Impact evaluation of the “One Cow per Poor Family program” in Rwanda

Vedaste Ndahindwa
Lecturer – University of Rwanda

EASST Impact Evaluation Summit
June 18, 2014 | Kigali, Rwanda
Table of Contents

• Background /motivation for the study
• Summary of intervention
• Research design
• Main Results
• Challenges and Lessons
• Policy Relevance/Next Steps
Background/Motivation

The Girinka Program (One Cow per poor family) was initiated by the President of Rwanda in 2006

The program is part of the implementation measures of the 2020 vision, the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) and the Integrated Development Programme (IDP).

The objective of the Girinka Program is to enable every poor household to own and manage an improved dairy cow to support the family to improve their livelihood, soil fertility and generate revenues.

The main question is to evaluate the impact of the cow given to the family on nutrition status of the members of the family, on children education and crop production.
Intervention

• Improved dairy cow that is given to a poor family

• The list of family in need has been dressed

• The treatment group will be families that will get the cow and the counterfactuals will be families on the waiting list.
Research Design

A quasi-experimental design is being planned.

We will use the list of poor families that were identified by local administration to receive a cow and that have not yet received any cow.

The units of analysis will be households (families).

Baseline data will be collected on socio-demographic characteristics, socio-economic status, health and nutrition status, children schooling and crop production.

Analysis will be performed on the baseline data to compare level at which the groups are similar.
Main Results

The outcome indicators will be the income generated in milk, the quantity of milk received and the cost of breeding of a cow by a poor family.

The final outcome will be the health and nutrition status, economic status, quantity of crop produced and children education.

Follow up data will be collected one year after the cow started to produce milk. The analysis will consist of difference in difference method.

We think that compliance will be high as before receiving cows, there are training sessions and families demonstrate the need of the cow support.

Attrition will be minimal because there is a close follow up by local administration.

The risk of spillovers may exist. With an increase availability of milk, other families can buy some milk and fight against malnutrition.

The influence on other indicators such as income generated and crop production may be small
Challenges and Lessons

- The program is out of my control
- Very difficult to randomized, so we chose a quasi experimental design
- Still looking to funding the data collection
- The program is expensive, but we believe the impact may be great
Policy Relevance/Next Steps

This program have been initiated by the Government of Rwanda and is being supported by different stakeholders, NGOs, Local Communities, faith organizations etc.

If this program is successful, it will be a big contribution toward poverty alleviation and nutrition support.

The program has been already implemented but it would need a rigorous methodology to evaluate this program and to support the best practices with evidences.

Implementers would like also evidence and become aware of the results of this evaluation through dissemination and publications of findings.