

TFESSD Mobilizing Rural Institutions for Sustainable Livelihoods and Equitable Development

RI Workshop Monday 12 February

Summary of Case Study Discussions

A. India

Case selection: criteria have not been fully elaborated but the research will focus on models that achieved scale.

Research focus: The team proposes to look at the following issues:

- identify which kinds of investments are needed to stimulate new institutional models that can change the ‘rules of the game’ (eg co-production)
- investigate why some aggregated institutions successfully integrate into the market (eg contract farming, franchising etc.).
- assess whether context is the main enabling factor, or the sequence of investments
- analyse factors that lead some firms and agribusinesses to change behaviour and business model to include RIs (eg by investing in co-production)
- analyse the factors that catalyse innovation, including the role of markets, partnerships with the private sector, and the role of co-production in stimulating innovation
- investigate the equity and inclusiveness of new institutional models, and whether small and marginal farmers benefit
- Develop a typology for assessing the impact of aggregation (eg using transaction costs)

Questions/requests for assistance:

- Issues on which India is comparable with the other country cases should be clarified - in certain dimensions the India case may be more comparable with Brazil and China.

B. Vietnam

Case selection: criteria for selection of sites have yet to be determined. Team requests guidance on how to balance the country-led agenda with the broader research agenda of the TFESSD program.

Research methodology: the team requests guidance on methodology, for example on whether a survey of perceptions of inclusiveness of RIs is the best methodology for examining equity and inclusion.

Presentation of final reports: team recommended that efforts be made to retain the ‘voices and vibrancy’ of field research in the final synthesis reports.

Questions/requests: team requests input from IFPRI specialist to assist in designing survey tools and ensure methodological consistency. Also requests guidance on whether the same research institution that developed the case study proposal, can be selected (through SSS)

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C. Yemen

Scope of RIs:

- The discussion recommended broadening the scope of RIs to be examined, for example to include traditional, religious, water management, NGOs etc (to give the study more operational relevance to the Bank's infrastructure and energy projects).

Methodology:

- There is a need to clarify what data is available, and what needs to be collected (eg rules, regulations, relationships, performance and impacts of RIs)
- The team recommends holding a consultation workshop to identify the range of stakeholders to be involved in the study

D. Afghanistan

Research questions:

- The discussion recommended that the proposal is too generic (mapping), and should focus on lessons on specific issues. These could include the role of RIs in a conflict context; inclusiveness; the role of cultural traditions in including/excluding women.

Methodology:

- The discussion recommended that the secondary data be supplemented with additional surveys at the local level (secondary data is mostly at national level).

Request:

- The team proposes VCs with other countries to benefit from exchanges with other teams.

E. Ethiopia

Research questions:

- The discussion recommended that the study address and clarify the appropriate roles of each of the main actors in rural development (parastatals, private sector and cooperatives), and how a 'level playing field' can be created.
- The issue of government intervention in rural development, and the risk of excessive state involvement stifling the private sector, should be addressed.
- The study should define the type of RIs, and the enabling environment, required to improve input supply and marketing systems (currently dominated by parastatals)

Linkage with IFPRI work:

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- The proposal should address how it is linked with and informed by the IFPRI research focus for Ethiopia.

Methodology:

- The range of RIs to be studied should be broadened to include traditional and religious institutions (eg 150,000 priests who play a key role in advising rural poor)
- To ensure the credibility and wider acceptance of the research, there is a need to involve agriculture professional societies and academics (EDRI is a government think-tank that may not be widely acceptable or credible).