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Country programme evaluation series

Evaluation of FAO's technical
cooperation in the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

October 2016

COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATION SERIES

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Management Response to the evaluation of FAO's Technical Cooperation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2006-2015 – Response by recommendation

Management response matrix¹

Evaluation Recommendation (a)	Management response (b) Accepted, partially accepted or rejected	Management plan			
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection (c)	Responsible unit (d)	Timeframe (e)	Further funding required (Y or N) (f)
Insert title of section, if any					
<p>Recommendation 1: to FAO and MoEWA The future Technical Cooperation Assistance programme has to be managed in a more programmatic manner, with increased focus on the cross-cutting issues of environmental sustainability, gender, rural development and governance. Moreover, the future phase could move beyond technical assistance to address issues at the policy level, in line with the approval of the 2030 Vision for Sustainable Development and the Tenth National Development Plan in KSA.</p>	Accepted	<p>The recommendation will be implemented during the formulation and implementation of the transitional phase of the KSA-FAO UTF Programme.</p> <p>It is to be noted that the need to shift towards broader programme approach has been recognized by RNE and PCU and several actions have been undertaken in this regard. A focused sub-sectoral programmes approach is used to design the FAO technical assistance to Saudi Arabia and link programme components in a coherent, coordinated fashion. The priority sub-sector have been identified jointly with the KSA's Government in-line with the National Transformation Programme (2020). In providing the agreed technical assistances – including policy support, the programme will develop national capacity in sustainable manner, address cross-cutting issues and will apply a robust governance framework.</p>	RNE and PCU	Presently being implemented and expected to be completed by the end of 2018.	Y

¹ Each column is cross-referenced to the bullet letters above.

<p>Recommendation 2: to FAO FAO should focus on strengthening the elements of its Technical Cooperation Assistance model, including baselines, needs assessments and project design. Greater emphasis should be placed on capacity development dimensions, networking and long-term partnerships with national institutions.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The recommendation will be implemented during the formulation and implementation of the transitional phase of the KSA-FAO UTF Programme.</p> <p>It is to be noted that the design of the transitional UTF programme has been based on needs analyses which were carried out in close consultations with key stakeholders and national partners. National formulation teams were formed to work closely with high level teams of international specialised technical experts fielded by FAO to assess specific needs and formulate the required technical and advisory assistance under each of the strategic sub-programmes proposed for collaboration. The specific needs were formulated in results-based format using Logical Framework Matrix (LFM) and were validated through workshops and direct discussions with stakeholders. Relevant baseline data to measure programme targets and results will be collected through surveys that will be designed and conducted as part of the activities for accomplishing the proposed result-based monitoring and reporting system which will be developed to assess the programme progress and to report on its results/ achievements, as well as to evaluate its outcomes in line with the key performance indicators and targets of the logical framework.</p>	<p>RNE and PCU</p>	<p>Presently being implemented and expected to be completed by the end of 2018.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: To FAO In designing technical areas, FAO should promote innovative approaches in the Technical Cooperation Assistance programme that can be scaled-up through national programmes and widely disseminated as good practices.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The innovation dimension will be emphasized as much as possible through the programme cycle.</p>	<p>RNE and PCU</p>	<p>Innovative approaches are being and will continue to be promoted in designing FAO technical assistance to Saudi Arabia</p>	<p>Y</p>

<p>Recommendation 4: To FAO The Programme Coordination Unit in KSA should apply a strategic approach to the inclusion of extension services and model its interventions accordingly.</p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p>	<p>Comments about rejection: The new programme will continue to work on strengthening of extension function and capacity through formulating a national policy on agricultural extension and developing and launching of extension campaigns. Moreover, measures and arrangements for knowledge management and sharing good practices from the programme with beneficiaries and partners to raise awareness and deliver messages are put in place in the new programme.</p> <p>Nonetheless, the implementation of the extension interventions will be in-line with the programme design jointly agreed by FAO and KSA, which doesn't necessarily follow all suggestions made in the report such as the suggestion of recruiting specialists to assist Chief Technical Advisors in the work on rural development and extension.</p>			
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