IFAD Small Grants for Applied Research Papers

Opportunities for scholars from Italian universities & international peers

IFAD in collaboration with Sapienza University of Rome, University of Rome Tor Vergata, and Roma Tre University are pleased to launch the **IFAD Small Grants for Applied Research Papers**.

**International collaboration is strongly encouraged.** Papers can be co-authored with international scholars, but the grant will be given to authors affiliated to an Italian University. The grant will be US$ 5000 max per paper.

Small grants will be awarded to the best papers on the conference topics (jobs; innovation; rural value chains in the context of climate change) or to the best papers written using datasets collected as part of IFAD’s Impact Assessment. Example of technical reports on impact assessments conducted on IFAD’s projects using country specific datasets are available on this [link](#).

We are seeking policy-relevant applied research papers that address the challenges of the conference themes¹ or that can help to generate lessons learned and insights to spur multilateral investment and policy dialogue, contribute to improving the design of new projects and programmes, and advance the state of knowledge on evaluation methodologies.

We are open to a wide spectrum of policy relevant papers including project and/or program evaluations, implementation research, or in-depth evidence reviews such as evidence gap maps and systematic reviews.

**Background on IFAD’s Impact Assessment Dataset**

IFAD is committed to conducting impact assessments on 15 per cent of its project portfolio. The projects are selected for impact assessments in an attempt to be representative of IFAD’s overall portfolio. This allows IFAD to report on the corporate impacts of its operations making it the only international financial institution that reports impact at the corporate level.

¹ Jobs, innovation, rural value chains, economic mobility (income, poverty, well-being,…), agricultural productivity, market participation, resilience/climate change, nutrition/food security, gender/women’s empowerment, youth, …
IFAD collects rich data on households and communities including IFAD’s beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries that are used as counterfactual groups in ex-post impact assessments. Sample sizes range between 1,500 and 3,000 households and around 150 to 300 communities per project. These datasets contribute to IFAD’s Impact Assessment to measure attributable impacts of IFAD’s interventions on income, wealth, productive capacities, market integration and resilience of the beneficiaries. **IFAD’s datasets collected from impact assessments will be shared only to researchers whose abstracts are accepted for presentation.**

There are currently 17 impact assessments with detailed information which include:

- **Impact assessment report:** A document which includes a summary of the objective of the project, the theory of change (ToC) of the project from which the main impact indicators are chosen and the research questions developed, the sampling design and strategy, study methodology, the data, the impact indicators analyzed, the main descriptive characteristics of the households included in the sample, the results and discussion of the findings, as well as the policy and programmatic implications.
- **Impact assessment policy brief:** A four-page brief with the summary of the IA report.
- **Infographic:** A flyer with infographics presenting the main findings of the projects’ impacts.
- **A synthesis report entitled “Achieving Rural Transformation: Results and Lessons from IFAD Impact Assessments”** with a focus on the policy implications of the impact assessments conducted for IFAD’s 10th replenishment period (IFAD10).
- **IFAD10_Dictionary.xlsx:** This file contains two worksheets:
  - In the IFAD10 harmonized variables sheet you will find the list of variables, variable names, and measurement methodologies that are standardized. The variables are organized by IFAD’s goals and strategic objectives, and grouped as matching variables and outcome variables.
  - In the other sheet termed standardized variable names, you will find a longer list of variables that also includes a large set of standardized control variables for the analysis.
- **Standardized questionnaire template**

The full documentation is available on the [IFAD website](https://www.ifad.org).

**IFAD Impact Assessment Dataset**

Data from IFAD’s Impact Assessment are collected using the CAPI approach with Survey Solutions and cover socio-demographic, economic, social capital variables, as well as a large set of variables that determine agricultural and non-agricultural production and incomes.

