Enhancing the evaluability of Sustainable Development Goal 2

End hunger, achieve food security and nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

International technical seminar

PROCEEDINGS

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Rome, 17-18 November 2015

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The designations 'developed' and 'developing' countries are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgement about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process.

March 2016

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Excerpts from the opening statements of the heads of the Rome-based agencies

"All of these topics for us at FAO are really familiar, in seeing how we contribute to change or influence change or leverage change at the country level inevitably working with partners, inevitably in complex situations, hopefully adding value to the work of lots of others rather than thinking that is kind of a linear process."

Daniel Gustafson, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

"We often measure development, unfortunately – and this is global –, by how much money we have disbursed. I think instead we should be considering how many people are coming out of poverty and have better lives as a result of development assistance."

Kanayo Nwanze, International Fund for Agricultural Development

"This seminar is really just the start of a much needed, inclusive dialogue about SDG2. These are the changes the new framework brings in the way we work in development and in humanitarian arenas and the implications for how to measure progress."

Jim Harvey, World Food Programme

"When I speak with my nutrition colleagues, they are not particularly interested in increasing food production. They talk about food waste; they talk about the importance of breast feeding. They talk about a whole series of things and not necessarily about increasing food production at all. They prefer to talk about diet guidelines for instance. I'm just trying to say if we really want to have evaluability of SDG2, we have to have a narrative where ending hunger and nutrition and even sustainable agriculture fit in."

Frank Rijsberman, CGIAR

Sustainable Development Goal 2 and its targets

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.1 By 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

2.2 By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.

2.3 By 2030 double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

2.4 By 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

2.5 By 2020 maintain genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at national, regional and international levels, and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as internationally agreed.

2.a. Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development, and plant and livestock gene banks to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries.

2.b. Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets including by the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.

2.c. Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives, and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.

Abbreviations and acronyms

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
POU	Prevalence of Undernourishment
RBA	Rome-based agencies
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
WFP	World Food Programme

Summary

Background

The evaluation offices of the Rome-based agencies (RBAs), which include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the CGIAR (formerly known as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research), jointly organized a technical seminar within the framework of their 2012 joint statement of collaboration. The theme of the seminar was "enhancing the evaluability of Sustainable Development Goal 2". How can we evaluate progress towards achieving SDG2 - "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture?" [1] By focusing on evaluability, this seminar was intended to inform how SDG2 can and should be evaluated, and thus provide a basis for planning of a future evaluation agenda.

The seminar was a great success. Over 160 participants from national governments, representing over 35 countries, academia, think tanks, private sector and United Nations organizations, attended and contributed actively to the discussion. Some 1,000 people were following the event on line. The social media coverage on Twitter and Facebook generated more than 100 posts through the #SDG2Eval hashtag.

Objective and approach

The objective of the seminar was to contribute to a shared understanding of how SDG2 could be evaluated and identify actions needed to enable future evaluations of SDG2 through the United Nations system, other international organizations or countries themselves. Specific objectives of the seminar were to: (i) share lessons learned on the evaluability of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other partnership initiatives of similar scale; (ii) jointly review key challenges for evaluation in relation to the post-2015 development agenda in general and SDG2 in particular; and (iii) identify concrete steps for Rome-based agencies towards building evaluability of SDG2. The seminar was opened by the IFAD President, the FAO Deputy Director General, the WFP Chief of Staff and the Chief Executive Officer of the CGIAR. It included keynote speeches by Sunita Narain, Director General at the Centre for Science and Environment in India, and Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Director-General, Coordinator for Economic and Social Development at FAO. Most of the discussions took place in parallel round-tables, led by panels of carefully selected speakers and focusing on the following four themes.

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1. The focus on SDG2 is in line with the mandates of the FAO, IFAD, WFP and the CGIAR, which cover the wide range of issues, from research to technical assistance, in contexts from humanitarian crisis to development, and production systems to investment.

Theme 1: The relevance of 'new metrics' for the evaluation of SDG2 - Data revolution and innovative approaches for assessing human wellbeing was chaired by John Hoddinott, H.E. Babcock Professor of Food and Nutrition Economics and Policy at Cornell University. The discussions focused on questions such as: For which dimensions of SDG2 do we already have indicators/indices/data and do we need 'new metrics' to measure all the dimensions of SDG2? What systems exist to measure these indicators, accurately and reliably? How complete and reliable is the global 'data architecture'; and where are the gaps? The presenters pointed out that some areas are in relatively good shape (e.g. monitoring of under-nutrition and of food production), but others require serious investment (e.g. for monitoring dietary quality and the sustainability of agricultural practices). The discussion recognized that the implicit Theory of Change underpinning SDG2 does not reside solely within it; that progress on meeting SDG2 is intimately bound up with progress on other SDGs. It concluded that there is a significant opportunity for the RBAs to re-invigorate the measurement of nutrition and food security and the need to make progress on a commonly agreed measurement of sustainable agriculture.

Theme 2: Partnerships and development actors - Dealing with the increasing complexity of development processes was chaired by Simon Levine, Research Fellow at the Humanitarian Policy Group at the

Overseas Development Institute in the United Kingdom. The discussion revolved around the challenges of undertaking evaluation within a relationship between development partner and a country, how best to work with partner countries, while being accountable to the agency itself, to the partner country and also, critically, to the people whose lives need to improve if the SDGs are to be met. The discussion emphasized that the process is inherently political, recognizing that governments are not the only actors who have political interests. Conceiving complexity within the evaluation of SDGs underpins pluralism. Evaluability of SDGs should thus allow evolution of different concepts and approaches to evaluation.

Theme 3: National monitoring and evaluation systems and data availability - Building on the progress made and addressing existing (capacity) gaps was chaired by Carlos Barahona, Deputy Director at Statistical Services Centre, University of Reading. The discussion recognized that some SDG targets are better aligned to national priorities and strategies. Hence the level of ownership of these targets can vary at the country level.

The discussion emphasized that to monitor and evaluate SDG2, consistent acquisition of data that will be converted into information is essential. This information needs to be available with the level of granularity that is useful to make decisions that allow for the diversity of 'relevant' contexts in each country. This requirement poses a challenge to the

already established national systems in charge of gathering data and generating that information as they have been set up to fulfil information needs that were set well before the SDGs were conceived.

The SDG agenda could potentially include 230 indicators which makes it counterproductive and costly for countries to monitor all of them. RBAs have the opportunity to work with countries to identify more efficient use of data within the SDG2. There is a need for the identification of minimum standards or the set indicators required for meaningful monitoring and afterwards, evaluation. This process requires mediation, convincing power, advocacy and facilitation. The discussion concludes that the RBAs should use the potential from the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) platform to influence and advocate national country level engagement on the SDG targets.

Theme 4: Demand for and use of evidence from evaluation - Understanding the political economy of evidence and developing a joint evaluation agenda for SDG2 was chaired by Ian C. Davies, Credentialed Evaluator and specialist in public governance, management, accountability and finance. The discussion started from the understanding that the SDGs, by their very nature and the principles that underpin them, challenge evaluation to evolve consistent with these and offer a global platform to rethink and reposition evaluation and its practice in development. The SDG agenda is country-led and evaluations will take place in the context

of their political economies. Evaluation should support learning and adaptive management within the SDG process. Evaluation should generate cumulative knowledge across evaluations so as to contribute to theory. Countries may need support to generate knowledge, for example on what policies and interventions are positive for smallholder farmers, and in developing capacity for evaluation "where change can be affected" such as ministries of agriculture. Definitional questions are important especially when attempting to articulate between systems, e.g. national system and UN system. There is a significant difference with important implications in defining food security either as "access to food" and as "right to food". Finally, with the proliferation of SDG indicators, there may be a role for the RBAs to support the development of key indicators with regard to their mandates.

In their concluding remarks, the speakers agreed that the technical seminar provided a starting point to initiate a conversation, a dialogue, and a process. The SDG agenda provides an opportunity to be even more serious about evaluation. The complexity of the SDG framework is an antidote to oversimplification, including the myth that development can be reduced to results management by numbers. It promises to foster investment in national evaluation systems. The seminar recognized the need for evaluators, and commissioners of them, who are seeking to catalyze learning and adaptation, and recognize they are accountable for doing this.

This takes evaluative practice beyond compliance with targets, offering instead a vision of evaluators as change agents who are accountable for learning. Commissioning and delivering weighty reports will no longer suffice. The consultative process sparked by the RBAs should continue beyond the technical seminar in an organized, consultative and participatory manner.

> **"** *A vision of evaluators as agents of change.* **"**

Next steps for RBAs

To ensure that SDG2 progress and achievements can be measured, the RBAs should:

- Use the **Committee on World Food Security** as a platform to influence and advocate national country-level engagement, endorsement, implementation and evaluation of the SDG2 targets.

- Use their **convening power** among member countries to mediate, advocate and facilitate the identification of realistic SDG2 targets and priorities at national level.

- Re-invigorate the **measurement of the food security and nutrition** dimensions by, for instance, going beyond the traditional prevalence of undernourishment index.

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- Identify a **research agenda** in relation to the eight SDG2 targets.

- Establish clear conceptual and operational linkages between SDG2 and the other SDGs and - based on this - encourage a **cross-sectoral monitoring** of the goals and targets.

- Support the development of **key indicators**, including for sustainable agriculture.

- Through their operational programmes find ways to improve **collaboration** between the national statistics office and the agricultural ministries .

- For their own **M&E systems**, use existing data collection processes more efficiently.

To strengthen the evaluability of SDG2 on the demand and supply sides, the evaluation functions of the RBAs should

- Apply a **political economy perspective** to evaluation and become an **agent of change**; do not just conduct evaluations, but also find ways to instil evaluative thinking.

- Pay attention on building country capacities to both evaluate and **persuade decision-makers** of the value of evaluation.

- To strengthen country capacities, provide **tools and guidance on evaluability assessment**.

- Develop an **evaluation agenda** taking into account the needs to localizing SDG2 in response to the new context; consider the multiplicity of goals and players in the approach to **accountability and learning**.

- Provide functional support to **simplify the complexity** of monitoring the large number of SDG2 indicators at country level and improve the robustness and credibility of in-country data, for example through:

  o Improved methodologies

  o Building the demand side

  o The establishment of quality assurance processes aiming at (i) harvesting the low-hanging fruits; and (ii) reduce the burden associated with the collection of data.

1. Context

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Agenda

The United Nations General Assembly approval of *"Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"*[2] in September 2015 set 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 targets that will be implemented starting in January 2016. The SDGs follow on from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but differ from them in that the SDGs were developed through a collaborative process of intensive public consultation and engagement with national governments and civil society worldwide. Where the MDGs focused on development issues in less developed countries, the 2030 Agenda declares universal goals that involve developed and developing countries alike and asserts that no countries will be left behind in achieving those goals.

Of particular importance for evaluators, in addition to setting out the goals and targets, the Agenda document articulates a set of principles for regular review of progress to keep achievement of the goals and targets on track. The goals will be a significant challenge for the evaluation community, which will have an important role in ensuring that the goals and targets are appropriately measured and assessed.

Goal 2 of the SDGs, *"end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture,"* is ambitious in its scope. Its eight targets describe a multiplicity of areas in which countries are expected to make progress over the next 15 years. In addition, like many other SDGs, progress on SDG2 will either influence or be influenced by nearly every other goal, creating a level of complexity that far exceeds that of previous goal-setting exercises. The United Nations Inter-agency and Expert Working Group on the SDGs is expected to approve in March 2016 the set of indicators that will be needed to measure and assess progress, but it is expected that the number of indicators tracked as part of the regular global progress reporting on the SDGs will be limited in order to reduce the reporting burden on country systems.

To begin a dialogue about the challenges SDG2 will present for monitoring and evaluation, the evaluation offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), and CGIAR (formerly known as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research), henceforth the Rome-based agencies (RBAs), convened the technical seminar

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2. General Assembly resolution 70/1, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/RES/70/1 (25 September 2015), available from undocs.org/A/RES/70/1.

"Enhancing the Evaluability of Sustainable Development Goal 2" at IFAD Headquarters in Rome from 17-18 November 2015.

Seminar objectives

The complexity of the evaluation task related to SDG2 will require coordinated effort among the evaluation functions of the RBAs, as well as with the broader international system. Therefore, the overarching objective of the seminar was to "contribute to a shared understanding of how SDG2 could be evaluated and identify actions needed to enable evaluations of SDG2 through the United Nations system, other international organizations or countries themselves." (See the agenda in Appendix 1).

The **specific objectives** of the seminar were to:

1. Share lessons learned on the evaluability of the MDGs and other partnership initiatives of similar scale (for example the Paris Declaration).

2. Jointly review key challenges for evaluation in relation to the post-2015 development agenda in general and SDG2 in particular.

3. Identify concrete steps for RBAs towards building evaluability of SDG2.

The technical seminar had more than 160 participants from diverse technical and organizational backgrounds, including representatives of the evaluation offices and operational departments of the RBAs, as well as representatives from governments, academia, think tanks, the private sector and other international organizations. (See participant list in Appendix 2). About 60 of the participants were involved directly in evaluations. In total, more than 35 countries from all of the world's regions were represented. In addition, more than 1,000 people followed the seminar plenary sessions via webcast.

The seminar was part of the International Year of Evaluation. In a brief presentation, Marco Segone, Director, Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), United Nations Women and Chair of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), passed the torch of evaluation to the heads of the four evaluation offices: Masahiro Igarashi, Director, FAO Office of Evaluation (OED); Oscar A. Garcia, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE); Helen Wedgwood, Director, WFP Office of Evaluation (OVE); and Rachel Sauvinet-Bedouin, Head, CGIAR Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA).

Introduction by the Agency Heads

The participants were welcomed by Frank Rijsberman (Chief Executive Officer, CGIAR), Daniel Gustafson (Deputy Director General, FAO), Jim Harvey (Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive Director, WFP), and Kanayo F. Nwanze (President of IFAD). In their opening remarks, the agency heads struck some common themes for the seminar participants to consider: the complexity of the SDG challenge as well as the interrelationship of the four parts of SDG2, the role of evaluation and credible evidence of progress, and the value of partnerships and coordination among the RBAs and with other stakeholders.

All four speakers commented on the complexity of the challenge represented by the interrelated parts of SDG2: hunger, food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. Mr Rijsberman suggested that an integrated narrative for SDG2 will be needed. Not only is SDG2 itself complicated, rural development will affect and be affected by the achievement of many of the other SDGs, creating an even more complex challenge, Mr Nwanze said. Several speakers also noted, however, that this complexity will require a shift from what Mr Nwanze characterized as the "simplistic" approach to evaluation focused narrowly on counting disbursements and outputs. Rather, evaluation will need to provide information about how many are coming out of poverty and how many have better lives. Mr Rijsbersman similarly highlighted the need to focus more evaluation attention on outcomes.

