

ANNEX No. 24 Main recommendations of the Ex-ante evaluation

No.	Subject	Recommendations (ex ante preliminary report 16 July 2007)	MA Comments
		General and cross-cutting issues	
1	Analysis and SWOT	Section 1.2 (Rural Areas and the Environment) should be updated to reflect recent relevant studies e.g. tourism, micro enterprises, crafts.	Recommendation is taken into account, according to results of independent assessment being performed by two experts engaged by SLR Project and their findings.
2		At the end of the description of each sector and sub-sector a short paragraph should be inserted that would summarise the key issues that need to be addressed and the perceived priority in terms of overall objectives. This would improve the link between the sector analysis and the SWOT.	Recommendation will be taken into account
3		Section 1.6 (SWOT) should be revised to show more clearly the causal relationship between the situation analysis, identified needs and the proposed measures. In particular the "problems to be tackled" should be more explicit.	Recommendation is taken into account
4		No perspective is currently included that deals with disparities between and within regions of the country. A Regional Analysis sub-section could include a summary of any known differences there are in the socio-economic situation in regional areas where various ethnic minorities are concentrated compared to regions that have more homogenous populations.	Recommendation will be taken into account; according to results of independent assessment being performed under SIDA funded Project for Strengthening of MAFWE and their findings and according to the analysis prepared by UNDP on regional disparities.
5		The IPARD Programme is consistent with European and regional level objectives, although these are not described in the Programme. A short section should therefore be included to indicate coherence.	Recommendation is taken into account and a separate Chapter is introduced in Part III (Part III-Chapter 3.4. Complementarity of the IPARD Programme with other community policies.
6		The issue of credit is important in the context of implementation of IPARD as beneficiaries will require financing to meet their proportion of the cost of investments. The analysis identifies some of the problems of lending to agriculture (high transaction costs, lack of knowledge of sector, etc) it does not go into any depth on approaches that might overcome some of the problems.	Recommendation is under consideration.

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7		It would be useful if the sub-section on organics included further analysis of factors such as: how close small-scale farmers in various regions are to being organic (many small-scale farms have low or no use of mineral fertilisers and chemicals); the potential to improve incomes through conversion of these producers to organic certification; regional variations; linkages with regional and EU markets; lessons learned from the MAFWE support programme; training and education support systems, etc.	Organic farming is of no focus of support in this Programming period, so it is agreed that brief outline information is sufficient to give an overview of this sector at this stage and when (if) addressed in the future it will be subject to deeper sub-sector study and analysis results will be taken into account.
8		Overall for wider rural issues, there should be further discussion of the identified weaknesses in a narrative section after the SWOT indicating how these issues are to be tackled (ref to NARDS) and before Part III of the Programme is elaborated.	Recommendation will be taken into account and introduced in Part I -Chapter 1.6. SWOT Analysis
9	National Governance	Identified priorities that have implications for the IPARD Programme should be highlighted and where possible an indication given of any progress or action already underway.	Recommendation will be taken into account
10		A concluding synthesis of Part II should be included to that there is a clearer link between Parts I, II and III.	Recommendation will be taken into account in Part II-new Chapter 2.6 Lessons Learnt
11		A section on lessons learned should be included. This should be analytical and particularly refer to any lessons drawn from the current RD programmes.	Recommendation will be taken into account in Part II-new Chapter 2.6 Lessons Learnt
12		A concluding paragraph should be included in paragraph 2.4 that summarises the reforms underway of the current support policies and the steps planned to align the support measures more closely with the CAP.	Recommendation will be taken into account and introduced in Part II-new Chapter 2.4.2.4 Harmonisation of agriculture and rural aid scheme with the community policies
13	Strategy & Objectives	Competitiveness should be emphasised in the general objective.	Recommendation is taken into account in Part III-Chapter 3.1 Strategy and objectives of IPARD programming process
14		Revise the wording of the objectives of the measures so that the objectives are more specific.	Recommendation is taken into account
15		The selection of priority sectors is not mentioned in the NDP or NARDS, and its first mention in the IPARD Programme is in Section 3.1 of Part III of the Programme. Earlier mention of these priority sectors, the rationale for selection and the objectives for development of each should be described in Part II of the Programme (after the	Recommendation will be taken into account and mentioned paragraph (Government Decision) will be addressed in Part III-Chapter 3.1.5 General Objectives and Priorities of the IPARD Programme

