Innovative tools and approaches in evaluations of agriculture and food security programmes

Carlos Tarazona, FAO, and Hansdeep Khaira, IFAD
gLOCAL Evaluation Week
4 June 2020
Why innovate for evaluations

• Development interventions getting more complex to tackle new challenges facing the world (climate change, vulnerability)
• Greater donor focus on value for money i.e. accountability and cost-effectiveness
• Paradigm shift in approach to development: program recipients as partners, not beneficiaries
• Increasing number and magnitude of crisis situations
Innovations in evaluation approaches

• Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

• “Good-enough”

Potential use in crisis situations
ICT in evaluation: some potential tools

• Geo-spatial data collection and analysis

• Participatory approaches: SenseMaker
Tool 1: combining remote sensing with traditional evaluation techniques

- Use of geo-spatial information for sampling and analysis.
  - Sampling: to select control areas
  - Analysis: to triangulate results from household survey.
- The normalised difference vegetation index (NDVI) used to estimate the change in size of land cover between treated and untreated areas using temporal variations.
- The impact of the intervention is evaluated by the change between T and NT before and after the intervention BACI contrast = ( \( \mu_{NT_a} - \mu_{NT_b} \)) - ( \( \mu_T_a - \mu_T_b \))
- Analysis performed using 250-m NASA MODIS
- By convention, a negative BACI contrast indicates that the variable has increased more in the intervention site with respect to controls in the time period before and after intervention.
- Results of ground-truthing carried out through a field mission confirmed the low uptake of irrigation in intervention areas.
GIS image
Involving stakeholders in the interpretation and analysis of context & data

**Story-based**
More effective than direct questioning on sensitive topics

**Power in numbers**
Identification of trends and patterns in the data
Participatory Narrative Surveys

Planning

Story collection with self-interpretation

Catalysis

Reporting

Sensemaking group discussions

Improved gender equity and women's empowerment
Increased participation of women in household decision making
Increased contribution of women to household food security and nutrition
Economic empowerment of women
Improved food choices and practices by women
Improved food access within the household thanks to women
Fairer distribution of workload within households
Improved well water drawing systems

Collectif microprojects financed by F3I
FARN
GFS
JDC
Agricultural mini-kits
Goat kits
RME kits

NarraFirma© SenseMaker©
Discerning patterns and associations

**MCQs**

- Proud: 109
- Hopeful: 89
- Happy: 40
- Indifferent: 8
- Worried: 15
- Sad: 18
- Angry/Frustrated: 15

**Triads**

**Dyads**

**Stones**

- Meets your needs
- Doesn't meet your needs
- Got worse
- Improved drastically

- Training on good farming practices
“Good-enough”

• Innovative in choosing best-fit methods and tools

• Keeping the norms and standards of evaluation in mind

Ethics  Credibility  Impartial
Utility  Independent
Possible methods and tools

1) Primary data collection:
   • Geospatial
   • Online (email/web)
   • Phone
Possible methods and tools

2) Secondary data collection:
   • Synthesis and meta-analysis
   • Expert opinion (context/theme)
Q & A