

**Eswatini Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation  
National Workshop  
(virtual) 28 January 2022**

- Honourable Neal Rijkenberg, Minister of Finance,
- Distinguished representatives of the Government of Eswatini,
- Representatives of IFAD, partner institutions and international organizations,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

The Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD has undertaken impartial and evidence-based evaluations of the IFAD's country strategy and programme. I believe that today's candid and engaging discussion has provided better insights in order to translate the evaluation findings and lessons into actions for greater impact of IFAD engagement in the Kingdom of Eswatini. Furthermore, we hope that these have provide valuable inputs for the finalization of the agreement at completion point - a short document that will summarize the main evaluation recommendations and follow-up actions agreed upon by the Government of Eswatini and IFAD Management.

Given the excellent collaboration thus far among IOE, the East and Southern Africa division and the Government of Eswatini, we also believe that they will be reflected in the new Country strategic opportunities programme between IFAD and the Government.

As we conclude today's national workshop on the country strategy and programme evaluation of Eswatini, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to the Government of Eswatini, especially the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture.

I also wish to thank the project implementation teams and the development partners for participating in interviews, supporting the field visit and for generally providing excellent inputs that have contributed to shaping the evaluation findings.

Finally, I warmly thank all of you who have participated and shared so generously your views. We hope that today's workshop may spark further exchange and discussion amongst yourselves towards a country programme that has a greater impact on eliminating poverty and improving the rural livelihoods for women, men and youths of Eswatini.

Thank you.