

How IFAD Promotes Learning among Development Partners in the Field

Webinar of UN Evaluation Group SO2: Use of Evaluation

Key Message 6: More needs to be done to share findings and enable cross-organizational learning

Background

In 2014-2015 the UNEG SO2 group conducted a study on “Evaluation Use in the UN System” that formulated six key messages. As a follow-up to the study, UNEG SO2 launched a series of learning activities for each of the messages in order to share experiences.

Key message 6 addresses an important fact: No development organization operates in isolation. Whether it be government counterparts, partner UN agencies or national development stakeholders, there is a broad audience for evaluation products, their findings and their recommendations. It is in this spirit that in 1994 the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD launched the practice of hosting a national workshop learning event bringing together participants from the national government, national development organizations and IFAD. The event allows a wide range of stakeholders to discuss the main findings and recommendations of IFAD Country Strategy and Programme Evaluations (formerly known as Country Programme Evaluations), with the goal of promoting learning and sharing. The main objectives of these national workshops are to: discuss the main issues emerging from the evaluation; provide inputs for the preparation of the evaluation’s agreement at completion point; and give an opportunity to reflect on key issues for the forthcoming results-based country strategic opportunities programme.

Leading up to the event, the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD produces additional evaluation products to increase the dissemination of evaluation findings, such as: a Profile that summarizes in simple language the main conclusions and recommendations from the evaluation; an Insights that focuses on one learning issue emerging from the evaluation; an infographic illustrating the main messages of the evaluation; press releases, which are included in the media kits distributed during the event; and on occasion a video on the evaluation showcasing footage from the field. These concise evaluation products serve to increase the accessibility to evaluation findings and to frame the issues that emerged.

The national learning event is further supported by website announcements, social media posts and in some instances a press conference featuring one-on-one interviews with local journalists.

Objectives of the Webinar

- Share with participants a look into the practice of hosting national workshop learning events and the impacts that such events and related evaluation products have beyond the publication of an evaluation report.
- Stimulate the exchange of experiences of UN evaluators regarding cross-organizational learning and sharing.

Target Audience

- UNEG members (evaluation office staff from within the UN system)
- Interested IFAD staff
- Interested evaluation users of UNEG member organizations

Proposed Format

- Speakers: Oscar Garcia, Director, and Johanna Pennarz, Lead Evaluation Officer
An IFAD Country Programme Manager and a Country Programme Officer
- Format for the webinar: presentation followed by questions and answers
- Duration: 1.5 hours

Proposed Technology

- WebEx (recorded for future use by UNEG)

Proposed Date

- 15 November 2016; 15:30 to 16:30 (Central European time)