

# **Indonesia Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation**

**Virtual National Workshop, 18 March 2022**

## **Introductory Statement by Mr Indran Naidoo, Director of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD**

- Honourable Valerie Julliard, United Nations Resident Coordinator,
- Distinguished representatives of the Government of Indonesia,
- Representatives of IFAD, partner institutions and international organizations,

### **Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to be part of this virtual national workshop, organized by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia and the Asia and the Pacific Division of IFAD. This workshop follows the finalization of the independent country strategy and programme evaluation in Indonesia and provides an opportunity to share and discuss the main findings and recommendations with the Government, IFAD and other stakeholders and partners.

I would like to start by expressing my appreciation to the Government of Indonesia and to Bappenas, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Finance and executing agencies for their collaboration on this evaluation. Our appreciation goes to the project teams, partner organizations and international consultants for sharing insights, supporting field visits, and patience in responding to numerous requests for data and information from the evaluation team.

I would also like to recognize the support of the IFAD Programme Management Department, in particular: Mr Donal Brown, Associate Vice-President; Mr Nigel Brett, Regional Director of IFAD's Asia and Pacific Division; Mr Ivan Cossio, IFAD Country Director for Indonesia and his Programme Officers, Anissa Lucky and Nicolas Syed.

Finally, I would like to thank the evaluation team, initially led by Ms Chitra Deshpande, former Senior Evaluation Officer, and recently led by Jeanette Cooke, Evaluation Analyst, who were ably supported by a team of national and international consultants. Ms Margherita Iovino, Evaluation Assistant, provided efficient administrative support to the team and to the organization of today's event.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

This was the third independent country strategy and programme evaluation in Indonesia. The objectives of this impartial and evidence-based evaluation were to: assess the results and performance of the IFAD-financed strategy and programme since 2013; and provide findings, lessons and recommendations to inform the next IFAD country strategy and the future partnership between IFAD and Government.

Poverty rates have steadily declined in Indonesia over the past two decades, but more than 25 million people remain poor, with more than half residing in rural areas. There are also considerable disparities between regions. The agricultural sector remains crucial as a major employer and it is vital to eliminate poverty and improve food security and nutrition. However, smallholder producers face several challenges including lack of access to quality seeds, improved

technologies, finance and value chains. Climate change impacts compound the situation, as does the country's vulnerability to natural hazards.

Against this background, the partnership between IFAD and the Government remains highly pertinent to reduce poverty and enable inclusive and sustainable rural transformation. Since 1980, IFAD has financed 20 projects in Indonesia with US\$670million, out of a total project cost of US\$2.7billion. Moving forward, it is my sincere hope that this evaluation will contribute to improving the effectiveness of the strategic partnership between the Government of Indonesia and IFAD.

I would now like to highlight a few key findings from the evaluation, while Ms Jeanette Cooke and the International Consultant Ms Dee Jupp will deliver a more comprehensive presentation later.

IFAD and the Government have forged a closer, respected and trusted relationship. IFAD recognises that systemic change takes time and has provided dependable support, even when it has resulted in a trade-off in implementation efficiency. Crucially, the farmers themselves report that they have benefitted from farmer field schools and working with village facilitators. They report increased knowledge and capacity and the adoption of innovative techniques, leading to higher yields.

On the other hand, the evaluation pointed to some areas that deserve attention.

Firstly, the CSPE found that the country programme has become less focused and coherent with more scattered geographic targeting. This has resulted in a shift away from the poorest areas and reduced opportunities for in-depth understanding of local contexts. While individual projects may be relevant, both internal and external coherence are lacking across the country programme that weakens the potential for achieving impact.

Secondly, IFAD has yet to fully realise the role expected by the Government of Indonesia as a middle-income country, for example: bringing global technical know-how and experience, generating learning and influencing policy, opportunities to trial alternative models of rural and agricultural development, and increasing its visibility internationally.

Related to this, not enough time and resources have been given to develop useful monitoring and evaluation systems and knowledge management strategies. This has limited demonstrating the achievements of projects, including innovations, scaling-up and the sharing of lessons with partners in and outside the country.

Now, looking forward, we can gain a better understanding of future opportunities and ways to overcome constraints to promote inclusive and sustainable transformation of rural areas and livelihoods.

I thank you for your attention.