

# Exploring and developing effective evaluative approaches for evidencing the contribution of CCAFS climate data and tools towards development outcomes

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## Introduction

Do CCAFS' climate data and tools contribute to development outcomes? The production of International Public Goods (IPGs) – such as high quality, easy to use climate data and tools – is part of CGIAR CCAFS' delivery promise. With CCAFS' transition to a results-based management approach there is an increased focus on achieving development outcomes. Hence, resources have to be balanced between i) IPG development, maintenance & support, ii) programs aiming to deliver development outcomes employing these IPGs, and iii) monitoring and evaluation efforts to assess such programs.

## The Evaluation

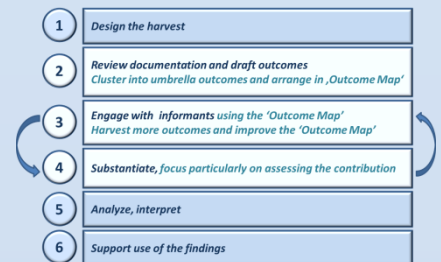
Assess the development effectiveness of CCAFS research outputs with respect to three selected CCAFS climate data/tools\*

Particular challenges were:

- IPGs are used widely and randomly and their uptake is partly **beyond CCAFS control and knowledge**;
- The use of IPGs is often only **one among many contributions** to development outcomes; and
- Research outputs and outcomes resulting from the use of IPGs often play only an **indirect role** for more downstream / 'impact-near' results.

## The Approach

The evaluation used **Outcome Harvesting (OH)**, a utilization-focused and very participatory method involving six steps ([Wilson-Grau & Britt, 2013](#)). We adapted steps 2 to 4 to include elements from Impact Pathway thinking ([Douthwaite et al., 2008](#)) and Contribution Analysis ([Mayne, 2008](#)).



## Key Messages



**Methodology:** OH approach unearthed outcomes in various projects, helped to assess CCAFS climate products' contribution; Impact-Pathway-OH allowed us to untangle the Analogues tool contribution to a specific, large-scale national program (see example).

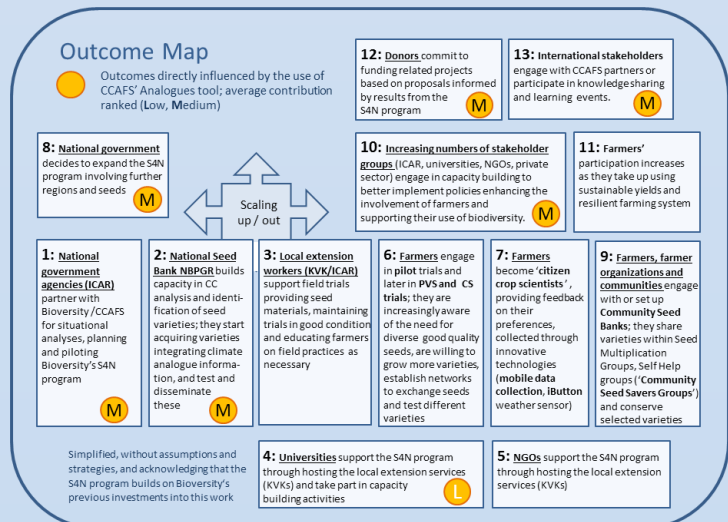
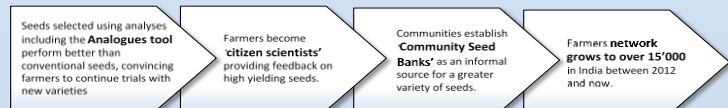


**Evidence:** Over 100 outcome leads, 45 survey cases analyzed; 30 cases researched further; 14 developed into SMART outcomes; 1 comprehensive outcome story; 1 Impact-Pathway related OH study (see example).



**Recommended discussion points:** Value added of investment into climate products in context of outcome delivery promise; random/wide vs narrow targeting; grass-roots vs policy work; with range of opportunities (strategic dissemination, communication, MEL, mechanism for mainstreaming CC).

## Example: 'Seeds for Needs' program India



## \*CCAFS' climate products

**CCAFS' Climate-Portal** (<http://www.ccafs-climate.org>) housing global datasets of climate change projections for climate change impact assessment, downscaled from several methodologies

**MarkSimGCM** (<http://qisweb.ciat.cgiar.org/MarkSimGCM>) simulating current and future daily weather data specifically designed for use in the tropics, including rainfall, maximum and minimum temperatures and solar radiation

**Climate Analogues** (<https://cafs.cgiar.org/tool-climate-analogue-tool>) allowing identification and mapping of sites with statistically similar climates across space & time

**Acknowledgements:** Prem Mathur, Sarika Mitra, Arnab Gupta, Neeraj Sharma, Bioversity International  
**Acronyms:** Climate Change (CC); Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL); Outcome Harvesting (OH); Seeds for Needs (S4N)

International Conference on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security - Where is the Cutting Edge? Galway, Apr 2017  
Look out for report on <https://ccaafs.cgiar.org>  
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