Evaluation – introduction

The Bhutan Country Programme Evaluation - evaluation of FAO collaboration with Bhutan - has started with the fielding of the Inception Mission (11-19 October 2017) led by Ms Nanae Yabuki from the Office of Evaluation (OED), FAO Headquarters. The FAO Country Office (CO) welcomes this timely initiative from the management as it will have many-fold benefits for the country and CO. The evaluation report will immensely contribute to the preparation of CO’s next five-year Country Programming Framework (CPF); it forms FAO’s inputs to the UN Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) and the Sustainable Development Goals. The evaluation will provide good analysis for identifying priority areas and actions for next CPF, making it more relevant and effective. The next CPF cycle will be aligned with the Twelfth Five-Year Plan (12FYP) of the Royal Government of Bhutan and the UNSDPF. The evaluation of the country programme will be conducted back-to-back with the formulation of next CPF.

Why program evaluation?

The Office of Evaluation after consultation with the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, has decided to evaluate FAO’s contribution to Bhutan. The objective of the evaluation will be to identify the lessons learned and best practices for consideration by the Government, FAO and development partners for the forthcoming CPF planning. The evaluation will make forward-looking recommendations based on evidence and analysis.

What will be covered?

The evaluation will cover from 2014-2017, aligning the current CPF. It will assess the activities funded through Trust Funds and FAO’s own resources such as the Technical Cooperation Program. It will assess national, regional and global programs relevant to the country.

This evaluation will assess FAO’s strategic relevance in the country in terms of response to national needs and challenges within the areas of FAO’s mandate and comparative advantage. In addition, it will evaluate the strategic positioning of FAO in terms of partnerships, program coherence, synergies with other development actors, and pursuit of UN norms and standards such as gender equality.

The Inception Mission

The main expected result of this mission will be a report, outlining the focus areas of coverage by the coming Evaluation Mission. Based on the meetings and discussions the mission had with relevant stakeholders in the country, a detailed terms-of-reference for the next mission will be prepared with clear purpose, focus areas, and envisaged results.

Prior to Mission’s departure, Ms Yabuki had skype discussion with FAO Representative stationed in Kathmandu. While in the country, she met with both Minister and Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and some other senior government officials, projects staff, and selected development partners in the country, including the UN Resident Coordinator. In between the appointments, Ms

1 New name for Bhutan’s next UNDAF
Yabuki had wide range of discussions with CO staff.

The Mission also went to field, accompanied by Mr. Chadho Tenzin, Assistant FAO Representative, and visited TCP project office on rice productivity at Bajo, and participated in the 2017 World Food Day Celebration hosted by Damphu Central School in Tsirang District. During the celebration, Ms Yabuki met and interacted with Lyonpo Yeshey Dorji, Hon’ble Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Mr Karma Tshering, Director General from Ministry of Education, Ms Kinlay Tshering, Director of Department of Agriculture, and numerous senior officials for interactions. The WFD celebration had also arranged stalls to exhibit local farm products, products from school agriculture gardens, new initiatives from research centres including quinoa dishes, products from rural development banks, etc. The Mission had excellent opportunities for witnessing these exhibits and interacting with them.