



Special Session 5 - Evaluating SDG2 in the context of agriculture and rural development: the IFAD Experience

Evaluation for the SDGs: Joint Conference ReLAC – REDLACME-IDEAS
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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Nature of the SDGs

- The SDG agenda is universal and transformative
- Three dimensions embedded in the SDGs: Growth, prosperity and sustainability
- SDGs are interdependent
- SDGs are aspirational, provide normative framework (not planning framework)
- SDGs are country-owned – the ownership rests at country-level and requires commitment and capacity to implement

A close look at SDG2 – Targets and means of implementation

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

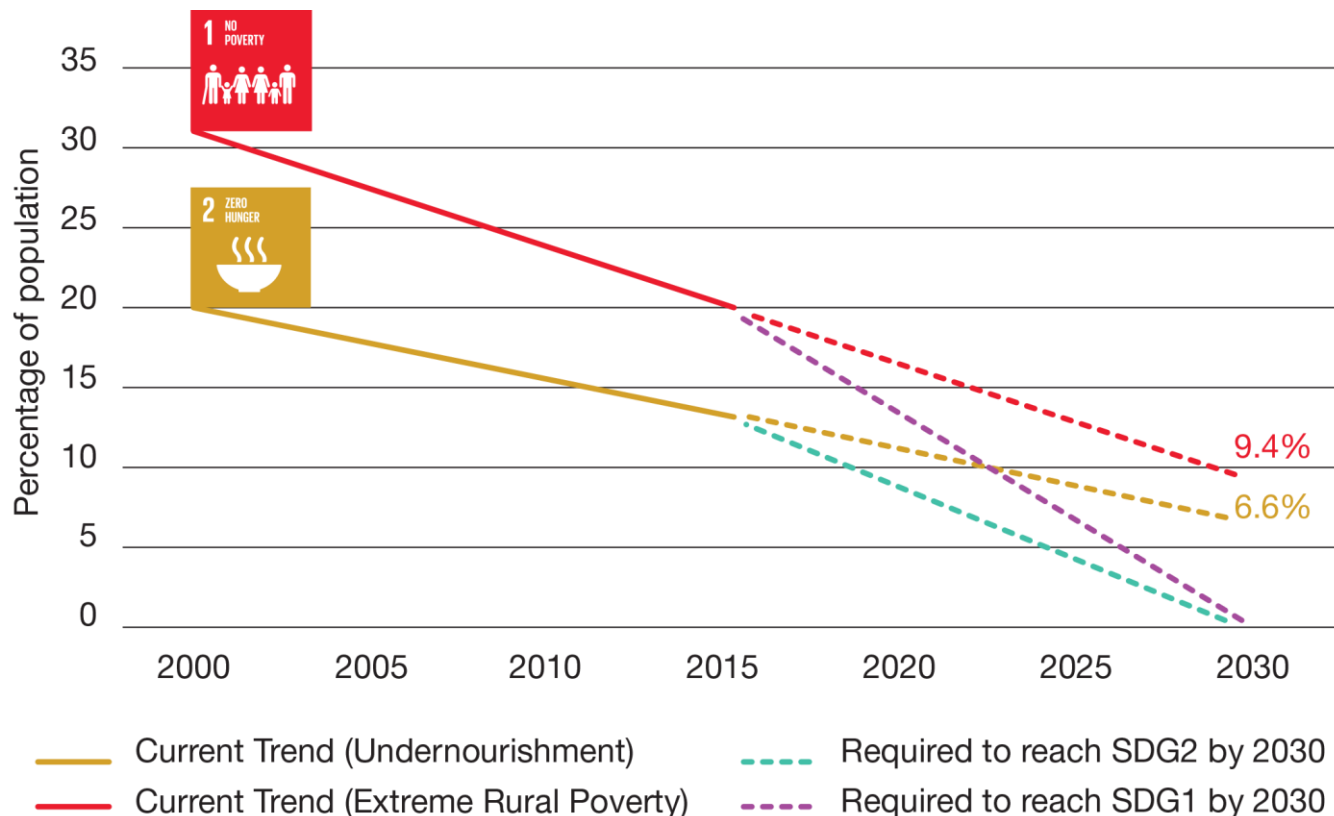
Targets

1. By 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
2. By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition
3. By 2030 double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers
4. By 2030 ensure sustainable and resilient food production systems
5. By 2020 maintain genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species

Means of implementation

- a) Increase investment
- b) Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets
- c) Ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives

Current rates of poverty and hunger reduction and required target



State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2017
Increase in global hunger in 2016

Prevalence of undernourishment
(SDG indicator 2.1.1)
777→815 million people

Prevalence of severe food insecurity
(SDG indicator 2.1.2)
645→689 million people

Addressing SDG2: The role of IFAD

IFAD...

places smallholders and marginalized populations in remote areas at the centre of activities and investments as partners

knows from experience that poor and food insecure rural women and men can be drivers of inclusive and sustainable rural transformation

