

completion, become the reference against which to measure changes, and therefore appreciate project outcomes and impact, or lack thereof.

- ii. *Mid Term Review (MTR)*. A MTR combined with mid-line assessment will be conducted by P&DD and IFAD during the fourth year of implementation to assess progress against the targets. Comparison with baseline data will allow the measurement of changes in core indicators, and thus to infer on the project's direction of travel toward the project outcomes. The MTR shall identify implementation bottlenecks and suggest remedial actions—which may also include modification in the project design as appropriate.
- iii. *Annual Outcome Surveys*. PMU shall also start conducting annual outcome surveys through a third party after the MTR to validate the results reported in internal M&E assessments.
- iv. *Completion Survey*. The project will undertake a terminal assessment towards the end of the last of year of implementation to gauge the outcomes realized, as well as to document emerging impacts covering all the core indicators contained in the project log frame. This may also feed in to the project completion report.

Learning and knowledge management. A knowledge management strategy will be prepared during the start-up phase of the project to clearly identify knowledge products, events, uses and forums to collect, collate and share the knowledge generated through project interventions. The KM strategy has five pillars i.e. (i) use the project intervention as action research; (ii) systematic assessment and analysis using experimental designs which are statistically valid and robust; (iii) deriving inferences/conclusions have strong evidence base; (iv) devise knowledge products; and, (v) disseminating knowledge products using various channels/media. The KM function will particularly focus on success factors pertaining to integration of small farmers to market chains and diversification into high value products and through investment in skills and entrepreneurship foster women's and youth's economic empowerment, while at the same time mainstreaming nutrition.

A dedicated M&E, knowledge management and communication section with suitably qualified and experienced staff is part of the organizational arrangements at the PMU and district offices.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance and nature of the action, mid-term and final evaluations will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to assess progress against the targets. Comparison with baseline data will allow the measurement of changes in core indicators, and thus to infer on the project's direction of travel toward the project outcomes. It shall identify implementation bottlenecks and suggest remedial actions—which may also include modification in the project design as appropriate

The final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), to gauge the outcomes realized, as well as to document lessons and emerging impacts covering all the core indicators contained in the project logical frame.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 30 days in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

All evaluation shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach and we as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. Expertise on human rights-based approach and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.