



International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

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Overview

- Some institutional background
- Quality impact evaluation
- Theory-based approach: an example
- What does 3ie do?

Institutional background

- 3ie created to enhance development effectiveness through evidence-based policy-making
- 3ie seeks to improve the lives of poor people in low- and middle-income countries by providing, and summarizing, evidence of what works, when, why and for how much
- 3ie Members
 - open to any organization which implements development interventions, governmental or non-governmental
 - Agencies, Foundations, Governments and NGOs

Institutional background

- Associate Members:
 - *organizations undertaking impact evaluations*
 - *currently 34 Associate Members*
 - *half are developing country institutions*
 - *including: Agric Link Multipurpose Cooperative Society It., Nigeria; EJODEC CC, South Africa; Institute of economic and social research (INESOR), Zambia; Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), Ghana; REDIM, Kenya*
- Partners: Campbell Collaboration, PEGNet - Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network, the Latin American Impact Evaluation Network, and InterAction.

Why impact evaluation?

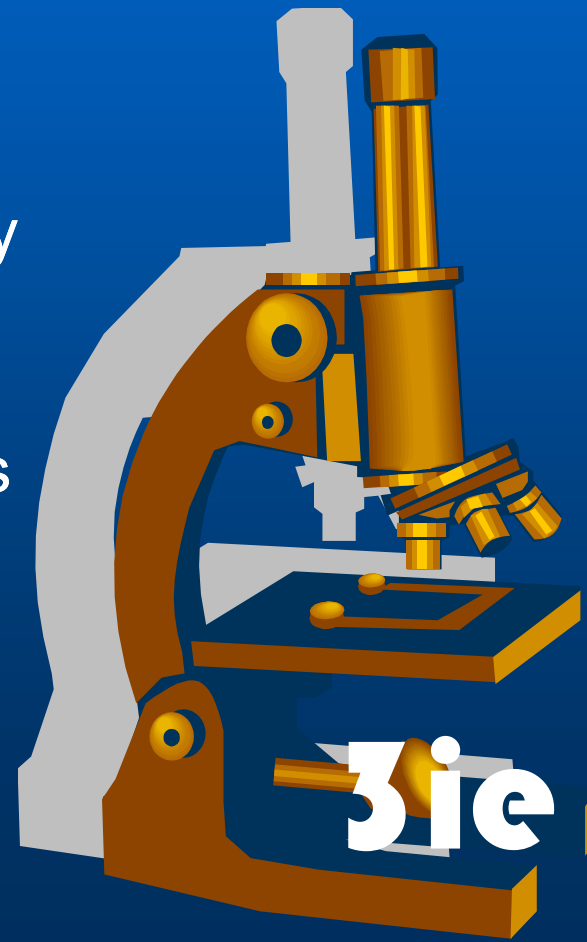
- Did the program/intervention have the desired effects on beneficiary individuals/households/communities?
- Can these effects be **attributed** to the program/intervention?

In addition, IE can be used to answer the following questions:

- Did the program/intervention have unintended effects on the beneficiaries?
-on the non-beneficiaries (externalities)?
- Is the program cost-effective?
- What do we need to change to become more effective?

So what is quality impact evaluation?

- Rigorous
 - Deals with attribution by creating **counterfactual**
 - Deals with biases and heterogeneity
- Policy relevant
 - Process, engage with policy makers
 - Theory-based design
 - Understanding of expected impact trajectory
 - Appropriate and mixed methods

