EVALUATION MANUAL
SECOND EDITION

WHAT IS IT?

Contains the core methodology that the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) uses to conduct its evaluations.

Guides staff and consultants engaged in evaluation work at IOE.

Serves as a reference document for other IFAD staff and development partners on how evaluation of development programmes in the agriculture and rural development sector is conducted in IFAD.

METHODOLOGICAL FUNDAMENTALS

- Techniques and instruments for data collection
- Analysis and interpretation of data
- Benchmarking, which allows the performance of IFAD to be compared with that of other development organizations
- Evaluation questions and the issue of inter-evaluator variability
- Development of theories of change, which articulate how activities are linked to outcome and impact
EVALUATION CRITERIA AND RATINGS

- Rural poverty impact
- Gender equality and women’s empowerment
- Relevance
- Adaptation to climate change
- Effectiveness
- Environment and natural resources management
- Efficiency
- Innovation and scaling up
- Sustainability of benefits
- Overall project achievement
- Performance of partners

Performance criteria rated using a six-point rating system:

- 6: Highly satisfactory
- 5: Satisfactory
- 4: Moderately satisfactory
- 3: Moderately unsatisfactory
- 2: Unsatisfactory
- 1: Highly unsatisfactory

TYPES OF EVALUATIONS

**Project performance evaluations**
Assessments of project results and impact based on the report validation and a field mission

**Impact evaluations**
Project-level evaluations assessing the performance and impact of an IFAD-funded project in a more quantitative and rigorous manner

**Project completion report validations**
Independent desk reviews of project completion reports

**Corporate-level evaluations**
Assessments of results of IFAD-wide corporate policies, strategies, business processes or related organizational aspects

**Country strategy and programme evaluations**
Assessments of the performance of IFAD-funded operations in a given country. Serves as building block for the preparation of a new IFAD country strategy

**Evaluation synthesis reports**
Facilitate learning and wider use of evaluation findings by identifying and capturing accumulated knowledge on common themes across a variety of evaluation reports and topics such as gender, indigenous peoples and middle-income countries

**Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations**
IOE’s flagship report, gives a consolidated picture on results and impact of IFAD activities, discusses lessons learned, and draws attention to related systemic issues with a view to further enhancing IFAD’s development effectiveness