Variables related to trade, market access and resilience are also collected. The vast range of variables allows for nuanced and detailed analyses running across a wide spectrum of

\[ IFAD's\ overarchin\text{g}\ development\ goal\ will\ be\ to\ invest\ in\ rural\ people\ to\ enable\ them\ to\ overcome\ poverty\ and\ achieve\ food\ security\ through\ remunerative,\ sustainable\ and\ resilient\ livelihoods.\ IFAD\ will\ pursue\ three\ closely\ interlinked\ and\ mutually\ reinforcing\ strategic\ objectives\ (SOs)\ to\ achieve\ its\ goal:\
\]
- SO1: Increase poor rural people’s productive capacities;
- SO2: Increase poor rural people’s benefits from market participation; and
- SO3: Strengthen the environmental sustainability and climate resilience of poor rural people’s economic activities.

For more details, please refer to IFAD’s [Strategic Framework 2016-2025](https://www.ifad.org/).
possibilities. Qualitative data collected through focus group discussions and key informant interviews enrich each data set and help build the narrative.

A data dictionary file in excel, which includes the list of all variables in the harmonized dataset along with the explanations of how they are created, will be available to scholars whose abstracts are accepted for presentation.

IFAD10_Dictionary.xlsx: This file contains the two worksheets:

1) In the IFAD10 harmonized variables sheet you will find the list of variables, variable names, and measurement methodologies that are standardized. The variables are organized by IFAD’s goals and strategic objectives, and grouped as matching variables and outcome variables

2) In the other sheet termed standardized variable names, you will find a longer list of variables that also includes a large set of standardized control variables for the analysis.

Projects’ Typologies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of focus</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental and climate protection</td>
<td>Climate change, deforestation and the destruction of oceans, which threaten the livelihood of rural communities, are key challenges addressed in these projects. They aim to reduce rural poverty by putting the sustainable management of natural resources, environmental protection and climate change through transformative production at their core.</td>
<td>Indonesia, Mexico, Tajikistan, DECOFOS, LPDP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value chain development</td>
<td>From field to market, these projects include an interlinked set of inputs and activities to increase farmers’ agricultural production for sale in local markets (such as China, Kenya, Nepal, Senegal) or projects which focus on upgrading produce and access to market for rural producers of export crops into international value chains (Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe).</td>
<td>Kenya, China, GIADP, Nepal, HVAP, Senegal, PAFA, Rwanda, PRICE, Sao Tome and Principe, PAPFPA &amp; PAFAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community infrastructure development</td>
<td>These projects build community infrastructure, such as irrigation canals, cereal banks and market connecting roads, to increase food security, boost incomes and decrease poverty.</td>
<td>Philippines, Madagascar, Chad, ETHIOPIA, PADER-G, Ethiopia, PASIDIP 1, Bangladesh, CCRIP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participatory development planning

These projects aim to achieve rural transformation by involving and empowering communities to lead the development process. Projects which use these methods typically have pillars or inputs which focus on the planning process as well as the outcomes, such as increased agricultural productivity. They often cover a range of interventions such as social inclusion initiatives, technical training on crop production and value chain development.

Bolivia  Plan VIDA
Brazil     GDV
Tanzania  ASDP-L & ASSP

CONTACT
Ms. Vittoria Pinca ifad22@ifad.org

Website:

Registration & Abstract Submission:
https://www.conftool.net/ifad2022/

IMPORTANT DATES
- 30 November 2021: Call for papers
- 31 January 2022: Deadline for abstract and session proposals
- 15 February 2022: Notification of acceptance to authors
- 1 May 2022: Upload of draft papers
- 31 May 2022: Submission of full papers
- 24 June 2022: Keynote Addresses & Job Meet-Up Event

Guidelines for submitting papers

Authors interested in presenting at the IFAD International Conference are requested to submit a file with a **250-word abstract by 31 January 2022**. In addition to the 250-word abstract, please include the main references that highlight how the paper will contribute to the literature on agricultural and rural development.

The submission form will also include a short 100-word abstract field that will be published on the conference’s e-program should the paper be accepted for presentation.

Complete all fields marked with an asterisk (*) and upload your abstract in a pdf file for review on the second page.

