



Impact Assessment at ICRAF Steven Franzel

- **Impact Assessment at ICRAF**: A 1-person resource unit backstops Science Domains and Regions, which are responsible for conducting impact assessments.
- **Establishing baselines** for ex-post impact assessments in “Research in Development” projects is a high priority, such as:
 - Vision for Change: Cocoa project (Cote d’Ivoire)
 - Trees for Food Security (Ethiopia, Rwanda)
 - Biocarbon and Rural Development Project (Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso)
- Two examples of impact assessment.....

1. Ex post impact assessment of agroforestry practices in Malawi

The Agroforestry for Food Security Program facilitated the dissemination of tree practices that ICRAF helped to develop – fertilizer trees, fodder shrubs and vegetatively propagated fruits.

2009: A baseline of 1000 households was conducted in intervention and control sites.

Fertilizer trees included *Gliricidia sepium*, *Sesbania sesban*, *Tephrosia vogelii* and pigeon pea.

2012 and 2013: Maize yields from fertilizer tree plots and controls measured in 130 fields

- Significant positive mean effect of fert. trees
- Yield increases averaged 30-60% but were highly variable.



Ex post impact assessment of agroforestry practices in Malawi (cont.)

- In 2013 a revisit of 600 of the baseline hhs was done to assess adoption rates and early impacts – analyses are ongoing
- The two studies will be integrated to provide estimates of project impact

2. Impact evaluation of an extension approach: Volunteer Farmer Trainers (VFTs) promoting improved feeds for increased dairy production in the BMGF funded East Africa Dairy Project

Evaluation is led by Paris School of Economics with funding from 3ie with ICRAF and Makerere Univ as partners. Objective is to

- assess impact of VFTs on tech. adoption, productivity and welfare using an RCT
- assess impact of three modifications to improve their effectiveness:
 - improving their incentives (through contests to win prizes)
 - Improving their access to information (through linkages to extension services), and
 - Improving targeting (through customized information to reach marginal groups)



Impact evaluation of Volunteer Farmer Trainer (VFT) Program (cont.)

- We will randomly select 660 dairy groups that will recruit VFTs and compare their impact on farmers in those groups with farmers in groups without VFTs
- Baseline survey of 2,640 farmers prior to randomization, stratified by gender and asset holding
- Follow-up surveys 1.5 and 3 years after farmer training begins.

