

## **The Sudan Country Programme Evaluation**

### **NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE WORKSHOP**

**Date: 25-26 February 2009**

#### **CONCEPT NOTE**

##### **A. Background**

1. It is an established practice for IFAD's Office of Evaluation (OE) to organise, in close consultation with the Government and key partners, a National Roundtable Workshop (NRTW) as a final stage in the Country Programme Evaluation (CPE) process. The Sudan CPE NRTW will be organised to discuss in-depth, with a larger forum of stakeholders, the main findings and recommendations from the CPE. It will also provide the possibility to develop a common understanding of the key building blocks for the preparation of the new Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) for The Sudan, a task that will be undertaken by IFAD's Near East and North Africa Division (PN) together with the Government of Sudan following the completion of the CPE.

##### **B. Objectives**

2. The NRTW is the main final step in the completion of the CPE exercise. Its objective is to prepare the grounds for formulating the CPE Agreement at Completion Point (ACP). To facilitate this process, an issues paper based on the findings and recommendations contained in the CPE report has been prepared for discussion at the workshop (see section C below).

3. The objective of the ACP is to clarify and deepen the understanding of evaluation recommendations, document those that are found feasible and those that are not, and make the former more operational. The ACP also constitutes a response by the Government and IFAD on how they intend to act upon the evaluation recommendations within the framework of an action plan that assigns responsibilities and deadlines. These actions will constitute the building block of the forthcoming country strategy for the period 2009-2012.

##### **C. Expected Focus and Output of the workshop**

4. The NRTW will consider three key themes emerging from the CPE that require further reflection and discussion. The themes have been agreed with the Government of Sudan and IFAD's Programme Management Department:

#### **Theme I: Agriculture for Rural Poverty Alleviation in Sudan**

This theme will discuss the rationale for stronger involvement of the Government operations with IFAD funding in the rainfed agriculture sector, including the promotion of agricultural innovation. It will attempt to identify appropriate instruments and approaches for IFAD support to smallholder farmer productivity and competitiveness.

#### **Theme II: The Role of IFAD in Policy Dialogue in Sudan**

Taking into consideration the results achieved by IFAD and state governments in promoting pro-poor policies within the context of loan-financed operation, participants will discuss the opportunities for stronger involvement of the Fund in policy dialogue activities at both the State and National levels to address factors hindering agricultural development and rural poverty reduction.

### **Theme III: Enhancing Sustainability of Development Benefits**

The evaluation found that important benefits generated by IFAD-financed operations are at risk when projects come to an end and there are limited prospects for sustaining these benefits with locally generated resources. The strategic options (clarity of exit strategies, partnerships, and capacity building of staff on conflict prevention and disaster management) available to IFAD and Government for ensuring sustainability of the financed activities will be discussed. The theme will also consider whether a more narrowly defined geographic concentration of future IFAD-funded interventions in Sudan is warranted.

5. The main output from the NRTW will be an understanding among workshop participants on the key findings and recommendations from the CPE that will guide IFAD and the Government in defining their future co-operation strategy (i.e. the COSOP) for The Sudan. This understanding will be summarised in a workshop closing statement to be delivered by a senior representative of the Government. The statement will draw primarily on the discussions in the plenary sessions and NRTW working groups discussions (see section H). This will then enable the drafting of the ACP after the workshop. Once available, the draft ACP will be first shared with the IFAD management and thereafter with the Government for their comments and signature.

#### **D. The Discussion and Validation of the country programme strategy**

6. The NRTW will offer the opportunity to the stakeholders of the Sudan country programme to discuss the strategic directions of the country programme for the period 2009-2012. The discussions will be informed by the results of the CPE, the policy orientation with regards agricultural development, and the challenges of the rural poor. The output of the discussion is a validation of the proposed strategy of the country programme and the amendment of the strategy accordingly.

#### **E. Time and Venue**

7. The NRTW will be held at the Grand Holiday Villa Hotel in Khartoum. The draft provisional agenda for the workshop is included in Annex 1 of this concept note. It will be finalised in consultation with IFAD's Near East and North Africa Division and the Government of Sudan, and forwarded to all concerned parties for their information. The workshop will be held on 25-26 February 2009, and concluded around mid-day on 26 February 2009. It will be immediately followed by a special session on the Sudan country programme during the period 2009-2012.

#### **F. Invitation to the Workshop and Background Documentation**

9. The NRTW will be co-organised by the Government of Sudan and IFAD. Invitations will be extended by the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) of the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, on behalf of both the Government and IFAD. The main document for discussion will be the CPE issues paper (see section C), although the final CPE report will also be shared with the participants as additional background information. The summary of the draft country strategy will also be shared as background material.

#### **H. Design of the NRTW**

10. The workshop agenda is provided in Annex I. It has been developed in such a way to allow for discussion on wider policy and strategic issues identified by the CPE.

11. On day one of the workshop (25 February) in the morning, the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry will deliver the workshop inaugural address. Thereafter, the Assistant President of the Programme Management Department, the Director of the Independent Office of Evaluation and Director PN will make their introductory remarks at the workshop.

