



PIM Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 6, January 2014



Dear PIM Partners, Supporters, and Colleagues:

This is our first newsletter in 2014, and I am happy to wish you all a very happy and successful New Year!

For many of us, December and January have been very busy months.

The PIM Program Management Unit prepared and submitted to the Consortium Office the PIM Plan of Work and Budget for 2014. I thank the PIM flagship and cluster leaders, Management Committee members, Program Management Unit, and IFPRI colleagues in the Director General's Office and Finance Division for their contributions to the document.

On January 1, 2014, the Consortium Office sent us the process and timeline for submission of the CRP proposals for the 2015-2016 extension period. Proposals have to be submitted to the Consortium by April 25, 2014. To meet this deadline, the PIM Program Management Unit and Management Committee, with inputs from Focal Points and flagship/cluster leaders, have developed a draft process and timeline for preparing the PIM proposal. We have tried to make this process as consultative as possible in the tight timeframe. The cluster leaders will have a key role in the process, and the March 3-4 extended PIM team meeting will provide a central opportunity to discuss the preparation of the 2015-2016 work program.

Even before we meet in March, there will be a lot of opportunities to discuss and collaborate on the program. To facilitate inputs on the PIM 2015-2016 extension process, we are setting up the "PIM 2015-2016 Work Planning collaboration platform." We will send information about accessing this site to all interested parties by February 1. We look forward to receiving your inputs and to developing an interesting program of work for the next two years!

Please read more about our news and events in the following pages.

Karen Brooks
PIM Director

News

PIM People

Management Committee:

- *Jemimah Njuki* has left the MC, and we are looking for a replacement. Currently, the Management Committee is comprised of: Cynthia Bantilan (ICRISAT), Karen Brooks (IFPRI), Xinshen Diao (IFPRI), Cheryl Doss (Yale University), Ruth Meinzen-Dick (IFPRI), Frank Place (ICRAF), and Maximo Torero (IFPRI).

Focal Points:

- *Sika Gbegbelegbe* is the new FP for CIMMYT.
- Following Derek Baker's departure from ILRI, *John McIntire* is currently acting as the FP for ILRI.
- *Arega Alene* replaced Victor Manyong as the FP for IITA.
- *Aditya Sood* is the new FP for IWMI.

Flagship and Cluster Leaders:

Please, see the list of Flagship and Cluster Leaders [here](#).
(If the previous link doesn't work, please go [here](#)).

Program Management Unit:

Evgeniya Anisimova joined PIM as Senior Communications Specialist on January 6. Before joining IFPRI, Evgeniya worked in various assignments in the communications and public relations field at international companies in Russia, including in the banking, mining and metals, and consumer goods sectors. She has a wide-ranging background in media relations, executive communications, employee engagement, writing, and editing. Evgeniya holds an MBA from Cranfield University (UK) and a BA equivalent from Moscow State Institute of International Relations, where she studied journalism, public relations, and foreign languages.

Warm welcome to all colleagues who joined our team!

PIM TeamSpace

Latest updates:

- Updated lists of FPs, MC members, cluster leaders... in [People and Teams](#).
- Find PIM team members' contact information (including pictures and Skype IDs) in [Contacts](#).
- Use the [Calendar](#) to learn about PIM events.
- Need a PIM logo in different resolutions? Please use updated versions from the [Program Branding](#) folder.
- See the updated Results Framework 2014 under [Monitoring and Evaluation](#).
- New gender materials including the gender results framework under [Gender](#).
- We are regularly updating the [master list of PIM activities](#) (in [Documents](#)).
- [2015-2016 extension](#) folder
- Find all 2013 Program Participant Agreements under [Contracts](#).

Events

Enhancing Resilience in Arab Countries

By IFPRI

On **16 January, 2014**, Ambassadors and representatives from Arab countries, researchers, and development partners gathered in Rome, Italy to discuss how the Arab region can work to reduce the impact of crises like conflict, natural disasters, and global spikes in food prices, especially on the rural poor.

Organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and the CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM), the workshop, titled “**Enhancing Resilience to conflict in Arab countries through research and Arab Spatial 2.0**”, examined ways in which policymakers and development agencies can collaborate to improve the lives of people in the region. The workshop itself was part of a three-year research project, “Reducing Vulnerability to Conflict in the MENA Region”, conducted jointly by IFAD, IFPRI, and PIM to promote innovative approaches and gain insights into rural poverty in conflict areas.

