TECHNICAL ADVISORY NOTES - TANs

The Technical Division (PT), in line with the Guidelines and Procedures for the Implementation of IFAD's Grants Programme (para 43, Knowledge Diffusion of the Grant Programme) has launched a pilot exercise for improving the dissemination of IFAD financed grants results through the use of improved Technical Advisory Notes (TANs). TANs are tools for promoting pro-poor technologies and knowledge-sharing that bridge the gap between research and practice and provide information for inclusion in loan programmes and project design. They are a sort of leaflets designed to introduce new, pro-poor technologies to a wider development community in the form of advice matched with specific socio-economic and natural resource settings.

TANs have been developed on set of 6 criteria based inter alia on the Grants Screening Criteria and the Evaluation Guidelines used for the ex-ante and ex-post evaluation of grant programmes.

1. Research/Development linkages: evidence of existing linkages established between the grant and the loans (financed by IFAD and/or other institutions), or/and analysis of the scaling up and scaling out potentials. Perspectives for large scale adoption of research outcomes were also sought through possible references made to complementary investments needed in areas such as economic incentives, infrastructure, access to market or to knowledge.

2. Profitability: clear identification of the benefits of the research results in terms of tangible benefits, such as increased yields (physical profitability), non-tangible benefits, with specific reference to the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries.

3. Accessibility: material availability of the proposed technology (for example seeds) or actual delivery capacity of the strengthened methodologies. Includes assessing if the research outputs are available in different time and places, and are affordable by the rural poor.

4. Sustainability of the research:

   Appreciated according to:
   a) Degree of farmers’ meaningful involvement in the definition and implementation of the main research steps, which determines also the level of acceptability (social, psychological) of the research outputs;
   b) Measures taken to support the institutional, organisational and professional changes required at all levels.

5. Dissemination pathways: identification of the way through which the project results were or are going to be made available at the appropriate level of decision making (workshops, reports, seminars etc).

6. Further research needed: identification of new areas that are relevant and need to be taken into account since they influence adoption or/and relevance of the research results (new problems or links not investigated by the research).

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