



# Generate Evidence & Assess Impacts for Beneficiaries and Donors: Evidence from IFAD

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11:30 AM - 12:30 PM - Room 103 (Level 1)

# Objectives

1. International Development – Using evidence to measure and create impact for beneficiaries and donors
2. How funding organizations can generate and use evidence to show donors the real impact of their work and empower donors to make informed decisions
3. How IFAD monitors and generates evidence from own projects, from internally and externally generated knowledge, builds a culture of learning and progress towards results.

# IFAD : International Fund for Agriculture Development

- an IFI with a specific mandate of the UN Agency
- **provides low-interest loans and grants** to developing countries to finance rural development projects and programmes that enable rural poor to improve their food security and nutrition, to increase their incomes and to strengthen their resilience
- Not owned by gvts => Voluntary contributions
- “**DD**” - “IFAD is a **Donor** and receives funds from **Donors**”
- Impact for Beneficiaries & informed decisions for Donors

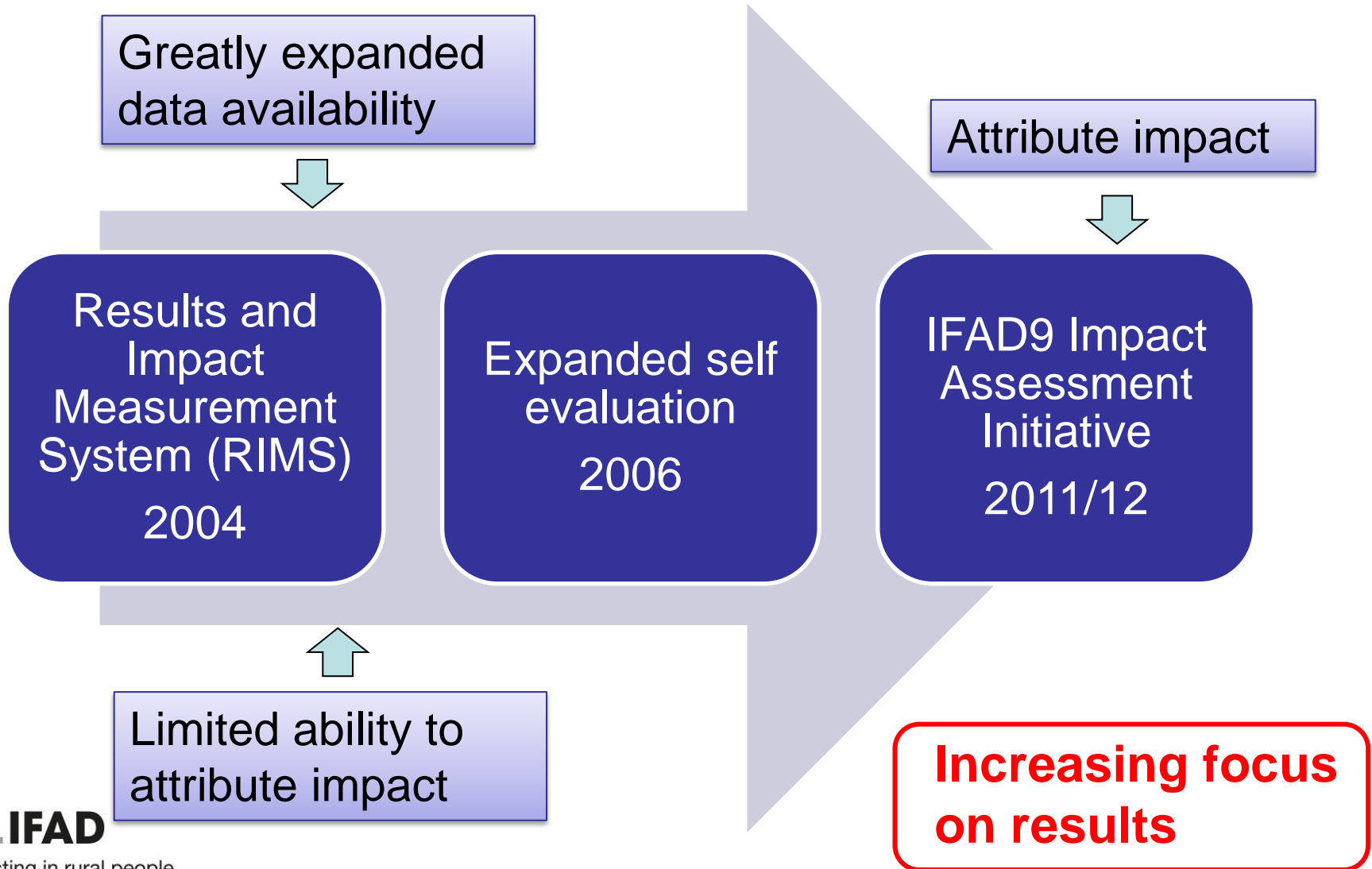
# Generation of evidence at the project and corporate level is central for learning and accounting