Evaluation, the speakers said, will have a critical role in the achievement of the SDGs, not just for accountability but also to contribute to learning. Given that the countries themselves are the "owners" of the SDGs, it will be important to understand the political economy of evaluation, Mr Gustafson pointed out. Although countries will effectively control the agenda for the SDGs, the RBAs and their evaluators will need to plan ahead, as Mr Harvey noted, to ensure that "the right questions are asked and the right data are collected." But this will also call for new ways of thinking about evaluation. As Mr Harvey put it, "Evaluation needs to become the bedrock of our development efforts." Mr Rijsberman suggested that Theories of Change used in evaluation will need to become part of the conversation from the start, not something to be inferred by evaluators after the fact. All four speakers acknowledged the value of evaluation as a tool for learning as well as for accountability.

The complexity challenge emphasizes anew the need for partnership and coordination, the speakers agreed. Mr Gustafson pointed out that we do not yet know how to collectively take advantage of the opportunity the SDGs present to enhance partnership and collaboration. This seminar

> **"Evaluation needs to become the bedrock of our development efforts."**

is a first step in that process.

Mr Nwanze and others noted that the RBAs, and other stakeholders, have a joint responsibility for development outcomes. Several of the agency heads suggested that, given the complexity, joint evaluation of impacts should also be part of the conversation about the SDGs.

The food connection: Nutrition, nature, livelihoods in a warming world

Keynote speech by Ms Sunita Narain, Director General, Centre for Science and Environment, India

The overall aim of the SDGs, Ms Narain noted, is to achieve human and environmental well-being. But the SDGs offer a different theory of change than we are accustomed to, and what we decide to measure will be important. She challenged the plenary to ask whether hunger and malnutrition were only about lack of food or were they also about access to food, the impoverishment of small producers, or the suffering of vulnerable groups due to extreme weather events that characterize climate change.

> ❝SDGs offer a different theory of change.❞

She argued that to ensure the achievement of SDG2, we should measure investments that do not increase the costs of agriculture for small producers and thereby burden them. She suggested that we should measure investment in such things as weather forecasting and information dissemination systems, crop insurance systems, water infrastructure to improve resilience to the effects of climate change, and in complex agro-silvo-pastoral systems that provide small farmers with fallback options in lean years. Such investments benefit small farmers without adding to their production costs.

It will be impossible to "green" agriculture after we have "browned" it, Ms Narain asserted. Sustainability is about what we grow, how we grow it, who does the growing and what we eat. We need rich biodiversity in our food systems, nature-friendly farming that is less intensive and less toxic, and more reliance on local foods that are less processed. We need to measure what it takes to grow food sustainably, an approach that will value small producers over industrial farming.

We also need to measure the costs of food safety and their impact on small producers. This includes costs for surveillance and enforcement, safe management of farm chemicals and pharmaceuticals, and food traceability.

In a world where there is demand for foods that are high in salt, sugar and fat, we need to measure not only what it costs to produce such foods but also the costs of those foods to human health. We need to

measure both under-nutrition and over-nutrition, and the latter should be controlled through government regulations targeting the sources of these problems. We should encourage policies that promote the value of home-cooked, seasonal, diverse, organic foods.

Our contribution to eliminating hunger should not be premised only on increasing food production. We need to promote and measure the production of a wider variety of foods. This includes alternative sources of protein that reduce reliance on animal sources. We also need to protect diversity in our food systems, in particular the loss of diversity in rice varieties in India.

Food is about livelihoods, it is about culture. We need to design new food cultures for a future that will be very different from today. We need to link that culture not only to nutrition and livelihoods, but also to safety and biodiversity. SDG2, Ms Narain said, "is about a different model of growth – one that is affordable, inclusive and so sustainable." Evaluation must capture this by looking not only at the global level, but also at the subnational and local levels.

" *SDG2 is about a different model of growth – one that is affordable, inclusive and so sustainable.* **"**

SDG2 and new challenges for evaluation

Keynote speech by Mr Jomo Kwarme Sundaram, Assistant Director General, Coordinator for Economic and Social Development, FAO

Context of SDG2

Mr Sundaram began by setting out two conditions that are essential to discussing the evaluability of SDG2. First, the four components of SDG2 – hunger, food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture – mean different things to different people and have changed over time. Our measures of hunger are criticized today for missing "hidden hunger." "Food security" has been around for half a century, but its meaning has changed. Nutrition has grown in importance and malnutrition has expanded to embrace the increasing prevalence of obesity. The sustainability of agriculture has been affected by climate change and increasing concern about the adverse effects and unintended consequences of herbicide and pesticide use. Second, the 17 SDGs are interconnected; 15 of them relate to the mission of the RBAs. Hence, the achievement of SDG2 is tied to success in achieving the other SDGs.

The SDGs differ in several important respects from the MDGs that preceded them. They are not, in his words, "MDGs plus." Where the MDGs were prepared by the United Nations Secretariat, the SDGs involved a consultative process. Where the MDGs were directed at developing

countries, the SDGs claim to be universal. Where each MDG was treated as a discrete task to be achieved, the SDGs are integrated; none can be achieved in isolation from the others. Where the MDGs were to be implemented by international agencies, the means of implementation of the SDGs is meant to be negotiated with country partners.

The multiple parts of SDG2 and the interconnection of the SDGs will mean that many communities of practice will be looking for ways to monitor their achievement. The process of developing the official indicators to be tracked for the SDGs will involve compromises. For example, the nutrition community has proposed eight indicators from an initial longer list, but not all of the eight are likely to be accepted. To monitor the bigger picture, the Global Nutrition Report, a new product in the past two years, has been tracking all eight indicators. Similar approaches may be required for other communities of practice to help reduce the official reporting burden on countries.

The data revolution has tremendous potential to assist in monitoring the SDGs, but it has also spawned excessive claims and outsized expectations for technology. Data can help us see problems coming, but warnings may not be heard. As an example, Mr Sundaram offered the story of the 2011-2012 food emergency in Somalia. Although data predicted the problem and warnings were issued, a year passed before significant interventions occurred. While there were some good reasons for the delay, at United Nations Headquarters the problem received very little attention because they were monitoring social media for a reason to be on the alert. The lesson in this is that we need a greater sense of responsibility about the implications of relying on new technology that, while carrying great promise, may not deliver.

Finally, he noted, we tend to see national statisticians as conservative, but they may have good reason for their caution. We need to be humble about the process of developing indicators. We need to be able to persuade national statisticians of the value in what we are doing.

" Data revolution has tremendous potential to assist in monitoring the SDGs, but it has also spawned excessive claims and outsized expectations for technology. "

Lessons on evaluability from the MDGs

Mr Sundaram noted that no full assessment has been performed of the MDG process or of the role that evaluation has played in the achievement of those goals. Such an assessment should be conducted once the MDG process has completed at the end of 2015.

The MDGs had 40 indicators, far fewer than will be required for the SDGs, but annual reports covered only about two-thirds of them. The ones that were not covered lacked meaningful or reliable data. The most notable example was maternal mortality, which was generally reported to be about half a million, yet there was no supporting evidence for this number.

Part of the measurement problem is that basic information is not always available. For example, in 2005, 41 per cent of countries in Sub-Saharan African had not had a census in more than 25 years. It is still over 30 per cent today. Given this problem, it is important to tailor demands on the monitoring system in a way that data are meaningful and deliverable.

The cost of monitoring is also a concern, he noted. Even if each target had only one indicator, the cost of monitoring them would be three times the total Official Development Assistance budget. Clearly, poor countries will not be able to deliver what the SDGs will demand of them.

We will need to address three problems, Mr Sundaram said:

1. The tendency to believe that "what we can't measure doesn't matter" and therefore we try to find or create new indicators.

2. The tendency in the United Nations system to think that if indicators are proposed and accepted then institutions will recognize them and funding to measure them will follow.

3. The limited representation of poorer countries in the ongoing discussions about indicators. Often rich countries are making the decisions because only half of the world's countries are represented in the discussions.

2. Thematic discussions

Introduction to the session

In his introduction to the technical seminar, Oscar A. Garcia, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE), noted that it had taken more than two decades – from the Brundtland report in 1987 to the SDGs in 2015 – to move sustainability to the heart of development Continuing rapid changes in the world, he said, require "profound reflection by evaluators" on the four themes to be explored in the seminar:

1. The relevance of 'new metrics' for the evaluation of SDG2 – data revolution and innovative approaches for capturing qualitative dimensions of human well-being

2. Partnerships and development actors – dealing with the increasing complexity of development processes

3. National monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems and data availability – building on progress made and addressing existing (capacity) gaps

4. Demand for and use of evidence from evaluation – understanding the political economy of evidence and developing a joint evaluation agenda for SDG2.

The purpose of the seminar is not to revisit the work that has already been done to develop the goals and targets or to discuss the ongoing process to identify valid indicators of progress. Rather, he said, "it is time for us to look at the exact purpose and subject of evaluations, to review the availability of evidence and determine the conditions and limitations to conduct future evaluations." The value of the seminar will lie in its contribution to technical discussions about how to "better evaluate the impact of SDG2" and thereby reinforce the commitment of the RBAs to bettering people's lives.

"*To evaluate the impact of SDG2 will reinforce the RBAs' commitment to bettering people's lives.***"**

Relevance of 'new metrics' for the evaluation of SDG2

Chair: Mr John Hoddinott, H.E. Babcock Professor of Food and Nutrition Economics and Policy, Cornell University

Key issues/themes

The discussion in this session focused primarily on indicators for hunger, food security and nutrition, which are important non-monetary indicators of well-being at the household (and intra-household) and community levels. It was designed to seek answers to five questions: For which dimensions do we already have indicators/indices/data? Do we need 'new metrics' to measure all the dimensions of SDG2? What systems exist to measure these indicators accurately and reliably? How complete and reliable is the global 'data architecture'? Where are the gaps?

The theme paper, prepared by Mr Hoddinott, notes that compilation and analysis of food balance sheet data for the Prevalence of Undernourishment (POU) indicator have improved, but that we still lack data on food storage, food losses and waste. In addition, much more attention needs to be given to measuring the quality of diet. The paper also challenges the participants to consider how to improve the coverage and representativeness of stunting and wasting indicators, improve diagnostics for micronutrient deficiencies, and fill data gaps for socially excluded and vulnerable groups. The paper also notes that measuring agricultural sustainability is the most problematic of the goals within SDG2. It will require improvement in farm surveys, as well as contextually a specific definition of "what is meant by sustainable practices and who is considered a 'small-scale' producer."

Summary of presentations

Speakers:

Mr Carlo Cafiero
Senior Statistician, FAO

Ms Suneetha Kadiyala
Senior Lecturer, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Mr William Masters
Professor, Friedman School of Nutrition, Tufts University)

The session presentations explored the data revolution and innovations in assessing human well-being (Cafiero), innovative approaches to assess progress on nutrition outcomes (Kadiyala), and insights on measuring food and nutrition security (Masters).

The presentation by **Mr Cafiero** proposed a theory of change for SDG2, then considered the indicators that might be needed to assess progress. He noted that the goal exhibits a concern for the composition of the food supply (by origin and food value) rather than total food availability. Improved data will therefore be needed to capture food storage, food losses and waste, and the quality of the food supply. Food access data are affected by weaknesses in data for individual consumption, a problem that may be overcome by the use of experience-based

food security scales that have already been developed. The ability to assess progress on nutrition is similarly affected by individual consumption data as well as by the need to triangulate existing anthropometric measures with diet quality and measures of sanitary practices. Agricultural sustainability is limited by sparse data from farm surveys, which are hindered by country capacity and irregularities in frequency that limit their utility. He called for M&E that goes beyond the description of data and increased attention to more precise measurement causally connected to desired outcomes.

"*Improved data is needed to capture food storage, food losses and waste, and the quality of the food supply.***"**

Ms Kadiyala, focusing on SDG 2.2, summarized recent progress against

nutrition targets set by the World Health Organization and reported in the Global Nutrition Report. She noted that, although there has been progress on malnutrition under the MDGs, developing countries, particularly in Africa and South Asia, may not achieve the MDG target by 2015.

Five well-established indicators are currently tracked in the Global Nutrition Report: stunting, wasting, overweight under age 5, exclusive breastfeeding up to six months, and anaemia in women of childbearing age. She highlighted remaining gaps in data collection and knowledge related to acute malnutrition and the nutritional status of children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly, particularly with regard to dietary requirements. She proposed investing more in the collection of micronutrient status, nationally representative systems to measure low birthweight and the maternal factors related to low birthweight, and research into the basics of nutrition for the elderly.

From Ms Kadiyala's presentation on data revolution and innovative approaches for assessing progress in nutrition outcomes

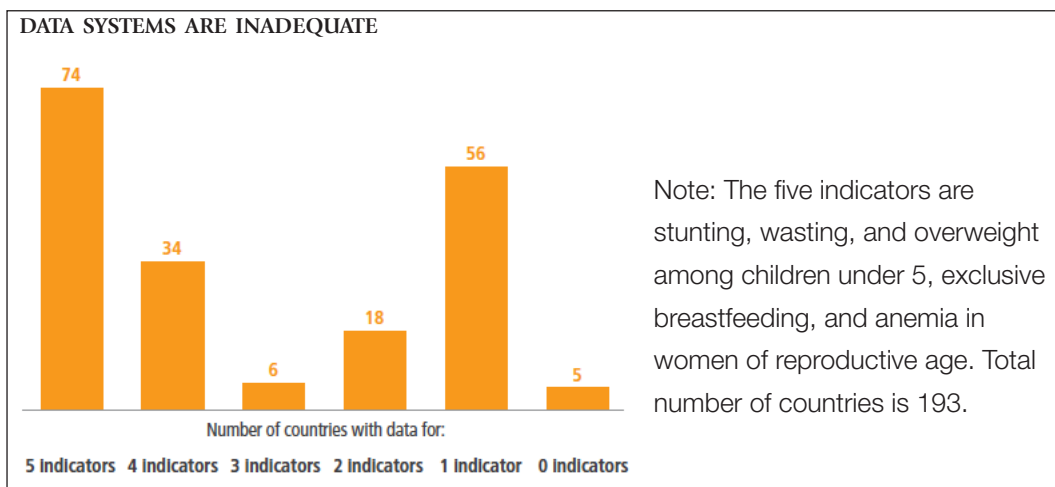GLOBAL SHARE OF DATA ON CHILD ANTHROPOMETRY INDICATORS

N = 145 countries

■ MICS   ■ DHS   ■ Other
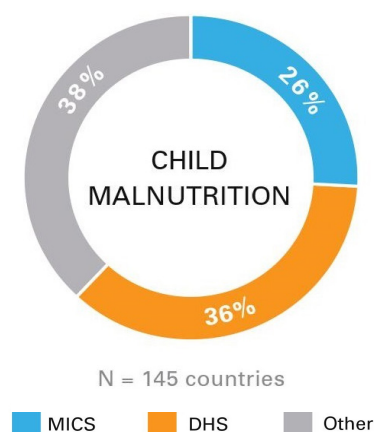
Issues that need to be taclked

- Frequency of data collection across ALL LMICs
- Improve sampling methodology to monitor vulnerable populations and equity in progress
  - Migrants and displaced persons
  - Ethnic minorities
- Include older children and adolescents (5-19 years) in anthropometry measurements
- Improve data systems to measure incidence of acute malnutrition

Source: UNICEF, Global share of data on child anthropometry indicators.

