

Project Evaluation Series

07/2024

**Terminal evaluation of the project
“Rehabilitation of forest landscapes
and degraded land with particular
attention to saline soils and areas prone
to wind erosion”**

Project code: GCP/IRA/064/GFF

Management response

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 2024

Management response to the terminal evaluation of the project “Rehabilitation of forest landscapes and degraded land with particular attention to saline soils and areas prone to wind erosion”					02/2024
Evaluation recommendation	Management response Accepted, Partially accepted or Rejected	Management plan			Further funding required (Y or N)
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection	Responsible unit	Time frame	
<p>Recommendation 1.</p> <p>Recommendation to the Project Executing Agency, the FRWO.</p> <p>The remaining unfinished project activities and outputs should be completed in order to meet commitment, consolidate the project achievements, and strengthen the prospects for sustainability by the end of the project period.</p> <p>1) The formulation of VLPs was claimed accomplished at the time of this evaluation. The VLPs and WLPs once finalized and approved will also need to be endorsed by their relevant community-level institutions before they commit themselves to implement them. It is therefore recommended that the project should assist in finalization of the VLPs in consultation with the people in their respective pilot villages and hand them over for implementation. Furthermore, the WLPs at this stage were reported as being reviewed by the experts. The project should assist in finalization and approval of WLPs and should facilitate to ensure that the cooperatives functional in two sub-watersheds take the ownership of implementing those WLPs.</p> <p>2) Some alternative livelihood businesses promoted by the project were reported to be facing problems due to the shortage of funds for expansion, while some others were facing the unavailability of market. It is therefore recommended that the project should consolidate the achievement of this output by undertaking activities such as i) reviewing the performance of all different types of the alternative livelihoods on the basis of the problems they have been facing, ii) undertaking a value chain analysis of the most promising alternative livelihoods, and iii) developing a strategy for sustaining the most viable alternative</p>	Accepted	Action has been taken with respect to second point. In the remaining duration of the project, the procurement activities related to the most promising alternative livelihoods have been prioritized with the advice and consult of national counterpart.	Project Task Force (namely Project Assistant) in collaboration with Assistant FAOR (Programme) and the Buyer in close collaboration with the governmental partners and local communities and institutions.	30/12/2022	No

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<p>livelihood businesses in consultation with community institutions and the cooperatives so that they could give continuity to the successful ones and support the partly successful ones in future.</p> <p>3) It is recommended that the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the relevant provincial and local government institutions is considered to enable them to work as the facilitators and technical service providers in the process of participatory and integrated SLFM. It will need the review and refinement in the service delivery mechanism of these institutions, including the redefining of the job description of all development professional and field staff of those institutions.</p>					
<p>Recommendation 2.</p> <p>Recommendation to the LTO (supported by the BH at FAO country office).</p> <p>It is recommended that FAO should provide the technical support and assistance to the Project Executing Agency as per its request for accomplishing the recommendations made under paragraphs 171, 172 and 173.</p>	Accepted	The country office will work closely with the LTO and the executing partners (government) to further enhance implementation of recommendations under the named paragraphs.	FAO Iran and LTO in close cooperation with the government partner.	30/12/2022	No
<p>Recommendation 3.</p> <p>Recommendation to FAO Iran.</p> <p>FAO Iran should commission a study focused on capturing and documenting the experience in certain areas of apparent good practices that the evaluation has highlighted before the project is completed and departure of personnel takes place (in order to capture learning to help institutional memory and feed into future investments). These areas of</p>	Accepted	An e-learning programme is being commenced and arranged, led by LTO in order to record and utilize the achievements and lessons learnt of the project.	FAIRA office with collaboration of LTO.	30/12/2022 As per the timeline, the planning and funding will be done by the end of 2022 before the project NTE date. Yet the training course will be launched and	No

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enquiry include the participatory approach in the context of Iran (and the apparent influence this has had), behavioural change and gender. This exercise would potentially be useful for future projects in Iran and elsewhere. It would be important to develop the findings and explain how certain results were achieved, the critical factors involved.				operationalized during 2023 by the FAO Learning Academy.	
Recommendation 4. Recommendation to FAO Iran. It is recommended that the FAO-FPMIS should be field-tested in the project country and the project team should be provided with hands-on training and enabled to use it prior to its execution for tracking the results-based management of the project more effectively.	Partially accepted	Given the long life of the project and some initial set-up issue in FAO-FPMIS, there are some glitches in the system while the project team in FAO Iran will make the effort to apply the recommendation. The FAO country office will be in touch with RAP team to make best use of the FPMIS tool in the remaining time until the end of the project.	Country office in cooperation with RAP.	30/12/2022	No

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