If accepted, the final paper should be 6000 - 8000 words including diagrams, figures, and tables. In addition, each paper should contain JEL classification and keywords.

Your submission will be completed only when the pdf file containing abstract is uploaded on the second page of the submission form.

You will receive an automatically-generated email from ConfTool indicating the abstract has been successfully submitted.
## List of IFAD Impact Assessment Projects and Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project name, authors and link</th>
<th>Main focus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Bangladesh | Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project (CCRIP)  
Aslihan Arslan, Daniel Higgins, Saiful Islam  
Corresponding author: Aslihan Arslan (a.arslan@ifad.org)  
|           | In Bangladesh, Coastal Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Project (CCRIP) aimed at improving the connectivity of remote, poor households in the south-west of the country by making community markets more resilient to flooding, improving their facilities and management, and constructing flood-resistant roads connecting these markets. The project also aimed to empower women by providing employment and training through labour-contracting societies |
| 2. Bolivia | Plan VIDA-PEEP to Eradicate Extreme Poverty  
Romina Cavatassi, Adriana Paolantonio, Kristen McCollum  
Corresponding author: Romina Cavatassi (r.cavatassi@ifad.org)  
|           | In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Plan VIDA-PEEP to Eradicate Extreme Poverty – Phase I: Pilot Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Communities and Families Living in Extreme Poverty in Cochabamba and Potosí was designed to improve the livelihoods of rural households residing in vulnerable municipalities in the departments of Potosí and Cochabamba. It supplied financial support to communities for the implementation of community-based productive investments (PICs), and to municipalities for the realization of production infrastructure projects. |
| 3. Brazil | Gente de Valor – Rural Communities Development Project in the Poorest Areas of the State of Bahia  
Alessandra Garbero and Neha Paliwal  
Corresponding author: Alessandra Garbero (a.garbero@ifad.org)  
|           | The Rural Communities Development in the Poorest Areas of the State of Bahia (Project Gente de Valor, GDV) was designed to strengthen the capacity of rural communities to thrive in the drought-prone environment of Brazil’s north-east region through improved access to water, increased productive capacity, and empowerment of participating communities. Using a community-driven development (CDD) approach, GDV contributed to the construction of water-harvesting infrastructure, the development of low-cost backyard gardens, and the promotion of crops and production techniques suitable to the environmental conditions of the region, as well as the introduction of value addition activities. |
| 4. Chad | Rural Development Support Programme in Guéra  
Romina Cavatassi, Athur Mabiso, Mohamed Abouaziza, Eric Djimeu  
Corresponding author: Romina Cavatassi and Athur Mabiso (r.cavatassi@ifad.org; a.mabiso@ifad.org)  
https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/publication/asset/41096296 | Community driven small infrastructure promotion                            |
|           | The Rural Development Support Programme in Guéra (PADER-G) was implemented in Guéra, Chad, to improve the food security and livelihoods of poor rural households. PADER-G aimed to manage food shortage risk by improving cereal storage among smallholder farmers through the construction and management of community cereal banks. |
| 5. China | Guangxi Integrated Agricultural Development Project  
Alessandra Garbero, Tsorn Songsermsawas  
Corresponding author: Alessandra Garbero and Tsorn Songsermsawas (a.garbero@ifad.org; t.songsermsawas@ifad.org)  
https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/publication/asset/41096501 | Community driven small infrastructure                                     |
|           | Roads, irrigation, cash crops and livestock                                                   |

[IFAD Logo]  
[IFAD Logo]  
[IFAD Logo]  
[IFAD Logo]
The Guangxi Integrated Agricultural Development Project aimed to increase rural household income for smallholder farmers in China through community infrastructure improvements, agricultural production and marketing support.

6. Ethiopia
Participatory Small-Scale Irrigation Development Programme
Alessandra Garbero, Beawit Beyene Chichaibelu
Corresponding author: Alessandra Garbero (a.garbero@ifad.org)

In Ethiopia, the Participatory Small-scale Irrigation Development Programme aimed at improving food security and increasing incomes of beneficiaries by providing access to small-scale irrigation infrastructure systems.