From Ms Kadiyala's presentation on data revolution and innovative approaches for assessing progress in nutrition outcomes
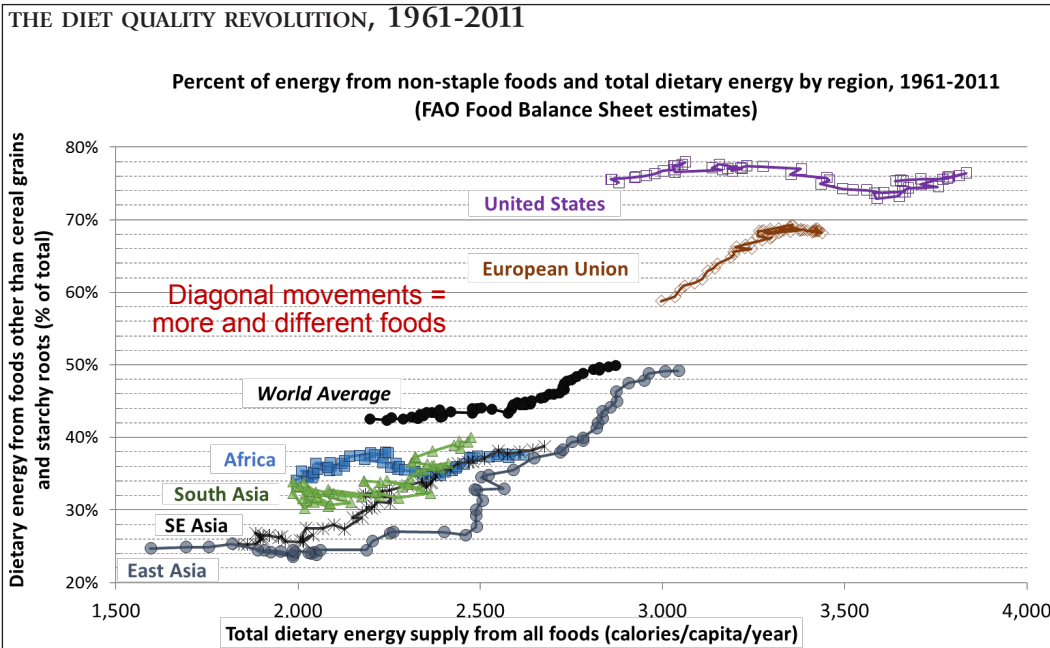
DATA SYSTEMS ARE INADEQUATE

74

34

6

18

56

5

Number of countries with data for:

5 indicators 4 indicators 3 indicators 2 indicators 1 indicator 0 indicators

Note: The five indicators are stunting, wasting, and overweight among children under 5, exclusive breastfeeding, and anemia in women of reproductive age. Total number of countries is 193.

Source: Global Nutrition Report , 2015

Mr Masters presented relevant insights from a technical working group of the Food Security Information Network (FSIN). Based on recent FAO data, he showed that diet quality has been improving in some parts of the world. The FSIN has identified about 50 indicators or composite indices related to food security for national data (12 indicators and 5 composite indices), market observations (4 indicators), household and individual recall (14 indicators), anthropometry (7 indicators), biomarkers and clinical data (3 indicators), and breastfeeding and sanitation (4 indicators). He noted that, compared to estimates of income or monetary consumption, indicators for hunger, food security and nutrition rely less on the opinion, bias, perceptions or interpretations of respondents. For example, the height of a child is an objective datum and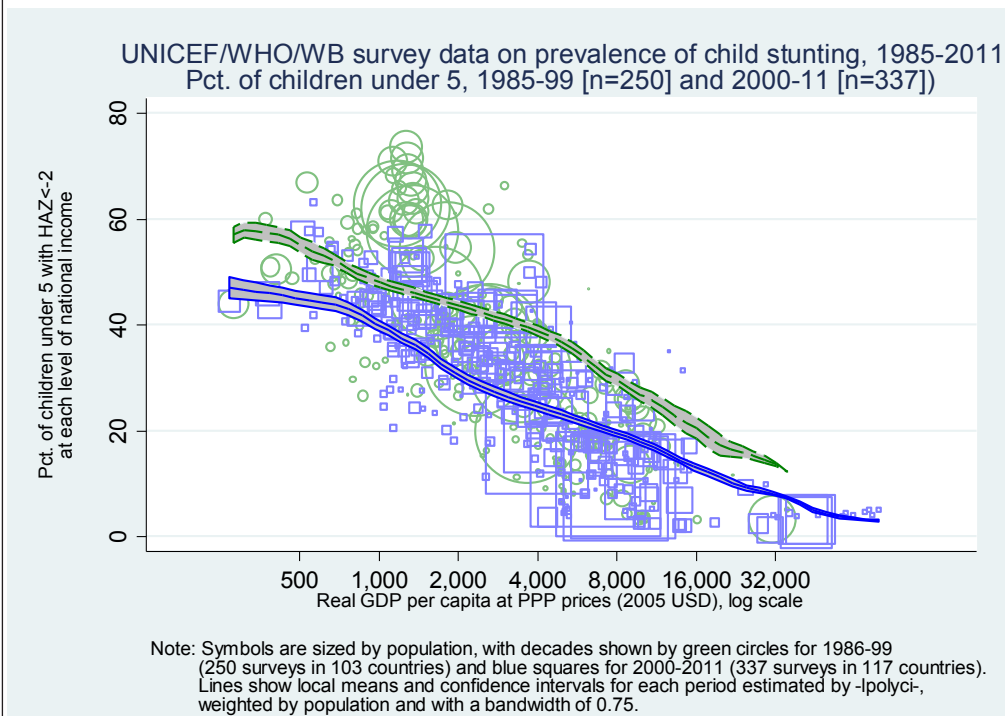 not an enumerator's perception of whether a child is growing well or not. Anthropometric indicators are also important because they provide very poor communities with "empowering information," particularly when mothers discover that their child's growth is below standard on growth charts. Initial conclusions from the working group include: the continuing value of measuring total energy (kcal/day) as a diagnostic for many kinds of deprivation; national average quantities (g/day), which may be improved by the data revolution; market-level price indices, which can now be collected more frequently for a wider range of foods as well as providing insights into affordability and diet composition; and household and individual observations, which are still difficult to collect and are often inaccurate.

From Mr Master's presentation on new metrics for the evaluation of SDG2

THE DIET QUALITY REVOLUTION, 1961-2011

Percent of energy from non-staple foods and total dietary energy by region, 1961-2011
(FAO Food Balance Sheet estimates)

Source: William Master's calculations from FAO Food Balance Sheets. http://faostat3.fao.org/download/FB/FBS/E (June 2015).

GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM: GREAT SUCCESS WITH MDG1, LOTS OF DATA FOR SDG2

UNICEF/WHO/WB survey data on prevalence of child stunting, 1985-2011
Pct. of children under 5, 1985-99 [n=250] and 2000-11 [n=337])

Note: Symbols are sized by population, with decades shown by green circles for 1986-99
(250 surveys in 103 countries) and blue squares for 2000-2011 (337 surveys in 117 countries).
Lines show local means and confidence intervals for each period estimated by -lpolyci-,
weighted by population and with a bandwidth of 0.75.

Source: World Bank, WHO and UNICEF joint data. GDP and population are from PWT 8.1. Data visualization from W.A. Masters et. al., "Nutrition Transition and Agricultural Transformation: A Preston Curve Approach", forthcoming in *Agricultural Economics* (2016).

"Indicators for hunger, food security and nutrition rely less on the opinion, bias, perceptions or interpretations of respondents."

Summary of discussion

The premise of the discussion was that the assessment of global, regional and national efforts to reach the objectives of SDG2 will require innovations in approaches to define and measure hunger, food security and agricultural sustainability. The session explored the dimensions for which indicators, indices or data already exist; whether "new metrics" are needed to measure some dimensions; existing systems to measure indicators reliably and accurately; the adequacy of the global "data architecture;" and the gaps that need to be filled.

What we have. On the positive side, we already have the POU metric as well as metrics for chronic and acute undernutrition. Many countries have national statistical services with a strong desire to take ownership of collecting the data needed for SDG2. Advances in information technology offer prospects for more accurate, more encompassing, and more timely metrics, including remote sensing, mobile technology, micro-readers for blood spot assays, and computer-assisted interviewing and monitoring.

What we still need. In contrast, the global data architecture has some gaps; some countries have a wealth of data for a range

of food security and nutrition indicators, while others have nothing. It would be valuable to do a global stocktaking to identify where the gaps will matter the most for monitoring and evaluating progress towards achieving SDG2. While countries will bear the ultimate responsibility for monitoring achievement of SDG2, the RBAs and the rest of the international community can assist them by gathering and sharing examples of what led to success and what did not.

Among the gaps in knowledge is the limited ability to measure diet quality, which will matter for progress towards reducing malnutrition. Scaleable and affordable measures of micronutrient deficiencies would also be useful. In addition, lack of information about the distribution of food insecurity, both among countries and within countries, will hinder efforts to target assistance. Household survey instruments may be a help in this regard, and might also provide useful information about sustainable agriculture. Specifically, farm surveys may be needed to capture production patterns, practices and the environmental implications. While information is currently captured at the national level, and some information is captured at the individual or household level, there is a gap in knowledge about the area in between. We need improved information about market

access and affordability. Finally, we need better information about watersheds and other agro-ecological groupings.

> **"Many countries have national statistical services with a strong desire to take ownership of collecting the data needed for SDG2."**

Partnerships and development actors

Chair: Mr Simon Levine, Research Fellow, Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute.

Key issues/themes

The session focused on three challenges: partnership, complexity and accountability. The discussion sought answers to four questions: How will addressing SDG2 be a complex and multidisciplinary challenge? What factors are involved and what causal pathways and assumptions? Which partners will need to be involved in order to address the multiple dimensions of the problem? What roles will be played by which actors at what levels from local to national to international across various sectors?

In his theme paper, Mr Levine reminded the participants that an essential feature of the SDGs is that they are owned by the countries, which will require development agencies to "think differently about their roles in helping the countries of the world meet their SDG targets." But the SDG Agenda provides little guidance for setting standards and establishing priorities within the vast framework of the SDGs. Clearly, however, achievement of the goals will require partnerships, which add complexity to the development process and make it difficult to establish accountability for results.

> **"Partnerships on SDG2 are complex; accountability for results will be more difficult to establish."**

Summary of presentations

Speakers:

Ms Cristina Tirado
Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Public Health, UCLA Institute of Environment and Sustainability

Ms Dorothy Lucks
Executive Director, SDF Global Pty Ltd (Sustainable Development Facilitation)

Ms Julia Betts
Independent consultant

The presentations for this session offered perspectives on the importance of partnerships for achieving SDG2 (Tirado), accountability issues in working

with partnerships (Lucks), and learning from the multi-stakeholder evaluation of the implementation of the Paris Declaration (Betts).

Ms Tirado highlighted the complex, multidisciplinary challenge of the SDGs in general and SDG2 in particular. Achieving them will therefore require multi-sectoral collaboration as well as multi-stakeholder collaboration among governmental and non-governmental agencies. It will also require cooperation through and across many existing global partnerships. She noted that regional and subregional multi-stakeholder partnerships can help support resilience at the national level. But information systems will need to continue improving to enhance policy coordination across sectors. It will also be necessary to identify entry points for partnership and encourage transparent multi-stakeholder collaboration to ensure that each stakeholder adds appropriate value. Finally, partnerships with business and industry can be important in promoting more sustainable food consumption and food production patterns.

The presentation by **Ms Lucks** noted that we are building the tools necessary to satisfy the need for accountability across multiple stakeholders, but evaluation is not just about accountability. It is also about learning, and a proactive focus on learning in evaluation design, as well as systematic documentation of learning, would allow evaluations to better respond to complexity. Moreover, accountability has different meanings for different actors. It will be necessary under the SDGs to ensure

that each actor's notion of accountability is recognized and that all parties strive to understand the complexity of the systems in which they operate. Achieving SDG2, she concluded, will require faster change, but in a different way. The SDG targets provide a focus for what will need to change, and our evaluations will need to provide both accountability and learning and will need to adapt in order to facilitate the change needed to achieve SDG2.

From Ms Luck's theme paper on evaluating SDG2

ACHIEVEMENT OF SDG2

- Requires higher intelligence
- Faster change
- in a better way

EVALUABILITY OF SDG2

- Targets provide focus for what we are going to change
- Evaluation must include accountability and learning
- Evaluation has to adapt and become more relevant to facilitate change and achievement of the SDGs
- It has to evaluate accountability **for** learning.

In her experience with the Paris Declaration evaluation, **Ms Betts** encountered a variety of unique challenges. Among the main issues were the complexity of the implementation at the country level, difficulty in the identification of attribution and contribution for different actors, differing stages of reform in different

countries, the scale of the partnerships involved, and the political nature of the Declaration itself.

A number of **lessons** emerged from the experience.

- It is important to conduct an evaluability assessment before starting the evaluation.

- A theory-based approach is particularly important with such complex evaluations. In addition, a strong central evaluation framework can help with managing the varied evidence collected.

- A balance needs to be sought between independence and ownership versus consistency. Governance and intelligent management should be a priority, although they can be costly and time-consuming.

- With many actors involved, independence and impartiality are critical.

- Where reforms are involved, as in the Paris Declaration evaluation, a starting point for reform needs to be identified. Finally, it is important to embed the utility of the evaluation – the contribution to knowledge – from the outset.

Summary of discussion

Complexity. The discussion about complexity led to general agreement that the SDG2 goals are aspirational and provide a normative framework rather than a framework for planning interventions by governments or by agencies that might assist them. Evaluating progress on the SDGs will be challenged by this complexity and the ambition of its goals, particularly with regard to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. It is therefore not possible to identify a single theory of change against which to evaluate progress on SDG2. Rather, theories of change will come into play only at the level of particular topics, sectors or countries. Moreover, there are important interlinkages between SDG2 and the other SDGs. This will have implications for how evaluation will be done and for the value of any single evaluation.

Complexity was seen to "underpin pluralism," with evaluations conducted by many parties, in many places, and looking at different things (including processes, partnerships and intermediate outcomes). Evaluation in such a complex environment will be necessarily adaptive, and evaluation concepts and approaches will evolve to accommodate the complexity and look into linkages. It will not be anyone's job to come up with "the" way to evaluate SDG2; national/local ownership of the evaluation processes is needed. Rather, the approaches taken will become their own learning process, and the multitude of evaluations should strive to create a mosaic of learning and information.

"Complexity underpins pluralism."

