

Nigeria Country Programme Evaluation

Concept Note on the National Round-table Workshop

7 April 2016, Abuja

Background

1. The Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE) conducted a Country Programme Evaluation (CPE) in Nigeria in 2015. In line with the IFAD Evaluation Policy, a national round-table workshop is held at the end of every CPE. The Nigeria Workshop will be co-organized by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Government of Nigeria and IOE, in close collaboration with IFAD's West and Central Africa Division

Objectives

2. The objectives of the national workshop are to: (i) discuss the main issues emerging from the Nigeria CPE; (ii) provide inputs for the preparation of the evaluation's Agreement at Completion Point (ACP); and (iii) discuss the opportunities and challenges of the IFAD-Government of Nigeria partnership, taking into account the evolving country context as well as IFAD's priorities in Nigeria.
3. The ACP is a short document summarizing the main CPE findings and recommendations, which the Government of Nigeria (represented by the Federal Ministry of Finance) and IFAD (represented by the Associate Vice-President of the Programme Management Department) agree to adopt and implement within a specific timeframe. IOE's role is to facilitate the preparation and finalization of the ACP which will be included in the final Nigeria CPE report.
4. The workshop will provide a platform for discussing key issues that will inform the future of the IFAD programme in Nigeria with representatives from Government, IFAD Management and staff, non-governmental and civil society organizations, directors of IFAD-funded projects and programmes, representatives from academia and research institutions, the private sector and foundations, donors and selected resource persons.

Nigeria National Roundtable Workshop

5. **Place and timing.** The Workshop will take place in Abuja on Thursday 7 April 2016. The venue will be the Sheraton Abuja. A provisional workshop agenda is included as an annex below.
6. **Workshop preparation.** Invitations will be sent to all participants by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the joint name of the Government of Nigeria and IFAD. The final Nigeria CPE report will be the main background documentation for the workshop. In addition, IOE will prepare a PowerPoint presentation on three selected themes emerging from the Nigeria CPE to guide the discussions at the event.
7. **Key themes for discussion at the workshop.** During the afternoon session, workshop participants will discuss three main themes emerging from the Nigeria CPE.
 - i. **Building strategic partnerships with civil society and private sector.** How a wider and more diversified partnership strategy could enhance leverage in policy engagement and delivery of sustainable programme results. (a) How can Government facilitate inclusive partnerships between a broad range of development actors? (b) How

can civil society actors be included in achieving on-the-ground sustainability and empowerment? (c) What needs to be done to attract the private sector to support smallholder agriculture? (d) How can IFAD work better with the private sector and civil society partners.

- ii. **Strategies for sustainable engagement at state level.** How to ensure ownership and commitment of participating states in agricultural development programmes. (a) What are the effective mechanisms for inclusion of states that will enable geographic and poverty focus and ensure sustained political commitment? (b) What strategies could be used to address political turbulences at state level? (c) How the approach to programme delivery be adapted in post-conflict states?
 - iii. **Government institutional mechanisms for development effectiveness.** How to strengthen mechanisms for effective programme coordination, fund management and monitoring of development results within the agricultural sector. (a) What mechanisms should be employed to enable effective coordination of development actors in agriculture? (b) What mechanisms are needed to overcome bottlenecks in programme effectiveness and fund flows? (c) How can an effective M&E system be institutionalized for the agricultural sector?
8. **List of participants.** The provisional list of institutions and persons to be invited to the workshop will be further developed with inputs from the Government and WCA.
 9. **Workshop process.** The workshop's provisional agenda provides opportunities for a wide range of stakeholders to contribute their views and perspectives throughout the one-day event.
 10. During the inaugural session, introductory statements will be made by Government representatives from: the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and from the Ministry of Finance; IFAD's Assistant Vice-President and Mr Oscar Garcia, Director of IOE. Thereafter, Ms Johanna Pennarz, lead evaluator, will present key findings and recommendations from the Nigeria CPE. The morning session will include questions and answers on the presentation and conclude with an introduction to the workshop working groups.
 11. After lunch, the participants will be divided into three working groups. Each group will consider only one of the three workshop themes. Workshop discussion will be facilitated by members of the CPE team. Each group will nominate a rapporteur to present findings back to the plenary. 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.
 12. Following the plenary, the Director IFAD-West and Central Africa Division and the Country Programme Manager will share reflections on the future directions for the Nigeria country strategy, especially on strategic priorities and the participatory preparation process.
 13. The workshop's conclusions and way forward will be set forth in a closing statement to be delivered by a senior Government official, covering the key points arising from both the plenary and working group discussions.
 14. **Communication and media coverage.** IOE will prepare an Evaluation Profile and Insight containing information on key issues emerging from the evaluation. A profile is a two-page brochure summarizing the main findings and recommendations from the Nigeria CPE. The insight will present key lessons from

IFAD-supported community-driven development operations in Nigeria that merit a wider debate among policy makers and development practitioners.

15. IFAD's West and Central Africa and Communications Divisions, the Government of Nigeria, and IOE's Evaluation Communication Unit will collaborate to determine and conduct specific communication activities to better disseminate information on the round-table workshop and key themes raised by the CPE. The main communication tools envisaged will include: (i) a media advisory sheet; (ii) a press release; (iii) workshop and press kits; (iv) fact sheets and explanatory summaries. In addition, media coverage will be monitored and media clippings gathered. Workshop information will be posted on IFAD's logon and may also be posted on social networks. Selected IFAD/IOE publications will be displayed at the workshop as well.
16. Ms Jaqueline Souza (Evaluation Communication Unit of IOE) will be IOE's focal point for communication and media coverage.

Provisional Agenda

Nigeria Country Programme Evaluation (CPE)

National Roundtable Workshop, Abuja, 7 April 2016

Workshop chair: The Honourable Minister of State, Senator Heineken Lokpobiri , Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Government of Nigeria

08:00 Registration of participants

09:00 Welcoming remarks by the workshop chair, HMS Senator Heineken Lokpobiri

09:15 Introductory remarks by Mr Oscar A. Garcia, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE)

09:30 Statement by Dr Mahmoud Isa-Dutse, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance

09:45 Speech by Hon. Commissioner for Agriculture of Sokoto State, Alhaji Umaru Nakwari on opportunities and challenges for state-level engagement

10:00 Group photo

10:15 *Coffee break and press conference*

11:00 Presentation of CPE findings and recommendations by Ms Johanna Pennarz, IOE Lead Evaluation Officer

11:30 Plenary discussion

12:00 Introduction to group work (afternoon session)

12:30 *Lunch break*

14:00 Parallel group work on key themes emerging from the CPE (proposed)

- Building strategic partnerships with civil society and private sector.
- Strategies for sustainable engagement at state level.
- Government institutional mechanisms for development effectiveness.

15:30 *Coffee break*

16:00 Plenary reconvened: feedback from working groups and discussions facilitated by chair

16:45 Reflections on future directions and timelines for the preparation of the forthcoming IFAD-Nigeria country strategy by Mr Ides de Willebois, Director, West and Central Africa Division of IFAD and Ms Atsuko Toda, IFAD Country Programme Manager for Nigeria

17:00 Closing statement by Mr Oscar A. Garcia, Director, IOE

17:15 Closing statement by the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Shehu Mahmud Usman Ahmed, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Government of Nigeria