7. Indonesia
The Coastal Community Development Project (CCDP)
Romina Cavatassi, Athur Mabiso, Peter Brueckmann
Corresponding author: Romina Cavatassi and Athur Mabiso (r.cavatassi@ifad.org; a.mabiso@ifad.org)

The Coastal Community Development Project (CCDP), implemented between 2013 and 2017, was designed to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth in 12 coastal districts of Indonesia.

The project took a comprehensive approach, combining sustainable marine and coastal natural resource management with economic and livelihood development in coastal and small island communities where poverty was endemic. It invested in fisheries, aquaculture, and related marketing and support structures. Project participants were provided with fishing gear and motorized engines for their fishing boats, enabling them to fish further from the coast, and thus catch a more diverse array of higher-value fish. They were linked to profitable markets, and fish processing groups were established that primarily enabled local women to process and market fish. Infrastructure groups were created to construct village information centers, fish smokehouses, processing warehouses and marketplaces. Additionally, the project provided cooler boxes to store fresh fish and reduce post-harvest losses. It also offered support for food-safety certification. Steps were taken to improve the governance and management of marine resources, including through village-based integrated coastal management plans and the designation of marine protection areas.

8. Kenya
Smallholder Dairy Commercialization Programme (SDCP)
Juan Bonilla, Nancy McCarthy, Simon Mugatha, Nisha Rai, Andrea Coombes, Joshua Brubaker
Corresponding author: Romina Cavatassi (r.cavatassi@ifad.org)

In Kenya, the Smallholder Dairy Commercialization Programme (SDCP) was designed to address constraints in the smallholder milk sector in Kenya by increasing smallholders’ production, productivity and participation in dairy markets. These objectives were pursued by training dairy groups, offering technical support for household dairy production and developing milk marketing chains.

9. Madagascar
Project to Support Development in the Menabe and Melaky Regions
Hannah Ring, Mitchell Morey, Erin Kavanagh, Kevin Kamto, Nancy McCarthy, Joshua Brubaker, Charles Rakotondrafara
Corresponding author: Romina Cavatassi (r.cavatassi@ifad.org)

The Project to Support Development in the Menabe and Melaky Regions (AD2M) in Madagascar sought to improve the well-being of marginalized farmers facing individual and environmental constraints by implementing a multifaceted programme that combined land titling with improved irrigation infrastructure to increase productivity and reduce farmers’ susceptibility to weather and climate shocks.

Impact assessment: Project to Support Development in the Menabe and Melaky Regions
In Madagascar, the Project to Support Development in the Menabe and Melaky Regions (AD2M) aimed to improve the livelihoods of poor farmers by strengthening their tenure security and access to well-functioning irrigation systems. Implemented from 2007 and 2015, the project targeted 26 000 households in 19 groups of villages in the regions of Menabe and Melaky in Western Madagascar.

The project supported a decentralized land administration system by establishing local offices and training staff in land tenure regulations, which enabled them to more efficiently
issue land certificates to farmers. With secure tenure, farmers had greater incentives to invest in their land and to use more sustainable soil and land management practices. Improved irrigation infrastructure helped to increase productivity levels, and to reduce farmers’ vulnerability to insufficient or erratic rainfall, and other environmental conditions and climate shocks. Water User Associations (WUAs) were trained in managing and regulating irrigated areas.

### 10. Mexico

**Community-based Forestry Development Project in Southern States (DECOFOS)**  
Rominca Cavatassi, Federica Alfani, Adriana Paolantonio, Paola Mallia  
Corresponding author: Rominca Cavatassi (r.cavatassi@ifad.org)  

The Community-based Forestry Development Project in Southern States (Campeche, Chiapas and Oaxaca) in the southern states of Mexico aimed at addressing problems linked to deforestation and forest degradation in rural communities of marginalized forest areas. The project focused on promoting micro-business development for the sustainable use of forest natural resources and the adoption of good environmental practices for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Community-based Forestry Development Project in Southern States introduced a range of initiatives designed to address deforestation and forest degradation by improving the capacity of local people to manage forest resources more sustainably, and by helping them diversify their income-generating activities.

