

# Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

Independent Office  
of Evaluation

**IFAD**  
Investing in rural people

## Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation 2013-2019

**Area:** 147,181 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 29.3 million, of which 81% live in rural areas (2017)

**Population in agriculture:** 72% of labour force

**GDP growth:** 5.9% (estimated in 2017-18)

**Human dev index:** 0.574% (2017)

**Child malnutrition prevalence:** 36% in 2016  
(stunting 0-5 years) (down from 49.2% in 2006)

Sources: IFAD, World Bank

### Areas covered by projects

#### IFAD operations

(since 1979)

17

total number  
of IFAD-funded  
projects

4

number of  
ongoing  
projects

US\$  
681.3  
million

total  
portfolio cost

US\$  
284  
million

lent by IFAD



Leasehold  
forestry



Community  
savings and  
credit



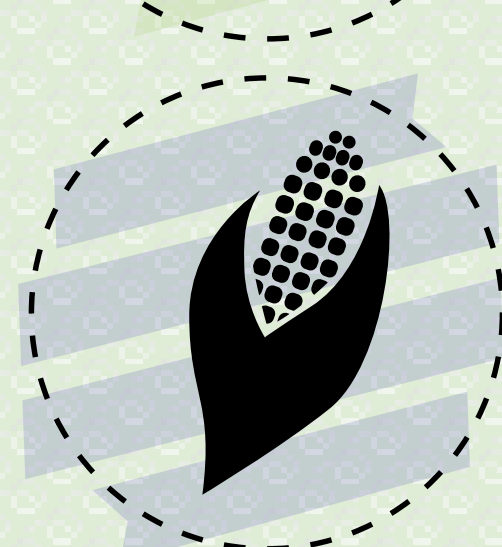
Livestock



Community  
infrastructure



Climate change  
adaptation



High-value crops

### Evaluation coverage

Time frame: 7 years

Projects evaluated: 8 (of which 4 ongoing)

Total financing:  
(Evaluation period)

US\$206.7 million

Country strategic  
opportunities  
programme –  
2000, 2006, 2013





## Key findings

### RELEVANCE

Improved farmers' access to markets. Value chain linkages supported for cash crops, seeds and to some extent milk.

### EFFECTIVENESS

Increase in productivity of high-value products and inclusive commercialization of agriculture e.g. in hill and mountain areas, 83% of beneficiaries reported increase in productivity.

### EFFICIENCY

Delays caused by complex project design, which required adaptation during implementation, and by external shocks (e.g. 2015 earthquake).

### IMPACT ON

### RURAL POVERTY

Positive impact on household income and net assets with significant increases for groups raising livestock, producing seed and high-value products.

### GENDER EQUALITY

### AND WOMEN'S

### EMPOWERMENT

High participation of women in projects – between 44% and 80% - raised women's status at the household community level and in rural institutions.

### NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Leasehold forestry helped restore degraded forest areas into healthy forest, producing fodder, firewood and timber and non-timber products.

The Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme helped improve human and social capital

A study shows an increase in literacy

from	to
<b>49%</b>	<b>86%</b>
in 2006	in 2013

### High value products:

Spices  
off-season vegetables  
fruits  
cereal  
dairy products

## Key recommendations

#1

Support federalization as an integral part of the preparation of the new country strategic opportunities programme and project designs.

#2

Continue the support to value chain development with renewed emphasis on inclusiveness.

#3

Bring back into the spectrum of IFAD funding the support to community development, basic infrastructure and services.

#4

Strengthen partnerships for specialized technical support and for cofinancing.