

Republic of Uzbekistan

Country strategy and programme evaluation

Coverage: 2011-2020

IOE

IFAD
Investing in rural people

Independent Office of Evaluation

Population: 33 million (2020)

Proportion of rural population: 50% (2020)

GDP per capita: US\$ 2,615 (2015)

Agricultural sector as proportion of GDP: 28% (2021)

Human Development Index: 0.710 - 108th out of 189 countries (2019)

Population below poverty line: 9.6% (2018)

Sources: EU, World Bank, UNDP



IFAD operations

total
portfolio
cost

US\$
435
million

3

IFAD-funded
projects

since 2011

US\$
128
million

Total IFAD
investment
financing
approved

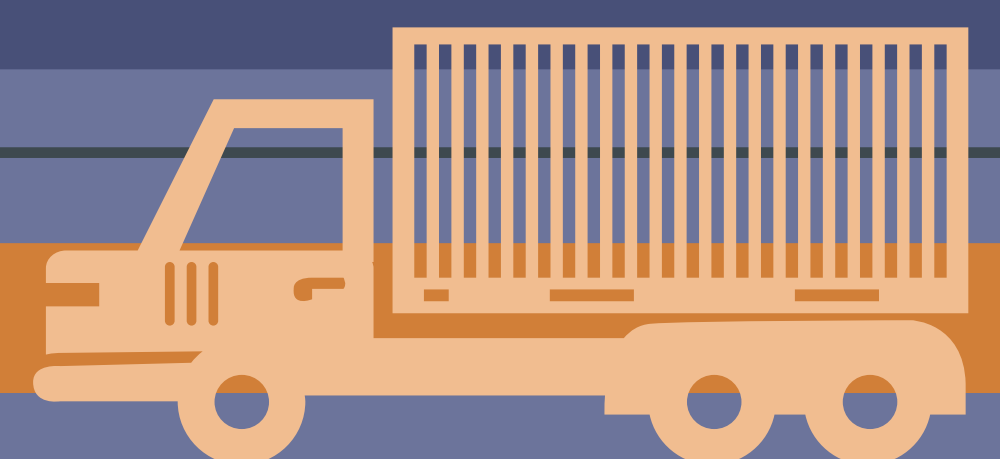
2011-
2020
Evaluation
coverage

Areas covered by projects

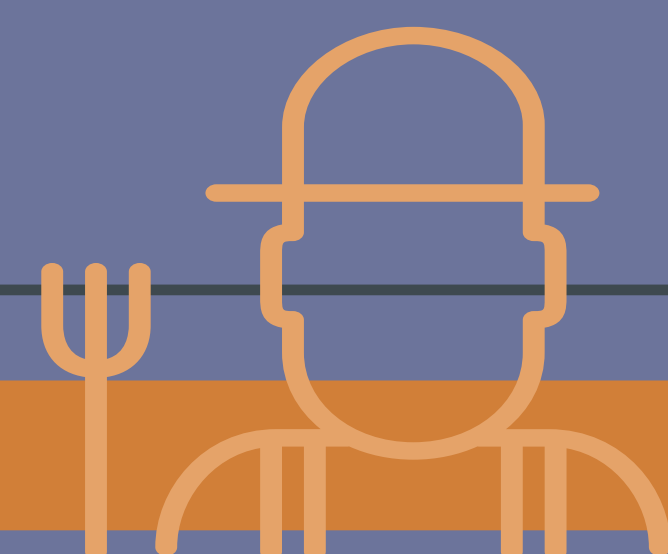


rural finance

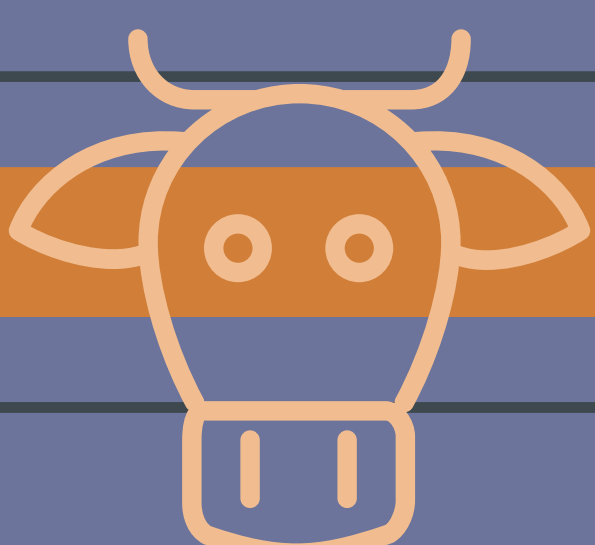
value chain development



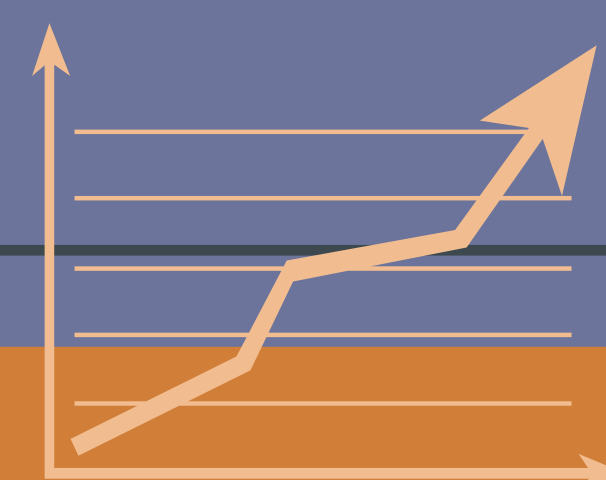
small-scale agriculture



horticulture and dairy production



inclusive economic growth



Main evaluation findings

Areas of strength

IFAD's support in promoting rural development was well aligned with country needs and priorities, and will continue to be relevant given the persistent disparities between urban/rural areas, and the global pandemic.

Targeting dehkans, the poorest smallholders, was relevant as they are the drivers of horticulture and livestock production and are key to reduce rural poverty.

IFAD's focus on the value chain approach to agribusiness development, combined with the provision of rural finance, capacity building and pro-poor focus, has been relevant.

IFAD was one of the first actors to provide loan finance to the horticulture and dairy sectors.

Areas of improvement

IFAD's targeting strategy needs to be better tailored to the needs of the different beneficiary groups.

Greater focus on knowledge management, partnership-building and policy engagement is needed, to unlock the potential for learning, promote innovation and scaling-up and influence policy dialogue.

The absence of an effective monitoring system limited the assessment of IFAD's contribution to immediate and longer-term results on the ground.

IFAD's weak programme support and limited interactions with in-country partners affected results and the potential of policy dialogue to boost scaling-up of IFAD's innovations and approaches.

Recommendations

#1

Effective targeting strategies should be at the core of the new strategy in order to reach the poorest including through pro-poor value chains.

#2

IFAD and the Government of Uzbekistan should develop a COSOP that includes a coherent and viable action plan for non-lending activities and provide opportunities to engage with the private sector.

#3

IFAD's country strategy should devote attention and resources to develop robust project level M&E systems.

#4

IFAD should enhance country presence and programme support to ensure supervision, programme management, monitoring and policy dialogue.