

IFAD Research Paper Series: Guidelines

1. PURPOSE OF THE SERIES

The IFAD Research Paper Series has been initiated by the Strategy and Knowledge Department in order to bring together cutting-edge thinking and research on smallholder agriculture, rural development and related themes.

Through this series, IFAD seeks to present diverse viewpoints from across the development arena, in order to stimulate knowledge exchange and to contribute to the global knowledge-base and debate on agriculture and rural development.

The Research Paper Series will include rigorous reviews and studies on a broad and diverse range of themes related to its work in smallholder agriculture and rural development. Thematic areas can encompass policy, social sciences and specific areas of technical specialization.

Target audiences will include researchers, development practitioners, academics, students and the media.

2. DEFINITION

The following key points define the series:

- Scholarly, practice-based or technical in nature;
- Analytical content based on research, statistics, technical work or other sources;
- Deals with the cutting edge of a topical theme;
- High degree of rigour;
- Authored by IFAD staff, consultants or partners (including from IFAD grants);
- Peer-reviewed;
- Original content;
- Could be a preliminary paper to encourage discussion and comment;
- Could be revised and published elsewhere (in journals, books etc.).

3. REVIEW

The series will be overseen by the Strategy and Knowledge Department (SKD), working with a small advisory team from across IFAD. The purpose of the advisory team is to keep the series dynamic by helping to solicit papers, and oversee the review process. Members of the team will change annually. SKD will act as the secretariat for the advisory team and series.

Based on recommendation of the advisory team, the Directors from SKD, in consultation with the Director of Communications Division, will make the final decision on whether or not to include submitted papers in the series.

Papers submitted for the series will be reviewed by at least two internal and one external subject matter expert. Peer review is to be organized by the secretariat/advisory team in consultation with the originator.

Authors are required to source facts and figures used in the papers from primary sources, and provide the original source in a list of references or bibliography.

4. STANDARD FEATURES, EDITING, DESIGN AND FORMAT

- Authors' names will appear on the cover;
- All papers will include an abstract;
- Articles will be edited in cooperation with the author before layout, and proofread after layout;
- All papers will follow a series template;
- Acknowledgements text may be included in the opening pages thanking peer reviewers, and recognizing financial, editorial, technical and other contributions;
- Papers will be assigned an International Standard Book Number (ISBN);
- Where articles reflect the views of individual authors and not the institution, the following disclaimer will be used: "The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)";
- All papers will carry contact information for the author(s) or another appropriate IFAD contact person;
- Papers will be made available in English and other IFAD languages as appropriate.

5. DISTRIBUTION

All papers will be published on the IFAD website. Prior to publication, a distribution list will be prepared for further electronic and/or print distribution.