- SDGs 2015: Importance of thinking through indicators and to develop measurement framework that allows countries to report results
- Supporting Development is generate evidence at the individual (project) level but it is also managing effectively Development Institutions.
- IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025: assess scientifically with rigorous analysis not only the impact assessment of individual project but of the institution as a whole. **Bottom up approach: from project to institution**

# Corporate-Level Impact Assessment for Donors

- Crucial to justify funding to an institution and for funding dvpt.
- Important to ensure accountability versus donors and client countries for funds provided to dvpt. Inst.
- Generates systematic thinking about an institution overall portfolio. It helps at understanding whether a corporation “is doing the right things” rather than “doing things right”

# Evolution to Measuring Results in IFAD



# Attribution versus Contribution

- Measuring impact = Assessing Attribution

⇒ Attribution: Ability to claim that an impact on an indicator is the result of an investment

⇒ Contribution: monitoring a key indicator and determining whether it is varying on the desired direction as a result of the inv. made.

# Design and conduction of IA

1. **Attributing impact is not possible without a reasonable counterfactual**
2. Obtaining a reasonable counterfactual requires careful understanding of the project **(TOC)** and a careful **data collection strategy and method selection**
3. **Development of IA plan in collaboration with Project Management Unit**
  1. Strategy
  2. Sampling
  3. Questions to answer
  4. Indicators
  5. Approach
4. **Data collection**
5. **Analysis**
6. **Dissemination**



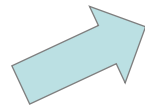
# Attributing impact

*Attribution requires:*  
Two groups that are similar except one gets the project

Elegible population

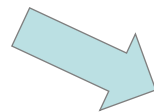


WITH project



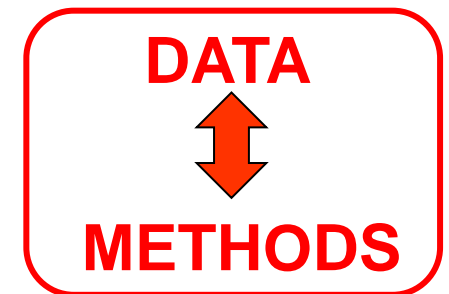
Treatment group

WITHOUT project



Control group

Difference in indicator is the impact



# Corporate-Level IA Requirement

- Move from IA on Project to Corporate IA
- The key objective of measuring corporate-level impact is to determine whether investments allowed the institution to reach its targets
- Aggregation: Corporate impact requires that indicators can be measured and aggregated across interventions
- Many projects different objectives difficult and costly to aggregate.
- Identify a rigorous and sound methodology to assess impact (quasi-experimental ex post IA)
- Extrapolation and projection of the potential impact to the entire portfolio

# Steps for Measuring Corporate Performance

1. Identify Indicators that reflect IFAD's corporate strategic objectives
2. Determining targets for those indicators that reflect IFAD's approach to dvpt. as represented in its pf.
3. Create a system of measuring whether targets are reached

# IFAD Impact Assessment Agenda - IFAD10 10<sup>th</sup> Replenishment (2016-2018)

## Measurement of impact

- ✓ Review of the Portfolio. Focus on a Corporate Target **# of people experiencing economic mobility**
  - SO1: Production
  - SO2: Markets
  - SO3: Resilience
- ✓ Indicators linked to SOs and SDGs
- ✓ Targets based on focus of portfolio

