



PIM monthly newsletter, Issue No. 4, September – October 2013

Dear PIM Partners, Supporters, and Colleagues

During the month of September the PIM Management Unit met with the PIM Focal Points to discuss progress in 2013 and plans for 2014. Following this first round of discussions, we are in the process of designing a draft budget for 2014. Although the latest news from the CGIAR Consortium Office regarding the amount of Window 1-2 funding available for PIM in 2014 is not very encouraging, we will maintain momentum on our exciting portfolio next year. We will also use 2014 to consolidate PIM outputs into the flagship products we discussed at our July meeting. These will highlight the contributions of the program during its first three years of activity.

The PIM Management Unit is also preparing for the annual meeting of the PIM Science and Policy Advisory Panel (SPAP) on October 23-24. We are particularly looking forward to feedback from the SPAP members on the strategic directions of the program and their suggestions on new research partnerships that we should be building with colleagues outside the CGIAR.

*Karen Brooks
PIM Director*

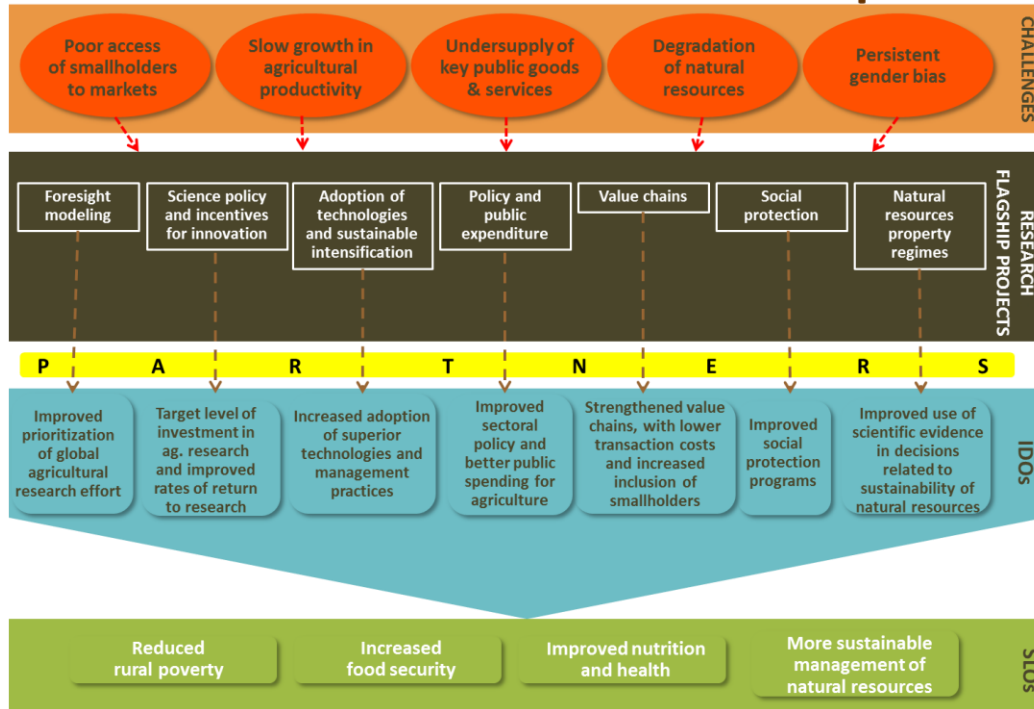
News

Reframing PIM around 7 flagship projects

In order to better reflect the program's strategic focus on impact, the PIM thematic structure (Theme 1: Effective Policies and Strategic Investments; Theme 2: Inclusive Governance and Institutions; Theme 3: Linking Smallholders to Markets) has been replaced by 7 "flagship projects" (Foresight Modeling, Science Policy and Incentives for Innovation, Adoption of Technology and Sustainable Intensification, Policy and Public Expenditure, Value Chains, Social Protection, and Natural Resource Property Regimes), each of which addresses a clearly articulated development problem and corresponds to an Intermediate Development Outcome. PIM's statement of flagships and IDOs will soon be posted on the Consortium Office website along with the other CRPs' statements.

Our existing program fits well into the flagships, and we will steer the evolution of the program to strengthen them. Current research will be grouped into larger clusters of activities under each flagship project, which will make it easier to pull out coherent aggregative messages that we can convey well to PIM's partners and supporters. We are also making progress in fully integrating the bilaterally funded work into the flagships.

