

**Management response to the Impact Assessment Report: CIAT research on improving livelihoods of smallholder coffee producers in Nicaragua.**

**May 2015**

**CCAFS Program Management Committee**

### **Management response statement:**

This is a relatively good ex-post Impact Assessment that uses survey results to conduct a statistical analysis of the impacts of participation in three linked CIAT-CCAFS projects. The study considers impacts on food security, dietary diversity, income, crop production, livestock production and agricultural practices. It shows positive impacts of project participation on food security and diversification out of coffee. The study could be published in a peer-reviewed journal.

The study alludes to national policy, and would be stronger if it estimated impacts at the national scale, preferably with some analysis of the necessary policy and market mechanisms. Also, to be more relevant for Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), estimates of impacts on net GHG emissions would be helpful and interesting to a wide audience. Since gender data were clearly collected, it would be valuable to include some results in the impact study. Finally, CGIAR ex-post Impact Assessments are expected to include a monetary calculation of the ratio of benefits (of the impacts) to project costs.

### **Notes on the study:**

- Relatively good
- Confined to impacts at the direct site level (which SPIA actually defines as outcomes)
- Regression analysis – indicators include food security, dietary diversity, income, crop production, livestock production and agricultural practices

### **Interesting findings:**

- “The size of the effect is an increase in food provision of about 0.3 months approximately, meaning that participating families experience about 10 more days per year of food security.” (refers to BRIDGES project specifically; based on self-reporting on lean periods)
- “Participation in BRIDGES has reduced dependency on coffee incomes for beneficiary families by about 6%”