



Pre-Congress Workshop 29th August 2023, morning

Congress venue Couvent des Jacobins, Rennes

WS03 – Evidence for Policy

General information

Full title: Evidence for Policy

Length: 3,5 hours, from 9:00 to 12:30 AM

Organiser(s)

Susan Steiner (Research and Impact Assessment Division, IFAD)

Objectives

As an international financial institution, IFAD provides grants and low-interest loans to projects in low- and middle-income countries. These projects aim at empowering rural people to increase their food security, improve the nutrition of their families, and increase their incomes. IFAD's Research and Impact Assessment (RIA) division produces rigorous evidence in the form of methodological and applied research with the potential to inform policy formulation, project design, and future investments.

This pre-congress workshop showcases RIA's work on generating evidence for policy. RIA funds agricultural research and innovation, conducts impact assessments of agricultural projects funded by IFAD, and promotes the use of data and evidence for decision-making. The workshop also serves as a platform for recruitment of staff and consultants to potentially work with RIA.

Attendees can learn how to make evidence relevant for policy-making. They will also be introduced to RIA's knowledge products, data and tools, which they can use for their own work. Last but not least, the workshop intends to raise interest in working at RIA.

Format

Session 1: Presentation of RIA (15')

Objective: Introducing the division, its different clusters, and ways of collaboration.

Session 2: The role of data in decision-making (75': 45' presentation, 30' discussion)

Objective: Increasing understanding of the strategic benefit of evidence-based decision making in policy formulation, project design, and budget allocations. Raising awareness on the current challenges to evidence uptake and of the role of RIA in alleviating them.

Session 3: The role of impact assessments of agricultural interventions (120': 75' presentation, 45' group work and discussion)

Objective: Providing the trainee with a detailed overview of state-of-the-art impact assessment methods and explaining when and how these are applied to evaluate IFAD-supported projects, and rural development projects in general. After this session, attendees should understand the difference between impact assessments based on a counterfactual and other evaluations.