Accountability. Who gets credit and who gets blame are often the limits to which evaluation is used. But the "pluralism" of the SDGs presents opportunities for collective learning, to be accountable for learning as well as for results. While each

country and each agency will have its own evaluation agenda, the opportunities for learning will run throughout and there may even be new levels of understanding that are reached from collective evaluations. Evaluations will need to assess winners and losers from SDG2 and will need to consider the opportunity costs of the investment choices made. Evaluators should always remember that they need to "look upward" and bring about change. In Mr Levine's words, "It is not just producing a report, it's how that is going to drive choices that will make things better."

"Evaluation needs to adapt and evaluation concepts and approaches will evolve."

Partnerships. The complexity of the SDG challenge will require significant reliance on partnerships. Relevant partners include multiple stakeholders, from multiple sectors, and at different levels (local, national, regional), comprising both state and non-state actors. But partnerships are not always formal and may not align fully with the SDG Agenda. Many are relationships rather than true partnerships. Even the entities that we evaluate are themselves complexes of relationships. To evaluate such entities it may be necessary to build coalitions for evaluation. The evaluation of the Paris Declaration shows how evaluability assessment can not only

aid such evaluations but also identify and manage stakeholder expectations. Partnership evaluations would also benefit from contribution analysis to determine what each agency has contributed to the country's achievement. Pluralism makes sense if the learning agenda is shared by all, and learning itself should be greater than merely the sum of all evaluations.

National monitoring and evaluation systems and data availability

Chair: Mr Carlos Barahona, Deputy Director, Statistical Services Centre, University of Reading

Key issues/themes

Mr Barahona, in his theme paper, noted that the consistent acquisition of data will be essential to the evaluation of progress on SDG2. This information will need to be "available with the level of granularity that is useful to make decisions that allow for the diversity of 'relevant' contexts in each country." This will be a challenge for national systems, which may have to adjust to the requirements of SDG2. Sustainable agriculture and biodiversity present particular problems, as few indicators for these are currently used in national systems. Perhaps the greatest challenge, and the focus of this theme's discussion, is national governments' capacity for and interest in evaluation.

> *Information will need to be available with the level of granularity that is useful to make decisions.*

From Theme 3 introduction paper on national M&E systems and data availability

The need and ability to monitor exists in most national systems, but the requirement of evaluation implies a willingness to seek and weigh complex evidence; evidence that will lead to choosing among a set of options rather than unique answers, which in turn will be used to inform decisions to modify approaches and actions towards achieving the SDG2.

Summary of presentations

Speakers

Mr Ahmad Zaki Ansore bin Mohd Yusof
Director General, Implementation Coordination Unit of the Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia

Mr Morten Jerven
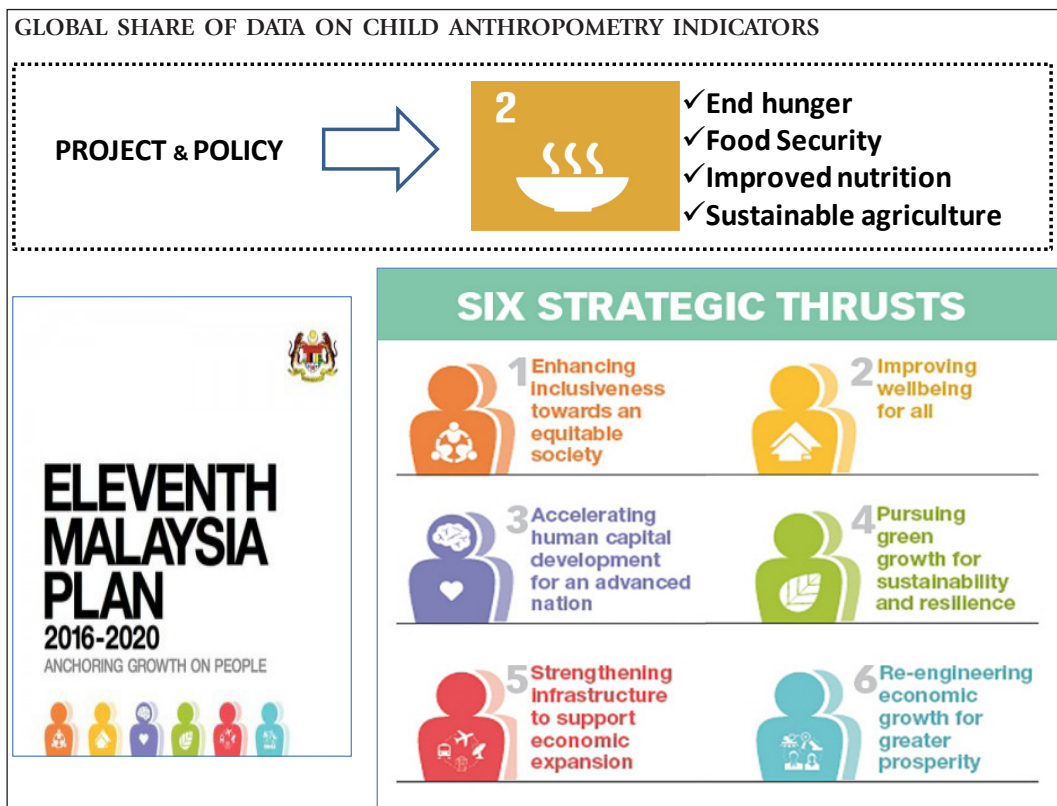Associate Professor, Simon Fraser University and Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Mr Pietro Gennari
Director and Chief Statistician, Statistics Division, FAO

The presenters in this session provided learning from development of an outcome-based budget system for Malaysia (Yosuf), the reliability of data, statistics, and indicators and the needs for capacity building (Jerven), and the modernization of food and agriculture statistics to support SDG2 and ongoing FAO initiatives to strengthen SDG2 monitoring (Gennari).

Mr Yosuf reported that Malaysia has introduced an outcome-based approach to development, outcome-based budgeting and outcome evaluation. These have enhanced productivity and made the evaluation process easier. The data are available at household level and have received United Nations awards for their level of disaggregation. The strengths of this new orientation include capacity-building that is embedded in the framework, evaluation at all stages of project management, two-way mapping (top-down and bottom-up), and key players that are independent bodies. To link M&E to SDG2, the Government has developed six strategic areas of focus. Within these they have defined activities, goals or outcomes and indicators of success that can be used to assess progress.

GLOBAL SHARE OF DATA ON CHILD ANTHROPOMETRY INDICATORS

PROJECT & POLICY → 2 🍲
✓ End hunger
✓ Food Security
✓ Improved nutrition
✓ Sustainable agriculture

ELEVENTH MALAYSIA PLAN 2016-2020 ANCHORING GROWTH ON PEOPLE

SIX STRATEGIC THRUSTS

1 Enhancing inclusiveness towards an equitable society

2 Improving wellbeing for all

3 Accelerating human capital development for an advanced nation

4 Pursuing green growth for sustainability and resilience

5 Strengthening infrastructure to support economic expansion

6 Re-engineering economic growth for greater prosperity

Mr Jerven's presentation examined weaknesses in knowledge about development in Africa, where data systems have been particularly unreliable. He suggested that preventing hunger and doubling agricultural productivity may align with national priorities, policies and strategies, but that ensuring that people have access to food may be more controversial. M&E systems, he stated, are not well equipped to track progress on SDG2, particularly with regard to agricultural productivity – and sustainability is not part of current measurement strategies. More specifically, data gaps on production, food and nutrition persist, but there are also new challenges with measuring sustainability,

volatility, investment and focus on functioning of markets and resilience of ecosystems. According to FAO, only two African countries have high standards for data collection. Traditional sources of data – administrative data, agricultural census and agricultural surveys – have issues that will need to be overcome. Our knowledge is biased, he noted; we know less about poor economies and about the poor people who live in poor economies. Therefore, "evidence-based policymaking" is called into question. While "big data" and technology hold promise for helping to fill these gaps, they have problems of their own.

MEASURING GROWTH FROM SPACE?

"Instead of writing large grants, spending days traveling to remote field sites, hiring and training enumerators, and dealing with inevitable survey hiccups, what if instead you could sit at home in your pajamas and, with a few clicks of a mouse, download the data you needed to study the impacts of a particular program or intervention?" Florence Kondylis, Measuring Yields from Space, Published on Impact Evaluations (http://blogs.worldbank.org/impactevaluations)

BIG DATA AND TECHNOLOGY: PROMISES AND PROBLEMS

Quick wins: reducing costs in recording (GPS mapping) and reporting (connected handheld devices) and data processing.

But:

Problem 1: Need prior knowledge: "To measure outcomes at the level of the individual farm plot, satellite-based measures will be most easily employable if the researcher already knows the plot boundaries and knows what crop is being grown."

Problem 2: Measurement errors: "This almost certainly means that this technology will not be equipped to discern small effects" & "satellite imagery was generally too coarse to resolve the very small plot sizes (e.g. less than half an acre) common in much of Africa."

Problem 3: "Even with plot boundaries in hand and well-powered study, satellites are going to have a hard time measuring many of the other outcomes we care about – things like profits or consumption expenditure." (Solvable with mobile phones data? Unrepresentative sample big problem)

Problem 4: Applying these approaches in low income countries is hard "because of a lack of either (i) ground truth data to develop the satellite-based predictions, and/or (ii) a satisfactory mechanistic understanding in these environments"

The presentation by **Mr Gennari** reviewed the ongoing process for developing indicators for SDG2. He particularly noted some new data requirements, including an indicator architecture, a large number of multidimensional targets, differing indicators for rich and poor countries, indicators that are accurate at values close to zero, disaggregation of data within countries to monitor inequalities, and real-time data. Continuing issues with agricultural statistics are due to limited funding, limited capacity for data collection and analysis, lack of consistency in methods and instruments, and lack of a conducive political and institutional environment. New solutions are emerging, including geo-referencing, remote sensing, open-source software for data collection, mobile technology and crowdsourcing. The presentation also offered briefings on the new Food Insecurity Experience Scale, which can be used to measure the severity of food insecurity for households or individuals, and the Agricultural and Rural Integrated Survey, which integrates economic, social and environmental data in a single survey instrument.

From Mr Gennari's presentation on modernization of food and agriculture statistics in support of SDG2

AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL INTEGRATED SURVEY: EXPECTED RESULTS

- Provide countries with an **integrated programme of agricultural surveys**
  - for collecting annual and structural agricultural data
  - for collecting data on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the farms
- Provide a **tool for testing new cost-effective methodologies for agricultural statistics** developed under the Global Strategy.
- **Build country capacity** to collect the minimum set of core data.
- Provide **estimates on the productivity of small holders** and other SDG indicators at national & international levels.
- Make available **standard modules for collecting agricultural & data in national farm surveys.**

Summary of discussion

The discussion covered two major areas: the extent to which SDG2 is aligned with national priorities, and the readiness of national systems to track progress on SDG2.

Alignment with national priorities. The goals of SDG2 are not new to the development agenda, as they were part of the core agenda in the MDGs. However, although countries have agreed to the agenda, there are disagreements about specific targets. While some targets can be aligned with national priorities and strategies, such as poverty reduction, others are essentially global priorities.

As the SDGs are nationally developed and negotiated, there is more ownership and commitment than existed with the MDGs. The international community might naturally expect that national policies and strategies will align with the SDGs. But given the disagreements about targets, international agencies will need to partner with countries to identify the minimum standards and set of indicators required for meaningful M&E.

It will be impossible for all countries to monitor 230 potential indicators. Therefore, the RBAs have an opportunity to work with countries to identify what can reasonably be done to monitor and evaluate progress on the SDG2 goals. In this regard, the RBAs could use existing mechanisms to influence and advocate national country-level engagement and endorsement of the SDG targets. With regard to capacity, it is also important that, when gathering data,

we consider the way we use the time of those we survey – i.e. avoid using poor people's most valuable asset to collect information for useless data.

Readiness of systems. To build credibility, we need quality assurance systems that work. Monitoring data in most countries comes from administrative sources with reliability issues. The accuracy and punctuality of data provision are often problematic, and changes in government can result in changes in the systems and institutions involved in data services. However, when we question the credibility of data we can undermine national capacity, so a cautious approach is warranted. Most countries do not have a national evaluation system, so these will need to be built up through the implementation of the SDGs. Agricultural data are typically collected by other line agencies and not by the national statistics office, and collaboration is often limited.

> **❝The core of the problem is the political process of data validation.❞**

There is some capacity to collect the necessary data, but data quality suffers because of lack of resources and lack of motivation among staff. The core of the problem is the political process of data validation. Statistical offices also are not always guaranteed autonomy within their

institutional structure. Where democracy is strong, autonomy is often better. Sustainability of effort can also be an issue, as the statistics office is often funded by donors and can be affected by shifts in their funding priorities. Reporting systems are negatively affected by incentives that encourage the reporting of data that may be unreliable. In addition to finding ways to change these incentives, the systems need to be strengthened to ensure better use of statistical information, particularly for measures of food access and malnutrition.

> **❝Agricultural data are typically collected by other line agencies and not by the national statistics office, and collaboration is often limited.❞**

Demand and use of evidence from evaluation

Chair: Mr Ian C. Davies, Credentialed Evaluator and a specialist in public governance, management, accountability and finance

This session sought answers to four questions: What is evaluation's value proposition for a sustainable future? Who assesses that value proposition? Who has legitimacy, rights and voice in bringing

their interests to bear on what evaluation addresses and how it is conducted? Who are the users of evaluation?

Key issues/themes

In his theme paper, **Mr Davies** posited that "it would be misguided to treat the SDGs and their associated indicators as intended 'impacts' at the end of a results chain. The SDGs are a political process." This will require that evaluation become a "politically engaged knowledge function." Exiting evaluation terminology – terms such as "evidence," "results," and "impact" – the paper pointed out, is inherently an expression of the power relationship between donors and recipients. They are typically used in a way that "belies a lack of intellectual rigour and scientific understanding." The SDGs offer an opportunity to change this dynamic through politically astute engagement. As evaluators, we need to promote a vision of evaluation that "seeks to address rights rather than results and to communicate knowledge rather than evidence."

> **❝It would be misguided to treat the SDGs and their associated 'impacts' at the end of a results chain. The SDGs are a political process.❞**

Summary of presentations

Speakers:

Ms Thania de la Garza Navarrete

Deputy Director General of Evaluation, National Council for Evaluation of the Social Development Policy [*CONEVAL*], Mexico

Mr Osvaldo Feinstein
Independent consultant

Ms Rossetti Nabbumba Nayenga
Deputy Head, Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda

The presentation by **Ms Navarrete** offered perspectives from within the Government of Mexico. She noted that the implementation of activities to achieve SDG2 will occur in an environment of scarce resources. Agencies like CONEVAL can help with this through their contribution to results-based budgeting, but several difficulties are pervasive. First, there are many ways to define hunger, food security and other terms used in SDG2. Second, the choice of definition affects the approach to measurement. Third, existing data collection methods have issues and adding new metrics can have implications for technical rigour. While CONEVAL has helped improve results-based budgeting, evaluation results need to be presented in a way that decision makers can understand them and the implications for policy choices – in part this is because evaluators do not speak the same language as decision makers.

