Monitoring and evaluation of Africa RISING: Results and achievements from Phase I

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Main Phase I achievements/1

- Site characterization and stratification
- Project Mapping and Monitoring Tool (PMMT)
  - Mapping and data entry application
  - Several rounds of updates, based on feedback received during two rounds of in-country trainings (70+ researchers)
  - Three rounds of FtF data reporting using the PMMT
  - Demo later
- Data management
  - Program-level data management plan
  - Data management using ILRI’s Comprehensive Knowledge Archive Network (CKAN), demo later
Main Phase I achievements/2

- **Africa RISING Baseline Evaluation Surveys (ARBES)**
  - Quasi-experimental design
  - Five countries; 4,510 hhs; 81 program and 76 control villages
  - ARBES survey reports (comparable snapshots of farming systems/livelihoods)
  - ARBES-based household typologies
  - Policy briefs
  - Data shared widely (inside and outside AR)
Main Phase I achievements/3

- ARBES-based ongoing research studies
  - MWI: Targeting, bias, and expected impact
  - MWI and GHA: Link between production diversity and dietary diversity
  - MWI: Economic, risk, and labor effects of different legume and fertilizer practices
  - TZA: Correlates of technology adoption, willingness to pay for improved technologies
- Phase II targeting exercise
Lessons from Phase I/1

- **Lack of clarity** on IFPRI’s role and data responsibility → IFPRI’s SoW and monitoring data requirement guide

- **Staffing** challenge → 3 locally hired M&E coordinators/data managers (one per project)

- **Timing and scale of evaluation surveys**
  - Reduced scope, better planning (with local M&E coordinators and researchers)

- **Cataloguing** of beneficiaries and innovations, plus interoperability
  - Direct beneficiaries → BTTT with unique IDs
  - Templates for monitoring beneficiaries at scale
Lessons from Phase I/2

- **Inform impact** → Higher emphasis on evaluation analysis (both ex-ante and ex-post)
- **Lack of SI metrics** → Initiating the efforts on SI indicators framework in AR (now with SIIL)
- **Compliance** with program-level data management → binding contracts
- **Communication** → improve the coordination with comms. to keep abreast AR colleagues about monitoring activities and research findings
Monitoring and Evaluation of Africa RISING Program: Phase II
Main activities for Phase II: Monitoring

- **M&E data guide and tools**: guide for monitoring data needs (type, frequency, responsibilities, etc.)
  - Data on inputs, outputs
  - SI indicators: to be guided by MSU/U of Florida’s sustainable intensification indicators framework (SIIF)
- Updates to the **PMMT**: new villages and indicators; FtF indicators data aggregation, SI indicators?
- **AR data management**: Ongoing discussions about ILRI’s CKAN versus Harvard’s Dataverse
Main activities for Phase II: Monitoring (Cont.)

- **Cataloguing** of AR beneficiary households and innovations:
  - **Beneficiary and Technology Tracking Tool (BTTT):**
    - Offline spreadsheet-based tool with unique ID for *direct* beneficiary households (demo later)
    - To be provided in Open Data Kit (ODK) format
  
- **Additional monitoring tools**
  - Scaling and exposed farmers (spreadsheet and ODK)

- **(Refresher) trainings:** PMMT, CKAN, BTTT,...
Main activities for Phase II: Evaluation

- **Characterization**: AR households, farming systems, typologies, livelihoods
- **Comparative analysis**: returns and risks of AR technologies
- **Assessing (farm-level) trade-offs**
  - Organic versus inorganic fertilizers
  - Along the SI dimensions
- **Follow-up** household and community evaluation surveys
Main activities for Phase II: Evaluation (Cont.)

- **Ex-ante evaluation**
  - Integrated crop and bio-economic modelling: APSIM (with ICRISAT), DAHBSIM (with IAMM)
  - DSSAT crop simulation modelling (ppt later)

- **Ex-post evaluations:**
  - Quasi-experimental evaluation design; cross-sectional and panel data analysis
  - Agro-economic impact of specific SI innovations
  - Technology adoption
  - Livelihoods analysis
Main activities for Phase II: Evaluation (Cont.)

- **Technology diffusion and scale-up**
  - Based on primary micro data from AR, nationally-representative micro data, and biophysical data

- **Targeted case studies and impact evaluations:**
  - Willingness to pay for improved technologies
  - Role of risk rationing and access to credit in technology adoption

- **Linkage b/n agriculture, nutrition, and gender**
Conclusions

- Decentralized monitoring
- Stronger presence in the field with 3 data managers
- BTTT set-up and monitoring
- Continued supervision of PMMT, CKAN, other tools
- M&E data guide and tools
- (Refresher) training for PMMT, CKAN, BTTT, other tools
- Follow-up surveys
- Ex-ante and ex-post evaluations
- Targeted case studies and collaboration on impact evaluations ongoing
Grazie!

Questions?
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Thank You

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