

INDIA COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATION

Concept Note on the National Roundtable Workshop

New Delhi, India, 12 May 2016

A. CONTEXT

1. The Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE) of IFAD conducted a Country Programme Evaluation (CPE) in India in 2015. As a usual step in the evaluation process, a national roundtable workshop is held at the end of each CPE undertaken by IOE. The India CPE national roundtable workshop will be co-organised by the Government of India and IOE, in close collaboration with IFAD's Asia and the Pacific Division (APR).

B. OBJECTIVES

2. The objectives of the India CPE national roundtable workshop are to: (i) discuss the main findings and strategic recommendations emerging from the India CPE; (ii) provide inputs for the preparation of the evaluation's Agreement at Completion Point; and (iii) provide an opportunity for reflecting on key issues and strategic priorities for the forthcoming India Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP).
3. The Agreement at Completion Point is a short document summarising the main CPE findings and recommendations, which the Government of India (represented by the Ministry of Finance) and IFAD (represented by the Programme Management Department) agree to adopt and implement within specific timeframes. IOE's role is to facilitate the preparation and finalisation of the Agreement at Completion Point, which will be included in the final India CPE report.
4. The workshop will entail the participation of representatives from the Government of India, IFAD Management and Staff, NGOs and civil society organizations (national and international), directors of IFAD-funded projects and programmes, academics and research institutions, private sector and foundations, donors and selected resource persons. A provisional list of participants is contained in section C of this concept note.
5. In addition to participating in the workshop, the IFAD delegation from Rome will conduct field visits to the sites of two IFAD-funded projects in the North Eastern Region (states of Assam and Meghalaya): (i) North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project for Upland Areas (phases II and III); (ii) Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project. This will offer the IFAD delegation an opportunity to directly hold discussions with beneficiaries and their groups, project staff, relevant policy makers and district-level government authorities and others, as well as see project activities.

C. INDIA CPE NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE WORKSHOP

6. **Place and timing.** The workshop will take place in New Delhi, Hyatt Regency Hotel. The provisional workshop agenda can be found in Annex 1 of this concept note.
7. **Workshop invitations and documentation.** Invitations will be sent to all participants by the Department of Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Finance, in the joint name of the Government of India and IFAD. The India CPE report is the main background document for the workshop, and will be shared with all participants ahead of the event. In addition, a PowerPoint presentation will be delivered during the workshop on the main findings and recommendations from the India CPE.
8. **Key themes for the workshop.** During the workshop, three thematic working groups will debate themes emerging from the India CPE:

Theme 1. Enhancing design focus on smallholder agriculture in rain-fed areas.

How can project design be better adapted to: (i) boost agricultural productivity and improve water and natural resource management in these areas; (ii) support linkages with markets and agricultural value chains? ; (iii) maintain the focus on deprived areas and populations who now derive less than 60% of their income from agriculture; (iv) maintain simplicity of design.

Theme 2. Improving the efficiency of the portfolio implementation. This requires action in two directions: (i) help improve capacity of the implementing agencies; and

(ii) reduce the operational constraints to project implementation identified by the CPE (e.g., under-staffing and staff turn-over, disbursement lags, procurement bottlenecks).

Theme 3. Enhancing non-lending activities at the state and at the central level.

Activities such as knowledge management, developing partnerships and contributing to policy dialogue are increasingly an expectation of international organizations. However, in the case of India, these may be different at the state compared to the central level. What are the needs and demand at these two levels and what are the different instruments and partnerships required? What role can project authorities play in policy dialogue?

9. **List of participants.** The provisional list of institutions and persons to be invited to the workshop is provided below. This will be further developed with inputs from the Government and APR.

(a) Central Government Ministries

1. Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs
2. Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Rural Development
3. Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Co-operation
4. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
5. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
6. Ministry of Women and Child Development
7. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
8. National Institution for Transforming India Aayog (NITI Aayog)

(b) State-government representatives

Representatives from the states of:

9. Odisha
10. Madhya Pradesh
11. Maharashtra
12. Meghalaya
13. Rajasthan
14. Tamil Nadu
15. Uttarakhand
16. Jharkand
17. Assam
18. Manipur

(c) IFAD-funded Projects and Programmes

19. Odisha Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme
20. Tejaswini Rural Women's Empowerment Programme
21. Post-Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods Programme for the Coastal Communities of Tamil Nadu Women's Empowerment
22. Mitigating Poverty in Western Rajasthan Project
23. North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project for Upland Areas
24. Convergence of Agricultural Interventions in Maharashtra's Distressed Districts Programme
25. Integrated Livelihood Support Project
26. Jharkhand Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Project_
27. Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project

28. Odisha Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme

(d) National institutions

29. NABARD

30. Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium

31. National Rainfed Area Authority of India

32. North Eastern Council, Shillong

(e) NGOs, Civil society organizations, private sector, research institutions

33. PRADAN

34. Better Cotton Initiative

35. International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

36. Indian Council of Agricultural Research

37. Mr Arun Pandhi, Sir Ratan Tata Trust

38. Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India

39. Representative from Tesco - India

40. Representative from FieldFresh - India

41. Representative from Unilever – India

42. National Council for Applied Economic Research, New Delhi

(f) International Cooperation

43. AsDB

44. The World Bank

45. FAO

46. WFP

47. UNDP

48. GIZ

49. DfID

50. USAID

51. BMGF

52. UNRC

53. JICA

(g) IFAD Staff (headquarters)