Community members were trained in natural resource management, conservation and climate adaptation practices. The project also provided technical and financial support for participants to establish micro-entrepreneurial projects and small businesses in eco-tourism, and in sustainable production of timber and non-timber forest products. All project activities emphasized the inclusion of young people, women and other vulnerable groups, such as individuals without land rights (avéxcindados). Project activities were aligned to local needs and conditions in the three states, reflecting their topographical, agro-ecological and socio-economic differences. DECOFOS underwent a rigorous end-line impact assessment using quantitative and qualitative data from 2200 household

### 11. Nepal

**High-Value Agriculture Project in Hill and Mountain Areas**  
Kashi Kaffe, Kwabena Krah, Tisorn Songsermsawas  
Corresponding author: Tisorn Songsermsawas (t.songsermsawas@ifad.org)  

The High-Value Agriculture Project in Hill and Mountain Areas (HVAP) in Nepal had the primary objective of reducing rural poverty and improving food security through enhanced value chains for high-value agricultural commodities in the hilly and mountainous areas of Nepal.

The project supported farmers, particularly women and those from marginalized groups such as the Dalits, Janajatis and other ethnic minorities, to form new and improve existing producer organisations (POs) which established contractual agreements with local traders for the supply of farm inputs and with agri-businesses for sale of crops and livestock.

Farmers, traders and agri-businesses received training in credit mobilization and business literacy to strengthen their production and marketing capacity. HVAP also provided technical trainings to service providers like agro-vets and district commerce and agriculture departments to foster inclusive, pro-poor value chains.

### 12. Philippines

**Irrigated Rice Production Enhancement Project**  
Aslihan Arslan, Daniel Higgins, Paul Winters, Fabrizio Bresciani  
Corresponding author: Aslihan Arslan (a.arslan@ifad.org)  

In the Philippines, the Irrigated Rice Production Enhancement Project (IRPEP) was designed to improve rice productivity and smallholder livelihoods in three regions of the Philippines. The project strengthened the canal irrigation infrastructure of communal irrigation systems (CISs), built the capacity of the irrigators’ associations that manage the CISs; improved market information; encouraged the collective sale of rice; provided rice-based Family Food Security (FFS); and enhanced emergency rice seed buffer stocks.

The programme rehabilitated the infrastructure of existing Communal Irrigation Schemes (CIS), and the rice farmers who managed the schemes through Irrigators’ Associations were trained in management and leadership to improve their ability to manage the schemes, and thereby achieve increased and more sustainable crop production. IRPEP also provided
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Corresponding Author</th>
<th>Document URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sao Tome and Principe</td>
<td>PAPAFPA and PAPAC</td>
<td>Alessandra Garbero, Martina Improta, Sónia Gonçalves</td>
<td>Alessandra Garbero (<a href="mailto:a.garbero@ifad.org">a.garbero@ifad.org</a>)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/publication/asset/41116368">https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/publication/asset/41116368</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Access to finance and market**

**Increase Access to financial services through training on crop production and marketing development of business plan**

**Family plantations, organic production techniques, value chain**

**Technical Assistance through trainings, financial and managerial education to farmers and small infrastructure projects**

**Inputs Support + technical assistance training of farmers.**

- Project for Rural Income through Exports in Rwanda
  - The Project for Rural Income through Exports in Rwanda helped farmers access rural financial services and increase the production and quality of their cash crops. The project focused on supporting coffee cooperatives as well as horticulture, tea and silk value chains.

