

2 June 2022

gLOCAL Seminar

## **Introductory Statement of the Director IOE to the gLOCAL Event on the 2022 IFAD Evaluation Manual**

**Indran A. Naidoo, Ph.D.**

Dear Participants,

I am pleased to welcome you to this seminar, which is part of the gLOCAL week of 2022. This seminar is co-organized by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) and IFAD Management, represented by the Programme Management Department and the Strategy and Knowledge Department.

The seminar is dedicated to the 2022 Evaluation Manual of IFAD finalized in 2022. For the first time, IFAD has an Evaluation Manual that co-produced by the Independent Office of Evaluation and IFAD Management and establishes key principles and common approaches for both.

We expect that the common standards will help enhance the quality of self- and independent evaluation, and consistency between the two and, ultimately, foster a stronger results and evaluation culture at IFAD.

While the Manual has been conceived for IFAD staff and consultants, I am confident that it will be of interest to many rural development practitioners and evaluators outside IFAD, who may be working in a government, in an international organization, in an NGO, civil society organizations or in a private sector company.

The Manual provides guidance on how to adapt international standards, practices, and evaluation criteria into the context of rural development, particularly when the end-client of development interventions are smallholder farmer and small rural producers.

The Manual draws from the recent contributions of evaluation theory and practice and with special reference to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Examples of these concepts that the Manual addresses are: (i) complexity and systems thinking; (ii) transformative change; (iii) sustainability and climate change; (iv) social justice; and (v) gender intersectionality.

The Evaluation manual is now available on the website of our office and we have translated the Manual into three official IFAD languages, Arabic, French and Spanish. These versions will be available soon. We are also preparing an on-line training module on this Manual, which we expect to launch in summer 2022. All this material will be available online to the public and free of charge.

I take the opportunity to thank representatives from IFAD Management, notably Mr Donal Brown, Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department ; and Jo Puri, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department for their support to the initiative.

Within my office, From IOE side, special thanks go to Fabrizio Felloni, Deputy Director; and Simona Somma Evaluation Officer for leading the production of the document and to the Evaluation Communication Unit, for helping with the design of the final document and for their support in organizing this event.

I also thank the panellists of today who will help animate the debate:

- Ms Chitra Deshpande, from Programme Management Department of IFAD
- Mr Alisher Shukurov, from the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan
- Ms Paula Silva Villanueva, Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant,
- Ms Maya Vijayaraghavan, Independent Evaluation Department, Asian Development Bank
- Ms Megan Kennedy, Head of the Evaluation Unit, OECD-DAC

With this, I thank you for your attendance, wish you a good discussion and I am pleased to give the floor to Roxanna Samii, the event moderator and then to Donal Brown, Associate Vice President, Programme Management Department of IFAD.