54. Ms Josefina Stubbs, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department of IFAD (SKD)

55. Mr Oscar Garcia, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE)

56. Ms Hoonae Kim, Director, Asia and the Pacific Division of IFAD (APR)

57. Mr Nigel Brett, Lead Portfolio Advisor (APR)

58. Ms Rasha Omar, Country Programme Manager for India, APR

59. Ms Aissa Touré, Programme Officer, APR

60. Ms Sara Kouakou, Portfolio Specialist, FPD

61. Mr Fabrizio Felloni, Lead Evaluator for the India CPE, IOE

62. Ms Cristina Spagnolo, Evaluation Assistant, IOE

63. Ms Jaqueline Souza, Evaluation Communication Specialist, IOE

(h) IFAD India Country Office

64. Ms Meera Mishra, Country Office Coordinator, APR

65. Mr Vincent Darlong, Country Programme Officer, APR

66. Mr Sriram Subramaniam, Associate Programme Officer, APR

(i) India CPE Consultants

(j) Media representatives

[to be confirmed]

10. **Workshop process.** The workshop's provisional agenda (Annex 1) has been developed in such a way to allow for ample opportunity to exchange views and perspectives among participants and panel members throughout the one-day event.
11. During the inaugural session, introductory statements will be made by the Secretary, Ministry of Finance and the Secretary of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare ; Ms Josefina Stubbs, Associate Vice-President, SKD; and Mr Oscar Garcia, Director of IOE. Thereafter, Mr Fabrizio Felloni, Lead Evaluator will make a PowerPoint presentation on the India CPE.
12. The morning session will include questions and answers on the presentation and conclude with an introduction to the workshop working groups and the working groups will convene before lunch. The participants will be divided into three working groups. Each group will consider only one of the three workshop themes. The chairperson for each working group will be identified prior to the workshop and the groups will nominate a rapporteur.
13. After lunch, the working groups will re-convene, continue and conclude their discussions. Thereafter, the plenary will re-convene to hear the feedback from each of the three working groups. This will be followed by an open plenary discussion, to be facilitated by the workshop chairperson.
14. Following the plenary, the Director IFAD-APR and the Country Programme Manager for India will share their reflections on the future directions for the India country strategy, especially on strategic priorities and the participatory preparation process.
15. The workshop's salient conclusions and way forward will be set forth in a closing statement to be delivered by a senior Government official, covering the key points arising from both the plenary and working group discussions.

D. FIELD VISIT

16. The IFAD delegation will undertake a field visit to two IFAD-funded projects in the North Eastern Region (states of Assam and Meghalaya): (i) North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project for Upland Areas (phases II and III); (ii) Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project. A detailed programme of the field visit to the project will be developed in close collaboration with the IFAD India Country Office and project authorities.

E. COMMUNICATION

17. In consultation with APR, the Government of India and IFAD's Communication Division and in collaboration with IOE's Evaluation Communication Unit, specific communication activities will be conducted in order to better disseminate information on the roundtable workshop and key themes raised by the CPE. The main communication tools envisaged will include: (i) a press release; (ii) a media advisory sheet; (iii) workshop and press kits; (iv) fact sheets and explanatory summaries. In addition, media coverage will be monitored and media clippings will be gathered. Workshop information will be posted on IFAD's logon and may also be posted on social networks. Selected IFAD/IOE publications will be displayed at the workshop as well.

Key Events

- 7 May 2016 – IFAD Delegates arrive in New Delhi
- 8 May 2016 - IFAD Delegation flies to Guwahati (State of Assam) via New Delhi.
- 9-10 May - Field visits in Assam and Meghalaya. Return to New Delhi on 10 May afternoon
- 11 May – Finalisation of workshop preparation
- 12 May - CPE National Roundtable Workshop (one day)

National Roundtable Workshop - India Country Programme Evaluation (CPE) 12 May 2016 – Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Delhi

08.30 Registration of the participants

Session One

Chairperson: Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs – Multilateral Institutions, Ministry of Finance of India

09.00 Opening of the workshop by the Master of ceremony

09.05 Welcome address by the Chairperson

09.10 Statement by Mr Oscar Garcia, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE), IFAD

09.20 Statement by Ms Josefina Stubbs, Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department (SKD) of IFAD

09.30 Statement by the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

09.40 Statement by the Secretary, Ministry of Finance

09.50 Presentation of Findings and Recommendations of the CPE by Mr Fabrizio Felloni, Lead Evaluation Officer, IOE, IFAD;

10.15 Group Photo

10.20 Coffee Break

10.30 Questions and Answers with the audience

11.10 Overview of break-out working group discussion by Fabrizio Felloni

11.20 Beginning of breakout working group sessions

Theme 1. Enhancing project design focus on smallholder agriculture in rain-fed areas.

Theme 2. Improving the efficiency of the portfolio implementation

Theme 3. Enhancing non-lending activities at the state and at the central level

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Break-out working groups resume the discussion

15.40 End of working group discussion – Coffee break

Session Two

Chairperson: Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs – Multilateral Institutions, Ministry of Finance of India

16.00 Report of the three working group rapporteurs to the plenary session

16.30 Plenary discussion

16.50 Reflection for future strategic directions and priorities of the India country strategy – COSOP, by Ms Hoonae Kim, Director, Asia and the Pacific Division of IFAD and Ms Rasha Omar, Country Programme Manager for India, APR

17.10 Closing Statements by the Government of India

17.15 Closing remarks by Mr Oscar Garcia, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE), IFAD