

---

*IFAD Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation (CSPE) National workshop Opening remark by, H.E. Prof. Eyasu Elias, State Minister, MoA  
06 June 2023, Addis Ababa*

---

- Your Excellency W/ro Semerita Sewasew, State Minister of the Ministry of Finance;
- Mr. Indran Naidoo, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD;
- Mr Donal Brown, Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department of IFAD
- Ms. Sara Mgbago, IFAD East and Southern Africa Regional Director

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and that of my own, I welcome you all to this Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation Workshop. The objective of the meeting is to deliberate on the findings and recommendations of the third country-level evaluation of the third COSOP period implementation covering the period 2016-2022. The evaluation was carried out by the IFAD's Independent office of Evaluation, and the findings and recommendations will inform the design of COSOP IV. The feedbacks from stakeholders will inform the design of the fourth COSOP (2023-2029) which will be aligned with the government priorities.

The purpose of COSOP design is to provide a longer-term vision for IFAD's engagement in the country, and to guide the evolution of the country programme to its envisaged new structure. The last COSOP was designed in 2015 to guide the implementation of the flagship programmes PASIDP II, Rural Financial Intermediation Programme (RUUFIP), among others that were implemented during 2016-2022 period. The GoE, IFAD, and the co-financers have invested over 1.8 Billion USD to implement these programmes benefiting 5.5 million smallholder farmers, and pastoral communities. The key investment areas included: (1) small-scale irrigation development; (2) sustainable natural resource management; (3) rural financial inclusion; and (4) community-driven development among pastoral communities.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Independent Office of Evaluation has been keenly reviewing the overall success and gaps in the implementation of the previous COSOP in terms of achievement of goal, its Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, and overall impact. Overall, positive results were reported for land rehabilitation, access to finance and social services, and increased crop yields mainly due to improved access to irrigation water.

The evaluation result also highlighted some areas for improvement including access to markets; private sector involvement in the commodity value chains; capacity development at the grassroots levels, especially infrastructure development; and gender inclusiveness at all level.

COSOP IV, will, therefore, build on the success stories and lessons learned while at the same time addressing the identified gaps and weaknesses of the previous COSOP. Some of the areas which the new COSOP will be focusing on include:

- **Value chain development**- The design of the older COSOP focused on the upstream supply chain part of the value chain such as boosting production leaving gaps in the downstream segments of the value chain such as storage, processing and marketing) aspects;
- **Related to the value chain development again requires** capacity building for farmers' cooperatives and enhancing the linkage between producer cooperatives with financial cooperatives to create effective access to credit so that financial inclusion of targeted communities will be expanded;
- **Resilience building** focusing on the development of adaptive capacities by strengthening the agricultural systems to include effective coping mechanisms and alternative solutions for improved and sustained livelihoods;
- **Replicate the implementation** of successful approaches such as the Gender Model family approach; Integrated approach for catchment treatment with water access focusing on landscape rehabilitation;
- **Enhance the co-financing** to mobilize more resources to reach out more needy communities;

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The MoA is calling upon all actors and partners to unite and form coalitions around these clusters of challenges to realize increased agricultural productivity. Within the natural resources development sector of MoA, we are focusing on landscape level natural resources management including crop fields, grazing lands, forest lands, wetlands and forest lands centred around water bodies. At the moment, the Ministry is in the process of revising the Ethiopian Strategic Investment Framework which serves as a framework document to guide investments in flagship programmes. I would therefore, request the COSOP design team to refer the ESIF document for alignment.

I would like to assure you of the full commitment of the Ministry of Agriculture to facilitate the COSOP IV design and coordinate subsequent programs of IFAD's work in Ethiopia. The Ministry stands out ready to collaborate with relevant stakeholders at all levels in implementing the identified interventions.

Finally, I would like to encourage all stakeholder representatives to actively contribute for the success of the meeting. The results will enrich the preparation of the upcoming COSOP, aligned with the ten years of perceptive development plan of the country.

With this, I now declare the meeting is officially open.

I thank you