Sustainability-inclusive evaluations in agriculture

EvalForEarth&FootPrint Evaluation gLocal2025 Event

Luisa Belli, FAO Office of Evaluation luisa.belli@fao.org

Theory of Change:

Frames transformative evaluations aligned with corporate policies, high level goals and standards: e. g. SDGs, Paris Agreement, and the Global Biodiversity Framework.

E&S Safeguards as an opportunity:

Detect sustainability risks (e.g., biodiversity loss, pollution) and lack of inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in their role of custodian of natural resources

Evaluation Quality:

Early evaluation and baseline design in alignment with OED strategy (accountability for learning) – measures results, produces evidence and guides decisions. Byproduct – better M&E (closer collaboration with evaluation teams)

Rigorous Q&A processes

Geo-Spatial analysis:

Combine field and spatial data and address polygon data gaps in GEF/GCF portfolios.

Opportunities for collaboration

- ▶ Generate evidence
- address links between environmental and social factors.
- measure biodiversity and restoration with cultural and ecological lenses.
- ▶ Identify simple indicators &build synergies
- develop shared biodiversity indicators and apply them in geospatial platforms (example ABC Maps _ FAO/IFAD)
- Learn more around complexity

Unpack agrifood systems and co-construct sustainability narratives.

▶ Conclusion:

sustainability-inclusive evaluation is not just about better tools—it is about building shared understanding, aligning timing and data, and co-constructing evaluation narratives that reflect the depth of transformation we aim to support.