Read more and find a presentation, a press-release, and a link to Arab Spatial website [here](#).

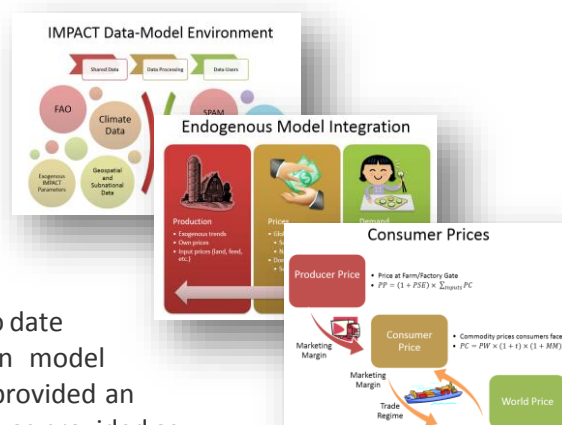
The event was [highlighted on IFPRI.ORG](#)



IMPACT Training

By Keith Wiebe

Colleagues from CIAT (Bernardo Creamer), CIP (Ulrich Kleinwechter), CIMMYT (Gbegbelegbe Sika), ICRISAT (Swamikannu Nedumaran), ILRI (Signe Nelgen), and IFPRI (Akiko Haruna, Angga Pradesh, and Nicola Cenacchi) participated in a week-long training session on the new version of IMPACT provided by Daniel Mason D’Croz (IFPRI) and Shahnila Islam (IFPRI) on **13-17 January, 2014**, at IFPRI headquarters in Washington DC. The training brought our colleagues up to date on recent model improvements, including changes in model theory and a new user-interface for IMPACT, and also provided an opportunity to discuss work plans for 2014. The training was provided as part of the Global Futures and Strategic Foresight (GF/SF) Program, supported jointly by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, PIM, and CCAFS.



While the January training session was targeted at colleagues who have prior experience with IMPACT and GF/SF, two additional sessions over the next several months will provide a more complete introduction to IMPACT for colleagues who are just joining the GF/SF Program or who need additional training. These sessions will take place on 24 February – 7 March, 2014, at CIAT headquarters in Cali, Colombia, and on 28 April – 9 May, 2014, at WorldFish headquarters in Penang, Malaysia.

Second meeting of IOs on Measuring the Agricultural Policy Environment

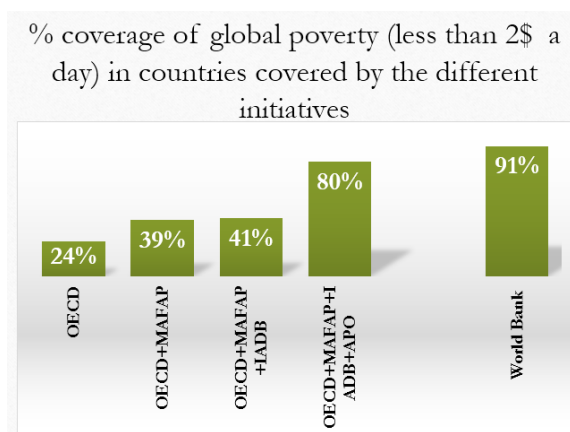
By David Laborde and Karen Brooks

The second meeting of International Organizations (IOs) and experts interested in collaboration on measuring the agricultural policy environment took place in Paris at OECD headquarters on **13 December, 2013**, co-convened by OECD and the CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM).

The goal of the initiative, which was officially launched during the first meeting in June, 2013, is to create a common platform for harmonization of approaches and coordination of activities of various stakeholders in the field of measuring agricultural policies around the world.

During the meeting in December, each international organization presented its work focusing on issues of consistency in methodology, ability to provide metadata/documentation of a certain quality, and commitment to continuity in updating the measures.

As requested during the first meeting, IFPRI has built and presented a prototype platform for sharing of data and methodologies developed by the several IOs, allowing comparison of results, and displaying the inventory of publicly available materials.



