



SMALL GRANT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

AGRICULTURAL INNOVATIONS IN ETHIOPIA

Background and context

In collaboration with the LSMS-ISA project and the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia, the CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA) has been involved in the Ethiopian Socio-economic Survey (ESS), a nationally representative survey with a strong focus on agriculture and household's well-being. The ESS collects detailed information on agricultural practices, the environmental and climatic conditions faced by households, labor activities, household consumption, nutrition and food security. Households were interviewed in four survey rounds (from 2011/12 to 2018/19), with data collected at multiple levels, including communities, households, parcels, plots and crops (Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia & World Bank, 2020). Data is representative of Ethiopian households at the regional level. Consistent with the World Bank Group's policy on open-data initiatives, the data is available [online](#).

Within this collaboration, SPIA's objective was to document adoption for a set of agricultural innovations believed to be at scale. Building on a stocktake exercise that has resulted in 52 CGIAR-related innovations and 26 evidence of policy influences, SPIA took part in the design of the ESS survey instruments in the 2015/16 and 2018/19 rounds of the survey. Descriptive results of this exercise are available in Kosmowski et al. (2020a). These initial results suggest there is a lot of room for further research on these and related topics.

Small grants (\$5,000) are now proposed to students (master's or PhD students) and early-career researchers to further analyze the ESS datasets. This is an opportunity for upcoming researchers to gain experience in research through mentorship support. Students or early career researchers are encouraged to identify a Professor or Senior Researcher that can serve as a mentor during the period of the research covered by this grant. If the applicant is unable to identify a relevant mentor, the organizing committee will facilitate the contact of a mentor that can work with the applicant after grant approval.

A final workshop will allow grantees to communicate their work. Grantees are expected to submit a research article with potential for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Articles should be submitted before December 2021. Co-authorship is a possibility.

Study Scope

The study proposed must use the ESS dataset(s), possibly in combination with other data sources and focus on one or more of the agricultural innovations described in Kosmowski et al. (2020a). These include:

Core domain	Innovations available in the ESS
Animal agriculture	Large ruminant crossbreeds: Artificial insemination services; Small ruminant crossbreeds; Poultry crossbreeds: Feed and forages
Crop germplasm improvements	Improved varieties of barley, maize and sorghum (with DNA fingerprinting data)***; Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato*; Desi and kabuli chickpea varieties**
Natural Resource Management	Soil Water Conservation practices, Conservation Agriculture*; River dispersion; Motorized pumps*; Agroforestry practices; Broad Bed Maker**;
Government policies	Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP); Water Users Associations;

Note: * These innovations are present in ESS 2015/16 and ESS 2018/19 only; ** These innovations are present in ESS 2015/16 only; *** These innovations are present in ESS 2018/19 only. Other innovations can be found in all ESS datasets.

Building on the findings of the synthesis report discussed above, some examples of eligible themes are:

- Diffusion of innovations: with the goal of documenting adoption pathways using two or more survey rounds, focusing on individual innovations or comparisons across innovations;
- Research to understand among whom and where adoption of different innovations occurs: with the goal of generating evidence relevant for targeting, scaling policies, etc.
- Synergies and trade-offs between innovations: with the goal of understanding linkages between the adoption of different innovations and their benefits;
- Analysis of farm/household level decision making and outcomes, as they relate to various agricultural innovations;
- Relationship between agricultural innovations and community/regional level developments, including e.g. questions on structural transformation;
- Varietal-level data: the ESS4 contains DNA fingerprinting varietal identification of barley, maize and sorghum at the national level. This unique dataset can be exploited to shed new lights on several questions;
- Analysis of measurement error: with the goal of providing evidence on best practices across a range of commonly used methods for measuring agricultural innovations;

Other themes will also be considered, as long as they aim to answer a research question related to the agricultural innovations listed above.

The use of additional data sources (remote sensing, soil databases, administrative databases, etc) and background literature that can be merged/combined with ESS data is encouraged. The ESS4 questionnaires can be found in supplementary material of the synthesis report (Kosmowski et al., 2020b)

Selection procedure

The organizing committee will review each proposal and contact promising ones. Applicants must be students (master's or PhD students) or early-career researchers attached to an academic institution. Applicants should submit a resume accompanied by a short proposal describing the study motivation (max. 400 words), objectives (max. 100 words), literature review (max. 500 words), methods (max. 400 words), and implications (max. 100 words).

Proposals should be sent to spia@cgiar.org.

Proposals will be reviewed as soon as they are submitted. The deadline for submissions is December 15th, 2020, with no proposal accepted past this date. The project duration should be 12 months maximum. The organizing committee may go through a second stage process.

References

Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia & World Bank. (2020). Socioeconomic Survey 2018-2019, Wave 4. Accessed October 12, 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/lsms/initiatives/lsms-ISA#2>. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Kosmowski, F., Alemu, S., Mallia, P., Stevenson, J., Macours, K. (2020a). Shining a Brighter Light: Comprehensive Evidence on Adoption and Diffusion of CGIAR-Related Innovations in Ethiopia. Rome: Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA).

Kosmowski, F., Alemu, S., Mallia, P., Stevenson, J., & Macours, K. (2020b). Supplementary materials for report "Shining a Brighter Light: Comprehensive Evidence on Adoption and Diffusion of CGIAR-Related Innovations in Ethiopia". Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor]. <https://doi.org/10.3886/E124681>