Evaluation generates information and information is power, so evaluation is a political process, in the formulation **Mr Feinstein** used in his presentation. Evaluation to show what worked is a product of users' desire to show successful results, but the development process benefits more from understanding what will work. The balance between accountability and learning is affected by the ability to understand the context: what works where, when, at what scale and for whom? To promote the use of evaluation, Mr Feinstein suggested that evaluation needs to better address the issue of external validity – whether findings are valid elsewhere. Evaluators, he said, should work upstream to develop ownership of the evaluation by potential users and to get their insights, as well as downstream to translate evaluation findings into usable forms for decision makers. To promote evaluability he suggested offering prizes for teams that developed the best evaluable programmes or projects related to SDG2. To encourage the use of evaluation he suggested offering prizes to teams that produced and disseminated the most used evaluations of SDG2 interventions.

"*Evaluation is a political process.***"**

From Mr Feinstein's theme paper on demand for and use of evidence from evaluation — understanding the political economy of evidence and developing a joint evaluation agenda for SDG2

Evaluation generates information, some of which is "evidence", and "information is power", so there is a political dimension to evaluation which ought to be considered to enhance the probability that evaluation will be taken into account, and that therefore its benefits will at least compensate its costs. A political economy analysis involves three major steps: identifying the stakeholders and their preferences; identifying the rules of the game and the dynamics of interaction between stakeholders; and identifying how institutional constraints, such as information problems, lack of credible commitment, principal-agent relationships and agenda setting dynamics shape policy agendas and the collective action capacity of the groups.[a] In a study on demand and supply of evaluation in five African countries, the following table was useful in identifying and considering the role of different stakeholders:[b]

Principals	Government agents	Evaluation agents
Executive	Central government	Universities
Legislature	Line ministries	Think tanks
Civil society	Subnational governments	Evaluation associations and networks
Development partners		Consultants

a See Box 11.1 "Political Economy Analysis: A Practical Checklist" in Corduneanu-Huci, C et.al. (2013) Understanding Policy Change. How to apply political economy concepts in practice."

b See Feinstein,O. & Porter,S. (2014) "Reframing Evaluation Capacity in Africa" EES Evaluation Connections ("subnational governments" were not included in that text).

Ms Nayenga noted that Uganda made little use of evaluative evidence in decision-making until 2011. The MDGs, she said, fit well with the country's own development priorities and were mostly achieved, but evaluation evidence was not well used. She connected the various goals under SDG2 with the development goals of Uganda and found considerable consistency with the goals for hunger, malnutrition, sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices, genetic diversity, investment in rural infrastructure, and trade and agricultural markets. In these areas, she said, demand for evaluation is likely to be strong. However, some areas are more controversial. Among these are food safety and access, for which there are limited data. In addition, for malnutrition, the target date of 2030 does not match the Government's existing target date of 2040. Finally, the Government has not set specific goals and targets for agricultural productivity and incomes, but doubling productivity and incomes seems unlikely given past performance. She noted a

number of challenges for evaluation in Uganda: underdeveloped M&E systems in the agriculture sector; time required to adapt existing policies and strategies to the requirements of the SDGs; capacity and resource constraints; and lack of stakeholder awareness of SDG2. She noted that capacities have been built among some central government agencies. But those who implement programmes at local level, the potential users of evaluation findings who can effect change, do not know about evaluation and would not be able to follow up.

From Ms Nayenga's position paper for the technical seminar on evaluating SDG2

Key challenges to evaluation in Uganda

1. The M&E systems in the agriculture sector in Uganda are not well developed. The last comprehensive agriculture survey was undertaken in 2008/09. The evaluation culture is absent in the sector.

2. Localizing SDG2 in agricultural policies and strategies and developing concrete targets may take a long time to be realized.

3. Capacity and resource constraints in the country – Government, CSOs, private sector – to deliver good evaluations on the SDG2 and ensuring that they are meaningfully utilized.

4. Inadequate awareness among key stakeholders with regard to SDG2. This is likely to slow the pace of adoption of the SDG at country level.

5. Decentralized approach to decision-making and service delivery. Most evidence is utilized at Central Government level, whereas implementation is largely undertaken by local governments that may not be aware of the SDGs and have rudimentary M&E systems.

6. Use of evaluative evidence mostly for accountability purposes and less for learning and improved decision-making. There are no institutionalized fora where learning takes place.

Summary of discussion

The discussion focused primarily on progress and developments relevant to the evaluability of the SDGs and the gaps and challenges that will affect evaluation in the SDG era.

The SDGs and MDGs. The SDGs are materially and politically different from the MDGs. Where the MDGs were donor-driven and donor-led, the SDGs are country commitments. The SDGs de-emphasize the role of the United Nations agencies, emphasize agents of change at subnational and local levels, include civil society and parliament in the political process, and the M&E of progress will respond to demand from citizens for public accountability. Given the nature of the SDGs, their evaluability will depend on evaluation capacity at subnational levels, where it is currently weakest. The alignment of the SDGs with country priorities can be disputed, and countries will find it challenging to prioritize among the various goals and targets. Context will be important. For example, in Africa "equal access to land" is politically fraught and will get little attention at any level.

Gaps and challenges. Evaluation takes place within the context of a political economy, so it will be important to increase understanding of the decision-making process that relates to the subject of evaluation. The political economy determines how evaluation will be used. Therefore, there needs to be clarity on what the political decision-making is. The primary evaluation users must be engaged from the beginning. Furthermore, other stakeholders and those "who need to know" should also be identified. Evaluations are not typically used by those who can actually cause change, such as the Ministry of Agriculture (as in the Uganda example). It would be useful to create incentives to use evaluation, as suggested by Mr Feinstein. Appropriate and accessible, communication of findings can also promote the use of evaluations. We need to find ways to bridge the language gap: the language used in evaluation is different from that used by policymakers, and this limits the use of evaluation. It was suggested that reporting should shift from descriptions of results to communicating values.

" We need to find ways to bridge the language gap: the language used in evaluation is different from that used by policymakers, and this limits the use of evaluation. "

Evaluation will need to adapt to the new paradigm of the SDGs. We should ask ourselves if we wish to continue being "producers of scientific-looking good news." It is easy to get lost in a tangle of SDG indicators and targets, and there is a risk that countries retreat to the use of "relaxed" milestones instead of pursuing

an ambitious agenda of change. Evaluation will be expected to help promote systemic change and challenge assumptions by harnessing and navigating the complexities of change under the SDG agenda. It will have to devise appropriate tools to intervene in socio-ecological systems. It will be expected to produce useful information more often and more quickly as demand for "real-time evaluation" grows. The proliferation of indicators demands a "modest contribution approach," as Mr Feinstein pointed out, to evaluate the contributions of the RBAs. At the same time, when we retreat into trivia and focus only on targets and indicators we miss an opportunity to contribute knowledge that can help answer "big picture" questions and issues.

It will be necessary to expand and diversify the way evaluations are conducted to become more knowledge-focused, allowing evaluators to engage meaningfully in issues that are often politically driven. Learning and knowledge need to become key functions of evaluation, in particular by examining failures. Countries will need knowledge support from evaluations to help them identify policies and interventions that will best help them achieve their chosen SDG targets. Evaluation should generate cumulative knowledge across evaluations to contribute to theory. We need to help create space for independent evaluation and to safeguard its autonomy. The RBA evaluation functions can promote adaptive learning within the SDG process through real-time evaluation and other forms of quick-feedback evaluation. Evaluation communities of practice and associations

should continuously review and rethink processes, developing new approaches, conceptual frameworks and ways to address validity and credibility.

"Learning and knowledge need to become key functions of evaluation, in particular by examining failures."

3. Conclusions

The seminar was meant to mark the beginning of a dialogue about evaluation and SDG2. In this spirit, the wrap-up session did not attempt to extract a consensus of opinion or even to capture the full breadth and depth of the discussions in the technical sessions. The Chair of each session first presented an overview of the discussion and the issues and ideas that emerged. Then the heads of the evaluation functions in the RBAs, each of whom had attended one of the sessions, provided their perspectives. This was followed by a question and answer session. The sections that follow seek to capture the major points under some common topic areas, with the intent of feeding future discussions about evaluation in relation to the SDGs in general, and SDG2 in particular.

Key learning

Concept definition. Evaluations related to SDG2 will face challenges regarding the definition of key concepts such as "food security" and "sustainable agriculture." Some concepts are broader than is implied by SDG2, such as "malnutrition," which now includes micronutrient deficiencies and over-nutrition. Definitional questions are particularly important when attempting to work between systems, such as national systems and the United Nations system, as noted in the Theme 4 discussion. There is a significant difference, with important

implications, in defining food security either as "access to food" or as "right to food."

Theory of change. SDG2 embraces multiple goals and targets, the achievement of which will also depend on progress in achieving most of the other SDGs. A potential single theory of change for SDG2 was discussed by the Theme 1 group, but this is likely a chimera, and most groups concluded that there is no single theory of change. Given the country ownership of the SDGs, and the range and scope of the targets, evaluations based on a theory of change will more likely occur only at the level of the specific topic, sector and country, not at the SDG level, as was noted in the Theme 2 discussion.

Indicators. With 169 targets to monitor, the field of potential indicators required to monitor the SDGs is vast. Countries will not be able to track all of these and will, of necessity, need to be selective. Some of the indicators needed for monitoring and evaluating SDG2 are well-established, such as measures for stunting and wasting and POU, as discussed in Theme 1. Some potentially useful indicators are still being developed and new ones may emerge from technological advances. The greatest concern is with the indicators that do not yet exist, such as for diet quality, agricultural sustainability, and scalable and affordable measures for micronutrient deficiency. The indicators to be monitored at the global

level ultimately will be decided collectively with the United Nations, but additional indicators will be useful and information on these can be gathered and disseminated by alternative means, as Mr Sundaram noted in his keynote address.

"New metrics." Transformative changes in technology and the era of "big data" offer new possibilities for data collection and analysis that will help shape what and how we evaluate in the future. The discussion in Themes 1 and 3 noted that we are only beginning to see the potential in these new metrics, and there are serious limitations and potential distortions in the data gathered using these new tools that will need to be overcome. Moreover, adding new metrics can have implications for technical rigour, as noted in Theme 4. Until these issues can be resolved, we will need to continue and improve upon traditional data collection methods.

Data availability. Established national systems with responsibility for gathering data, analysing it and generating the information needed to monitor and evaluate SDG2 will face a challenge. Their existing systems were set up to meet information needs that were set before the SDGs were conceived. Current capacity to monitor progress on SDG2 is highly variable, but monitoring systems are generally better established than evaluation systems, as discussed in Theme 3. Countries will not be able to monitor all of the 230 indicators included in the SDG Agenda, so they will need to make choices based on their own priorities. The international community, for its part, will need to ask

what data are being collected and for what purpose. As Ms Wedgwood put it, "data for evaluation may be different from data collected to act as triggers for intervention to act as the basis for progress monitoring and reporting."

Data quality. Discussions in several themes pointed to variability in the quality of data across countries. To address this, support will be needed for quality assurance and transparency initiatives, as was noted in Theme 3. Data quality is a particular issue in administrative data, which are the chief source of monitoring information. It will be necessary to identify strengths and weaknesses in the national data collection, processing and reporting systems used to track progress on SDG2, especially for agricultural data. It will also be necessary to identify minimum standards and the set of indicators required for meaningful monitoring and, afterwards, evaluation. Doing all of these things will require mediation, advocacy and facilitation.

Capacity-building. A different approach to capacity-building may be needed to ensure SDG2 success. We typically see capacity-building as training to build the central agency in a country. But "if capacity- building is only about training," Mr Igarashi noted, "it is probably not enough." Mr Davies indicated that efforts to build capacity should be directed beyond the few central agencies and more at helping the country learn to evaluate and to use evaluation information. We need to promote evaluative thinking among policy makers, strengthen the capacity of evaluation professionals, and take

evaluation to the communities. In this sense, evaluators facilitate and encourage dialogue and create space for learning from varied value perspectives – from which evaluators can also learn. Mr Igarashi said that "we should see ourselves not as producers of reports but as producers of knowledge. We need to aid learning and conduct evaluations with that in mind." With regard to the capacity for data collection, processing and reporting, enhancing quality assurance may provide an entry point for building capacity in national systems. To the extent that demand for evaluation grows within countries, evaluation capacity development will be needed at national and subnational levels. Evaluation might encourage governments to move from results-based budgeting to value-based budgeting by communicating the values of the interventions assessed.

Evaluability assessment. The scope and complexity of SDG2 does not lend itself to a comprehensive evaluability assessment, but its constituent parts can and should be subjected to evaluability assessments. The presentation in Theme 2 showed that evaluability assessment of complex systems with multiple partners involved is possible, but it requires systemic thinking and careful planning. The assessment process itself can be used to build a foundation of trust and understanding across agencies and with partners and country counterparts.

" *We could see ourselves not as producers of reports but as producers of knowledge. We need to aid learning and conduct evaluations with that in mind.* **"**

Value of evaluation. The nature and foundational principles of the SDG Agenda challenge evaluation practice to evolve in a way that will offer a global platform to rethink and reposition evaluation in development. Discussions in Themes 2 and 4 noted that while evaluation entities in international agencies may need to continue giving their attention to accountability, the nature of accountability will shift with the growth of new partnerships and increasing responsibility at the country level. With this in mind, the value of evaluation within the SDG process will be its ability to generate cumulative knowledge. Hence, the RBAs can provide valuable assistance by synthesizing findings across many evaluations, including evaluations conducted by countries themselves. Countries may need support to generate knowledge, for example on what policies and interventions are positive for smallholder farmers, and in developing capacity for evaluation "where change can be effected" such as in ministries of agriculture. In the context of the SDGs,

evaluation should be able to demonstrate increasing value at global and country levels, but it will need to increase its awareness of its political nature and expand its understanding of the political economies in which it operates.

Demand for and use of evaluation. Few countries have evaluation functions within their governments, and there is still little demand for evaluation among decision makers. There are several reasons that evaluations are not being used as well as they could be. Mr Levine suggested that it was, in part, because evaluators speak an exclusive language that is unfamiliar to those who might use the results of their work. This can be addressed by learning how to better communicate evaluation findings to non-evaluators. The discussion in Theme 4 suggested that there was lack of familiarity with the value of evaluation. Mr Davies noted that the agents of change are at the local levels and that "evaluation needs to be taken to the communities." Mr Feinstein noted that seminars with decision makers have proved useful in this regard.

Partnerships. The SDG Agenda will require learning from previous partnerships such as Agenda 21 and forging new partnerships, including between countries and between international agencies and the countries they support, as well as strengthening existing international partnerships. These partnerships, as well as other less formal relationships, will need to be evaluated. Evaluation may also need to expand to include "collective evaluation with partners, not only with other agencies, but also in countries," as Ms Sauvinet-

Bedouin noted. In this regard, the research institutions can work together to contribute to research – as well as evaluation – that can aid understanding of the linkages between the SDG2 goals as well as their relationship with the other SDGs.

