

AVP ETHIOPIA CSPE REMARKS

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

1. It is my honour to be here with you to discuss this Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation for Ethiopia. IFAD Associate Vice President, Donal Brown could not be here in person at this esteemed gathering. However, he has entrusted me with the responsibility to share his thoughts on this important occasion.

Ladies and gentlemen,

2. This is the third CSPE for the country, and I would like to thank the Independent Office of Evaluation for this rigorous evaluation, and for ensuring a participatory approach to the evaluation, despite the limitations imposed by prevailing conflicts in some project sites.
3. The comprehensive analysis shows strong results in institutional and policy changes policy, economic resilience in fragile regions, improved human and social capital.
4. Given the emphasis we place on learning and continuous improvement, I was also pleased to note the progress over time in building coherence of projects across the portfolio, which has informed policy decisions for instance in relation to agro-pastoral and pastoral systems.
5. Nevertheless, we must always strive to do better and the CSPE usefully highlights several areas for improvement, with the overarching goal for enhanced development effectiveness and sustainable rural development in the country.
6. Driven by more effective scaling-up of effective and innovative practices, and coherent activities within and across projects, we must increase our focus on strengthening climate resilience,

irrigation infrastructure, and converting our progress on gender into widespread transformative outcomes.

7. What also really stands out from the analysis is the need to upscale or replicate the implementation of the gender transformative approach to other projects.
8. The new COSOP that will be presented to the Executive Board in December 2023 will fully internalize all the five core CSPE recommendations that are drawn from the findings.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to highlight how we plan to address some recommendations made by the IOE

9. In responding to the first recommendation of ensuring pro-poor value chain development, we will achieve this by combining efforts to improve infrastructure and promote market integration for smallholders and strengthening farmers' cooperatives, which will in turn empower smallholder farmers, and create sustainable and inclusive agricultural systems.
10. Furthermore, in response to the second CSPE recommendation of enhancing resilience building especially in remote fragile rural areas, we will ensure the next COSOP will expand our work on increased access to basic services with the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices to other remote and fragile rural areas. This will enable them to effectively cope with shocks and stresses while ensuring sustainable development and improved livelihoods.
11. We will continue to collaborate with government institutions and foster partnerships with financial institutions to consolidate and sustain achievements in financial inclusion. This approach will enhance access to affordable and appropriate financial services, promote financial literacy, and empower

individuals and communities to improve their economic well-being and achieve sustainable development.

12. The fourth recommendation on upscaling the implementation of the gender transformative approach to other projects will be addressed by merging efforts to conduct gender analysis and build capacity and awareness to expand the implementation of the gender-transformative approach. This will enable us to address the root causes of gender inequality, promote women's empowerment, and create more inclusive and equitable agricultural programs and policies.

13. To address the final recommendation on facilitating the sharing of lessons to enhancing the consolidation of results achieved within the programme and the national agriculture sector, we will continue to organize knowledge-sharing events through workshops, seminars, and conferences to provide a platform for stakeholders to share their experiences, challenges, and innovative solutions. These events will facilitate interactive discussions, presentations, and panel sessions where participants can learn from each other, showcase their achievements, and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Ladies and gentlemen

14. Once again, I would like to thank IOE for their thorough and useful review. I am confident that, in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia, we will make the most of the lessons learned and recommendations to generate greater impact.

Thank you!