

**India Country Programme Evaluation
and Impact Evaluation of the Jharkhand-Chhattisgarh Tribal
Development Programme**

Workshop, New Delhi, 11 June 2015

**Speaking Points - Mr Ashwani Muthoo, Deputy Director,
Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD**

- Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

- First of all, I would like to welcome you and thank you very much for participating in today's inception workshop on the India country programme evaluation, and learning workshop on the impact evaluation of the Jharkhand-Chhattisgarh Tribal Development Programme (JCTDP). I am really pleased to see so many participants from very diverse organizations and backgrounds, which will enrich the debate and exchange that we shall have during the day.
- As you know, IFAD is a Specialized Agency of the United Nations, with an operating model and governance structure - which is similar to other International Financial Institutions, such as the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank. It has a programme of loans and grants of around USD 1 billion per year. However, the total funding mobilized by IFAD is much larger than that, if one includes Government counterpart funding and international co-financing as part of the projects and programmes supported by the organization. The operations IFAD funds are targeted at poor people who live in remote rural areas including small and marginal farmers, tribal people, women, and other disadvantaged groups, with the broader aim of improving their agricultural productivity, food security, nutrition, incomes, and overall livelihoods.
- The Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD is an integral division in the organizational architecture of the Fund. However, our independence as an office is primarily derived by the fact that we report directly to the Executive Board of IFAD. The Board is composed of 36 member states, and India is also a distinguished member of the Board. The mandate of our office is to undertake evaluations of projects, country programmes - such as for example the country programme evaluation in India - and corporate policies, with the aim of assessing results achieved, and generating lessons for further strengthening the performance of IFAD-financed operations on the ground. I thought it is important to mention this to contextualize the undertaking of the India country programme evaluation and impact evaluation of the JCTDP.

- The objective of the workshop today is twofold. Firstly, we would like to have an opportunity to discuss with you the objectives, methodology, key questions and process for the India country programme evaluation. In this regard, you should have received the draft evaluation approach paper as background document for the discussion. In particular, among other issues, we would welcome your views on specific issues and questions you believe should be addressed in the course of the evaluation. The morning session, until lunch time, will be devoted to the India country programme evaluation.
- With regard to the India country programme evaluation, its main purpose is to assess the results of the partnership between IFAD and GoI. This will entail an assessment of past operations and will generate building blocks that can assist Government, IFAD and other concerned partners in developing the next country strategy - COSOP - and projects financed by IFAD in the country.
- As some of you may know, this is the second country programme evaluation done by the Independent Office of Evaluation in India. The first one was completed in 2009. Given that our Office conducts only around 5 country programme evaluations per year in all regions of the world, having conducted two country programme evaluations in India is an indicator of the importance IFAD attributes to its partnership and overall collaboration with India.
- The second objective of today's workshop is to discuss the final impact evaluation report done by the Independent Office of Evaluation of the IFAD-funded Jharkhand-Chhattisgarh Tribal Development Programme. We will inform you of the evaluation's objectives, methodology, findings, lessons and recommendations, and look forward to having an engaging discussion with you on this topic. This will be done in the workshop's afternoon session, and you should have received the final impact evaluation report as background discussion on this agenda item.
- At this stage, let me introduce my colleague, Mr Fabrizio Felloni, Lead Evaluation Officer in the Independent Office of Evaluation, who is the lead evaluator for this India country programme evaluation.
- Mr Felloni will be supported by a number of senior consultants, with expertise and experience in different fields. Two of the consultants are present with us today. They are Mr Nurul Alam and Mr Govindan Nair. Mr Alam was Deputy Director of the Office of Evaluation of UNDP in New York and UNDP Resident Representative in several countries including Malaysia,

whereas Mr Nair has a distinguished career in the Indian Government and also served in Rome as India's representative to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies including IFAD.

- I would also like to introduce the other two colleagues from the Independent Office of Evaluation who are with me here today. First of all, I would like to introduce Ms Simona Somma, Evaluation Specialist, who was the lead evaluator of the Jharkhand-Chhattisgarh Tribal Development Programme. She was ably supported by Ms Renate Roels, Evaluation Analyst, who did background research, data analysis and contributed to report writing. Simona and Renate were supported by an excellent group of Indian consultants specialized in quantitative impact analysis from Sambodhi Research and Communications Private Limited, who are also among us today.
- In conclusion, I would like to express a heartfelt appreciation to the Government of India, in particular to the Ministry of Finance, for their invaluable support and collaboration throughout this country programme evaluation process. I would also like to thank my colleagues in the Asia and Pacific Division for their cooperation and support. In particular, I would like to introduce and thank IFAD's country programme manager for India, Mr Nigel Brett, who has also travelled from Rome to be with us today.