Mainstreaming Environmental Sustainability in all IFAD Evaluations

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Pre-empting the sustainability and environmental question

The sustainability conversation needs a rethink around **how development is defined**, reviewing its definitions, biases and assumptions, and raising **evaluation** to become a conversation about The System. This means thinking big about connections and - un-learning.
Environmental and social impacts should be integrated into evaluations in a systemic way.

**Instead:**

The standard practice can be *ad hoc*, project based, after the fact, even arbitrary.

It is characterized by assessment generally not looped into, or reflecting on the SO WHAT?

Need to see its link to development.

Means going beyond thinking about individual evaluations.
What we have heard that is of relevance

Vinod Thomas has illustrated to us that, when we plug environment into gross domestic product (GDP), the rating of countries changes. This points to where the weaknesses are. It’s a better way to bring attention to issues and can change the narratives.

Michael Quinn Patton had spoken about interconnectivity and the big picture a decade ago. It was not taken up enough. Now the reality of COVID-19 and climate crisis means we have been forced to wake up and take note, but the horses have bolted in many cases.
In IFAD, all evaluations assess environmental and social impact (ESI).

A framework for mainstreaming ESI:
- Corporate priorities: mainstreaming ESI in programmes
- Evaluation Policy mainstreams ESI
- Evaluation Manual
- Capacities & resources for ESI assessment
- Quality assurance mechanisms for ESI coverage
- ESI mainstreamed into Learning & Accountability
Evaluation and independence

Methodological pluralization

Cross-cutting

- Indran A. Naidoo (2017). Key milestones in IEO transformation. UNDP IEO [here]
- Indran A. Naidoo (2016). Keynote on IEO UNDP transformation. IPDET [here]
- Indran A. Naidoo (2010). IPDET-IDRC 2010 Anniversary; The field of development evaluation for the next 10 years. IPDET [here]