



PIM monthly newsletter, Issue No. 5, October-November 2013

Dear PIM Partners, Supporters, and Colleagues

At its meeting on November 6-7 in Nairobi the Fund Council decided to postpone the end the first phase of CRPs to December 31, 2016. In January 2014, we will initiate a consultative and efficient process to define the PIM portfolio for the 2015-2016 extension period.

We recently sent out the proposed 2014 allocations; thanks to those who have responded, either with queries or concurrence.

I am happy to announce that PIM released its “First Eighteen Months” report in November. This report, which highlights some of the achievements and new directions of the program during its first eighteen months of operations, can be downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/policies-institutions-and-markets-first-eighteen-months>.

The CGIAR Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA) has scheduled the evaluation of PIM in 2014. Given the short period of time that the program has been in existence, much of the focus of this evaluation will be on legacy projects. Ruth Meinzen-Dick and I attended the first meeting of the IEA community of practice in Rome on October 29-31 to learn more about the approaches to evaluation generally, and the upcoming PIM evaluation in particular.

These past two months have been active for us – as I am sure they have been for you. Please see below for a snapshot of some of the developments in PIM and events organized or co-sponsored by PIM. I hope you enjoy reading about these.

*Karen Brooks
PIM Director*

News

PIM Management Unit’s retreat on flagships and clusters

Our small PMU team organized a one-day retreat on November 13 to take a closer look at the PIM bilateral portfolio, assign activities to flagships and clusters, and prepare the ground for the 2013 reporting and 2014 work plan processes. We circulated the resulting table showing the new structure of the program. We are looking forward to feedback from the PIM Focal Points on these topics, and thank everyone in advance for your help in responding to information queries as we finalize the restructuring.

AgriFood Chain Toolkit Conference (contributed by Jo Cadilhon, ILRI)



Photo credit: ILRI/Muthoni Njiru

The [AgriFood Chain Toolkit Conference-Livestock and Fish Value Chains in East Africa](#) was held 9–11 September 2013 in Kampala, Uganda. Researchers and practitioners in livestock and fish value chains came together in this meeting, which ambitiously set itself the tasks not only of refining [a research-developed value chain toolkit](#) but also of supporting a community of practice established to review, assess and improve value chain approaches in research-for-development projects.

Fifty-seven participants from across Africa attended the conference, which was hosted by two multi-centre CGIAR research programs—‘Livestock and Fish’, led by ILRI, and ‘Policies, Institutions and Markets’, led by IFPRI.

Derek Baker, an ILRI agricultural economist who works with the Policies, Institutions and Markets program, said that feedback from this meeting will help his research team assess if and how markets can be made to work better for small-scale food producers.

‘We wanted to capture the personal experiences of value chain practitioners and stakeholders in their use of our value chain toolkit. And we wanted to better understand the opportunities these livestock entrepreneurs would like to take advantage of if they could find the means to do so,’ said Baker.

The Kampala conference is one of several planned review workshops that will collate, synthesize and share good practices of value chain tool users, practitioners and researchers. This information supports ongoing CGIAR agriculture ‘value chains’ research in eastern Africa.

More on this event here: http://livestock-fish.wikispaces.com/agrifoodchain_ea2013 and here: <http://www.pim.cgiar.org/2013/07/17/call-for-contributions-livestock-fish-value-chains-conference/>

**Conference on traditional crops for a food secure Africa
(contributed by Stefano Padulosi, Bioversity International)**



Traditional crops can play a more prominent role in African countries' quests for food and nutritional security, agricultural sustainability and adaptation to climate change. Yet, to ensure that research on neglected and underutilized species (NUS) is demand-oriented and that results are better shared and applied, researchers, extension agents, the private sector and farmers must engage in more collaboration. Supportive policy frameworks are required at national, regional and global levels to promote NUS in science, education, extension and commerce.

These are the key points which emerged from the panel discussion that concluded the 3rd International Conference on Neglected and Underutilized Species - for a Food-Secure Africa (NUS 2013), held in Accra, Ghana from 25 to 27 September, 2013.

Neglected and underutilized crops have attracted scientists' attention for many years, but it was only in 2008 that the first International Conference on this theme was held in Arusha, Tanzania, followed by a similar event in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2011.