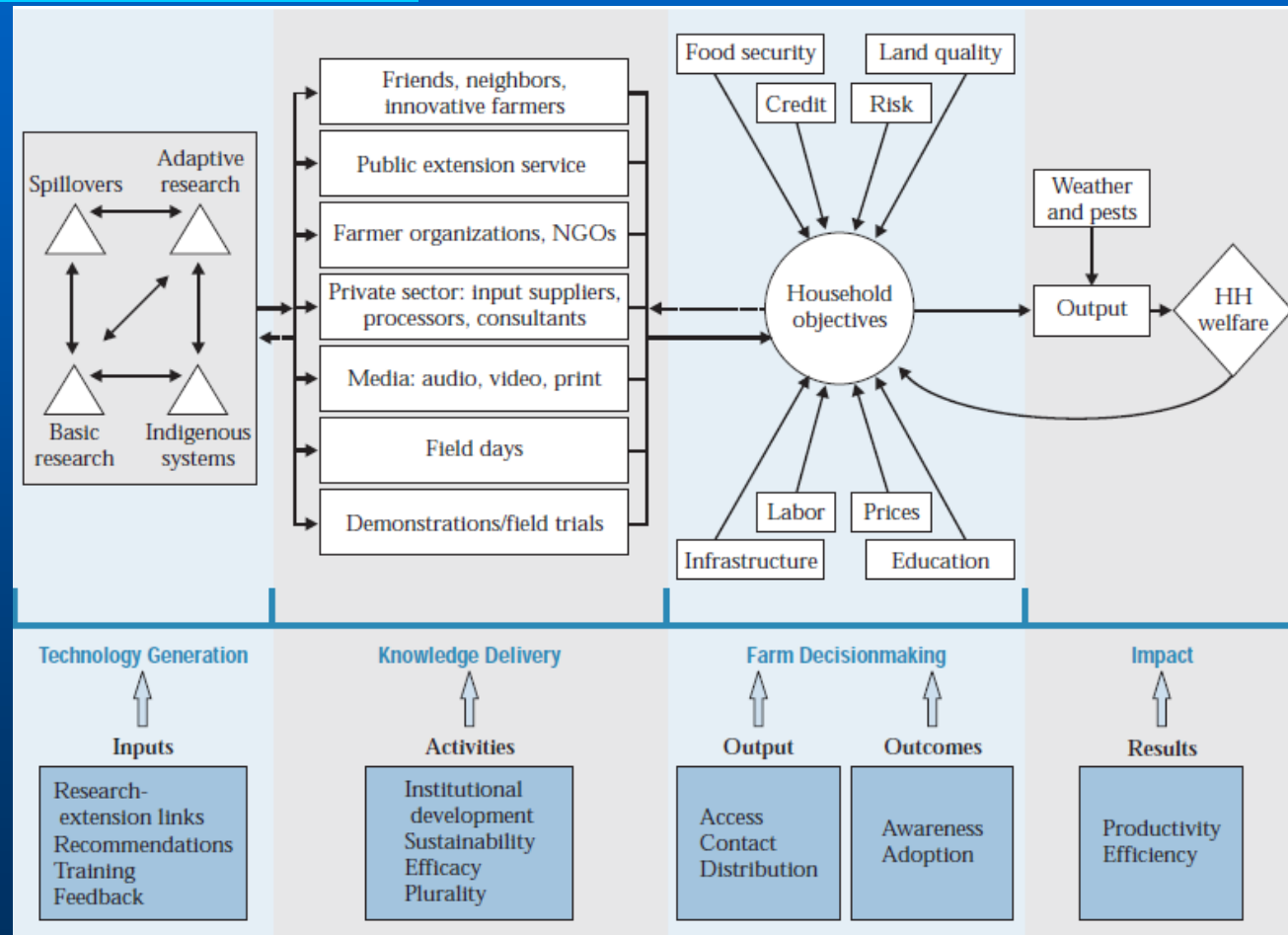


The importance of a theory-based approach: *the Agricultural Extension Program in Kenya*

No evidence of impact on agricultural productivity

But :

- poor farmers were not receiving sufficient exposure to extension workers;
- when they did, recommendations often outdated;
- link between research stations and extension messages did not operate



What does 3ie do?

Fund studies:

- Work plan is for a budget of US\$100 million in first five years, allowing 50-60 new studies each year
- These studies are a combination of quick wins, large studies and evaluation design
- Calls for proposals
 - Synthetic reviews
 - Proposal preparation grants
 - Open window
 - Thematic (t.b.d)

What does 3ie do?

- Information services (www.3ieimpact.org)
 - Databases are coming (expert roster, IE studies)
 - Working papers
 - Journal of Development Effectiveness
 - EQ briefs
- Social networking site (<http://3ieimpact.ning.com/>)
- Quality assurance services
- Promote quality impact evaluation
 - annual conferences

Cairo conference: March 29-April 2

Perspectives on Impact Evaluation

Approaches to assessing Development Effectiveness

- AfrEA, NONIE and 3ie
- 700 Participants
- First Issue of the Journal of Development Effectiveness:
Knowing what works



A taste from the Cairo Conference...

- *Impact of Nonfarm Employments on Food Security in Rural Ghana: A Propensity-Score Matching Approach* by Victor Owusu, Awudu Abdulai, and Seini Yussif Abdul-Rahman
 - Does nonfarm employments reduce household food insecurity?
- *Are There Lasting Impacts of (external) Aid to Poor Areas? Evidence from China* by Shaohua Chen, Ren Mu and Martin Ravallion
 - How important are spillover effects via local government responses?
 - Does community participation make these programs more effective?

Thank you



Visit

www.3ieimpact.org