



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



OFFICE OF EVALUATION

Project evaluation series

Final Evaluation of the Project "Mainstreaming the Use and Conservation of Agrobiodiversity in Public Policy through Integrated Strategies and in situ Implementation in four Andean Highlands Provinces"

GCP/EQU/086/GFF GEF ID 4777

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

October 2018

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FAO. 2018. *Final Evaluation of the Project "Mainstreaming the Use and Conservation of Agrobiodiversity in Public Policy through Integrated Strategies and in situ Implementation in four Andean Highlands Provinces": Management Response*. Rome. pp.10 (www.fao.org/evaluation).

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Management Response

General Management Response to the Evaluation

1. In line with the actions implemented and carried out to achieve the objectives set out by the project, the Final Evaluation assesses the project's effectiveness as satisfactory in terms of the expected outcomes, taking into account that the project had to be implemented in a broad area of intervention and with a duration of less than three actual years. The team of the project "Mainstreaming the Use and Conservation of Agrobiodiversity in Public Policy through Integrated Strategies and *in situ* Implementation in four Andean Highlands Provinces" considers the Final Evaluation, which took place between September and November 2017, to be pertinent and appropriate. The conclusions and recommendations systematized and submitted by the evaluation team are relevant and objective as well. The same conclude that the project played an important supporting role in the inclusion of agrobiodiversity conservation and its link to food sovereignty in the National Strategy for Biodiversity and the formulation of the Organic Law on Agrobiodiversity, Seeds and the Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture. In addition, it draws attention to the role of agrobiodiversity in the compliance of the multiple needs of family farming, encouraging recognition to locally-grown food and reducing the need for hybrid crop seeds.
2. However, as for the design and operation of the project, the Management highlights the impact reached with the planned activities. It is certain that according to the Final Evaluation the objectives of the project are too ambitious for a three-year implementation period, especially since it is not possible to produce, broaden and grow crops in this amount of time. With this in mind, the project has led to three very important actions in terms of public policy, for example the incorporation of conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity in public policies and in land use and development plans (LUDPs) and the integration of agrobiodiversity conservation in the National Strategy for Biodiversity (2016) and in various LUDPs at provincial and community level. Similarly, this highlights the great work of the project's technical team to reach the development of a database of 546 accession seeds from Chimborazo, Imbabura and Loja and for the establishment of three Bio-knowledge and Agricultural Development Centres (BADC).
3. Nevertheless, the Management emphasizes that there are dangerous activities due to the lack of monitoring and empowering by the promoters of the project, for example the approval of the Regulation of the Law on Agrobiodiversity and Seeds. Lastly, the Management takes in various lessons learned during the three years of project implementation which mainly focus on the importance of having bilingual local promoters to get in closer contact with beneficiaries. Undoubtedly, this enabled the training and strengthening of abilities to reach over 8 000 beneficiaries. To conclude, the Management expresses the need to encourage exchange of information, lessons learned or good practices among farmers and their organization at intra-provincial and inter-provincial level through a communication strategy to promote agrobiodiversity and carry on with the monitoring of the results reached by the project. The recommendations of the Final Evaluation are important and will be considered in the design of future proposals and implementation of projects which take into account agrobiodiversity.

Response by recommendation

Box 1: Management Response Matrix¹

Management response to the (Final Evaluation of the Project “Mainstreaming the use and conservation of agrobiodiversity in public policy through integrated strategies and <i>in situ</i> implementation in four Andean Highlands provinces” GCP/ECU/086/GFF GEF ID: 4777)					Date June 2018
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)	Time frame (e)	Further funding required (Y or N) (f)
Strategic recommendations: <i>To FAO (HQ and FAO Representation in Ecuador on the sustainability of the project)</i>					
Recommendation 1 Devising the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources under agroecological concepts is recommended, not only to ensure food security within family farming but also to promote sustainable rural development to support the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals.	Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continue the debate with actors and interested parties in the areas created in other projects of the Representation. b) Include the topic in the project’s new proposals. 	FAO Representation in Ecuador	October 2018– April 2019	N

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

<p>Recommendation 2 Developing a communication strategy that raises awareness of the contribution of agrobiodiversity in a more holistic manner and that makes it possible to insist that relevant policies, strategies and plans be updated, is recommended.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The Representation will take into account this recommendation to include a communication component in future proposals, both in the GEF portfolio and in other interventions.</p>	<p>FAO Representation</p>	<p>July 2019</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Recommendation 3 Resuming the legal process for the approval of the regulation to implement the law on agrobiodiversity and seeds, is recommended, alongside the establishment of the National Agricultural Authority, which would facilitate political dialogue on the reforms to apply at an institutional and political level, concerning the promotion and development of agrobiodiversity, particularly in terms of family farming.</p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p>	<p>Even though the FAO Representation in Ecuador considers this topic to be highly important, our relation and contribution is based on the National Government's demand to participate in the debates related to the construction of Regulations of the law on agrobiodiversity and seeds, just like other similar proposals.</p>	<p>FAO Representation</p>	<p>October 2018-February 2019</p>	<p>N</p>

<i>To the FAO Representation in Ecuador</i>					
<p>Recommendation 4 Continuing to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in training experts on the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity, in order to bolster interest and ensure the appropriate implementation of holistic programmes, is recommended.</p>	Accepted	Through the Country Programming Framework (CPF), the Ecuador Representation confirms training and monitoring matters are integrated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, not only through active Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs), but also in projects which are being drafted, as FVC, GEF, as well as in future projects where they can encourage participation.	Ecuador Representation	October 2018–July 2019	N
<p>Operational recommendations: <i>To FAO (HQ and FAO Representation in Ecuador)</i></p>					
<p>Recommendation 5 It is recommended that projects of this nature should be designed to have an inception phase of around three to six months, in line with the agricultural season, to: a) accommodate possible political, institutional, social, or environmental changes; b) complete/update the socio-economic and environmental diagnosis in order to establish the baselines and adapt the</p>	Accepted	In the design of future projects, FAO will consider the inception processes to improve inter-institutional agreements and local arrangements with project participants.	FAO Representation in Ecuador	Awaiting new proposals	N

<p>targets if justified, together with the budget; and c) clarify the stakeholders' responsibilities. Similarly, including a closure phase (of at least three and no more than six months) is recommended, in order to clarify the continuity of the main activities after the closure of the project.</p>					
<p><i>To GEF and FAO (HQ and FAO Representation in Ecuador)</i></p>					
<p>Recommendation 6: It is recommended that future projects include "Field Files" designed to gather information about the production and productivity of the different crops handled, production costs, gross and net income from the sale of products at the markets and fairs, etc., in order to enter them in the financial systems.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>In future projects, promote data reporting which includes accurate information on the performance and results of crops, and the impacts in the direct incomes of participants.</p>	<p>FAO Representation</p>		<p>N</p>
<p>Suggestion: To facilitate this process, new projects funded by GEF could assign funds so the coordinators of their projects have an expert in charge of monitoring the results and operations.</p>					

