

Country strategy and programme evaluation



Area: 17.4 km²

Population: 1.1 million (2019)

Rural population: 70% (2019)

Youth (under 20 years old): 46.5%

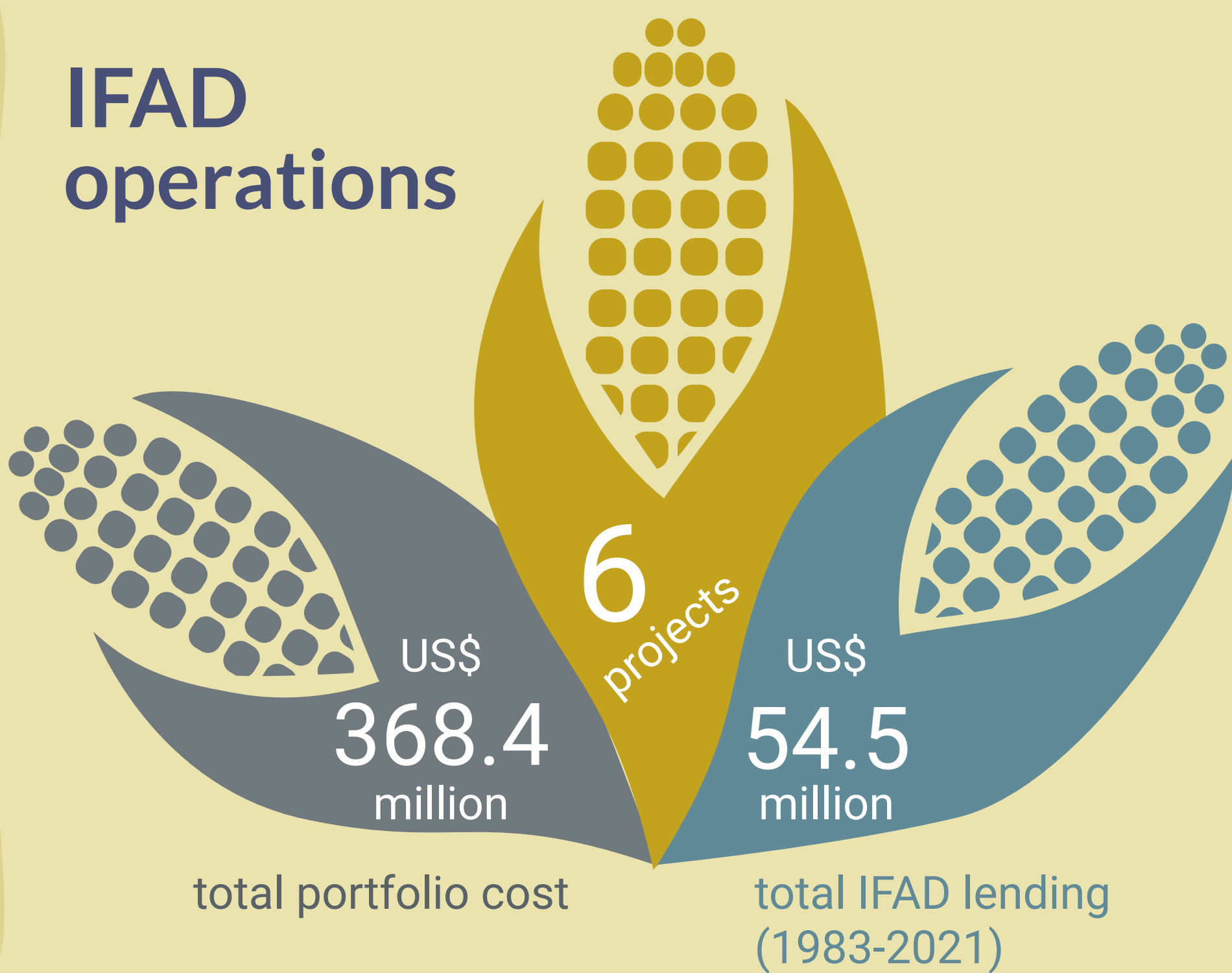
GDP growth: 2.6% average (2010-2019)

Poverty rate: 58.9% (2016)

Population below extreme poverty line: 20%

Sources: CSPE report, World Bank, Eswatini National Development Plan 2019/20-2021/22

IFAD operations



Areas covered by projects



Evaluation coverage

Years: 2000 to 2021

Projects evaluated: 4

Total cost: US\$ 352 million

IFAD financing: US\$ 41.3 million

COSOPs: 2

Country strategy notes: 2

Main evaluation findings

Areas of strength

IFAD interventions highly relevant to country needs and policies

Constructive linkages between lending and non-lending operations

Substantial financial resources leveraged to support environment and natural resource management (ENRM) and climate change adaptation

In rural finance sector, successful policy engagement and institution building

IFAD-proposed innovations (e.g. new participatory approaches and crop varieties) addressed many challenges; were scaled up by Government

Areas of improvement

Overly complex project designs that did not always consider national reality

Low level of partnership development beyond Government

Gaps in ENRM

Efforts to ensure gender equality and inclusiveness took time to translate into effective grass-roots actions

Unsustainability of some good results of IFAD-supported interventions

Recommendations

#1

IFAD should address the fundamental constraints – including access to land and dependency on imported inputs for agriculture and livestock – that prevent rural smallholder producers, women and youth from achieving more sustainable livelihoods.

#2

IFAD should further engage, at least in an advocacy and advisory role, in addressing emerging threats to the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in the Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Project - Phase I irrigation scheme.

#3

IFAD and the Government, drawing on the rich lessons learned, should define the most efficient and effective implementation arrangements for their joint initiatives that will also allow smallholder producers to benefit the most.

#4

Project monitoring and evaluation systems and procurement units should be considered fundamental pillars of project management, and be adequately staffed and capacitated to perform in an effective and efficient manner.