IOE | IFAD
Investing in rural people

Independent Office of Evaluation

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What Role Should Evaluators Play? Reflections Around Evaluation Policies

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- Until 2002: Office of Evaluation under the Office of the President of IFAD

- First Evaluation Policy: 2003. IOE reports only to the Executive Board, not to Management. Policy covered: **reporting line, authority to issue report, human resources, budget**

  ➢ 2009 Peer Review of Evaluation at IFAD

- Revised Evaluation Policy: 2011. Further provisions on independence (HR)

  ➢ 2019 Second Peer Review of Evaluation at IFAD

- Revised Evaluation Policy: 2021, co-produced by Management and Evaluation and covers <u>independent evaluation and self-evaluation (done by Management)</u>. Sets common goals, fosters collaboration. Maintains all provisions for independence

After the 2021 Policy

- IOE and Management have elaborated their respective **multi-year strategies**, with cross referencing

- 2022 Common **Evaluation Manual** for IOE and Management. Adopts OECD-DAC criteria and adapts them to rural development evaluation context

- Independent Evaluation paying further attention to **knowledge generation**, in addition to accountability

- Independent evaluation broadened **product mix**: more strategic and more learning opportunities -→ **surge in demand for evaluation from Management**

- Joint learning events

- New area of collaboration: strengthening M&E at the project and country level

- Important to **preserve identity**: evaluators; not technical advisors, not communication campaigners

- **No dichotomy between**: (i) independence and collaboration with Management; (ii) independence and learning; (iii) accountability and learning

- Need **engagement** (not politicking!) with Management and the reverse (mutual commitment), with Board and with external partners on: (i) priority topics for evaluations; (ii) timing of evaluations; (iii) learning events & processes; (iv) capacity development for (self-evaluation)

- **More imaginative evaluation product mix**. IOE started diversifying product mix to ensure more learning, in addition to accountability (e.g., cluster project evaluations; sub-regional evaluations; just-in-time evaluations)