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 utilizationfocused 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, largescale 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





Outcome Map



Л 2: National Seed 3: Local extension

10: Increasing numbers of stakeholder groups (ICAR, universities, NGOs, private sector) engage in capacity building to better implement policies enhancing the involvement of farmers and pporting their use of biod 7: Farmers

11: Farmore as they take up using sustainable yields and resilient farming syster

1: National government agencies (ICAR) partner with Bioversity/CCAFS for situational analyses, planning and piloting Bioversity's SAN program

2: National Seed Bank NBPGR builds capacity in CC analysis and identi-fication of seed varieties; they start acquiring varieties integrating climate analogue informa-tion, and test and disseminate rkers (KVK/ICAR) providing seed materials, maintaini trials in good conditi and educating farme on field practices as M

6: Farmers engage in pilot trials and later in PVS and CS trials; they are increasingly aware of the need for diverse good quality seeds, are willing to grow more varieties establish networks to exchange seeds

9: Farmers, farmer organizations and communities engage become 'citizen crop scientists', providing feedb on their communities engage with or set up Community Seed Banks; they share varieties within See Multiplication Groups, Self Help (mobile data collection, iButtor weather sensor) groups ('Community Seed Savers Groups

4: <u>Universities</u> support the S4N program

5: NGOs support the S4N program through hosting the local extension services (KVKs)

*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

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

<u>Climate Analogues</u> (https://ccafs.cgiar.org/tool-climate-analogue-tool) allowing identification and mapping of sites with statistically similar climates across space & time Acknowledgements: Prem Mathur, Sarika Mittra, Arnab Gupta, Neeraj Sharma, Bioversity International

Acronyms: Climate Change (CC); Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL); Outcome Harvesting (OH); Seeds for Needs (S4N)

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