

Impact Assessment Focal Point Meeting

Dryland Systems

organized by the CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council's
Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA)
In The Marquette Hotel
710 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis
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Program Structure

5 Regional Flagship Programs

- West African Sahel & Dry Savannas
- North Africa & West Asia
- East & Southern Africa
- Central Asia
- South Asia

Program objectives

Dryland Systems aims **to improve livelihoods in two distinct Drylands agro-ecosystem types:**

- **Marginal, low-productivity areas**, where people need support to mitigate vulnerability and solutions for resilience for food production.
- **Areas with potential to improve productivity**, where people need support to engage in the sustainable intensification of their agricultural production.

Research outputs

- **Integrated packages**, in areas including:
 - Crop-livestock systems,
 - Wheat legume systems,
 - Integrated watershed management,
 - Diversification of production systems,
 - Rangeland rehabilitation (forage- livestock-crop-natural resource management),
 - New income opportunities for women and communities for value added products (milk, cheese, wool products).
- **Resilience and intensification options and approaches for communities** – packaging and testing options with communities for resilience in marginal areas and for intensification I higher potential locations in the program's action sites.

Pathways towards impact

- **Well-functioning innovation platform/value chains:** Developing and progressing work in 15 and more innovation platforms for Agricultural Livelihood Systems.
- **Putting knowledge sharing and learning into action** – progressing a strategy and approaches to ensure continuous learning, and the synthesis and exchange of information, linking between the program's Flagship Regions and Agricultural Livelihood Systems.
- **Policies and institutional innovations** to support resilience and sustainable intensification
- **Measures to empower women and increase their access and control of assets** and income-for greater nutritional security
- **Partnership & Capacity Strengthening** – progressing and strengthening a range of partnership and capacity building activities in all locations.

IDO's

1	IDO 1 RESILIENCE: More resilient livelihoods for vulnerable households in marginal areas
2	IDO 2 WEALTH AND WELLBEING: More sustainable and higher income per capita for intensifiable households
3	IDO 3 FOOD SECURITY: Women and children in households have year round access to greater quantity and diversity of food sources
4	IDO 4 NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT: More sustainable and equitable management of land, water resources, energy and biodiversity
5	IDO 8 GENDER EMPOWERMENT: Women and youth have better access to and control over productive assets, inputs, information, market opportunities and capture a more equitable share of increased income, food and other benefits
6	IDO6 CAPACITY TO INNOVATE - Increased and sustainable capacity for innovation within and among low income and vulnerable rural community systems allowing them to seize new opportunities and meet challenges to improve livelihoods, and bring solutions to scale.

Key highlights of recently completed studies

Explaining Adoption and Measuring Impacts of Conservation Agriculture on Productive Efficiency, Income, Poverty and Food Security in Syria

Used Heckman selection model to:

- identify factors affecting the adoption of zero tillage (ZT),
- measure its yield, income and consumption impacts.
- A stochastic production frontier and inefficiency model was also estimated to measure its implications on productive efficiency.
- ZT increases yield, consumption and income and reduces income risk - lifting 57% of the adopters out of poverty.
- A shift from ZT to conventional tillage (CT) helps farmers to be more efficient and achieve current output levels with 22% less inputs.
- Integration with livestock and related tradeoff of the crop residue is missing

On-going Impact studies

- Large scale national level wheat adoption survey complete or progressing (CRP-wheat):
 - Morocco-2013
 - Uzbekistan-2014
 - Turkey-planned 2015.
- Joint CRPs DS and CAFS impact study of supplementary (deficit Irrigation)-Morocco-2014.

- New IA studies underway/new approaches/IA strategy:
 - Major baseline surveys are underway in different sites
 - Setting baseline data for critical indicators of IDOs
 - Establishing current level of uptake of research outputs
 - Development of bio-economic models to assess effects of interactions of systems components and their impacts

- Key constraints to effective IA coverage of center research and CRP portfolio
 - IA funds should be earmarked as portion of total research budget
- Challenges for impact assessment in moving from Centers to CRPs; the transition, how IA is being organized, planned and funded in the CRPs
 - Still in transition, different centers do impact assessment with their IA units
 - Consistent IA effort across program in some form of coordinated –methods, approaches, etc