Online event

How do innovative evaluations contribute to achieving SDG2?

4 June, 15:00 PM Rome time

Session notes

Event organized by the evaluation offices of FAO, IFAD and WFP
with the support of EvalForward

Eval Forward
Evaluation for Food Security, Agriculture & Rural Development

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

IFAD
Investing in rural people

WFP
World Food
Programme
wfp.org

About this event

In the context of gLOCAL Evaluation Week 2020, the evaluation offices of FAO, IFAD and WFP with the support of EvalForward, organized an online learning event on innovative methods and approaches in evaluation. It looked, specifically, at how innovations can provide lessons for progress under SDG2, *"End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture"*.

The event drew on recent and ongoing work from the Offices of Evaluation of the organizing agencies and focused on:
- innovative techniques and approaches in evaluation, including, how evaluation is adapting to the current context of the pandemic;
- lessons learned on innovations for inclusive and sustainable smallholder agriculture and community-driven development.

Format

The event opened with a keynote presentation by Masahiro Igarashi, Chair of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) and FAO Director of Evaluation.
Participants joined one of the three parallel sessions, each with a thematic presentation followed by a Q&A and group work on the main takeaways and messages from the discussion.
Presenters from each session later shared the takeaways and lessons in plenary.

Link to recording

https://youtu.be/XOuQ-hGFHWM

Agenda

Topic	Speakers	Recording times
Welcome	Renata Mirulla (EvalForward)	00':00" – 04':48"
Keynote: **Complexity and innovation in the evaluation of SDG2**	Masahiro Igarashi (Director of FAO Office of Evaluation and Chair of UNEG)	04':49" – 13':00"
Parallel session 1: **Innovative approaches and tools for evaluation**	Hansdeep Khaira (IFAD) and Carlos Tarazona (FAO)	14':30" – 57':10"
Parallel session 2: **Learning from experience: Community-driven development approaches and innovations**	Johanna Pennarz (IFAD) and Maximin Kouessi Kodjio (IFAD)	57':11" – 1h:43'
Parallel session 3: **Going visual in a virtual world – how visualization is bringing greater engagement to evaluation discussions**	Yumiko Kanemitsu (WFP) and Keisuke Taketani, facilitation and visualization expert	1h:43' – 2h:29'
Plenary on lessons learned and conclusions	Aurelie Larmoyer with presenters of each session	2h:29' – 2h:45'

Session 1: Innovative approaches and tools for evaluation

Overview

This session focused on innovative tools and approaches which evaluations of agriculture and food security programmes can adopt in times of crisis, whether brought on by COVID-19 or other factors. The discussion emphasized the importance of adaptability while presenting alternatives to traditional data collection methods. Several innovative tools, including geospatial data collection and analysis, participatory approaches such as SenseMaker and the "Good Enough" approach were discussed during the session.
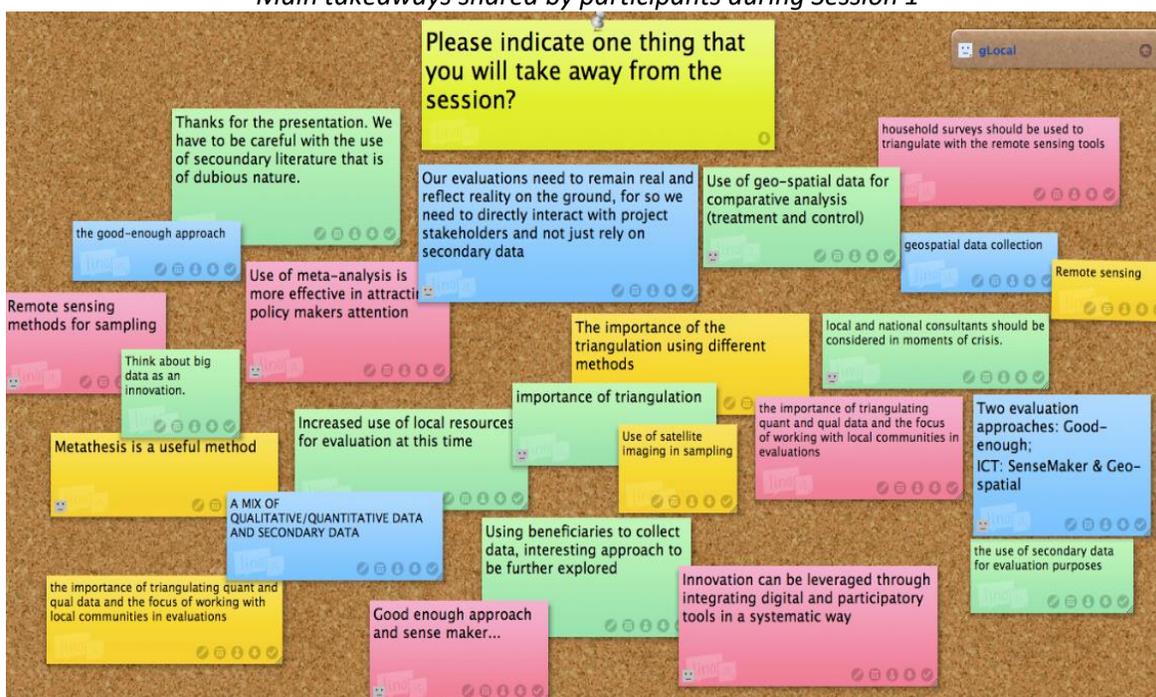
Speakers

