



Engagement with indigenous peoples for their well-being

Lessons from evaluations on IFAD's experience in supporting agricultural and rural development

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Investing in rural people

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Presentation outline

- Background and introduction
 - Indigenous peoples and IFAD
 - About “evaluation synthesis on IFAD’s engagement with indigenous peoples”
- Main findings and lessons from the evaluation synthesis
- Use of the evaluation synthesis

Background: indigenous peoples and IFAD

- 370 million indigenous peoples (IPs) worldwide according to the UN
- IPs 5% of the world's population, but 15% of the world's poor

IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples

- IFAD: specialized agency of the United Nations with a focus on rural poverty reduction in developing member countries
- Work at project/country level and global level (e.g. UN mechanisms, Indigenous Peoples' Forum)
- 2009 policy on engagement with indigenous peoples
- Between 20-40% of projects approved in a year with IPs among expected beneficiaries
- 14% of total investment financing (2004-2013) in support of IPs (approx US\$ 1 billion)

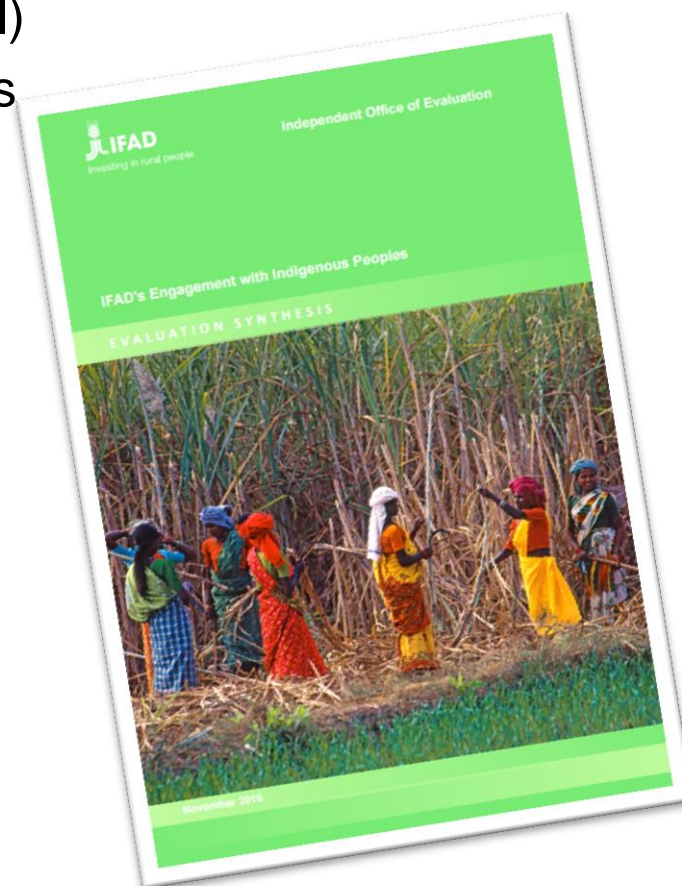
Evaluation synthesis on IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples (2015)

Main building blocks (primarily desk-based review)

- Existing evaluations (8 country-level, 19 project-level)
- Country strategies (14 countries) and project designs to observe recent trends
- Review of IFAD's activities at global/regional levels
- Complemented by interviews and discussions

Challenges and limitations

- Depth of analysis and quality of data specific to IPs' issues in evaluations variable
- Reference to IPs and their issues not always explicit or discernible – at times discussed as part of the “vulnerable and marginalized”



Evaluation synthesis on IFAD's engagement with IPs: main findings

- Cases of important contributions to IPs' empowerment, institutions and policies, access to land and territories, e.g.,
 - Support for revival of traditional varieties of upland crops (India)
 - Support for titles/certificate for ancestral or forestry lands: collective (e.g. Philippines) or individual (joint title for husband and wife) (Viet Nam, India)
 - Enhanced representation of indigenous peoples in local governance (Philippines)
- Substantial contribution to international processes and advocacy, IFAD perceived as a “partner” and “pioneer” in working with IPs (e.g. Indigenous Peoples Forum)

Evaluation synthesis on IFAD's engagement with IPs: main findings (cont.d)

- **Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility** (small grants facility) - flagship programme but remained small and not well linked with IFAD's country programmes
- IFAD uniquely positioned to support IPs' **social and economic empowerment**:
 - “Do good” approach in contrast with “do no harm” approach
 - Complement and contrast with other organizations and initiatives focusing on human rights aspects
 - Strengths: inter-linkages between field and global levels and networks with IPs' organizations built over years
- Room for strengthening consistent IPs policy implementation, esp. at operational (project/country) level

Key lessons from IPs evaluation synthesis

- Important to tailor targeting approaches and proposed interventions to socio-economic and cultural contexts, also paying attention to differences *amongst* IPs
- Participation of IPs in all stages of a project cycle
 - likely to lead greater empowerment when based on their governance systems, skills, culture and indigenous knowledge
 - efficient and effective way of complying with the “free, prior and informed consent” principle

Key lessons from IPs evaluation synthesis (cont.d)

- Capacity of project staff to effectively engage with IPs (e.g. sensitivity to culture and language skills) and trust building – critical
- Socially disaggregated data for M&E and specific indicators relevant to indigenous peoples' well-being – important for monitoring outreach, relevance and effectiveness
- Understanding of IPs issues by IFAD staff managing country programmes – important influence on direction of country programmes

Use of evaluation synthesis on IPs

- Evaluation synthesis conducted with a broader scope, beyond “past evaluations” - also as per request by IFAD
- Main findings and recommendations presented at the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum in 2015
- Recommendations included actions for better project design and implementation support, staff training, KM
- Recommendations being followed up through:
 - Management response from IFAD
 - Annual report on implementation progress (on all evaluations)