reports produced by IOE on IFAD-supported policies, strategies and projects. Based on that, we advise the Executive Board and IFAD Management on key lessons and recommendations that can contribute to better performance in the future. The Committee also provides guidance to IOE to ensure it conducts relevant and timely evaluations, and ensures that IOE evaluation methodologies and processes are in line with international best practice.
- With regard to today's workshop, I consider it an important and interesting event. IOE organised a similar workshop in my country, Indonesia, which proved to be very informative and useful. In fact, I think IOE is in a unique position to promote evaluation capacity development in IFAD's developing member countries, given it has a coherent methodology building on good international practice. The IOE methodology and

processes for evaluating agriculture and rural development interventions is documented in a comprehensive evaluation manual, which was developed in 2008 and is one of its kind among multilateral and bilateral aid organisations. Given methodology development is not a one-time activity, I am aware IOE is now in the process of developing a second edition of the evaluation manual, which we in the Evaluation Committee look forward to discussing next year, before it is finalised.

- Finally, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to underline the importance for any evaluation to assess the results in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and scaling up impact. This is in my opinion fundamental, as a very large number of women work in rural areas in agriculture-related activities. Scaling up is particularly important in China, which is a very large country both in terms of size as well as rural population. In this regard, the IFAD/IOE evaluation manual indeed has a number of indicators or guiding questions that you could also consider when evaluating the impact of projects and programmes on gender issues and to assess

scaling up. These indicators or questions may not be exhaustive but are very good, and could be used as the starting point for developing the specific questions on gender and scaling up in any evaluation you may need to undertake.

- In closing, I thank you for your attention and wish you a fruitful discussion.