CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

Innovation is gaining importance in the development agenda not only because it contributes to the achievement of the sustainable development goals but also it stimulates sustainable growth in highly competitive markets.

The achievement of the sustainable development goals requires innovative approaches e.g. in order to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, we need not only to increase resources but we also need to foster innovation in agriculture to accelerate food production.

Even though innovation plays a key role in our daily lives, there are still many unanswered questions. Countries and international organizations know that there are certain conditions that are required for innovation to happen but more clarity is required on the role and the contribution of innovation in education, technology development, climate change, etc.

Evaluation could help provide answers on how countries and international organizations could make innovation work for development. However, there are several challenges and limitations evaluators are confronted when assessing the contribution of innovation such as time lags and unintended effects. Outcomes of innovation might take years before it can benefit society. Therefore, it becomes even more important to look at any unintended effects and spin offs. There is a need to identified approaches to help evaluators to overcome existing challenges and limitations.

OBJECTIVE

The aim of this session will be to:

   (a) learn about methods and approaches used by the various agencies when evaluating
   (b) increase the understanding of innovation and its link to development

TARGET AUDIENCE

Agencies working on innovation issues are invited to participate in this session. We have identified that innovation is present in agriculture, trade, education, environment, food security, technology, health, science and research, industry, energy, among others.

SCOPE

The session will focus on discussing the following:

   (a) Methods, approaches used when evaluating innovation;
   (b) Limitations identified and strategies to overcome those;
   (c) Evaluation experiences made by the various agencies and examples; and
   (d) The contribution of evaluation.