

## Tools to Evaluate Impact in Agriculture Spending

### DAY 1: 14 April

08:00 – 08:15 **Registration**

08:15 – 08:30 **Introductions and Welcoming Remarks, *Nana Boateng***

08:30 – 09:30 **Introduction, *Dan Honig***

#### **Why Evaluate Agricultural Projects? *Dan Honig***

What is Evidence-Based Policy Making?

Monitoring versus Evaluation

How Do Impact Evaluations Answer Policy Questions?

#### **Challenges in Evaluating Agricultural Projects, *Dan Honig***

External Validity Concerns

Challenges in Collecting Agricultural Data

Spillover/Indirect Effects of Agricultural Programmes

09:30 – 10:30 **Quantitative Ex Post Evaluation Methods, *Beyza Polat***

Formulating the Causal Effect and the Counterfactual

Impossibility of Observing the Counterfactual

Estimating the Counterfactual: Control and Treatment Groups

Intention to Treat (ITT) versus Treatment on the Treated (TOT)

Selection Problem (Selection Bias)

Non Experimental Evaluation Methods – When is It Good (and/or Necessary) to Use Them?

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00 – 12:00 **Randomised Controlled Trials (RCT), *Laura Poswell***

What is Randomised Assignment?

When Can It Be Used?

Estimating Impact with Randomised Assignment

Concerns with Randomisation (Ethical Issues, External Validity, Partial or Lack of Compliance, Selective Attrition, Spillovers)

Case-study examples

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12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch**

13:00 – 14:00 **Differences in Differences (DID), Dan Honig**

What is DID?

How is This Method Helpful?

Under What Conditions Is It Safe/Good to Use This Method? – Importance of “Equal Trends” Assumption

*Case Study: Impacts of Land Certification on Tenure Security, Investment, and Land Markets: Evidence from Ethiopia*

14:00 – 15:30 **Instrumental Variables (IV) Estimation, Beyza Polat**

What is IV Estimation?

When Can It Be Used?

What Are the Two Assumptions That ‘A Suitable IV’ Should Satisfy?

How Does It Help with Solving the Selection Problem?

*Case Study: What Are the Dynamic Effects of Fertilizer Subsidies on Household Well-Being? Evidence from Malawi*

**Propensity Score Matching (PSM), Beyza Polat**

What is PSM?

How Does It Help with Alleviating Selection Bias?

Different Methods for Matching Participants and Nonparticipants in the Area of Common Support

*Case Study: Impact of Cooperatives on Smallholders’ Commercialisation Behavior: Evidence from Ethiopia*

**Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD), Beyza Polat**

What is RDD?

When Can It Be Used?

How Does It Help with Solving the Selection Problem?

*Case Study: Rural Roads and Intermediated Trade: Regression Discontinuity Evidence from Sierra Leone*

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee break**

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- 16:00 – 17:00** **Qualitative versus Quantitative Evaluation Methods, Beyza Polat**
- Definitions of Qualitative versus Quantitative Evaluation Techniques
  - The Case for Mixing Methods: What Do Qualitative Methods Add to Quantitative Approaches?
  - Case Study: The Impact of Agroforestry-Based Soil Fertility Replenishment Practices on the Poor in Western Kenya*
- Ex-Ante versus Ex-Post Evaluation Methods**
- Definitions of Ex Ante versus Ex Post Evaluation Techniques
  - How Do These Two Methods Differ?
  - Case Study: The Economic Impacts of Introducing Bt Technology in Smallholder Cotton Production Systems of West Africa: A Case Study from Mali*

## **DAY 2: 15 April**

- 08:30 – 10:00** **How to Evaluate Agricultural Projects – I, Beyza Polat**
- Building the Results Chain
  - Selecting Performance Indicators
  - Sample Selection
  - Formulating and Testing the Hypotheses
- 10:00 – 10:30** **Coffee break**
- 10:30 – 12:00** **How to Evaluate Agricultural Projects – II, Beyza Polat**
- Collecting Data
  - Producing Findings and Writing an Evaluation Report
- Institutionalizing Impact Evaluation, Beyza Polat**
- 12:00 – 13:00** **Lunch**
- 13:00 – 14:15** **Interactive Country Case Study Session I: Malawi, Dan Honig**
- Program I: Farm Input Subsidy Program
  - Description of the program
  - Choice of Evaluation Methods (2 evals)
  - Discussion of the pros and cons of this method
  - Presentation of case evaluation(s) findings
  - Discussion of findings

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**14:15 – 15:30** **Interactive Country Case Study Session II: Mali, *Dan Honig***

Program I: West African Cotton Improvement Program

Description of the program

Choice of Evaluation Method (1 eval)

Discussion of the pros and cons of this method

Presentation of case evaluation(s) findings

Discussion of findings

Program II: National Rural Infrastructure Program

Description of the program

Choice of Evaluation Method (1 eval)

Discussion of the pros and cons of this method

Presentation of case evaluation(s) findings

Discussion of findings

**15:30 – 16:00** **Coffee break**

**16:00 – 17:30** **Interactive Country Case Study Session III: Participants' Application of Learnings, *Dan Honig***

Groups (formed at the beginning of the afternoon) will choose a model project to design an evaluation. In groups they will explore, with facilitators' support:

What to evaluate

What data is available

Choice of evaluation method

Plan for implementing evaluation

Expected findings

Incorporating findings into policy.

Each group will then briefly (approx.. 5 mins) share their proposal with the larger group for discussion.

**17:30 – 18:00** **Open Discussion and Closing, *Nana Boateng***

**19:30 –** **Official Dinner**

End