Next Steps

IFPRI will continue to work with participants of the technical group to develop the internet platform for sharing of methodology and data.

Each participating organization will designate a steward of the platform to take part in further development and enrichment of it. OECD and IFPRI (Jonathan Brooks and David Laborde) will lead an effort that is already underway to prepare a joint paper summarizing the current baseline of information on price policies in developed and developing countries, and providing the guidelines for populating the database.

Work on improving the coherence of efforts to collect and classify public expenditure data will continue in a separate but related work stream.

The consortium will meet again in about six months to review progress.

“BioSight” Workshop: building a framework for modeling sustainable agricultural intensification

By Siwa Msangi

The workshop held over **3-4 December, 2013**, on the **BioSight project** was attended by over 40 participants from a range of CGIAR centers, Universities, and Advanced Research Institutes – modeling experts in the areas of agricultural production and markets, land use, environmental quality, and crop production systems, as well as experts in institutions and governance of natural resource systems. This

event focused on the key issues and recent findings around the environmental and socio-economic implications of sustainable agricultural intensification.

The BioSight project, which was initiated in early 2013 with funding from PIM, seeks to build a strong analytical framework for understanding and managing the tradeoffs around agricultural intensification that have consequences for environmental quality, resource sustainability, and socio-economic well-being. The workshop provided a platform for a rich and broad-ranging dialogue around improving the methodological and conceptual foundations of this work, including how to better represent the role of institutions in bio-economic modeling, as well as the key entry-points for gender-relevant issues. The insights from the workshop will be used in the design of the quantitative work of the project in 2014 and beyond, and embody a significant step in forming strong partnerships to carry that work forward.



You can find links to the workshop agenda, papers and presentations on the PIM website [here](#).

[2014 GTAP Conference to Highlight Food Policy, Trade, and Economic Vulnerability](#)

By Pascale Sabbagh



Since 1998, the [Global Trade Analysis Project \(GTAP\)](#), coordinated by the Center for Global Trade Analysis at Purdue University, has organized an annual conference to promote the exchange of ideas among economists conducting quantitative analysis of global economic issues. **In June 2014**, the [17th Annual Conference](#) will be co-organized by [AGRODEP](#) and held in **Dakar, Senegal**. This will mark the first time that the Annual Conference is hosted in West Africa, providing an important opportunity for local African researchers to engage with high-level academics and economists from around the world.

The 2014 Conference, which will receive funding from PIM, will focus on “New Challenges in Food Policy, Trade, and Economic Vulnerability.” Submitted papers can cover an extensive array of topics under this theme, including: international trade and food security; international trade and finance; foreign direct investment in land and land markets; sustainable development; the integration of Africa into the world trade system; and the potential for Africa to “feed the world.”

See [event webpage](#).

Featured Blog Stories and Publications

Blog

What makes the difference in Extension Programs? Lessons from India

This summary is based on the blog story by **Suresh Babu** originally written for FARMD ([Forum for Agricultural Risk Management in Development](#)).

Suresh Babu is Leader for the PIM Cluster on 'Capacity strengthening' (Cluster 8.3), and represents PIM in the Consortium Capacity Working Group.

Are there good models of agricultural extension services that could be successfully replicated in a new context? This is a question that policy makers often ask when seeking to improve their extension systems to reach smallholders more effectively. This involves meeting the real informational needs of farmers, delivering the services more efficiently, and measuring the impact of the new knowledge on productivity.

Those involved in extension face the fundamental factors that affect success of development programs generally, as well as some specific to extension.

In our recent paper (Babu et al, 2013), we explore these issues by comparing how the national extension policy is implemented differently in four states in India, and the reasons for this variation.