Carlos Tarazona, senior evaluation officer, Office of Evaluation, FAO

Hansdeep Khaira, evaluation officer, Independent Office of Evaluation, IFAD

Facilitators

Sarah Faber, evaluation analyst, Office of Evaluation, FAO

Wenxin Zhang, evaluation analyst, Office of Evaluation, FAO

Presentation: www.evalforward.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/Session1-Innovations.pdf

Main takeaways shared by participants during Session 1

References

- Synthesize data from one or more evaluations, Better Evaluation brief: www.betterevaluation.org/sites/default/files/Synthesize%20-%20Compact.pdf
- FAO evaluation reports and management responses: www.fao.org/evaluation

- IFAD Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD operations (ARRI): www.ifad.org/it/web/ioe/arri
- 3ie's evidence maps: www.3ieimpact.org/evidence-hub/evidence-gap-maps
- 3ie systematic review repository: www.3ieimpact.org/evidence-hub/systematic-review-repository
- Campbell Systematic Reviews: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/18911803
- Synthesis of WFP's country portfolio evaluations in Africa (2016-2018) www.wfp.org/publications/synthesis-wfps-country-portfolio-evaluations-africa-2016-2018
- Synthesis of Four Evaluations of the Impact of WFP Programmes on Nutrition in Humanitarian Contexts in the Sahel (2018) www.wfp.org/publications/four-evaluations-impact-wfp-programmes-nutrition-humanitarian-contexts-sahel-synthesis
- Meta-syntheses of UNODC's evaluation reports: www.unodc.org/unodc/en/evaluation/meta-analyses.html
- Presentation on geospatial analysis by IFAD's Independent Office of Evaluation at the 2018 European Evaluation Society Biennial Conference www.ifad.org/en/web/ioe/event/asset/40778736
- Use of geospatial analysis in conducting impact evaluation in Georgia by IFAD's Independent Office of Evaluation www.ifad.org/en/web/ioe/evaluation/asset/39824042
- About SenseMaker: https://sensemaker.cognitive-edge.com/what-is-sensemaker
- Use of SenseMaker in the Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation by IFAD's IOE: www.ifad.org/documents/38714182/40258305/Cameroun+ESPP+Final+document_2018.pdf/f8477e1b-0ad4-4ea4-8458-0346b28ed6eb

Session 2: Learning from experience: Community-driven development approaches and innovations

Overview
This session highlighted the importance of community-driven approaches for inclusive and sustainable development. The presenters shared lessons from recent IFAD evaluations of community-driven development (CDD). CDD has been an innovative approach promoted by IFAD in many countries. CDD is an effective way to provide infrastructure, improve social cohesion, and reduce conflict in fragile situations. It enhances the effectiveness and impact of interventions in the agri-food systems. It improves the sustainability of development interventions.
The presentation was well received and triggered a lively discussion. Participants were particularly interested in issues of conflict resolution, social cohesion and gender inclusion. The discussion concluded that qualitative and participatory approaches to evaluation are better suited to measure the intangible social outcomes of CDD, such as social cohesion.

Speakers
Johanna Pennarz, lead evaluation officer at the Independent Office of Evaluation, IFAD
Kouessi Maximin Kodjo, lead evaluation officer at the Independent Office of Evaluation, IFAD

Facilitators
Emilia Bretan, evaluation manager, Office of Evaluation, FAO
Renata Mirulla, facilitator of EvalForward

Presentation: www.evalforward.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/Session2-CDD.pdf

Community-driven development – a people-centered approach

References
- Blog post: *Struggling to prove the obvious – How can evaluations show that community-driven development works?* www.evalforward.org/blog/CDD
- Community-driven development in IFAD-supported projects www.ifad.org/en/web/ioe/evaluation/asset/41898431

Session 3: Going visual in a virtual world – how visualization is bringing greater engagement to evaluation discussions

Overview

WFP's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBB) introduced its new project called "EvaluVision", which is a visual thinking evaluation facilitation method, designed to enhance the utility of the evaluations. WFP RBB used the method at the evaluation validation workshops validating the evaluation findings and recommendations with the stakeholders in Bangladesh, Laos and Myanmar. In the session, WFP RBB presented the example of the recently conducted online visual thinking evaluation validation workshop in Myanmar, and how an online validation workshop can be conducted in a meaningful way, using the graphic facilitation.

Speakers

Yumiko Kanemitsu, Regional Evaluation Officer, WFP
Keiisuke Taketani, facilitation and visualisation expert

Facilitators

Federica Bottamedi, communication expert, Office of Evaluation, FAO

Richard Allen, communication officer, Office of Evaluation, WFP

Presentation: www.evalforward.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/Session3-Visual-Facilitation.pdf

Visual facilitation of Session 3 by Keisuke Taketani

References
- Blog post: *Can visual thinking facilitate evaluation? WFP's innovative approach to validation workshops* www.evalforward.org/blog/visual-thinking
- Video: Go Visual! Evaluation of school feeding programme in Bangladesh www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs5IVIisdXc&feature=emb_logo
- Video: Visual thinking evaluation workshop in Lao PDR www.youtube.com/watch?v=cikrm5swbQ4&feature=emb_logo
- Video: Visual thinking goes online: evaluation workshop in Myanmar www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZPdK_ux0FI&feature=emb_logo