



2021 Asian Evaluation Week

Transformational Evaluation: Moving
from Uncertainties to Resilience

6-10 September 2021 | Virtual Event

Transformative Pathways to Food Security – Building Resilience to Climate Change

S. Nanthikesan,
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome, Italy
Asian Evaluation Week,
6 September 2021

Key take aways

Evaluations are critical for evidence-based knowledge base of CCA solutions.

1. Agriculture is essential for human life: It is impacted by climate change while also contributing to climate change.
 - Climate adaptation response to ensure 'do no harm' or better: Sustainability
2. Era of business-as-usual approach to Climate Adaptation is over.
 - Transformative CCA solutions are needed to achieve CCA related SDG targets by 2030 and to avoid catastrophic consequences.
3. Many governments face significant challenges to incentivize sustainable climate adaptation response of smallholder farmers.
 - Ensure adequate climate finance & knowledge base of transformative CCA solutions



Challenges to evaluating Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)

- Inadequate conceptual and results framework to track CCA
 - Goal Free evaluation - Assess intended and unintended consequences to ensure environmental sustainability
- Evaluating resilience against expected climate threats (may not actually materialize), particularly when context is evolving rapidly
 - Test where actually threats materialize to verify postulated conceptual model/results framework
- Holistic evaluation approach is needed
 - Climate resilience linked to development resilience;
 - (IFAD's) Project level analysis inadequate to understand the effects at the landscape levels (impact on ecosystem)



Evaluand

**What difference did IFAD interventions make in the ability of smallholders and their communities to adapt to CC?
[Lending & Non-lending]**

To what extent is IFAD equipped to deliver its CCA current and future commitments?



Adapting to COVID Constraints: IOE Strategy

- ❑ National consultants conducted site visits in 12 of 20 country cases
- ❑ Virtual interviews with key stakeholders/beneficiaries (700 + interviewees)
- ❑ Use of geo-spatial data when available
- ❑ Panel of in-country experts reviewed case study findings (select cases)
- ❑ Secondary evidence from Rapid Evidence Assessment



Sources of evidence



Case studies



Learning theme studies



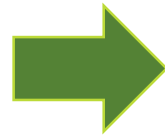
E-surveys



Document and Portfolio review



Secondary Evidence



- ✓ **20** (35 projects – 14% of IFAD climate portfolio, stratified purposive sampling)
- ✓ Knowledge Management, Scaling Up, Human-Natural systems nexus)
- ✓ Online survey (IFAD and project staff)
- ✓ Document Review (Project, Country and Corporate level documents; IOE Evaluations), portfolio analysis
- ✓ **Rapid evidence assessment** (scan of 1330 documents and review of 91 articles, published in scientific and grey literature)
- ✓ Geospatial data (available in five country case studies)



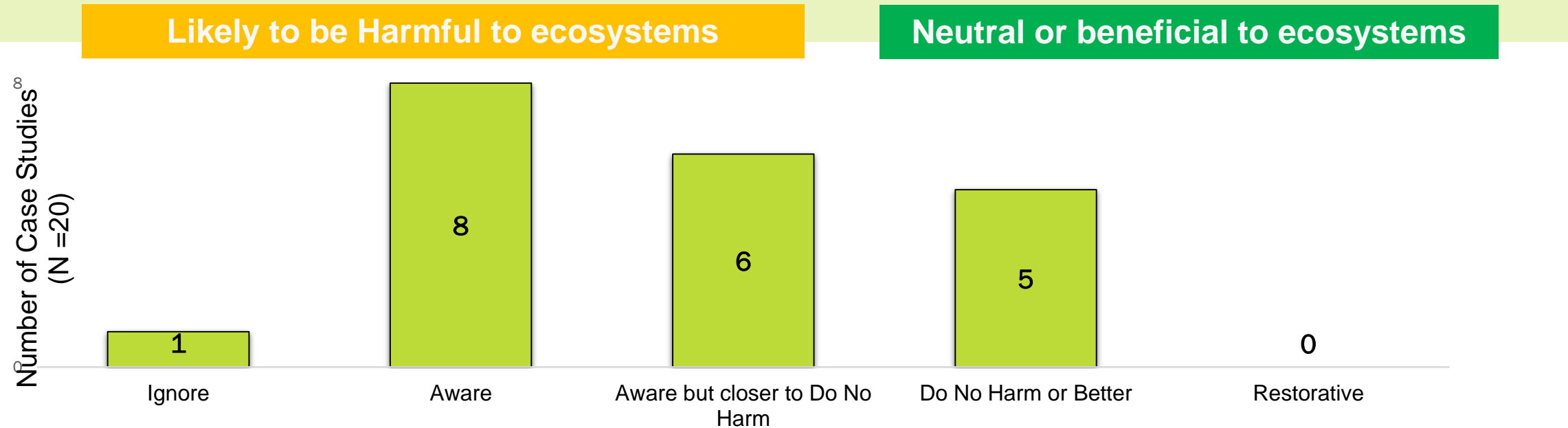
KEY RESULTS: Scaling up CCA



- Success in scaling up depended to a large extent on **the ownership of the government, strength of strategic and high-profile partnerships**, and engagement at design
- **23% of the case study projects were scaled up or likely to be scaled up.**



Sustainability of Climate Adaptation Responses



Successful projects pursued integrated approaches with nature-based solutions

Failure to 'Do No Harm' is likely to lead to low sustainability of benefits of IFAD interventions

A strong subset of IFAD climate projects were performing at or beyond doing no harm



Way forward

- ✓ **Clear Conceptual Framework & Results Focus for CCA interventions**
- ✓ **Promote Win-Win CCA Solutions** = Achieving climate, environmental and economic resilience concurrently
- ✓ Ensuring **right capacities** and **commitment** [within IFAD and Govt.]
- ✓ **Prioritizing KM, Partnerships and scaling up**
- ✓ Establishing a **learning culture** with **adaptive management**





IOE Gratefully Acknowledges the Support Provided for this Evaluation by IFAD and Partners

Core Learning Partnership (CLP) Discussion
Independent Office of Evaluation, IOE

