

JOINT STATEMENT

BY

THE OFFICES OF EVALUATION

OF CGIAR, FAO, IFAD, AND WFP

**FOR STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION IN EVALUATION
OF THE ROME BASED AGENCIES DEALING WITH FOOD SECURITY,
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL POVERTY ALLEVIATION**



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JOINT STATEMENT among the Independent Evaluation Arrangement of the CGIAR, the Office of Evaluation of FAO, the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD, and the Office of Evaluation of WFP, all of them based in Rome.

THE PARTIES ISSUING THIS JOINT STATEMENT AGREE THAT:

1. The purpose of the present Joint Statement is to provide the broad framework to institutionalise collective efforts in promoting closer collaboration in evaluation among the Rome based agencies (RBA).
2. The reasons for an enhanced and systematic collaboration among the Evaluation Offices are: i) to share and promote good practices with respect to challenging aspects of evaluating food and agriculture work in development and humanitarian context, ii) to achieve efficiency gains, iii) to increase effectiveness including widen the possible transformational impact based on evaluation work; and iv) to respond to the Governing Bodies requests that the RBA work closely. In addition, some forms of collaboration, like peer reviews, could enhance the credibility of evaluations and may provide an opportunity to contribute to benefit from an outside perspective and to make progress in the harmonization of evaluation methods.
3. Areas of possible collaboration
 - a) **In the short run**, the Agencies agree to collaborate in the following ways:
 - ii). Sharing draft and final work programmes.
 - iii). Holding at least an annual one day seminar and networking event focusing on sharing of experience, methodologies, lessons from evaluations of food security, agriculture and rural poverty alleviation issues, evaluation products and information about international/ regional evaluation conferences.
 - iv). Sharing information (and possibly, databases) on consultants with experience of evaluation in agriculture, food security and humanitarian response.
 - v). Participate in key learning events and evaluation seminars organized by the respective Offices in Rome on topics of common interest.

¹ The CGIAR's "Independent Evaluation Arrangement".

- vi). Peer-review of selected major evaluations, focusing mainly on review of TOR and draft final report.
- vii). Sharing methodologies (including those for knowledge management) and products.
- viii). Coordinating participation at international and regional evaluation conferences and sharing information about them. This could include joint panels on specific topics of common priority.
- ix). Discuss issues concerning the application or interpretation of evaluation criteria, such as efficiency (in the context of agriculture), food security and rural poverty alleviation interventions.
- x). Designating upon request staff as external evaluation experts to serve on recruitment panels for new evaluation officers.

b) In the medium term, the Agencies agree to collaborate by:

- xi). Including in the work programme to be presented to their Governing Bodies at least one evaluation activity in which the RBA could collaborate.
 - xii). Preparing evaluation synthesis reports/meta evaluations on topics of joint interest.
4. The Heads of the Evaluation Offices of the RBA will be the focal points of the enhanced collaboration initiative.
 5. This Joint Statement shall enter into force on 2 April 2013 and remain in effect until any of the concerned parties initiates a process for its further development and/or fine-tuning.
 6. Progress towards achieving the objectives and undertaking activities included in the Joint Statement will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Joint Statement has been issued in Rome by:

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 Head
 Independent Evaluation Arrangement
 CGIAR

Ms Helen Wedgewood
 Director
 Office of Evaluation
 WFP

Mr Robert Moore
 Director
 Office of Evaluation
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 Acting Director
 Independent Office of Evaluation
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