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		SWOT), along with sector objectives. Clarify the selection criteria of priority sectors that informed the government decision of July 25th 2006.	
16		Section 3.1.1.4 outlines General Objectives and Priorities of the IPARD Programme. These directly refer to the principles laid down in IPA for rural development (i.e. IPA component V), emphasising policy development, preparation for implementation of the acquis communautaire and management of the Common Agricultural Policy, and the sustainable adaptation of the agricultural sector and rural areas. For greater clarity these two sections could be merged into one, and the hierarchy of objectives spelled out as General Objectives (relating to acquis communautaire and CAP) and Specific Objectives. The latter objectives should be further refined, using suggestions already offered by the Ex-Ante evaluators.	Need further clarification on expert recommendation-which two chapters?
17		Strategic objectives for wider rural development should be included after the SWOT and the rationale for selection of these objectives.	Recommendation is taken into account and the mentioned paragraph (Rational) is addressed in Part III-Chapter 3.2.3 Diversification and development of rural economic activities
18	Selected Measures	A short piece on the expected impact of each measure should be included in the measure fiches.	Recommendation will be taken into account in Part IV-Chapter 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3
19		The selection criteria for each measure should aim to take account of the business plans that support the applications and also the weightings should be reassessed.	Need further clarification on expert recommendation
20		The allocation of 35% of funding under measure 1.2 to poultry should be better justified in the analysis or else the allocation be reassessed.	Recommendation will be taken into account and the need of new poultry slaughterhouse will be described in Part I-Chapter 1.6 SWOT, Part I-Chapter 1.3.5.10. Milk and meat priorities, Part III-Chapter 3.2.2. Investments in processing and marketing of agricultural products to restructure and to upgrade to Community standards and Part IV-Chapter 4.2.1. Rationale.

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21		Better justify or adjust the concentration on selected regions for farm-based rural tourism within measure 3.1.	Recommendation will be taken into account
22		Reassess the selection criteria for measure 3.1 as currently they are too closely related to agriculture compared to wider rural development.	Recommendation will be taken into account
23	Completeness of Programme	<u>The areas not completed include:</u>	
24		A section on lessons learned.	Recommendation will be taken into account in Part II-new Chapter 2.6 Lessons Learnt
25		A section on implementing arrangements (including monitoring and evaluation). It is noted that in the measure fiches some of the implementing arrangements are described and initial attempts to identify monitoring indicators are made. The detailed information on eligibility and selection (criteria) is part of the implementation process and is included.	Recommendation will be taken into account in Part III-Chapter 3.5. Implementation Arrangements
26		Training Strategy.	Recommendation will be taken into account in Part III-Chapter 3.5. Implementation Arrangements and in Part I-Chapter 1.3.7.6. Agriculture knowledge policy
27		Details on Social Inclusion/Partnership and Consultation.	Recommendation will be taken into account in Part III-Chapter 3.5. Implementation Arrangements
28		Planned Information and Promotion.	Recommendation will be taken into account in Part III-Chapter 3.5. Implementation Arrangements
29	Training	The training strategy should ensure that there is a broad range of	Recommendation will be considered.

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		training providers reflecting the diversity of IPARD. Training should be managed by a body independent of any of the training providers.	
30	Environmental Considerations	Include a brief addition to both the Strategy in Part III of the programme and technical fiches for all three measures on the rationale for environmental compliance and its relationship to wider competitiveness.	Recommendation is taken into account in Part III-Chapter 3.4 Complementarity of the IPARD programme with other community policies
31		Set up functional coordination structures with MoEPP for screening applications for environmental compliance, including decisions relating to the need for EIAs and also for spatial development considerations.	This recommendation is part of the National policy in the country elaborated in Part II National Governance Context
32	Programme Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation	Systems to develop M&E should be established at sub-measure level but in a simple way that can be built on.	Recommendation will be taken into account in Part IV-Chapter 4.1.; 4.2.; 4.3 and 4.4 and in Part III-Chapter 3.5.2 Monitoring and Evaluation
33		It may be possible to collect useful baseline data in the application form. This should be kept in mind during the planning for implementation. Farmer and business registration systems should be included in the M&E system.	Recommendation will be considered.
34		Monitoring committees should be broadly representative of all Rural Development interests and not confined to government or solely agricultural organisations.	Recommendation is taken into account in Part III-Chapter 3.5.2 Monitoring and Evaluation