Next steps for the RBAs

In wrapping up, several of the evaluation function heads noted that this seminar was only the beginning of a dialogue that will continue throughout the SDG process. There is much that the RBAs and their evaluation functions can do to continue this dialogue and to support SDG2 and the SDG Agenda, particularly within the countries that will take responsibility for achieving the goals.

To ensure that SDG2 progress and achievements can be measured, the RBAs should:

- Use the **Committee on World Food Security** as a platform to influence and advocate national country-level engagement, endorsement, implementation and evaluation of the SDG2 targets.

- Use their **convening power** among member countries to mediate, advocate and facilitate the identification of realistic SDG2 targets and priorities at national level.

- Re-invigorate the **measurement of the food security and nutrition** dimensions by, for instance, going beyond the traditional prevalence of undernourishment (POU) index.

- Identify a **research agenda** in relation to the eight SDG2 targets.

- Establish clear conceptual and operational linkages between SDG2 and the other SDGs and - based on this - encourage a **cross-sectoral monitoring** of the goals and targets.

- Support the development of **key indicators**, including for sustainable agriculture.

- Through their operational programmes, find ways to improve **collaboration** between the national statistics office and the agricultural ministries.

- For their own **M&E systems**, use existing data collection processes more efficiently.

To strengthen the evaluability of SG2 on the demand and supply sides, the evaluation functions of the RBAs should:

- Apply a **political economy perspective** to evaluation and become an **agent of change**; do not just conduct evaluations, but also find ways to instil evaluative thinking.

- Pay attention on building country capacities to both evaluate and **persuade decision makers** of the value of evaluation.

- To strengthen country capacities, provide **tools and guidance on evaluability assessment**.

- Develop an **evaluation agenda** taking into account the needs to localizing SDG2 in response to the new context; consider the multiplicity of goals and players in the approach to **accountability and learning**.

- Provide functional support to **simplify the complexity** of monitoring the large number of SDG2 indicators at country level and improve the robustness and credibility of in-country data, for example through:

  o Improved methodologies

  o Building the demand side

  o The establishment of quality assurance processes aiming at (i) harvesting the low-hanging fruits; and (ii) reduce the burden associated with the collection of data

Finally, several participants asked provocative questions that may be useful in stimulating the continuing dialogue about evaluation and the SDG2 goals and targets. Ms Wedgwood asked two such questions. First, "What are the most important change points that we need to evaluate together?" Second, "What are the important questions that the world will be asking come 2030?" A participant from South Africa set a challenge for the RBAs: "How will the RBAs break out of their conventional ways of thinking and working to meet the requirements for evaluating SDG2. How will we challenge the values that we bring to evaluation?"

Appendix 1. Agenda for the international technical seminar

Enhancing the evaluability of Sustainable Development Goal 2: "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture"

International technical seminar

AGENDA

Day 1 - Tuesday 17 November 2015

Time	Session
8:00-9:00	Registration and welcome coffee
9:00-9:05	Welcome
9:05-9:30	Opening address by high-level representatives of the host agencies ■ Mr Daniel Gustafson, Deputy Director General, FAO ■ Mr Jim Harvey, Chief of Staff of the Office of the Executive Director of WFP ■ Mr Frank Rijsberman, Chief Executive Officer, CGIAR ■ Mr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD
9:30-10:30	"Establishing the context" - overview role of evaluation in the Sustainable Development Goals Keynote speakers: ■ Ms Sunita Narain, Director General, Centre for Science and Environment ■ Mr Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Director-General, Coordinator for Economic and Social Development, FAO Questions and answers session
10:30-10:45	Welcome and agenda setting by Mr Oscar A. Garcia, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD, on behalf of the directors of the evaluation offices of the Rome-based agencies Comments by Mr Marco Segone, Chair of the United Nations Evaluation Group
10:45-11:15	Coffee break and photo

11:15-12:15	Setting the scene of the Thematic Group discussions and introduction by the Thematic Group Chairs
	1. Relevance of "new metrics" for the evaluation of SDG2 – data revolution and innovative approaches for assessing human wellbeing
	2. Partnerships and development actors – dealing with the increasing complexity of development processes
	3. National monitoring and evaluation systems and data availability – building on the progress made and addressing existing (capacity) gaps
	4. Demand for and use of evidence from evaluation – understanding the political economy of evidence and developing a joint evaluation agenda for SDG2
12:15-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:30	Thematic Group parallel breakout sessions - moderated by the Thematic Group Chairs
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:30	Thematic Groups parallel breakout sessions - continued
17:30-19:00	Cocktail hosted by the evaluation offices of the Rome-based agencies.

Day 2 - Wednesday, 18 November 2015

Time	Session
8:30-9:00	Arrival and coffee
09.00-11:00	Presentation of Thematic Group discussions - key issues and suggestions for follow up actions
	Questions and answers with the directors of the evaluation offices of the Rome-based agencies and Thematic Group Chairs
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:45	Next steps - Recommendations for follow up and action Chair: Mr John Hoddinott, H.E. Babcock Professor of Food and Nutrition Economics and Policy, Cornell University
12:45-13:00	Concluding remarks by Mr Oscar A. Garcia, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD on behalf of the directors of the evaluation offices of the Rome-based agencies
13:00	Wrap-up and closure of the seminar

Note: Interpretation (English, French and Spanish) will be provided for the morning Plenary session of the first day (9:00 to 12:15).

Appendix 2. **List of participants**

Name	Title	Agency
Aaron Zazueta	Chief Evaluation Officer, Independent Evaluation Office	Global Environment Facility
Abdul R. Ayazi	Agricultural Attaché	Embassy of Afghanistan, Rome
Ahmad Zaki Ansore	Director General of Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU)	Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia
Ahmed Shalaby	Deputy Permanent Resident of Egypt to United Nations agencies in Rome	Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Rome
Ahmedou Ould Abdhallahi	Evaluation Officer, Office of Evaluation	FAO
Akira Kamidohzono	Senior Advisor	Japan International Cooperation Agency
Alessandra Garbero	Statistician (Impact Assessment)	Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD
Amy Heyman	Programme Officer	FAO
Andrew Brubaker	Senior Evaluation Specialist	Asian Development Bank
Anewa Odeke		Parliament of Uganda
Angela Zarro	Programme Manager	Society for International Development
Anne-Claire Luzot	Senior Evaluation Officer, Office of Evaluation	WFP
Antonio Ricarte	Minister Counsellor	Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil
Anuja Kar	Economist	Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, The World Bank
Arild Hauge	Deputy Director, Independent Evaluation Office	United Nations Development Programme
Ashwani Muthoo	Deputy Director, Independent Office of Evaluation	IFAD
Ashwin Bhouraskar	Evaluation Officer	Office of Evaluation, FAO
Benito Sauma	Second Secretary	Embassy of the United States of Mexico, Rome
Bettina Prato	Lead Global Engagement Specialist, Strategy and Knowledge Departmen	IFAD
Boru Douthwaite	Principal Scientist	WorldFish
Brian Baldwin		Development Gateway
Brian Belcher	Professor	Royal Roads University
Brian Majewski	Head of Strategic Research and Evaluation	Avenir Analytics
Carlo Cafiero	Project Manager, Statistics Division	FAO

Name	Title	Agency
Carlos Tarazona	Evaluation Officer, Office of Evaluation	FAO
Carlos Barahona	Deputy Director at Statistical Services	University of Reading, United Kingdom
Catherine Wong	Programme Officer, SDG Fund	United Nations Development Programme
Cristina Tirado	Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Public Health	UCLA Institute of Environment and Sustainability
Damien Barchiche	Policy Officer	High Level Task Force on global food and nutrition security
Damien Fontaine	M&E Officer	WFP
Daniel Gustafson	Deputy Director General	FAO
Daniel Suryadarma	Senior Scientist	Center for International Forestry Research
David Rider Smith	Manager, Assessment and Evaluation, Water, Land and Ecosystems Research Program	CGIAR
Dimka Stantchev	Programme Manager, Global Programme Food Security	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Donatienne Hissard	Deputy Permanent Representative of the French Republic to the Rome-based agencies in Rome	Embassy of the French Republic, Rome
Dorian Kalamvrezos Navarro	Consultant on Post-2015	FAO
Dorothy Lucks	Executive Director	SDF Global Pty Ltd. [Sustainable Development Facilitation]
Elise Benoit	Office of Evaluation	WFP
Enrico Bonaiuti	Research Program Coordinator, CRP Dryland Systems	CGIAR
Eoghan Molloy	Evaluation Officer, Office of Evaluation	FAO
Eric Koper	Chief Officer, Management	International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
Fabrizio Felloni	Lead Evaluation Officer, Independent Office of Evaluation	IFAD
Fabrizio Moscatelli	Food Security Development Advisor, U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome	United Nations Agency for International Development
Federica Bottamedi	Evaluation Analyst	FAO
Federica Coccia	Evaluation Analyst, Independent Evaluation Arrangement	CGIAR
Federica Lomiri	Evaluation Analyst, Office of Evaluation	WFP
Fiesal Rasheed Salamh Al Argan	Deputy Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Rome
Frank Rijsberman	Chief Executive Officer	GIAR Consortium
Gabriel Ferrero	Policy Advisor	United Nations Development Programme

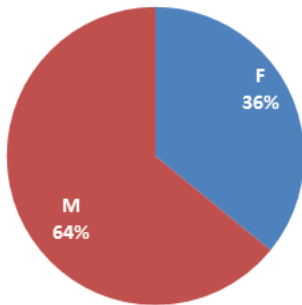| Name	Title	Agency
Giuseppe Fantozzi	Coordinator, High Level Task Force on global food and nutrition security	World Bank
Has Rudolf Felber	Deputy Head, Evaluation Division	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Harvey Garcia	Evaluation Officer, Office of Evaluation	FAO
Helen Wedgwood	Director, Office of Evaluation	WFP
Hemonin Ophele		Committee on Word Food Security
Ian Davies	Credentialed Evaluator	
Imed Khanfir	Programme Advisr	WFP
Inge Nordang	Ambassador	Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway, Rome
Ivan Konstantinopolskiy	Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the UN Agencies in Rome	Russian Federation
James Harvey	Assistant Executive Director	WFP
James Copestake	Professor of International Development	University of Bath
James Edge	Economic and Social Development Department	FAO
James Lattimer	Chief, Monitoring	WFP
James Stevenson	Agricultural Research Officer	CGIAR
Jane Reisman	Founder and Senior Advisor	Organizational Research Services
Jaqueline Souza	Communications Specialist, Independent Office of Evaluation	IFAD
Jean Marc Faurés	Senior Officer, Strategic Programme on Sustainable Agridulture	FAO
Jenin Assaf	Communication Manager and Community of Practice Facilitator, Independent Evaluation Arrangement	CGIAR
Johanna Pennarz	Lead Evaluation Officer,	IFAD
John Hoddinott	H.E. Babcock Professor of Food and Nutrition Economics and Policy	Cornell University
John McHarris	Chief, Food Security, Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping	WFP
Jomo Kwame Sundaram	Assistant Director-General/ Coordinator for Economic and Social Development	FAO
Josefina Stubbs	Associate Vice President and Chief Development Strategist, Strategy and Knowledge Department	IFAD
Julia Betts	Independent consultant	
Jotsna Puri	Deputy Executive, 3ie, Head of Evaluation	International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

Name	Title	Agency
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Khaled El Taweel	First Secretary,	Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Laura Tagle	Independent evalutor	
Lauren Kelly	Senior Evaluation Officer, Independent Evaluation Group	World Bank
Lauren Sanders	Communications consultant	WFP
Lee Alexander Risby	Head of Impact and communications	C&A Foundation
Leslie Thomas	Evaluation Officer	International Atomic Energy Agency
Libin Dang	Third Secretary, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the UN agencies for Food and Agriculture	People's Republic of China
Liliane Ortega	Deputy Permanent Representative, Swiss representation in Rome	Switzerland
Linda Calao	Intern, Office of Evaluation	FAO
Lucia Pettinari	Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN Agencies in Rome	Italy
Luisa Belli	Evaluation Officer, Office of Evaluation	FAO
Lumbini Dharshana Senanayake	Director General, Department of Project Management and Monitoring	Ministry of Finance and Planning, Sri Lanka
Manuela Bucciarelli	Independent Evaluation Arrangement	CGIAR
Marco Segone	Chair	United Nations Evaluation Group
Marcus Kaplan	Senior Evaluator	German Institute for Development Evaluation
Margot Skarpeteig	Depurty Permanent Representative, Norwegian Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome	Norway
Mark Keating	Evaluation Officer, Independent Office of Evaluation	IFAD
Markus Palenberg	Director	Institute for Development Strategy
Marta Bruno	Knowledge Management Officer	FAO
Masahiro Igarashi	Director, Office of Evaluation	FAO
Matthias Frhr. Von Bechtolsheim	Senior Project Manager	KFW Development Bank

Name	Title	Agency
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Menno Wiebe	Director, Evaluation	The KonTerra Group
Michael Bruentrup	Senior Researcher	German Development Institute
Michelle Weston	Consultant	IFAD
Miguel Torralba	Lead Evaluation Specialist	IFAD
Mihoko Tamamura	Country Director	WFP
Mina Dowlatchahi	Deputy Director, Office of Strategy Planning and Resources	FAO
Mohamed Nassir Camara	Counsellor, Embassy of Guinea	Guinea
Morten Jerven	Associate Professor	Simon Fraser University and Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Myrthe De Kock	Second Secretary	Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Rome
Natalia Kosheleva	Evaluation Consultant	Process Consulting Company
Natasha Hayward	Deputy Program Manager, Global Agriculture and Food Security Program	World Bank
Nazareno Montani Cazabat	Alternate Permanent Representative of Argentina to the UN agencies in Rome	Argentina
Nazaruddin Abu	Deputy Director, Economic Division, Implementation and Coordination Unit	Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia
Omar Awabdeh	Evaluation Officer, Office of Evaluation	FAO
Oscar A. Garcia	Director, Independent Office of Evaluation	IFAD
Osvaldo Feinstein	Independent consultant. Professor	Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Otmar Greiff	Minister Counsellor	Embassy of Germany, Rome
P.K. Ayanthi Deepika de Silva	Additional Director General, Department of Project Management and Monitoring	Ministry of Finance and Planning, Sri Lanka
Paul Winters	Director, Strategic Planning and Development Effectiveness	IFAD
Philipp Wollbung	Consultant	FAO
Pierfranco Sacco	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Italian Republic to IFAD	