12. The OE lead evaluator for The Sudan CPE will then make a power point presentation of the key findings and recommendations from the CPE, as well as provide an introduction to the three workshop themes. Time will be reserved for reflection, observations and debate on the initial statements and presentation in the plenary session.

13. In the afternoon of day one, the participants will be asked to break out into three working groups. Each group will be asked to debate on one of the three CPE themes. A resource person from OE will be designated in each of the working groups to make a short initial presentation of the theme under consideration in his/her working group, with the aim of stimulating discussions on the concerned topic. A chairperson and *rapporteur* will be nominated in each working group.

14. The plenary session will be reconvened in the morning of day two of the workshop 26 February 2009. The three working groups will have an opportunity to present to the plenary their feedback (in the form of power point presentations) and recommendations on the issues examined during the working group sessions on 25 February. Following the presentations, time will be devoted to discussions in the plenary session. The OE lead evaluator for The Sudan CPE will then report on the next steps in the finalisation of the CPE.

15. In the afternoon of day two on the 26 February, the Near East and North Africa Division of IFAD will present the strategic thrusts of the new country programme for the period 2009-2012. This presentation aims to discuss and validate the strategic directions proposed in the country programme strategy paper.

## Annex I – Provisional Agenda

### The Sudan Country Programme Evaluation National Roundtable Workshop

**Grand Holiday Villa Hotel in Khartoum  
Khartoum 25-26 February 2009, The Sudan**

#### **Day 1 morning: Workshop Plenary Session 1**

08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:15	Opening of the Session by Chairperson (Workshop objectives & organization)
09:15-09:30	Statement by Mr. Kevin Cleaver, Assistant President Program Management Division, IFAD
09:30-09:45	Statement by Mr. Luciano Lavizzari, Director, Office of Evaluation, IFAD
09:45-10:00	Statement by Mr. N. Khouri Director, Near East and North Africa Division, IFAD
10:00-10:15	Address by Minister of Finance and National Economy
<i>10:15-10:45</i>	<i>Coffee Break and Photo Session</i>
10:45-11:15	Overall presentation on the country programme evaluation and introduction of workshop themes by Mr. Paul-André Rochon, Senior Evaluation Officer, OE
11:15 – 12:00	Plenary session – General remarks from the floor and discussions (facilitated by the Chairperson)
<i>12:00-14:00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>

#### **Day 1 afternoon: Three Working Groups**

14:00-14:30	Plenary session - General remarks from the floor and discussions (facilitated by the chairperson)
14:30-16:00	Break out into three Working Groups on each workshop theme. Presentation of themes in each working group followed by discussions
<i>16:00 -16:15</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:15-17:30	Further discussion in working groups
17:30	End of day 1

**Day 2 morning: Workshop Plenary Session**

09:30-09:40	Opening remarks by Chairperson on Day 2 proceedings
09:40-10:40	Feedback presentation from the three Working Groups
<i>10:40-11:00</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00-12:00	Plenary discussion on working group presentations
12:00-12:10	Next Steps in the CPE process by Mr. Paul-André Rochon
12:10-12:20	Future directions and overall remarks by the Near East and North Africa Division, IFAD
12:20-12:30	Closing Statement by the Chief Guest
<i>12:30-14:00</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:00-17:30	Discussion and validation of the Country Strategy Paper 2009-2012 in light of the discussions on the CPE

## **Annex II**

### **List of participants for the CPE Sudan National Roundtable Workshop Khartoum, 25 – 26 February, 2009,**

#### **Government of The Sudan**

##### **The Office of the First Vice President**

1. Participant to be confirmed

##### **Ministry of Finance and National Economy**

2. H.E. Dr. Awad Ahmed El Gazz, Minister
3. Dr. Lual Deng, Minister of State
4. Dr. Eltayeb Ibrahim Abu Ganaya, Undersecretary
5. Mr. Hafez Ata El Manan, Director General, Development Sector
6. Mr. El Fatih Khalid, Director General, International Cooperation Directorate
7. Mr Philip Boldit, Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Directorate
8. Mr. Hussein Khoya, Director General, State Affairs Directorate
9. Ms. Faiza Awad, International Cooperation Directorate
10. Mr. Yousif Bashir, Economist

##### **Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry**

11. H. E. Prof. Zubeir Beshir Taha, Minister
12. Mr. Abdelrahim Ali Hamad, State Minister of Agriculture
13. Dr. Abosh Ajak, State Minister
14. Dr. Abdelatif Egemi, Undersecretary
15. Mr. Abdul Jahil Tumsah, Rainfed Agriculture Specialist
16. Mr. Mohamed Hassan Gubara, Director General, International Cooperation and Investment Administration Directorate
17. Mr. Mohamed El Haj Sir Elkatim, Senior Coordinator, IFAD CCU
18. Mr. Nabil Ahmed Saad, Director of Planning
19. Ms. Fatima Ismail, Director, Gender Directorate
20. Mr. Tag Elsir Elhag, IFAD CCU