This year, NUS 2013 was held in West Africa. Many of the conference's 160 participants came from this region, and 36 nationalities were represented in all. Bioversity International, whose researchers have been working on NUS for over ten years, and the International Foundation for Science (IFS), Sweden, which provides research grants to young scientists working on such crops, were among the co-organizers.

Read more on this conference on the PIM website, here:

<http://www.pim.cgiar.org/2013/11/22/conference-on-traditional-crops-for-a-food-secure-africa-successfully-held-in-ghana/>

Extension research workshop



PIM organized a workshop titled “Research on Agricultural Extension Systems: What Have We Learned, and Where Do We Go From Here?” held at IFPRI on October 15-16, 2013.

Approximately 35 participants from CGIAR, universities, multilateral agencies, NGOs, regional networks, private sector, and donor organizations attended the event. The aim of the workshop was to identify areas in which PIM could contribute to innovative work on the changing functions and modalities of extension in light of present and future agricultural challenges.

Participants heard presentations on extension methods, needs and programs in the different regions, and areas for further research. They discussed how extension has evolved from the old linear and supply-driven models to a complex array of pluralistic approaches, with extension playing the role of a broker between different actors. Presentations highlighted the contributions of innovative methods (such as use of information and communication technologies, farmer trainers, etc.) for meeting the changing needs of farmers, as well as the difficulties related to measuring the impact of extension. Participants agreed on the need for a wide range of approaches tailored to the varying requirements of different client groups and policy contexts. How to operationalize this conclusion in the context of national systems that still recognize a significant role for the public sector was found to be a significant challenge. Participants agreed that PIM can contribute by helping to systematize analysis of extension and to increase the body of evidence in this area. As a follow up PIM will initiate scoping studies in 2014, including a historic overview of reforms of extension systems and frameworks, a study on operationalizing the best fit framework, and a contribution on monitoring the performance of extension. This work will be pursued under the flagship project on Adoption of Technology and Sustainable Intensification within the PIM program.

A summary of the workshop, the list of participants as well as the presentations and a video of the first half day of the event, are available on the PIM website, here:

<http://www.pim.cgiar.org/2013/11/14/summary-of-pims-extension-workshop-now-available/>

Meeting of PIM Science and Policy Advisory Panel



The PIM Science and Policy Advisory Panel (SPAP) met in Washington DC on October 23-24, 2013. Panel members attending included Hartwig de Haen (University of Göttingen), Lindiwe Sibanda (FANRPAN), Sukhadeo Thorat (Jawaharlal Nehru University and Indian Council for Social Science Research), and Alberto Valdes (Universidad Catolica de Chile). Christopher Barrett (Cornell University), Jikun Huang (Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences), and Johan Swinnen (University of Leuven) sent regrets, and will provide input separately. The role of the SPAP is to provide the PIM management team and the Lead Center (IFPRI) Director General with strategic guidance to ensure that the program achieves its goals.

During the meeting the participants heard presentations from PIM's research leaders about early results from PIM's portfolio. Several examples of impact of PIM's policy research were featured, from enabling African governments to establish biosafety regulatory systems, to influencing the European biofuel policy through evidence from CGE modeling.

Partnerships, both with CGIAR centers and with non-CGIAR partners, were at the center of discussions.

Panel members commended the ambitious scope of the program, the quality of the research, and the way in which attention to gender is integrated across all seven of PIM's "flagship projects". The SPAP provided a set of recommendations pertaining to the program monitoring and evaluation, emerging topics to include in the next phase, as well as relationships with key partners. There was a consensus on the need to continue and enhance PIM's contribution to strengthening the capacity of developing country institutions.

The PIM management team will take these recommendations into consideration in setting priorities for 2014 and 2015, and in preparation of the second phase of the program.

The agenda of the meeting and a summary of the key recommendations are available on the PIM website, here:

<http://www.pim.cgiar.org/2013/11/12/highlights-from-spap-meeting/>

“Mainstreaming Livestock Value Chains” conference
(contributed by Dolapo Enahoro, ILRI)



The conference on Mainstreaming Livestock Value Chains: Bridging the Research Gap between Household Analysis and Policy Modeling was held in Accra, Ghana on 5-6 November 2013. The main objective of the conference was to address gaps in the design and application of analytical tools for livestock policy and impact analysis.