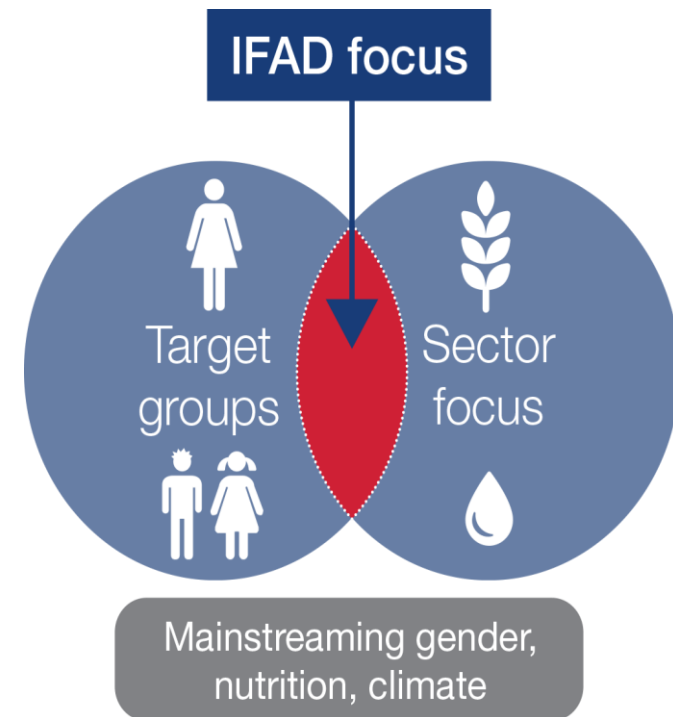
empowers rural people to increase their productivity, income, food security/nutrition and resilience

generates knowledge and employs its capacity to work with governments and other partners to empower rural people

has 40 years experience advocating globally, regionally and nationally for people-centred, pro-poor policies

Addressing SDG2: The IFAD Focus

- Targeting **extremely poor people**
- Strong focus on **women**
- Emphasis on **youth**
- **People** centred
- Investing in **productive rural sector** (agriculture, value chain, infrastructure)
- Fostering growth of rural **institutions**



Key challenges and opportunities for evaluating SDG2

- The SDGs set the agenda for a better world by 2030 and put forward challenges to development practitioners and evaluators alike. But they are not easy to address
- Meeting the SDGs requires new approaches, establishing partnerships, new policy agendas and new sources of financing for sustainable development. And poses also new challenges for evaluation

Key challenges: Indicators & data availability

- Poor countries less engaged in discussion on indicators; agreement on indicators has to be followed by measurement
- Gaps in data collection and knowledge on acute malnutrition and the nutritional status & uneven availability of data between countries
- Complexity & limited ability to measure certain targets: diet quality & sustainability/resilience of agricultural practices
- Lack of disaggregated data and analysis to monitor vulnerable populations and equitable access to food (e.g. migrants, displaced persons, ethnic minorities)
- Need to engage the private sector to achieve the SDGs, including addressing measurement challenges

Key challenges: Limited capacity of M&E systems

- M&E information – level of granularity needed for decision making within the diversity of relevant contexts
- Data systems often politicized – measuring access to food potentially controversial
- Agricultural statistics suffer from limited funding, limited capacity, lack of consistency – and lack of political and institutional commitment
- New solutions include geo-referencing, remote sensing, open source software, mobile technology and crowdsourcing; but information needs to be analyzed & acted upon

Opportunities: Devising a new role for evaluation

- SDG2 targets are impact level and interlinked: require evaluation to identify the theories of change that explain causal pathways to impact, assumptions and multidirectional effects
- SDGs are country-driven: evaluation of country progress on SDGs should be country-driven → new role for evaluation departments of multilateral agencies in Joint evaluation and Supporting country-led evaluation

Opportunities: Strengthening the use of evaluation

- How to achieve the SDGs is context-specific: evaluation needs to help understand what works where, when, at what scale and for whom?
- Evaluation is embedded in a political process: considering the political dimension will enhance the use of evaluation
- Countries may need support to generate knowledge on what works and what doesn't work; and in developing capacity for evaluation “where change can be affected”

Assessing SDG2: Implications for IFAD

- Engagement in Evaluation Capacity Development activities (e.g. Ethiopia, China and support to the CLEAR Initiative)
- Organization of events related to SDG2 evaluability (e.g. technical seminar organised by the evaluation offices of the Rome-based Agencies on November 2015 and the ICT4Eval International Conference of June 2017)
- Increased role of “self-evaluation” (Government) (e.g. Egypt)
- Potential tension between different evaluation agendas, standards and audiences
- Use of national data limited by availability and quality

Conclusions

- Key role of evaluation in the implementation of the SDG agenda: to evaluate the impact of SDG2 will reinforce commitment to improving food security in a sustainable way
- Challenges with data availability, indicators and M&E systems call for further methodological developments and M&E capacity development
- ICT is providing new tools for evaluators to gather, analyse and disseminate information, and changing the way evaluations are conducted
- Evaluation needs more focus on knowledge, to engage meaningfully in issues that are politically driven
- Evolving role of evaluation departments of multilateral agencies

Thank you