##### **Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources**

21. Eng. Mohamed Bahredeen, Undersecretary
22. Eng. Abdelraheem Satti, Planning Department

##### **Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries**

23. Dr. Mohamed Abdelraziq, Undersecretary
24. Dr. Omar Al Dirani, Director General, International Cooperation Directorate
25. Dr. Suleiman Jaber, Director General, Planning Directorate

##### **Central Bank of Sudan**

26. Dr. Sabir Mohammed Hassan, Governor
27. Mr. Yasser Jamae, Acting Director, Microfinance Unit

**Agricultural Bank of Sudan**

- 28. Mr. Awad Osman Mohamed Ahmed, Director General
- 29. Mr. Mohamed Hussein Adam, former Planning Sector Director and currently Internal Audit Director

**Sudan Microfinance Development Facility**

- 30. Mr. Watson Alsatair, Director

**Government of Southern Sudan**

**Ministry of Finance**

- 31. H.E. Mr. Kuol Athian Mawien Athian, Minister

**Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry**

- 32. H.E. Mr. Samson L. Kwaje, Minister
- 33. Prof. Scopas Jibi Dima, Advisor

**STATE GOVERNMENTS**

**34. South Kordofan State Government**

- 35. Mr. Khari Elgodail, Minister
- 36. Mr. Youssif Bachir, Director General

**North Kordofan State Government**

- 37. Mr. Mohamed Ali Mansour, Minister
- 38. Mr. Mohamed Elhamim, Director General

**Kassala State Government**

- 39. Mr. Majzoub Abou Musa, Minister

**River Nile State Government**

- 40. Mr. Jibril Abdelatif, Minister

**Khartoum State Government**

- 41. Mr. JodatAllah Osman, Minister

**Gezira State Government**

- 42. Mr. Abdelhafiz Awad, Minister

**Gedaref State Government**

- 43. Mr. Awadallah Mahmoud Eissa, Minister

**Butana Development Agency**

- 44. Mr. Eltag Osman, Minister of Agriculture, State of Khartoum

## **Permanent Representation of The Sudan to UN Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome**

45. Prof. Mohamed El Tayeb El Faki, Permanent Representative of the Sudan to FAO, IFAD and WFP in Rome, Counsellor (Agricultural Affairs)

### **Investment Projects**

46. Mr. Abdu Abass El Rafieg; Project Manager, Gash Sustainable Livelihoods Regeneration Project (GSLRP)
47. Ms. Amal Bushara, Programme Manager ad Interim, Western Sudan Resource Management Programme
48. Mr. Omer M. Awad El Seed, Project Manager, North Kordofan Rural Development Project (NKRDP)
49. Mr. Kamal Balla Shagag, Programme Manager, South Kordofan Rural Development Programme
50. Mr. Rashid Musaad, Project Director, Butana Integrated Rural Development Project
51. Mr. Mohamed El Haj Sir Elkhatim, Senior Coordinator for WAD Projects Central Coordination Unit (CCU)
52. Mr. Omer El Hag, Director, Community Development Fund Project (World Bank)

### **IFAD Staff Members**

53. Mr Kevin Cleaver, Assistant President, Programme Management Dept, IFAD
54. Mr. Cheikh Sourang, Senior Programme Manager, Programme Management Dept, IFAD
55. Mr. Luciano Lavizzari, Director, OE
56. Mr. Ashwani Muthoo, Senior Evaluation Officer, OE
57. Mr. Paul-André Rochon, Senior Evaluation Officer, OE (lead evaluator for The Sudan CPE)
58. Mr. Nadim Khouri, Director, PN
59. Ms. Rasha Omar, Country Programme Manager, PN
60. Ms. Isabelle Stordeur, Programme Assistant, PN
61. Mr. Mohamed Abdelgadir, IFAD Country Presence Officer, PN, Khartoum
62. Ms. Kendra White, Evaluation Assistant, OE
63. Ms. Marie Louise Ndiaye, Evaluation Assistant, OE

## **OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

### **The Union of Pastoralists, Farmers and Women**

64. Participants to be identified – Preferably one from each union from Northern and Southern Sudan

### **Heads of the following agencies:**

65. FAO
66. World Bank
67. UNDP
68. UNICEF
69. WFP
70. UNIDO
71. European Commission
72. CDF
73. AfDB
74. IsDB
75. AAAID
76. AOAD



**Italy**

77. Mr. Ghirotti Mauro, Embassy of Italy in The Sudan

**The Netherlands**

78. Mr. Johan de Waard, First Secretary, Economic Cooperation & Development, Embassy of the Netherlands in The Sudan

**Country Program Management Team**

79. Dr. Sayid Ali Zaki  
80. Dr. Ibrahim Eldukhari  
81. Dr. Maki Abdelatif  
82. Mr. Omer Hajemi  
83. Mr. Hassan Shaker  
84. Mr. Noel Harris
86. Beneficiaries from IFAD projects and programmes.