



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Policies,
Institutions
and Markets

LED BY IFPRI



INTERNATIONAL FOOD
POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
sustainable solutions for ending hunger and poverty

Ex post Impact Assessment Studies and Issues:

Policies, Institutions and Markets CGIAR Research Programme and

International Food Policy Research Institute

Peter Hazell
Frank Place

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Outline

1. Timetable for ex post evaluations
2. Highlights from recently completed IFPRI evaluations
3. Launching of first joint PIM-IFPRI evaluation
4. Results framework plans for PIM
5. Challenges in evaluations of policy oriented research

Inventory of Completed, Ongoing and Planned Ex Post Impact Assessment Studies

Topic	Initiating responsibility	Status	Topic	Initiating responsibility	Status
Ethiopia Support program	IFPRI	Completed in 2013	Social protection	PIM	Ongoing
Water resources	IFPRI	Completed in 2013	CAADP / NEPAD	IFPRI + USAID	Launch in 2014
Capacity strengthening	IFPRI	Draft Complete	Global hunger index	IFPRI	Launch in 2014
High value agriculture	IFPRI	Draft in Preparation	Meta study of country programs	IFPRI+PIM	2015
Assessment of 2014 Addis conference	IFPRI	Ongoing	Global futures/foresight	PIM	2015
Science policy	IFPRI	Ongoing	Value chains	PIM	2015

Capacity Strengthening Evaluation

Addressing IFPRI's Capacity Strengthening Efforts Since 1985

Types of CS reviewed:

Formal training

Post docs

Country policy support

University degree program support

Research collaboration

Policy networks

Institutional development

Assessed (scored performance) along:

Relevance: targeted at the right capacity gaps in terms of individual skills and institutions

Input quality: whether the methods used were appropriate

Output efficiency: are things done right

Outcomes: whether there was improved capacity and policy influence or changes

Impact: whether the outcome lasted over time

Design and Methods

Due to the variety of types of CS activity and countries and regions where implemented, used a meta-analysis design in which case studies were 'purposefully' sampled from a matrix of types of CS × country/region.

The sample included one representative region (**East Africa**) and six countries (**Ghana Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Bangladesh and China**).

Data used: documented information and past assessments (conducted by IFPRI or donors) of major CS activities

Empirical evidence generated from new surveys (tracer studies) and one-on-one stakeholder interviews.

In some cases, it was possible to create a counterfactual by interviewing comparable persons trained elsewhere (e.g. WU and MSU).

Some Results

- (1) **On-the-job training** (collaborative research, PDFs) has been a very effective way of strengthening individuals, but impacts on policy and hosting institutions have been mixed,
- (2) **Short training courses** are widely appreciated by recipients but have limited impact unless carefully targeted based on an assessment of the needs of individuals and their institutions.
Longer term training (such as support to MSc programs, supervision of student research, and visiting fellowships) is more effective,
- (3) Delivering CS activities through **comprehensive country programs** with resident IFPRI staff is proving an effective way of strengthening partner institutions for the longer term and enhancing the impacts of training individuals,

Social protection evaluation

Assessing the impacts from a body of research that began around 2000

1. What has been the added value of IFPRI's social protection research program?
2. Can IFPRI's research outputs on social protection be identified with any specific policy or program changes?
3. Gender implications of policy change
4. IPGs and lessons for IFPRI and PIM

Retrospective study, using mixed methods

- Desk review of mainly outputs but also literature related to outcomes
- Interviews with a range of stakeholders on the supply and demand side (inventory of reported outcomes and impacts, or missed opportunities)
- Selection of case studies for indepth analysis to understand how/why outcomes were achieved (or not)

To be completed by October 2014

Advancing a Results Framework for PIM

Talks ongoing at system level about policy IDOs and indicators

Developing sets of indicators and targets around the PIM IDOs
(what, when, where)

Will develop a strategy for medium term outcome assessment and
in 2014 begin to measure some baseline indicators

Some general challenges in evaluations of policy oriented impact assessment

Four Levels of Assessment which Have Challenges:

Influence / support for policy reform: documenting the evidence is challenging; distinguishing attribution

The policy change itself: ways to measure directional movements are challenging

Implementation of policy: capturing the degree to which implementation occurred is not straightforward

Effects of the policy change: many challenges, including counterfactuals

For feedback to improve policy oriented research: identifying general lessons from context specific policy processes is challenging

IFPRI and PIM are Hosting the workshop on Best Practice Methods for Assessing the Impact of Policy Oriented Research on 11-12 November

The aim is to bring in practitioners with different perspectives to tackle the challenges and identify a process for converging towards agreement for the CGIAR

We will plan to set up a virtual platform for those who want to listen in and ask questions

There will be follow up with all CRPs on ways forward

Website for more information

<https://sites.google.com/a/cgxchange.org/poria-workshop/home>