More specifically, the conference aimed to:

- Establish strong and functional linkages between livestock value chain and impact analysis on the one hand, and sectoral, general equilibrium, and other economic modeling on the other;
- Identify and advocate pro-poor livestock policy options emerging from the analysis.

A pre-conference survey of participants highlighted [10 issues in livestock development](#) in developing countries. High on this list were issues around the evaluation, formulation and implementation of policies for pro-poor livestock development, and a general lack of information on the expected economic and other returns to public investments in livestock development. Group sessions at the conference discussed these challenges and possible solutions.

Conference presenters included livestock specialists and analysts in agricultural policy modeling from within the CGIAR, selected NARS, and international agencies tracking poverty, trade and investment patterns. Participants included research organization and development actors with an interest in the empirical specification of agricultural policy, particularly related to livestock.

Recommendations were made for collaborative research to take advantage of complementarities between household-level analyses and global economic modeling. These recommendations will be synthesized in the conference proceedings. Other [outputs from the conference](#) (in process) include recommendations for the livestock modeling efforts of PIM, and a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal featuring refereed articles based on contributions to the conference and conference proceedings.

Presentations, paper abstracts, list of participants and photos from the event can be found on the PIM website, here:

<http://www.pim.cgiar.org/2013/11/18/mainstreaming-livestock-value-chains-conference-highlights/>

Policy Process Workshop

(thanks to Katharine Hagerman, Kimberly Keeton, Ruth Meinzen-Dick, Nancy Johnson and Quinn Bernier for co-writing this post)

How can research generate policy-relevant evidence? How can we increase the likelihood that evidence is used effectively by decision-makers? How can researchers ensure that research serves as a “catalyst” to boost the effectiveness of policies and programs?



Photo credit: M. Mitchell/IFPRI

From November 18-20, a group of more than 50 policy experts, researchers, and practitioners from the agriculture, natural resource management, nutrition, and health sectors convened at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, DC to try and answer some of these tough questions during the “Workshop on Approaches and Methods for Policy Process Research. This event was co-sponsored by the PIM and [A4NH](#) CGIAR Research Programs, both led by IFPRI.

The workshop objectives included the following:

- To increase the capacity of CGIAR Research Programs to generate policy-relevant evidence;
- To increase the likelihood that evidence is effectively used by decisionmakers;
- To develop guidance and understanding on how to use research evidence to influence and engage with policy processes; and
- To evaluate the contribution of research to policy formulation and implementation.

Through a combination of keynote addresses, case studies and presentations, and working group sessions, participants learned about the state of the art and got feedback on ongoing work on policy analysis and influence. Workshop participants grappled with the challenges of doing research in complex systems and identified areas that could benefit from further engagement with external experts. Discussion topics included, among others, examining trade-offs in benefits, harms, and risk in policy decisionmaking, the need for both generalizable policy lessons and a grounded, contextual understanding of local realities, the need for mixed method research approaches that accommodate complexity, and the difficulty of measuring and evaluating the impacts and outcomes of policy-oriented research. Over the course of the three days, participants made new connections and strengthened existing networks, building a foundation for a much-needed community of practice focused on this topic.

The organizers will explore developing toolkits to introduce other researchers to useful methods for conducting rigorous and thoughtful research on this topic, including a focus on participatory action research.

Check out the agenda, presentations and video of this event on the PIM website, here: <http://www.pim.cgiar.org/2013/12/03/making-policy-research-conducive-to-policy-change-no-simple-recipe/>

Other past events with PIM participation

Nov 25	Partnering for Impact: IFPRI-European Research Collaboration for Improved Food and Nutrition Security	Brussels, Belgium
--------	---	-------------------

Upcoming events

Upcoming events organized or sponsored by PIM

Dec 3-5	“Bio-Sight/Sustainable futures” workshop	Washington DC, USA
Dec 13	Technical meeting on international organizations’ collaboration on measuring the policy environment	Paris, France
Dec 17	Joint IFAD-IFPRI-PIM workshop “Decreasing Vulnerability to Conflict in MENA through Rural Development & Launch of Arab Spatial 2.0”	Rome, Italy