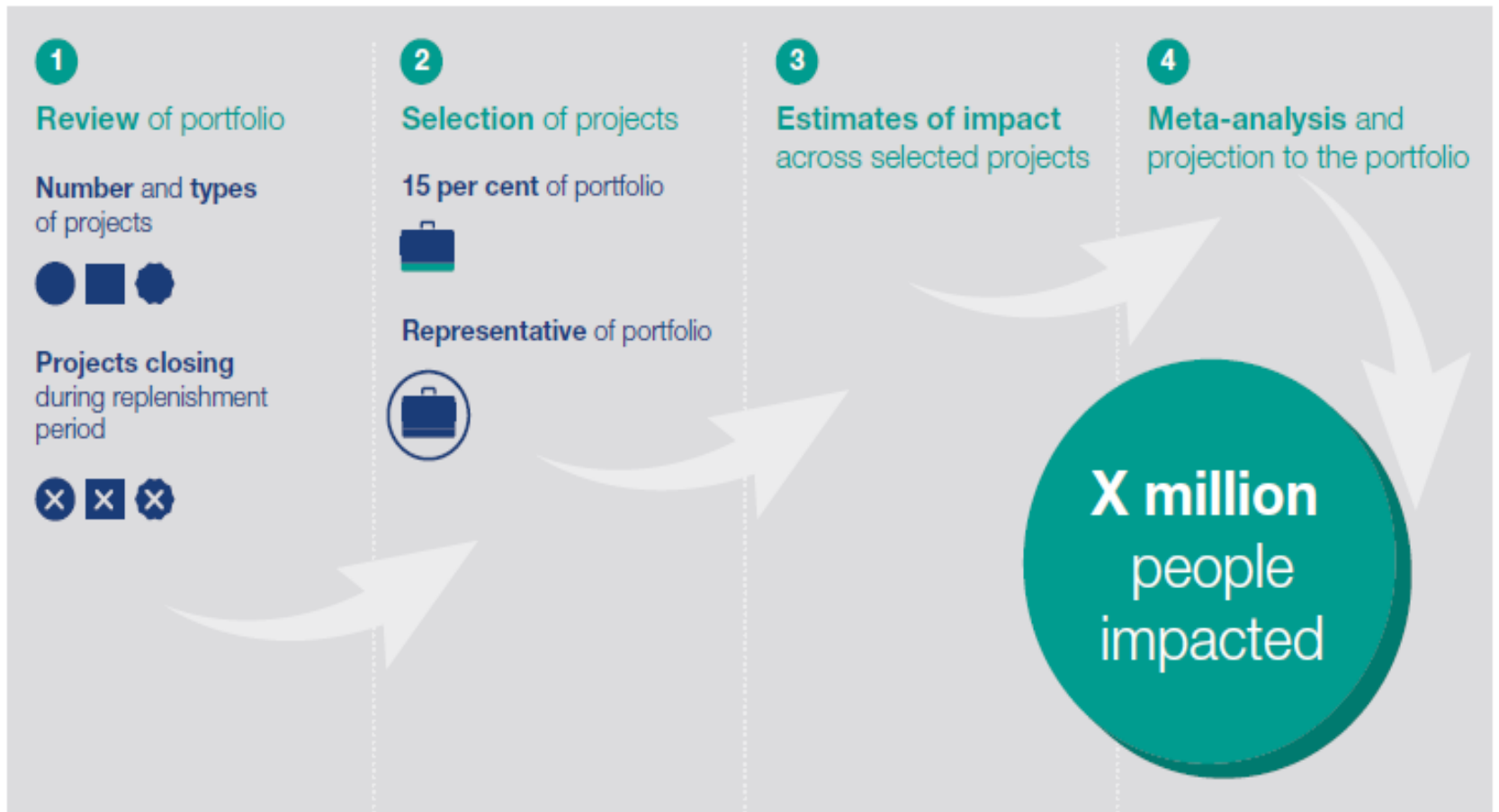
## Impact assessment plan

- ✓ 15% of portfolio with impact assessments
- ✓ Focus on non-exp. ex post IA
- ✓ Project selection
  - i. Learning
  - ii. Feasibility
  - iii. Buy-in
  - iv. Portfolio distribution

## Corporate reporting

- ✓ Estimate Impact across projects
- ✓ Implement a Meta-Analysis
- ✓ Impact: Projection to portfolio based on:
  - Portfolio analysis
  - Impact assessments
- ✓ Outcomes: Synthesis of lessons learned from impact assessments

# From Project to Aggregate Corporate Impact



# IFAD11: Solving the last mile problem: Learn to communicate results

## PRODUCERS

- Graduate Students/Research Fellows
- Academics
- Research Centres
- National Public and Private Institutions devoted to agric. Research

## CONSUMERS/USERS

- global governance organizations
- donors
- national government policymakers,
- private sector (multinational)
- private sector (national/local)
- civil society organizations/NGO
- individual producers and consumers, particularly the poor



# Transform IA into Policy

**Producers**



**Consumers**

## **Knowledge “Translation”**

### **Collaboration, Communication, Integration, Wide Dissemination**

- Reduce the “distance” between rigorous research by producers and fuzzy information of consumer, donors or policy maker
- Push for collaboration between research and policy
- Close the communication gap
- Ensure integration of research into policy
- Provide and ensure wide dissemination of the results

# IIFAD11: closing the communication gap

- EX ANTE: We promote Legitimacy Project Selection Relevant for IFAD Operations and Portfolio
  - Promote Dialogue with the Regions in project selection,
  - we engage with Regional Economist
  - We work with Portfolio Managers
- DURING: We promote Scientific Credibility
  - Rigorous Impact Assessment using Ex-Post Quasi-Experimental methods
  - We plan Ex-Ante Experimental approaches
  - We receive inputs from users of research
- EX-POST: We ensure Effectiveness
  - Impact Assessment (IA) Report: The main report, which details the Theory of Change of the project and the methodology, and provides an in-depth presentation and discussion of the results of the assessment;
  - Impact Assessment Brief: A four-page brief presenting the key details and findings of the assessment;
  - Impact Assessment Infographic: A two-page graphic presentation of the key findings of the assessment
  - We share the results via regional workshop



# Conclusions

- **IFAD9:** build the framework to measure the results. Identify indicators, attribute impact, aggregate indicators
- **IFA10:** Construction of a rigorous economic model and quantitative analysis to measuring results based on corporate targets and SOs
- **IFAD11:** Focus on Communicate Results to Consumer of Research to Policy Makers and Donors, to ultimate beneficiaries
  - The market for knowledge fails because there are problems on the producer and consumer sides.
  - This "last mile" problem cannot be resolved until researchers ask relevant questions and communicate answers properly and until policy makers and donors see the value of evidence and using it.

A man wearing a light-colored turban and a blue shirt is carrying a large bundle of dried palm fronds. He is standing in a desert landscape with palm trees and a clear blue sky. The text "Thank you" is overlaid on the image.

Thank you