From Problem Statements to Impact



Extension research workshop



PIM is organizing a workshop on “Research on agricultural extension systems: What have we learned, and where do we go from here?” which will be held on October 15-16 at IFPRI Headquarters in Washington, DC.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Understand the roles of extension as the link between knowledge systems and smallholder farm productivity and the implications for agricultural research, both within the CGIAR and elsewhere;
- Review cases, including innovations presently in use, and good (or bad) practices to identify the primary knowledge gaps in the design and implementation of extension systems;
- Assess current approaches to metrics for effectiveness of extension and identify potential improvements through research;
- Prioritize research that can inform decisions of policymakers in developing countries and enhance the impact of investments in agricultural innovations.

More information can be found in the [introductory note](#) and [draft agenda of the workshop](#).

Upcoming paper on gender and land in Africa

Cheryl Doss will be attending the Sixth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics in Rio de Janeiro on October 23-25 to present a paper on gender inequalities in ownership and control of land in Africa (authors: Cheryl Doss, Chiara Kovarik, Amber Peterman, Agnes Quisumbing, Mara van den Bold).

This paper argues that common statements, such as “less than 2% of the world’s land is owned by women,” are not substantiated by empirical evidence and do not differentiate between ownership and control of land. This PIM-supported strategic gender research aims to improve the knowledge base on gender disparities in asset ownership.

Project highlight

Evaluating vouchers and cash-based transfers

IFPRI and the World Food Program (WFP) collaborated on a four country (Ecuador, Niger, Uganda, and Yemen) study designed to assess the comparative performance of cash transfers, food payments, and vouchers on household food security and other outcomes of interest to WFP. In each country, an experimental design was used, with modalities (cash, food, vouchers) randomly assigned at a locality level. Timing, frequency, and value of transfers were equalized to the extent possible across modalities, thus ensuring that differences in outcomes were attributable to the modality and not to other confounding factors. One of the core findings is that there is not one “right” transfer modality. The relative effectiveness of different modalities depends heavily on contextual factors such as the severity of food insecurity and the thickness of markets for grains and other foods. The choice of modality should reflect the precise dimension of household food security (quantity of calories or dietary quality) that the intervention seeks to address.

This evaluation is the largest and most rigorous undertaken to date on this issue. This work received cofinancing from PIM.

For more information see <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/cash-food-or-vouchers>

Upcoming events

Upcoming events organized or sponsored by PIM

Oct 15-16	Workshop “Research on agricultural extension systems: What have we learned, and where do we go from here?”	Washington USA	DC,
Oct 23-24	Annual meeting of the PIM Science and Policy Advisory Panel (SPAP)	Washington USA	DC,
Nov 5-6	Mainstreaming Livestock Value Chains Conference: Bringing the Research to Bear on Impact Assessment, Policy Analysis and Advocacy for Development	Accra, Ghana	
Nov 18-20	Joint PIM-A4NH Workshop on approaches and methods for policy process research	Washington USA	DC,
Dec 5	“Bio-Sight/Sustainable futures” workshop	Washington USA	DC,
Dec 17	Joint IFAD-IFPRI-PIM workshop “Decreasing Vulnerability to Conflict in MENA through Rural Development & Launch of Arab Spatial 2.0”	Rome, Italy	

Upcoming events with PIM participation

Oct 21-25	CGIAR Gender Research Network study design meeting	Washington USA	DC,
Oct 23-25	International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS)	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	
Oct 29-31	First meeting of the CGIAR Evaluation Community of Practice	Rome, Italy	
Nov 5	CGIAR Fund Council Knowledge Event	Nairobi, Kenya	
Nov 19-22	CGIAR Consortium/GIZ workshop “The innovation system of demand driven agricultural research – bridging the implementation gap”	Feldafing, Germany	
Nov 21-25	CGIAR Consortium Workshop: Towards a CGIAR Strategy on Capacity Development	Nairobi, Kenya	
Nov 25	Partnering for Impact: IFPRI-European Research Collaboration for Improved Food and Nutrition Security	Brussels, Belgium	
Dec 16-17	OECD Global Forum on Agriculture and Technical Workshop	Paris, France	