CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA)

A discussion on estimating treatment effects in ex-post impact assessment of agricultural research

Introductory remarks
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Standing Panel on Impact Assessment

- **Mandate**
  - **Accountability**: To provide CGIAR members with timely, objective and credible information on the impacts at the system level of past CGIAR investments and outputs in terms of the CGIAR goals of enhanced food security, poverty alleviation and sustained natural resources
  - **Quality control and capacity-building**: To provide support to the CGIAR centres in their ex post impact assessment activities, raising the quality of their analysis
  - **Learning**: To provide feedback to CGIAR priority setting and create synergies by developing links to ex ante assessment and overall planning, monitoring and evaluation functions in the CGIAR

Impact Assessment Scope

- **4 Areas of Agricultural Research-Related Activity**
  - Genetic Improvement
  - Natural Resource Management
  - Policy-Oriented Research
  - Genetic Resources Conservation

- **3 Types of Impact**
  - Economic (IRR, NPV)
  - Social (Poverty, Nutrition, Food Security, Gender)
  - Environmental (Water, Carbon, Biodiversity, Land)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Activity</th>
<th>Economic (IRR, NPV)</th>
<th>Social (Poverty, Nutrition, Food Security, Gender)</th>
<th>Environmental (Water, Carbon, Biodiversity, Land)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genetic Improvement</td>
<td>Lots</td>
<td>A few</td>
<td>A few</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resource Management</td>
<td>A few</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>A few</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy-Oriented Research</td>
<td>A few</td>
<td>A few</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic Resources Conservation</td>
<td>Very few</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Challenges**

- Keeping pace with the “rigor revolution” and new expectations
- Filling out the matrix a bit more comprehensively
- Weak capacity in the CGIAR centers for economics (Social Science Stripe Review: Barrett et al, 2009)
- Solution – Shift to a new business model:
  - More independence from centers
  - Increased operational budget and staff
  - Management of special grants on behalf of donors
    - Gates Foundation on adoption of varieties in Africa and South Asia
    - USAID funding for poverty / nutrition studies 2011
  - Commissioning papers / studies led by best of academia

**Special characteristics of epIA for CGIAR research**

- Long term (10+ years)
- Adoption is a private decision
- Highly uncertain when and where you will see impacts
- Large-scale (potentially millions of people, CGE effects)