Name	Title	Agency
Pietro Gennari	Director and Chief Statistician, Statistics Division	FAO
Pradeep Itty	Lead Evaluation Officer	IFAD
Rachel Sauvinet-Bedouin	Director, Independent Evaluation Arrangement	CGIAR
Rachid Serraj	Senior Research Officer, Independent Science and Partnership Council	CGIAR
Rakesh Nangia	Director, Operations Evaluation Department	African Development Bank
Robert Stryk	Chief, Evaluation Division of UNRWA	UNRWA
Rodrigo Rivera	Consultant	IFAD
Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga	Deputy Head, Budget Monitoring and Accountability	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda
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Rui Wang	Second Secretary, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the UN agencies for Food and Agriculture	People's Republic of China
Sabine Bruentrup-Seidemann	Evaluator	German Institute for Development Evaluation
Saheed Adegbite	Director, Office of the Budget and Organizational Development	IFAD
Sally Burrows	Senior Evaluation Officer, Office of Evaluation	WFP
Savina Tessitore		FAO
Saywan Barzani	Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq to the UN Agencies in Rome	Republic of Iraq
Serge Eric Yakeu Djiam	Senior Evaluator and Visiting Professor Independent Consultant, Research and Development, Cameroon	
Shantanu Mathur	Manager, Partnership Manager, Programme Management Department	IFAD
Sheelagh O'Reilly	Principal Consultant	International Organization Development PARC
Silvia Alamo	Consultant	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
Simon Levine	Research Fellow, Humanitarian Policy Group	Overseas Development Institute
Pradeep Itty	Lead Evaluation Officer	IFAD
Sirkka Immonen	Senior Evaluation Officer, Independent Evaluation Arrangement	CGIAR

Name	Title	Agency or country
Suneetha Kadiyala	Senior Lecturer	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Sunita Narain	Director General	Centre for Science and Environment
Suwadu Sakho-Jimbira	Programme Officer	Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale
Thania De La Garza	Deputy Director General of Evaluation	Consejo Nacional de Evaluación de la Política de Desarrollo Social (CONEVAL), Mexico
Thomas Wobill	Head of Monitoring and Evaluation	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
Tim Balint	Associate Strategic Planning Officer, Strategic and Knowledge Department	IFAD
Tsakani Ngomane	Outcomes Facilitator, Rural Development, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	The Presidency, South Africa
Viviana Cruzado de la Vega	Coordinator in Charge, Budget Research Studies, Quality of Public Spending Division	Ministry of Economy and Finance, Peru
Walter Kolkma	Director, Independent Evaluation	Asian Development Bank
William Hurlbut	Independent Consultant	
William Masters	Professor, Friedman School of Nutrition	Turfts University
Zaid Al Lozi	Ambassador	Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Rome
Zak Bleicher	Partnership Officer, Partnership and Resource Mobilization Office	IFAD
Zakari Bonkano	Direction de l'évaluation	Ministére du Plan, Niger
Zenda Ofir	Independent Evaluation Specialist	
Zhang Zhengwei	Counsellor	Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Rome
Zlatan Milisic	Deputy Director, Policy and Programme	WFP

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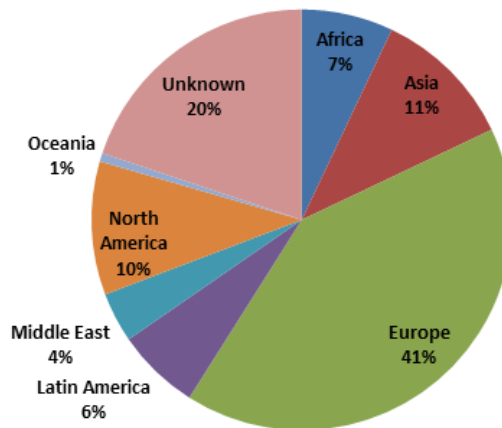
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organizations
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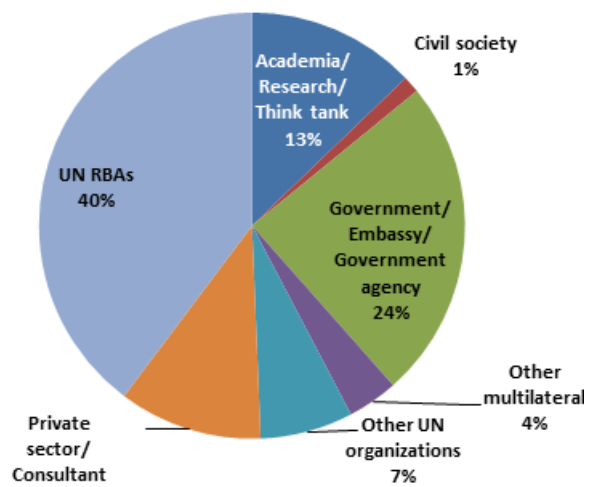
Appendix 3. **Feedback survey on the international technical seminar "Enhancing the evaluability of Sustainable Development Goal 2" - Results Report**

A feedback survey on the international technical seminar on "Enhancing the evaluability of Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2)", held in Rome at IFAD headquarters on 17-18 November, was launched on 4 December 2015. The survey was developed using the popular online software package "SurveyMonkey" and a link to the online questionnaire was sent to 156 participants to the seminar.

The survey was closed on 16 December 2015 and 70 people responded. The results of the survey are reported below.

A. BASIC INFO

Question 1. Your institutional affiliation

Question 1: Your institutional affiliation

- Government
- UN organization
- Academia
- Civil society / think tank
- Private sector
- Research organization
- Other (please specify)
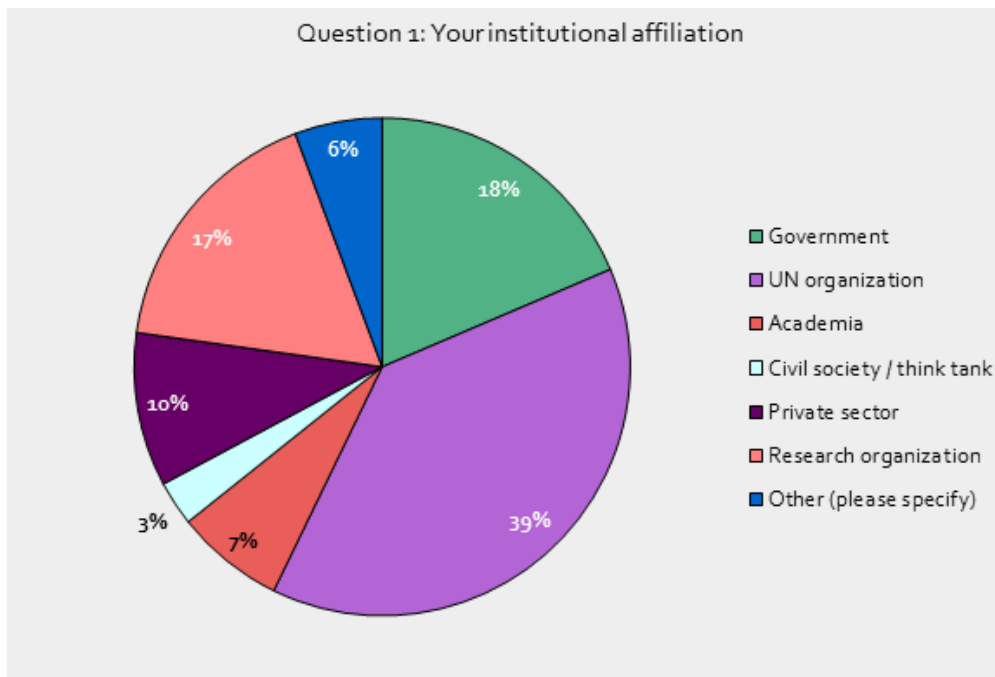
Text responses provided for option g (Other [please specify]):

Answer provided	
1	Independent consultant
2	Implementation ODA
3	Multilateral development bank
4	Independent consultant

Question 2. Are you an evaluator/involved in evaluations?
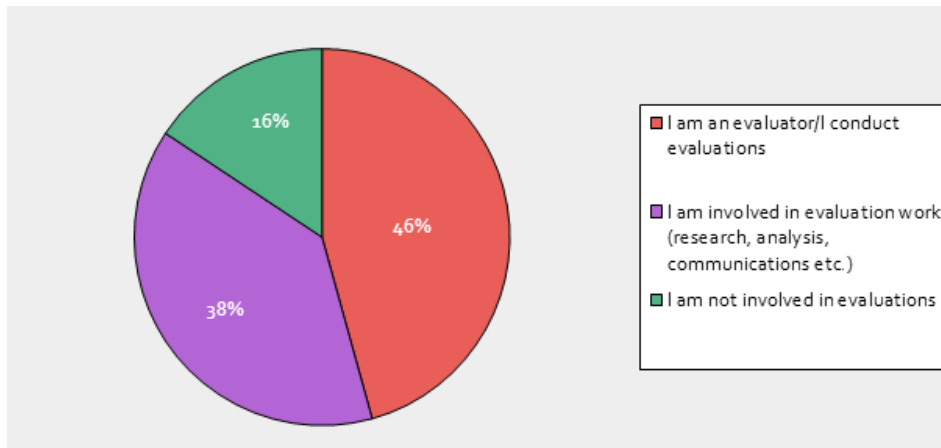
Question 3. Did you attend both days of the seminar?
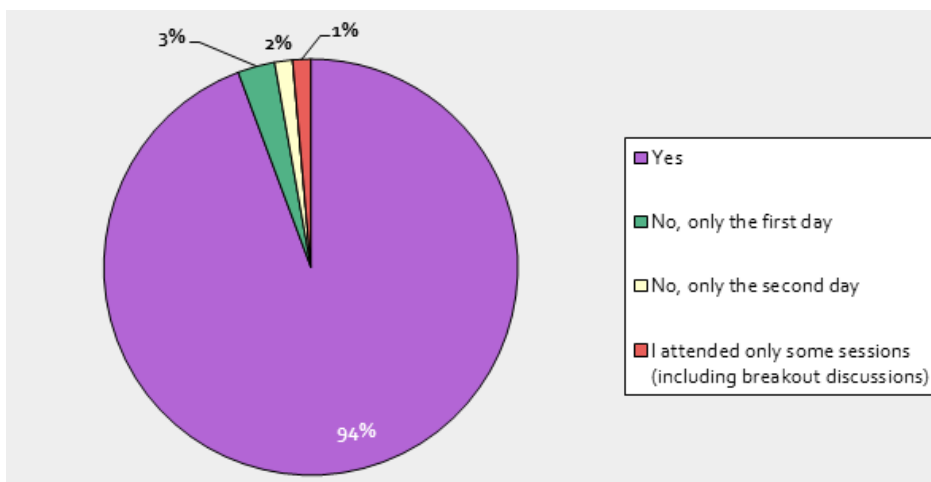
B. ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

Question 4.   What do you think about the organization of the seminar?
(please rate each item from 1 to 6, where 1=extremely poorly organized and 6=extremely well organized)
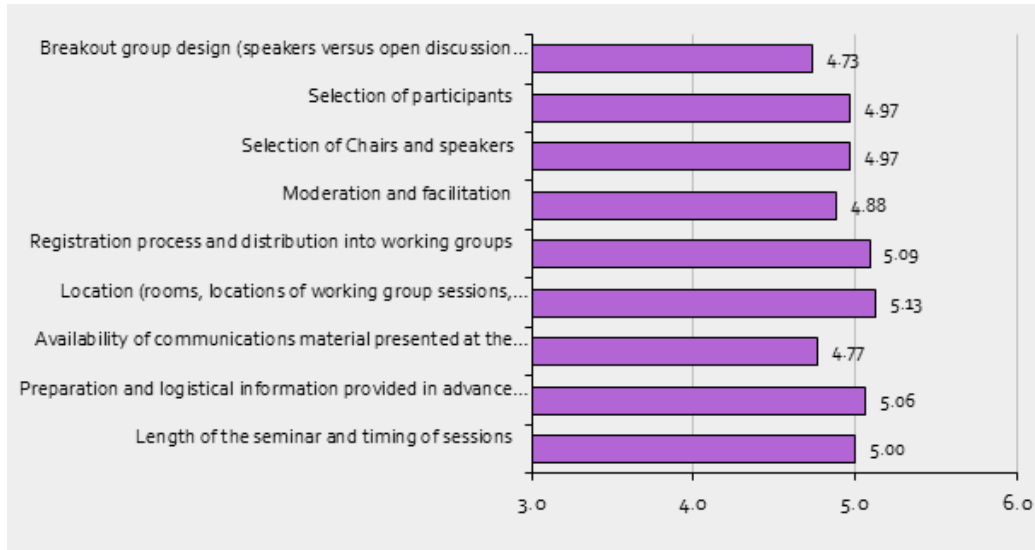
C. CONTENT

Question 5. How relevant did you find the content of the seminar for your work?
(please rate from 1 to 6, where 1=completely irrelevant and 6=extremely relevant. N/A is also available as an option)
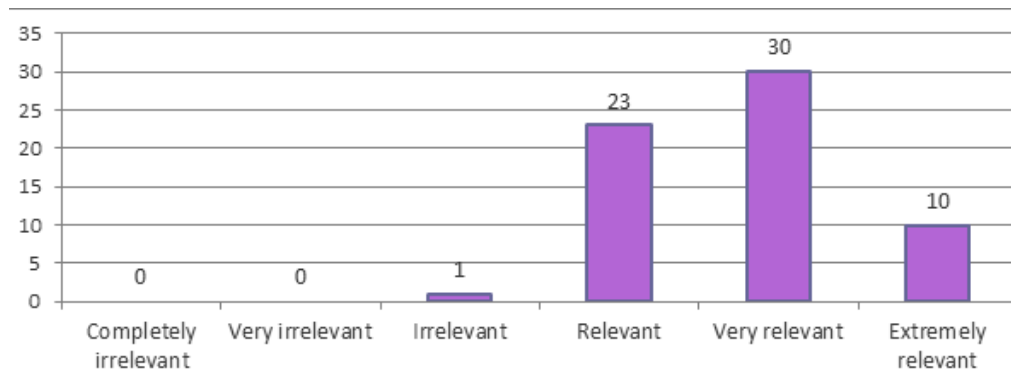
Question 6. How well was the theme "Evaluability of SDG2" presented at the seminar?
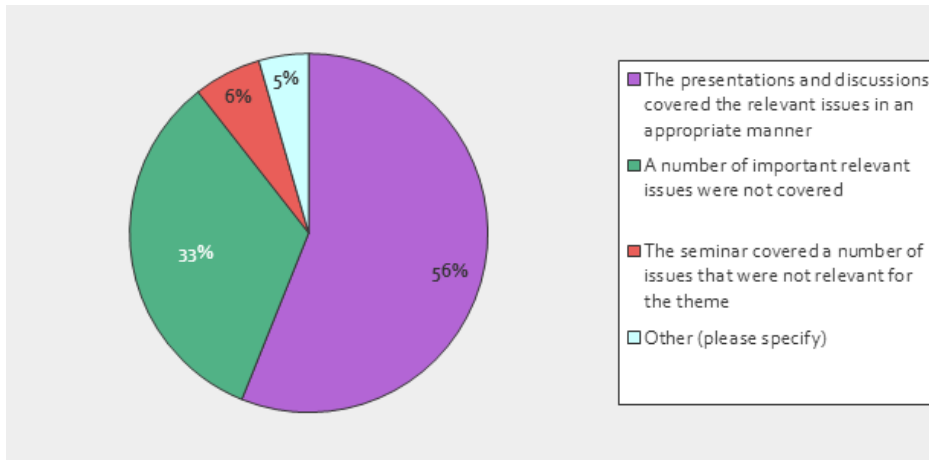
Question 7. Did the seminar provide you with some important new insights?
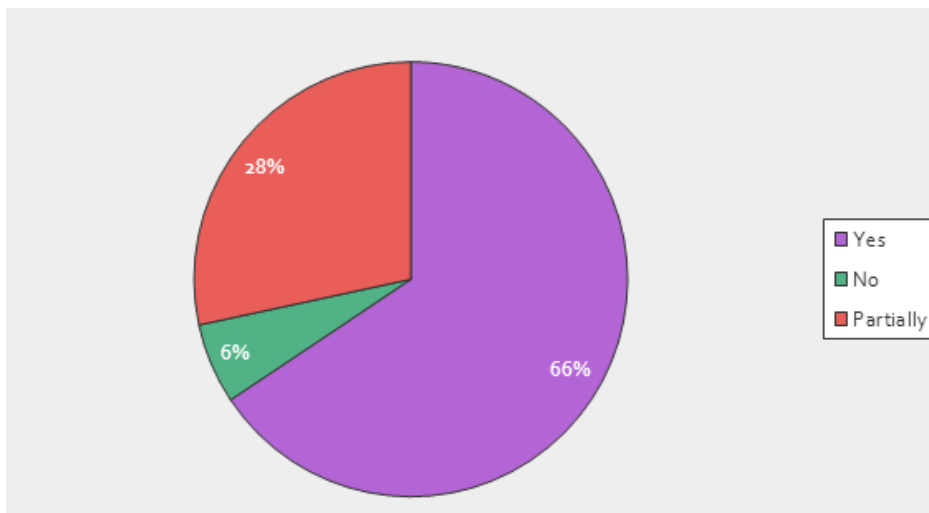
Responses provided for option c (Partially [explain]), unedited:

1) for instance on the need to build on existing monitoring and evaluation experience and institutional arrangements and division of labor in the agriculture and food security community.