The research indicates the following:

1. **Leadership at the state level matters:** we find that where the leaders of the state have taken a keen interest in promoting agricultural development, the extension systems function better. In states such as Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh where the Chief Minister (Head of the State) has been involved in the decision making and following up on implementation, there is improved delivery of the extension and advisory services.
2. **Better monitoring and evaluation systems promote learning:** In states where extension services are delivered better, the monitoring and evaluation systems are used not only for recording the number of visits to the fields and training sessions conducted for farmers, but also as a learning device that helps to provide corrective actions on the ground. This has been fundamental in helping extension workers see themselves as the change agents of the farming community and in empowering them to develop constant communication with the farmers. States that have implemented monitoring systems in an effective manner have managed to improve their extension services.
3. **Strong links to research improve extension:** Communication of researchers with the extension service workers plays a critical role at all stages of the agricultural season. A legacy of the previous extension system in India, the bi-monthly workshops between extension functionaries and research leaders in each of the crop zones, remains the main opportunity for information exchange between farmers and researchers. In states where such workshops are still held, the research has higher relevance to farmers. States that maintain mechanisms for regular communication between researchers and farmers using the extension system as a "knowledge broker" tend to reach farmers more effectively.



4. **Decentralization can boost education and training:** Opportunities for farmers to observe new technologies in use are important for translating research results into practice. The demonstration of high yielding varieties on the roadsides of Indian national highways proved highly successful during the era of the Green Revolution. Such “believing by seeing” models are still effective. Farmer Science Centers (Krishi Vigyan Kendras, or KVK) that conduct adaptive research, field demonstrations, and farmer training sessions in different regions of India have been critical for knowledge transfer. Integration of extension services with KVKs proved very useful for the performance of extension in the observed states. Again, such integration depends on strong leadership at the district level.
5. **Civil Society Organizations can help by exerting pressure and promoting collaboration:** The role of Civil Society Organizations in extension is increasing. In states where civil society has been actively engaged in extension, there is an increased awareness of the farmers’ needs. The CSOs also play an important role in decisions about priorities for extension services and how they are delivered.
6. **Private extension systems are increasing in several states of India.** Private extension systems have shown mixed results in terms of their contribution to productivity, and tend to focus on selective commodities. In some areas where the private sector is active and well received by farmers, the public extension system has pulled back. Public and private services can work synergistically. For example, public services can piggy-back on organizational successes of the private organizations by offering a wider array of knowledge and information than that covered by the private firms.
7. **Extension systems are often seen (and used) as vehicles for implementing government campaigns.** Over the past decades the Indian extension system has been often used by the state governments to deliver special subsidies to the farmers and to mobilize political support during elections. This deviation from the primary mandate for extension has been one of the main causes for deterioration of the Indian system. In states where such political intrusion has been limited, extension services have been better able to satisfy the informational needs of the farmers.

Reference

Babu, S.C., P.K. Joshi, C. J. Glendenning, K. Asenso-Okyere, and R. Sulaiman (2013). The State of Agricultural Extension Reforms in India: Strategic Priorities and Policy Options. Agricultural Economics Research Review Vol. 26(No.2) July-December 2013

Read the original blog [here](#)

PIM’s research on agricultural extension is part of the Flagship Project on Adoption of Technology and Sustainable Intensification. The work aims to develop effective, efficient, and sustainable extension and advisory services that contribute to reduction of hunger and poverty worldwide. It re-examines agricultural extension in light of changes in communication technology and the increased interplay of public and private actors within innovation systems. The mid-term outcomes include: strengthened extension and advisory services at individual, organizational, and system levels; increased evidence of what works in extension approaches; improved metrics for extension and advisory services. The gender dimension of the research focuses on designing public extension and advisory services programs to meet informational needs of men and women equally.

Related links:

[PIM’s workshop “Research on Agricultural Extension Systems: What Have We Learned, and Where Do We Go from Here?” October 15-16, 2013.](#)

Publications

Gender inequalities in ownership and control of land in Africa: myth versus reality

Over the past decade, stakeholders have made a variety of generalized claims concerning women's landownership, both globally and in Africa. Typically, these claims include statements with single statistics, such as "women own less than 2 percent of the world's land" or "women own approximately 15 percent of land in Africa south of the Sahara." These claims are problematic because they are not substantiated by empirical evidence, do not reflect variations in landownership across or within countries, do not acknowledge differences in landownership regimes, nor address comparative ownership by men in the same contexts. Neither do they address the difference between ownership and control of land. The lack of a clear understanding behind statistics on gender and land also leads to an inability to clearly articulate a policy response to the potential inequalities faced by women and men. The objective of this paper is to explore, conceptually and empirically, the levels and relative inequalities in landownership between women and men in African countries. [Read more and access PDF here](#)

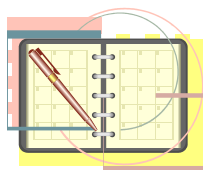
How do intrahousehold dynamics change when assets are transferred to women?

