



IFAD's support to livelihoods involving aquatic resources from Small-scale Fisheries, Small-scale Aquaculture and Coastal Zones - Evaluation synthesis

Knowledge Sharing Seminar, 7 September 2018, Rome

Overview of the aquatic-resources relevant sectors

- High relevance of these sectors to IFAD's mandate:
- Fisheries and aquaculture employ approximately 190 million people globally;
- Aquatic products play a paramount role for a balanced nutrition;
- Women make up at least 50 per cent of the workforce in the aquatic sector;
- Aquaculture production has increased almost four-fold since 2000.

Objectives, scope and methodology

- **Objectives**
 - assessing the extent of IFAD's work, including loans, grants, policies, strategies and guidelines, in support of livelihoods involving aquatic resources from Small-scale Fisheries, Small-scale Aquaculture and Coastal Zones; and
 - generating findings and documenting lessons, good practices and challenges, that can inform the design and implementation of ongoing and future IFAD's policies, strategies and investments in these sectors
- **Scope**
 - Review of all IFAD evaluations conducted between 2009 and early 2018 relevant to the objectives
- **Methodology**
 - Qualitative synthesis of findings and conclusions from a set of evaluations; classification in high and low focus projects; triangulation; final independent peer-review

Key findings – corporate and strategic level

- Limited attention to aquatic resources and to the rural poor who depend on them in IFAD's Strategic Frameworks, policies and strategies;
- Good level of attention to aquatic resources in COSOPs;
- In-house sectoral expertise as of beginning of 2015;
- Few knowledge products, though of good quality;
- Important partnerships with FAO and WorldFish, limited with others;
- Non-strategic use of grants.

Key findings – overall portfolio

- IFAD not a large player in the aquatic resources sector: 8.1% of total allocations in the period 1979-2017, US\$ 1.56 billion;
- In most countries of intervention (58%), less than 20% of the total number of projects in the portfolio addressed aquatic resources;
- Increase over time of IFAD's contribution to project costs;
- Increase over time of number of projects with a high focus on fisheries and/or aquaculture.

Key findings – overall portfolio cont.

Time-spans	Aquaculture		Coastal Zone Resources		Freshwater capture fisheries		Marine capture fisheries		SIDS aquatic resources	
	% financial resources High focus projects	% IFAD sectoral allocations	% financial resources High focus projects	% IFAD sectoral allocations	% financial resources High focus projects	% IFAD sectoral allocations	% financial resources High focus projects	% IFAD sectoral allocations	% financial resources High focus projects	% IFAD sectoral allocations
1981-2008	16,5%	47,5%	62,0%	17,4%	20,0%	7,8%	28,9%	17,0%	28,8%	10,3%
2009-2017	37,0%	45,4%	65,7%	33,8%	65,7%	4,0%	86,5%	12,3%	16,7%	4,6%
Total	25,8%	46,5%	64,3%	25,0%	33,9%	6,0%	51,1%	14,8%	25,4%	7,7%

Key findings by criteria - relevance

- High relevance of projects to IFAD's Strategic Frameworks and to Governments' policies;
- Mixed relevance to poverty alleviation, as targeted participants were not always from the poorest sections of rural population;
- Frequently, aquaculture and freshwater capture fisheries components added on to agricultural development projects, leading to low attention to sectoral specificities.

Key findings by criteria – project design

- Limited context analysis at design;
- Over-ambitious projects;
- Progressive introduction of value-chain approaches that add complexity to already complicated project designs.

Key findings by criteria - effectiveness

- In High Focus projects, evidence of positive results with regards to:
 - Capacity development of stakeholders on improving fishing techniques and post-harvest processes;
 - Infrastructures built;
 - Use of ice on board and in marketing;
 - Projects addressing marine capture fisheries more effective than others
- Less evidence on other expected results such as improved processing, marketing and access for fishers and fishmongers to suitable rural financial services in the context of value chain development approaches.

Key findings by criteria - impacts

- Limited data available;
- Some positive effects on poverty reduction in Bangladesh and Mozambique;
- More evidence of positive impacts for marine capture fisheries projects;
- In general, no evidence of positive trickle-down effects to poorer sections of stakeholders when working with better-off producers.

Key findings by criteria – sustainability

- Mixed evidence available about perspectives for sustainability;
- Key factors:
 - political ownership, engagement with local governments and support to institutional development;
 - long-term commitment by IFAD to the sector.

Key findings by criteria – women's empowerment and gender equality

- Limited evidence available:
- Capacity development of fishmongers achieved results;
- Self-help groups, including for saving and credit, were very successful among women in fishing communities;
- No evidence of empowerment or of impacts on gender relations.

Key findings by criteria – natural resources management

- Variable attention over time;
- Evolution from focus on increasing catches to sustainable aquatic resources management;
- Good integration in project designs in SIDS and in CZR projects, less so in aquaculture projects;
- Some blindness to aquatic resources in projects implemented in coastal zones.

Key findings by criteria – climate change adaptation

- Progressive integration of climate change adaptation, still very little evidence.
- Positive examples:
 - integration of climate change implications for stock management in marine capture fisheries projects;
 - consequences of coastal zone erosion on the livelihoods of the poor in CZR projects.

Overall conclusions

- Overall variable performance.
- Some notable successes in IFAD's impact on poverty and livelihoods but frequent marginalization of aquatic resources and potential not fully realised;
- Positive steps forward since 2015, with in-house expertise:
 - more awareness among all stakeholders, easily available and more consistent expertise and approach, stronger collaboration with partner specialized agencies; newly approved projects appear more realistic and better designed.
- The synthesis identified a number of lessons that can inform future work.

Recommendations

- R.1: IFAD should maintain its commitment to the sector, and improve design and support to implementation of projects addressing aquatic resources.
- R.2: more partnerships with agencies specialized in the aquatic resources sector.
- R.3: projects in this sector should mostly or fully focus on aquatic resources.
- R.4: improve attention and integration of social development issues.
- R.5: improve attention and integration of environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change.