  Impact assessment: Project for Rural Income through Exports in Rwanda
  - The Project for Rural Income through Exports in Rwanda, known by its acronym PRICE, aims to increase returns to farmers through the development of export-driven value chains for coffee, tea, sericulture and horticulture. It focused on the project’s support to coffee cooperatives to increase their profitability, and its efforts to give horticulture farmers access to financial services, as a means to expand production and business activities, and ultimately their financial returns.

  - The PRICE interventions included providing technical training on coffee processing, and providing support to horticulture farmers to develop business plans and access financial capital, both loans and matching grants, for their respective enterprises.

- PAPAFPA and PAPAC
  - The Participatory Smallholder Agriculture and Artisanal Fisheries Development Programme (PAPAFPA) and the Smallholder Commercial Agriculture Project (PAPAC) are two complementary operations designed to improve smallholders’ livelihoods in Sao Tome and Principe. The primary objective was to develop family plantations in sustainable and niche value chains: organic and quality cacao, coffee and pepper.

  - The two interventions evaluated in this report - the Participatory Smallholder Agriculture and Artisanal Fisheries Development Programme (PAPAFPA) and the Smallholder Commercial Agriculture Project (PAPAC) - are fully aligned with the national strategies for poverty reduction, rural development and food security as stated in the Second National Poverty Reduction Strategy 2012-2016 and have been integrated in the national policies for the rural sector. Both interventions revolve around the development of certified organic family plantations and the support of four export cooperatives (two in the cacao value chain, one in the coffee and one in the pepper value chain) through the provision of trainings, financial and managerial education to farmers and small infrastructure projects.

  - The programs’ objectives are manifold but at their core they aim at increasing agricultural production in a sustainable manner, enhancing market access and resilience to external shocks thereby promoting small farmers’ income stability and food security.

- Agricultural Value Chains Support Project (PAFA)
  - In Senegal, the Agricultural Value Chains Support Project (PAFA) was designed with the goal to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Senegal’s “groundnut basin”. The main intervention was implemented via producers’ organizations (POs) and consisted of a comprehensive package of agricultural inputs, machinery, technical advice and commercialization contracts established with market operators.

  This impact evaluation focuses on the first sub-component of component 1, the Sous Projet d’Accès au Marché (SPAM), which is a comprehensive support package consisting of certified inputs (seeds, fertiliser and pesticides), agricultural machinery, training on production best practices, innovative practices, post-harvest management and quality control, and a contractual agreement with a market operator. This comprehensive package was financed over three years partly by the project through a regressive subsidy to the farmers and partly by the PO. In the first year, the project financed 80% of the cost, while 20% was contributed by the PO; in the second year the project financed 60%, and 40% in the third year, with the participation of the PO increasing each year. The targeted value chains were maize, millet, sorghum, niebe (cowpea), bissap (roselle), aviculture, and maraichage (vegetable gardening/horticulture).
### Tanzania

**Agricultural Sector Development Programme–Livestock (ASDP-L) and Agriculture Service Support Programme (ASSP)**  
Alessandra Garbero, Bezawit Beyene Chichaibelu  
Corresponding author: Alessandra Garbero (a.garbero@ifad.org)  

The Agricultural Services Support Programme and Agricultural Sector Development Programme – Livestock in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, were designed with the aim of developing the agricultural production systems, and empowering livestock keepers and farmers in Zanzibar through the provision of capacity-building and training activities offered in the form of farmer field schools (FFSs).

The projects trained selected facilitators from each local community in new techniques of livestock rearing and crop production, who then demonstrated these techniques to farmers through Farmer Field Schools. Farmers were actively engaged in learning, problem solving and promoting the new techniques.

### Tajikistan

**Livestock and Pasture Development Project**  
Romina Cavatassi, Paola Mallia  
Corresponding author: Romina Cavatassi (r.cavatassi@ifad.org)  

The Livestock and Pasture Development Project in Tajikistan was designed to increase the nutritional status and incomes of poor rural households in the Khatlon region by boosting livestock productivity through improved productive capacity of pastures and breeding and mating techniques, combined with easier access to water.