2) Because the seminar was an opportunity to have a better understanding of metrics and political economy dimensions related to SDG2.

3) A number of challenges - mothodological and practical - have come to the fore.

4) "New ideas about approaches to measure the MDGs.

5) Recent analytical work that improved my understanding of some policy issues".

6) Hardly new, but certainly important: the SDG evaluation agenda will be a dense and intense undertaking.

7) "My" evaluation work is largely focussed on ex-post evaluation of projects, whereas SDGs constitute a much higher Level of "aggregation".

8) "Process towards SDGs from UN organisitons.

9) State if indicator selection"

10) I sincerely expect that it has a precise answer to the theme of the seminar subject matter are: 'how to enhance the readability of the SDG2 "determining such references and target indicator results expected in 2030 according to the country?! the answers like the fact.

11) I noticed the strong focus of evaluation professionals on the evaluation profession. It distracted attention from the more important (in my opinion) issues in some sessions.

12) A wide range of topics were covered. I was particularly surprised by the extent to data are not available in many countries. I also thought that the interconnectedness of the SDGs was important to note.

13) Discussion on SDG2 evaluation and indicators has still to go a long way; aspects dealing with sustainable agriculture, natural resource management etc were somewaht weak.

14) the need to reposition evaluation was an important insight.

15) We need to address Agenda 2030, SDGs, in their entirety. For example, poverty indicator could be a proxy indictor for stunting. Other indicators are also interlinked. Further mapping of correlation between the indicators would be helpful to Member States in their monitoring.

16) The seminars overall focus on SDG2 was timely and correct - I would have expected greater emphasis on preliminary identification of 'what' can be evaluated within SDG2 and also with that great diversity of people in the room. As an evaluator working for major corporation, evaluators (a) need to stop talking to themselves and (b) present work in a language that can be used by non-evaluators.

17) The seminar was important for opening the discussion on how progress towards SDG2 may be evaluated. However, the discussions were still rather theoretical and 'high level', and it is not clear where these discussions will lead.

18) It raise the issue of the value system under which we will evaluate the SDG2 (and which dominates the food system in general) and the possibility to consider achievements (but also obstacles) in a more differentiated manner It also raised the necessity to adopt a pragmatic view on the national M&E capacities in developing countries.

19) It gave a detailed overview of the relevance of SDG2 to all the SDGs. It created an understanding on why partnerships are important in achieving Sustainable development goals.

20) Important thinking around large complex evaluations.

21) Didn't attent the seminar in Rome!

22) Emphasis on better engagement with national systems to generate credible data to measure SDG2.

23) I realized the need to interpret the meaning of SDG2 targets for specific contexts.

24) Sharpened my understanding of the conceptual difference between monitoring and evaluation, and helped form more precise idea of where and how my organisation could contribute.

25) It missed the part of "sustainable agriculture" and did not delve in the role of UN agencies, including those called "Rome-based agencies" in the monitoring and evaluating SDG2.

26) It crystallized my thinking. Sdg2 is mainly a research and statistics collection agenda.

27) I learned much more than I had known about the SDGs in general and about the state of systems that will be used to monitor and evaluate progress on SDG2.

28) Useful to get academics and practicioners' views.

29) Showed me how complacent the RBA are in relation to their role in the SDGs. They are NOT evaluating the SDGs but the work that their organisation may contribute to a countries achievement of its SDGs objectives. In many cases the evaluation focus of RBA will not change - other than to be more responsive (as well their programmes) to the nation states who will report on their progress to the SDGs.

30) I learned how most organizations still have to come to terms with SDGs, especially the sheer number and the grand targets.

31) Especially on the complexity of the SDGs and the fact that they are powerfully interconnected.

32) The seminar identified in an honest and constructive manner the gaps to evaluate the impact of SDG2.

Question 8. Do you think the seminar contributed substantively to the current international debate on the evaluation of sustainable development goals?
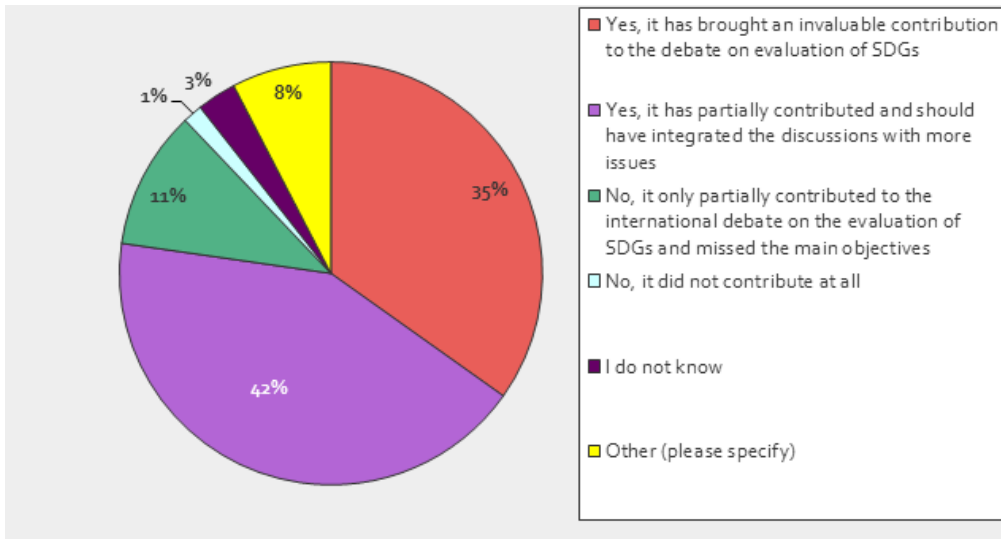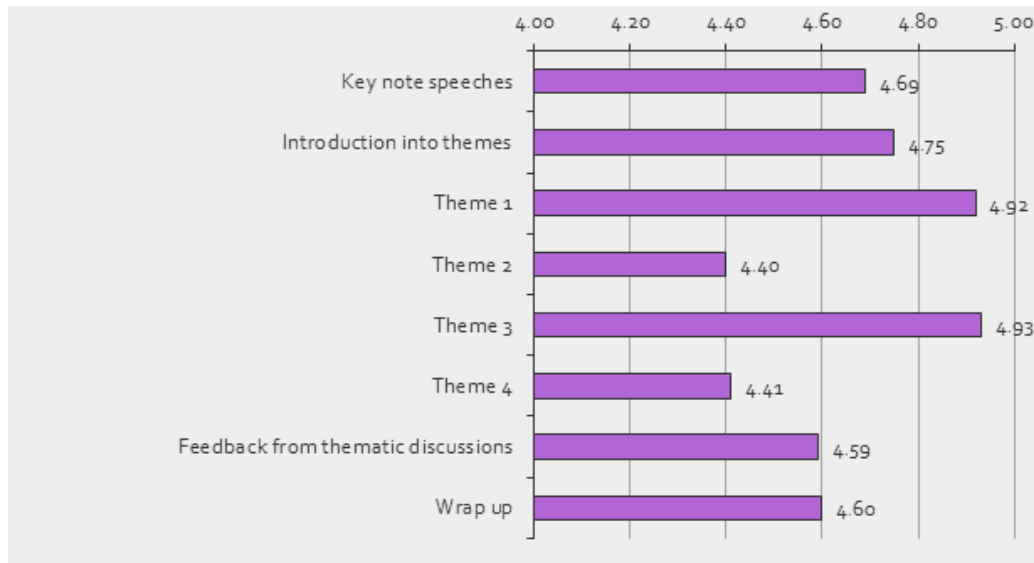

Responses provided for option c (Other (please specify)), unedited:

1) Much too early to tell. Organizing the seminar at this stage sends an important signal and provides "hooks" for future efforts.

2) it is probably difficult to integrate the wrap up as at least one of the chair of the 4 groups was exteremely confusing and the concluision dont look like a step forward, but the disccusions opened very good question and as such it is a valuable contribution

3) Has potential to, actual contribution will depend on follow-up

4) It brought some awareness of some issues. It could have been further focused by having a smaller-scale preparatory session which could have been used to defined more precisely what would be the agenda to which the workshop would contribute.

5) This would be merely speculative, but in essence no concrete conclusions, action points, etc were drawn to inform such debate adequately.

Question 9. Please rate the quality of the sessions
(please rate from 1 to 6, where (1) poor, (2) fair, (3) good, (4) very good (5) excellent
(6) outstanding. N/A is also available as an option)

Session	Rating
Key note speeches	4.69
Introduction into themes	4.75
Theme 1	4.92
Theme 2	4.40
Theme 3	4.93
Theme 4	4.41
Feedback from thematic discussions	4.59
Wrap up	4.60

D. FOLLOW UP AND OPEN COMMENT

Question 10. Do you have any other comment on the seminar?
(open text)

The responses provided are below, unedited:

1) thanks to the organizers for bringing us together
2) contribution of the number of implementing agencies need to be increased as they have implmenting problems.
3) "Overall, a highly interesting Seminar! However, there was too much time wasted for official welcome speeches in the beginning of the Seminar.
4) Furthermore, on the second day, at a certain stage, an interesting discussion just started on the results of one brekaout Group, one panelist just raised his hand and wanted to reply to a critical comment from the audience. but this start of a probably highly interesting discussion was stopped by the moderator, because we were a couple of minutes behind schedule and because we just have to have our 30minute coffee break - who needs a 30minute coffee break??? I came to Rome for learning something on Evaluation of SDG2 and not for drinking coffee!
5) But again - apart from These two aspects - very interesting Seminar and I learnt a lot!
6) Regards, Marcus"
7) well done IOE!! This was an important milestone, globally.
8) It was timely. However, there were no resolutions on how to take this discussion forward especially at National level. This was a gap.
9) RBA should continue the format, with more focus on goal 2.3
10) No thank

11) The numbers should have been limited. We were too many for the purpose.

12) Thematic chairs for themes 1, 2 and 3 should have lead the themes to relevant results contributing to the seminar objective.

13) Great start to a very complex agenda, and one to build on for the future

14) I would like to receive the outcome report for circulation in my organization. It would also be good to set up a e-based community of practice to continue discussing this subject.

15) some of the chairs (themes 2 &4) were not up to the task.

16) Next time bring the elephants into the room - talking about hunger / food / nutrition - get some of the big food and agriculture companies in the room. Talking about sustainable agriculture - then where are seed, agro-chemical companies etc etc. Be inclusive in the conversation not exclusive.

17) no

18) This Seminar should be followed through with the view of making the issues raised sustainable

19) Would have appreciated time to attend the other sessions i.e. could they have been repeated and participants rotated, at least once.

20) I think the weakest feature of this very well-organized event was its title. What an awkward phrase! This was not about "evaluability of SDG2", but about evaluation of programs and policies to meet SDG2. I am sure that with a little more thought the organizers could have come up with a less confusing title. But other than that I was very happy with the event, many thanks for the invitation.

22) None

23) "Carlos and particularly John were good choices for their spots on the panel and did a fine job, but the airtime was dominated by Simon and Ian who were content to philosophize at length but without significantly contributing to the discussion. An all-male panel for an event like this is frankly inexcusable - a woman (of which there were many well-qualified candidates in the room) would have punctured the atmosphere of egocentric posturing that developed between Simon and Ian. The session need a Chair - someone to ensure questions were answered and intervening if they were not - not an MC who blandly passed the questions on. A better-qualified Southern perspective on evaluation issues would also have been good.

24) The event was extremely well-organised and it is much appreciated. This feedback is intended as constructive criticism to help improve the next one! Was great to meet colleagues from the other RBAs working on similar issues. Many thanks."

25) I'm looking forward to a report on this seminar

26) "Would be grateful to be kept informed of future IFAD-organised events on SDGs.

27) Many thanks for the initiative of this excellent seminar!"

28) Many thanks.

29) This was a good initial step to get to grips with SDGs and SDG2 in particular. As such more needs to be done to develop an agenda with specific actions by all those having key roles to play. It is a pity that it is note really clear how CGIAR, FAO, IFAD and WFP together with the nations are going to collaborate and provide joint leadership. It may have been uesful to link it better to implementers and their monitoring work.

30) Yes - too many of the 'same' people making the same tired pronouncements. We have moved on from the 1990s and clearly the role of the RBA EVALUATION departments may change a little but as the FAO reminded us their MANDATE is to evaluation the organisations work. What (hopefully) will change in a) coordination between the RBAs (very poor) and b) their understanding of the role of STATES in the process rather than the RBA or the UN itself. Without that the RBA will continue to perhaps be obstacles to the achievement of the SDG2 (think World Food Conference 1974 and pledges made then).

31) need to conduct Monitoring and Evaluation need assessment across the Development countries to harmonize data collections tools and methodologies, sources of data and relevant data, etc.

32) Congratulations, well done

Visit the international technical seminar website:

http://www.ifad.org/evaluation/events/2015/sdg2/index.htm. Download all the seminar material: presentations, statements, theme papers, and the full session recordings.