

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation
National (in-person) Workshop
06 June 2023 – Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

Closing remarks by Mr Indran Naidoo, IOE – Director

- Excellency Mr the State Minister of agriculture,
- Distinguished Representatives of the Government of Ethiopia,
- Distinguished Representatives of partners' institutions and organizations,
- Dear colleagues,
- Ladies and gentlemen.

The Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD has undertaken an impartial and evidence-based evaluation of IFAD's country strategy and programme of Ethiopia. I believe that today's candid and engaging discussion has provided better insights in order to translate the evaluation findings and lessons into actions for greater impact of IFAD engagement in the country. Moreover, I hope that it has also provided valuable inputs for the finalization of the agreement at completion point - a short document that will summarize the main evaluation recommendations and follow-up actions agreed upon by the Government of Ethiopia and IFAD Management. I also believe that the recommendations will be used to finalize the new Country strategic opportunities programme between IFAD and the Government of Ethiopia.

As we are concluding today's event, which has been a great success, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to the Ethiopian Government officials, especially the State Ministry of Agriculture for having participated to all sessions and chaired the event. I am thankful to my colleagues of IFAD, especially Ms Sara Mbago-Bhunu, Regional Director, and the IFAD country team represented by Mr Mawira Chitima, for their contribution to the effectiveness of this event.

I also thank the project implementation teams and the development partners for their fruitful collaboration throughout the evaluation process, including

this final workshop. To all resource persons who provided insights as panellists during the discussion of today, I do express my sincere appreciation.

Finally, I warmly thank all of you who have participated in this event. Some of the key points discussed today include:

- 1- Key role of farmers, private and government actors;
- 2- Women education is critical to address gender inequality;
- 3- Youths' targeting is core in Ethiopia, as they represent about 70% of the population;
- 4- Need to manage rangelands and watersheds at scale;
- 5- Diversification of livelihoods is essential to build resilience.

I hope that today's workshop will spark further exchange and discussion amongst stakeholders of IFAD-supported country programme that enables a greater impact in Ethiopia in terms of eliminating rural poverty and enabling inclusive and sustainable rural transformation.

Thank you.