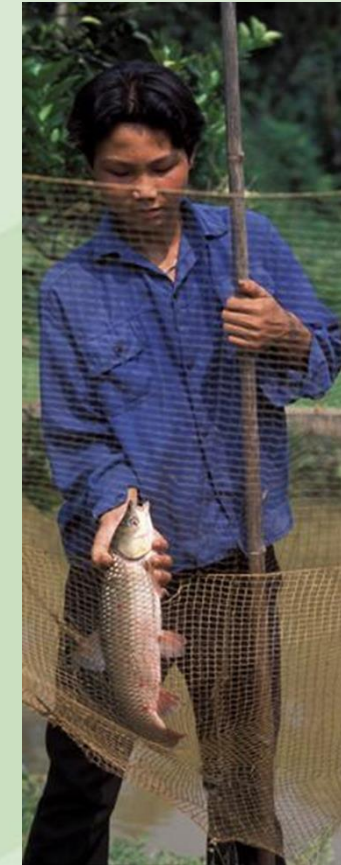


Dynamic impact assessment frameworks and their role in changing development contexts

Andrew Alford - Impact Assessment



Evolving strategic objectives

ACIAR's strategic objectives:

- Food security and poverty reduction
- Natural Resources Management and Climate Change
- Human Health and Nutrition
- Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment
- Inclusive Value Chains
- Capacity Building

Consistent with:

- Australian government's aid policy
- Partner country priorities
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Impact Assessment Methods

Historically strong emphasis on economic impact assessment

Independent impact assessments of 156 ACIAR bilateral projects have estimated:

- total benefits of A\$13 billion attributable to ACIAR
- benefit:cost ratio (BCR), 5:1

Examples:

- Parasites in goats, Philippines (BCR 5:1)
- Fisheries, Indonesia (BCR 52:1)
- Australian trees, Vietnam (BCR 79:1)
- Breeding and feeding pigs, Vietnam (BCR 118:1)

Beyond economic impact analysis ...

Capacity building

- Previously addressed in economic impact assessments
- Recent review highlighted the limitations of this approach
 - Mentoring, learning by doing, short courses during projects, represents 10% - 40% of total value of project investments
 - Formalised training – scholarships program
 - Impacts extend well beyond life of project
 - Links between individual capacity building and organisational capacity

Organisational capacity building

- framework for organisational capacity assessment ISNAR (International Service for National Agricultural Research) Lusthaus et al 1995
 1. The external environment
 2. Organisational motivation
 3. Organisational capacity
 4. Organisational performance

Policy

- Addressed in economic impact assessments
 - Eg. analysis of domestic grain policy in China with attribution of some benefits arising from changed grain-marketing policy as the research outcomes led to advancing the pace of market reform between 1994-2004 (BCR 33.5:1)
- Dependent on mapping the impact pathway of research outputs and capacity building through the policymaking process – attribution often difficult

Policy- Knowledge systems & RAPID

- Examine link between knowledge production and actions by next users and final users – farmers, communities, policy makers
- RAPID – context, evidence and communication, External elements
- Boundary organisations – facilitate sharing of knowledge
- Quality of knowledge
 - *credible*: perceived adequacy & quality of the research
 - *salience*: research outcomes reflect needs of the decision makers
 - *legitimacy*: perceived inclusiveness of the research process (scientists, policy makers industry)
- Context – external elements: economic, social, environmental

Davila et al 2016, IAS 92

Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment

- Not been addressed in a comprehensive manner within ACIAR Impact Assessments.
- Issues have been highlighted:
 - Differential workloads in cultural contexts such as Tibet dairying projects
 - Newcastle disease in chickens in southern and eastern Africa
 - Disease control increases women's incomes, evidence in some instances where increasing income sees men take control of chickens.
 - Community vaccinators - additional incomes and community status
- Exploring application of suitable frameworks and data to evaluate impacts - impacts on women involved in mabé and the pearl industry, Fiji.

Progress towards women's empowerment among spat and mabé producers - Fiji

Empowerment Domain	Indicators
Capacity Development: Skills and Knowledge	Training is available to women and girls in spat and mabé production
	Women acquire new knowledge and technical skills in spat and/or mabé production
	Women are able to apply skills and knowledge to practice independently
	Women gain increased confidence and recognition in community
Access and control of productive assets and income	Women have access to/ownership of resources/assets to engage in production.
	Women derive income as a result of production.
	Women have control over how to spend earned income.
	Women purchase new resources/assets from pearling activity income.
Decision making and leadership	Women are involved in decisions about production
	Women are involved in leadership in production
	Women are involved in leadership in community
Workload and Time	Women's work hours and conditions are manageable

Refining Impact Assessment Methods - mixed methods

- Combinations of quantitative and qualitative methods to better assess our impacts on complex development challenges
 - Impact pathways
 - Capacity building analysis frameworks
 - Frameworks to capture the context for the research and its outputs (eg. RAPID/Knowledge systems)
 - Social analysis tools (eg. WEAI)
- Leading to broader and deeper understanding of impacts and learning for research for development investments