Growing evidence shows that the distribution of individuals' ownership and control of assets within a household can have important implications for women's empowerment and children's well-being. Interventions that target assets to specific individuals can shift these intrahousehold dynamics, yet little evidence exists from rigorous evaluations. We study BRAC's Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction—Targeting the Ultra Poor (CFPR-TUP) program in Bangladesh, which targets asset transfer (primarily livestock) and training to rural women in poor households. Previous research has shown large, significant positive program impacts at the household level. [Read more and access the PDF here.](#)

Can dairy value-chain projects change gender norms in rural Bangladesh?

Value-chain projects are increasingly being used to link smallholders to markets. However, in contexts where women tend to own and control fewer assets than men, and are more likely to be involved in informal rather than formal market activities, there is potential for value-chain projects to have unintended consequences on gender dynamics. In particular, there is concern among project implementors regarding possible adverse effects for women in terms of shifting intrahousehold distribution of assets, gender norms, and household members' time allocation to various activities. Using both quantitative and qualitative research methods, the Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project (GAAP) worked with CARE-Bangladesh to assess the impact of the Strengthening the Dairy Value Chain Project (SDVCP) on (1) women's ownership of assets, men's ownership of assets, and jointly held assets; (2) gender norms around asset ownership and control; (3) gender norms regarding decisionmaking in these areas surrounding the dairy value chain; and (4) trade-offs and time costs involved in project participation. [Read more and access the PDF here.](#)

Upcoming events



See below and save the dates for some major upcoming events (confirmed to date) that PIM organizes, co-hosts, or takes part in.

| When and where | Event | |
|---|--|---|
| 24 February – 7 March, CIAT HQ, Cali, Colombia | IMPACT training | <i>Introduction to IMPACT for colleagues who are joining the GF/SF Program or who need additional training (supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, PIM, and CCAFS).</i> |
| 3-4 March, Washington, DC, USA | Extended PIM team meeting | <i>We will discuss the progress that PIM will have made by the end of the first 3 year period and the preparation of the 2015-2016 work program. Also a great opportunity for the members of the extended PIM team to get to know each other.</i> |
| 12-14 March, Washington, DC, USA | ISPC 9th meeting | <i>Karen Brooks will speak about activities and deliverables of PIM, and Melanie Bacou will make a presentation about mapping CRP sites – prioritization of CGIAR activities for phase 2.</i> |
| 24-27 March, Washington, DC, USA | World Bank 2014 Land and Poverty Conference | <i>Agnes Quisumbing is organizing three sessions, including one in which she will present the paper on “Gender Inequalities in Ownership and Control of Land in Africa: Myth and Reality”.</i> |
| April (exact dates will be communicated later) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan | Research Conference on agricultural and structural transformation and food security in Central Asia | <i>This event is co-sponsored by PIM.</i> |
| 28 April – 9 May, WorldFish HQ, Penang, Malaysia | IMPACT training | <i>Introduction to IMPACT for colleagues who are joining the GF/SF Program or who need additional training (supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, PIM, and CCAFS).</i> |
| 14-15 May, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | 2020 Conference: “Building Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security” | <i>PIM is a sponsor and will participate in the conference and knowledge fair.</i> |
| 18-20 June, Dakar, Senegal | 17th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis “New Challenges in Food Policy, Trade and Economic Vulnerability” | <i>Event organized by the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) and co-sponsored by PIM.</i> |



Working from a non-IFPRI computer?
[Click here](#) for a reminder on how to log in to the TeamSpace.

A note from the editor

Dear Readers!

Thank you for your interest in the PIM news and events! We hope you found this issue informative and useful. Please give us your feedback – we will be very grateful for suggestions on how to make the newsletter better.

There is always a possibility that we missed something. To help us avoid this in the future, please [send us](#) your stories, announcements, event details, pictures, and publication links – anything that might be important and interesting to share with the PIM community.

Evgeniya Anisimova
PIM Senior Communications Specialist
(on behalf of the whole PIM Program Management Unit)

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