



# Skills development for poverty alleviation

SHARING IFAD EXPERIENCES IN TECHNICAL  
AND VOCATIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

International consultation

22-23 June 2011

IFAD headquarters, Rome, Italy

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



# AGENDA

Wednesday, 22 June 2011

Capacity-building and technical and vocational skills development (TVSD) represent a large share of IFAD's portfolio and account for at least 35 per cent of all its activities. Training activities are linked not only to agricultural intensification and production, but also to the rural non-farm economy through income-generating activities, marketing and financial services.

More than 4.3 million people have benefited from training through IFAD-supported programmes and projects since 2005, according to information provided by the Results and Impact Management System (RIMS).

For many years, agricultural education and TVSD have been largely overlooked by national institutions and the donor community. Strengthening the individual and collective capabilities of poor rural women and men and young people increases their capacity to participate in and to fully benefit from mainstream economic development, which helps to foster new economic opportunities in rural areas. Investing in the skills of poor rural people is crucial to building their capacity to cope more effectively with crisis situations and food and environmental challenges.

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8.30-9.00 a.m. Registration of participants

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9.00-9.30 a.m. Opening statements

- Henock Kifle (Chief Development Strategist, Office of the Strategy and Knowledge Management, IFAD)  
Presentation of the workshop programme, its objectives and expected results
- Maria Hartl (Technical Adviser, Gender and Social Equity, IFAD)

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9.30-10.30 a.m.

**Panel 1: The training landscape – training, skills development and capacity-building in operations supported by IFAD**

The panel will discuss the landscape of extension services, vocational training, skills development and capacity-building in agriculture and rural development, starting with the quantitative analyses of recent IFAD investments in training and capacity-building and outcomes.

Moderator: Edward Heinemann (Acting Country Programme Manager, IFAD)

Presenters:

- Frédérique Weyer (Network for Policy Research, Review and Advice on Education and Training [NORRAG], Geneva)
- Kenneth King (Network for Policy Research, Review and Advice on Education and Training [NORRAG], Edinburgh)

Discussant:

- Lavinia Gasperini (Education for Rural People, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO])

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10.30-11.00 a.m. Coffee break

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11.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.

**Panel 2: Training planning and extension services – challenges in targeting the rural poor**

This panel will present the findings of case studies undertaken in Bangladesh and The Sudan. In Bangladesh, the focus was on a comprehensive training programme for small-scale hatchery technicians. The Sudan case study dealt with skills development in food processing, livestock production and training of animal health agents, and the economic and social returns.

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Moderator: Tom Anyonge (Senior Technical Adviser, Rural Institutions, IFAD)

Presenters:

- Edward Mallorie (consultant): Evaluation of training provided in IFAD-supported projects in Bangladesh
- Asha Oshik (Programme Officer, Gash Sustainable Livelihoods Regeneration Project, The Sudan): Training pastoralists in The Sudan

Discussant:

- Kristin Davis (Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services [GFRAS], Switzerland)
- Silim Nahdy (National Agricultural Advisory Services [NAAS], Kampala, Uganda)

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1.00-2.00 p.m. Lunch

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2.00-4.00 p.m.

## **Panel 3: Vocational training and apprenticeship programmes – innovative approaches**

This panel will provide insights into innovative approaches in vocational training and apprenticeship programmes. It will discuss the transfer of knowledge, transition to employment or business creation, viability of enterprises and sustainability. Case studies from Ghana and Rwanda will be presented.

Moderator: Sean Kennedy (Technical Advisor, Human Health & Nutrition, IFAD)

Presenters:

- Ernest Laryea Okorley (University of Cape Coast, Ghana): Training approaches and outcomes in Ghana
- Claus Reiner (Country Programme Manager, IFAD): Informal apprenticeship training in Rwanda

Discussant:

- Inez Wijngaarde (Senior Industrial Development Officer, United Nations Industrial Development Organization [UNIDO], Vienna)

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4.00-4.30 p.m. Coffee Break

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4.30-5.30 p.m. General discussion

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## Thursday, 23 June 2011

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9.00-9.30 a.m.

Looking back at day one – main findings presented by rapporteurs

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9.30-11.00 a.m.

### **Panel 4: Strengthening links to policies and private sector**

The panel will discuss how training and skills development programmes need to be linked to the policy level. In Madagascar, training activities were linked to overall policies for vocational training and skills development.

Moderator: Rodney Cooke (Director, Policy and Technical Advisory Division, IFAD)

Presenters:

- Mara Girardi (consultant) and Andrés Silva Mora (Programme Director, Programa Oportunidades Rurales): Training programmes for rural youth in Colombia
- Michel Carton (consultant): Scaling up apprenticeship programmes in Madagascar

Discussant:

- François Leclercq (Research Officer, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization [UNESCO], Paris)

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11.00-11.15 a.m. Coffee break

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11.15-12.45 a.m.

Group discussion and general discussion on recommendations  
Concluding remarks

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1.00-2.00 p.m.

Refreshments

Lunchtime seminar: “The geopolitics of training” – Presentation by Kenneth King and Michel Carton, Network for Policy Research, Review and Advice on Education and Training (NORRAG)\*

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3.00-4.30 p.m. Closed meeting on follow-up actions

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\* Norrag News is available, free of charge, on <http://norrage.org/>

Under its Initiative for Mainstreaming Innovation (IMI), IFAD undertook an analysis of training activities and identified innovative approaches in its programmes. Field studies were carried out in Bangladesh, Colombia, Ghana, Madagascar, Rwanda and The Sudan to review training and skills development activities, and to assess their effectiveness in increasing beneficiaries' incomes and empowerment. The initiative was successful in examining both the actual and the prospective roles of training in IFAD-supported operations for the rural poor, and identifying innovative ways to improve results through a better selection of training methods tailored to their needs and a better monitoring system for outcome and impact.

IFAD's Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA) and the Office of Strategy and Knowledge Management (SKM) are organizing an international consultation on the role of training in IFAD-supported programmes and projects. International partners and experts will present and discuss findings and innovative experiences based on the field studies carried out on IFAD programmes in Bangladesh, Colombia, Ghana, Madagascar, Rwanda and The Sudan.

The consultation will help give important feedback to IFAD on TVSD, including agricultural extension services and capacity-building in its programmes. It will also contribute to the debate on improving the quality, outcome and impact of training in IFAD programmes, and make recommendations for project design and scaling up of interventions on TVSD. And it will provide an opportunity for institutional organizations and research institutions to strengthen their partnerships in these areas.

Organized by:  
Initiative for Mainstreaming Innovation  
Office of Strategy and Knowledge Management  
Policy and Technical Advisory Division

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