

## Knowledge-sharing seminar on conducting Impact Evaluations of Agricultural, Food and Nutrition Security Programmes

**Monday, 3 June 2019**

**Venue: Qatar Centre , IFAD HQ**

**Webcasting: <https://webcasting.ifad.org/ie>**

**Rationale.** Growing global attention and demand for better evidence on development results has increased pressure on international development organizations to measure and report more precisely their results and impact in recent years. In this context, impact evaluations of projects have emerged as an instrument to support accountability and learning.

As with other United Nations agencies, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has increasingly strengthened its focus on achieving and measuring results by investing in impact initiatives and evaluations. In addition to providing improved accountability, impact evaluations are viewed as a tool for dynamic learning, allowing development agencies, donors and policymakers to improve ongoing programmes and ultimately better allocate funds across programmes. Several United Nations agencies too are commissioning or undertaking impact evaluations as part of their work programme. While the accountability aspect is specific to each agency, the learning from impact evaluations has the potential to become a global good.

In recognition of this important aspect of learning from impact initiatives and evaluations, and as part of the gLOCAL Evaluation Week ([www.glocalevalweek.org](http://www.glocalevalweek.org)), IFAD's Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE) in collaboration with IFAD's Research and Impact Assessment Division (RIA) is organizing a seminar on Impact Evaluation.

The event will provide a platform for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and IFAD to share their experiences in undertaking impact evaluations. The objective is to promote collective learning especially in the field of rural development and rural poverty reduction. To this end, the seminar will provide an overview of the work related to impact evaluations through specific examples.

**Structure of the sessions.** The seminar will be opened by the Directors of IOE and RIA , who will elaborate on the evolution of conducting impact evaluations within IFAD over the past years. This will be followed by brief presentations on different pillars topics, as proposed below.

- a. **Methodologies and processes of Impact Evaluations.** More specifically, the seminar will seek to share lessons on how to prioritize impact evaluations using different methods. This topic will also explore the different options to aggregate findings across evaluations (meta-analysis).
- b. **Challenges and Innovations in the use of impact evaluations.** The specific challenges for conducting impact evaluations in the rural sector will be identified, and experiences will be shared on the use of innovative ways to overcome some of these challenges.

**Expected outcomes:** The expected outcomes of the workshop are to: i) promote sharing of experience on conducting of impact evaluations and ii) identify best practices as well as common issues and seek solutions to such issues.

## AGENDA

14.00-14.15	<p><i>Welcome remarks,</i></p> <p><b>Mr Oscar Garcia</b>, IOE Director and <b>Ms Sara Savastano</b>, RIA Director</p>
14.15-15.15	<p><i>Methodologies, processes and lessons learned from Impact Evaluations (including "aggregation")</i></p> <p><b>IFPRI</b> – <b>Mr Alan de Brauw</b>, Senior Research Fellow in the Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division, (via videoconference)</p> <p><b>FAO</b> – <b>Ms Noemi Pace</b>, Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics, University Ca' Foscari of Venice and Consultant of FAO and <b>Ms Rebecca Pietrelli</b>, Economist</p> <p><b>IFAD RIA</b> – <b>Ms Alessandra Garbero</b>, Senior Econometrician</p> <p><b>Discussion</b> – <b>Mr Pasquale Lucio Scandizzo</b>, Professor, Fondazione Tor Vergata Economia, and IT Ministry of Finance</p>
15.15-16.15	<p><i>Challenges and Innovations on the use of Impact Evaluations</i></p> <p><b>IFPRI</b> – <b>Mr Carlo Azzari</b>, Senior Research Staff</p> <p><b>FAO</b> – <b>Ms Natalia Winder Rossi</b>, Social Protection Team Leader</p> <p><b>IFAD IOE</b> – <b>Mr Michael Carbon</b>, Senior Evaluation Officer and <b>Mr Hansdeep Khaira</b>, Evaluation Officer</p> <p><b>Discussion</b> – <b>Mr David Zilberman</b>, Professor, U.C. Berkeley</p>
16.15 -16.45	<p><i>Q&amp;A and closing remarks</i></p> <p><b>Ms Sara Savastano</b> and <b>Mr Oscar Garcia</b></p>