



PIM Newsletter

Issue No 7, February-March 2014



Dear PIM Partners, Supporters, and Colleagues:

I am happy to present our second newsletter in 2014, and hope that you will find it of interest. We at PIM were excited to receive many positive reactions to the January issue, and I especially welcome our new followers who have subscribed to the PIM news update over the last two months.

On March 3-4, despite the inclement weather and snowfall closures in DC, we held an extended PIM team meeting bringing together almost all of our flagship and cluster leaders, members of the Management Committee, the PIM program management unit (PMU), and a number of other valued guests, including the team undertaking the evaluation of PIM, who will be working with us very closely this year. The meeting was a good opportunity to get to know each other better, and welcome the new members of the PIM team. We are a very geographically dispersed group of people, and information does not always flow easily, but we try our best to improve the program communication. Establishing working relationships and trust within the team matters a lot to us. I found our March meeting very useful, and I thank all who made the special effort required to attend on those cold and snowy days.

In the March meeting, we also reflected on what we have achieved over the period 2012-2014, and discussed moving forward for the extension period 2015-2016. I think the group and the program greatly benefited from this collective thinking. We initiated the discussion before the meeting – through various forms of consultations, including the electronic collaborative platform. During the meeting and through the platform we received a lot of very valuable comments, which we will use to put together the PIM proposal of work for the extension period. We will of course have to be selective in building this program. In addition to the inputs from the ‘supply side’, we are now in the process of collecting feedback from the ‘demand side’, and particularly from our major implementation partners (e.g. IFAD, World Bank, FAO, NARES, GFAR, etc.).

I am very grateful to all members of the PIM team – partners, researchers, collaborators, and support staff - for what they contribute to the program. We have built a strong program and take pride in its progress. It is very stimulating to work with this group, and I am confident that we will collectively build on our strength in the years to come.

*Karen Brooks
PIM Director*

News

PIM People



IRRI (International Rice Research Institute) is joining PIM, bringing the number of [PIM participating centers](#) to 13. Dr. [Samarendu Mohanty](#) has agreed to serve as the IRRI Focal Point for the program.



As a first step, IRRI will join the PIM work on foresight modeling. We look forward to building on the work that IRRI has already done with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in phase 1 of the Global Futures and Strategic Foresight Project, and extending that within the PIM program.

Program Management Unit:

[Dr. Frank Place](#) has accepted our offer to join the [Program Management Unit](#) as Senior Research Fellow, starting July, 2014. Frank will be moving to Washington DC from his current base at ICRAF in Kenya. He is currently Leader of the PIM [Flagship on Adoption of Technology and Sustainable Intensification](#), as well as of three clusters within this Flagship, and member of the [PIM Management Committee](#).



Management Committee:



Douglas Brown, Director, Agriculture and Food Security at [World Vision International](#), has joined PIM as a new member of the [Management Committee](#). We look forward to working with Dr. Brown and benefitting from his guidance to strengthen the program's linkages with NGOs.

Photo credit: <http://blog.worldvision.de/>

Very warm welcome to our new colleagues!

Events

Upcoming: African Drylands Seminar Series

Investing in integrated landscape management in Africa's drylands: wishful thinking or a foundation to build resilient economies?

PIM invites all interested colleagues to join us on **April 1, 2014, 12:30-2:00pm**, to participate in one of the final events of the World Bank African Drylands Seminar Series, launched earlier this year. **This seminar, hosted by PIM at IFPRI, will be dedicated to the integrated landscape management in dryland regions of Sub-Saharan Africa. [Read more...](#)**



Upcoming: Research Conference on Agricultural Transformation and Food Security in Central Asia



The conference will take place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on **April 8-9, 2014** hosted by PIM's lead center, the [International Food Policy Research Institute \(IFPRI\)](#), and the [University of Central Asia](#), to unveil IFPRI's new Central Asia Research and Capacity Strengthening Program and to engage national policymakers, researchers, and development partners in its research and capacity-building activities. The Central Asia Program is being implemented in collaboration with the CGIAR Research Programs on [Policies, Institutions, and Markets \(PIM\)](#) and [Agriculture for Nutrition and Health \(A4NH\)](#), both led by IFPRI.

[Read more...](#)

PIM Brown Bags: Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa

The first PIM Brown Bag seminar in 2014 took place on **February 27** at IFPRI and was dedicated to the topic of Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa (with a presentation of the [recently issued World Bank report on the topic](#)). The session showed great interest among our colleagues working in the area of agricultural and food policies. We were excited to have more than 40 people attending the event in person and virtually, and made a mental note to book a bigger room next time. [Read more...](#)



Global Futures and Strategic Foresight Program: Second 2014 IMPACT training in Cali

Following the first Global Futures and Strategic Foresight (GFSF) workshop on the updated IMPACT model in January, 2014 in Washington, DC, the PIM/IFPRI foresight team held a second training session at CIAT in February.

Colleagues from [CIAT](#), [World Agroforestry Center \(ICRAF\)](#), [IITA](#), [CIP](#), and the University of Oxford ([Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Food](#)) participated in the second training session on the new version of the [IMPACT model](#) led by Daniel Mason D'Croze, Shahnila Islam, Keith Wiebe, and Gauthier Pitois of IFPRI and hosted by CIAT on February 24 – March 7, 2014, in Cali, Colombia. The training was provided as part of the Global Futures and Strategic Foresight Program, supported jointly by the [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#), [PIM](#), and [CCAFS](#). [Read more...](#)



Featured Blog Stories and Publications

Blog

Unsustainable use of groundwater may threaten global food security

By Karen Villholth, Aditya Sood, and Evgeniya Anisimova

In celebration of this year's [World Water Day](#) (March 22, 2014), this blog tells about the role of groundwater in food security and is based on the interim results of ongoing research by [IWMI](#) and [IFPRI](#) supported by PIM.

...Interim results from the study currently led by IWMI and IFPRI on the role of groundwater in global food production present a worrying picture. A significant share relies on the unsustainable use of groundwater; in many regions groundwater is being extracted for irrigation in volumes exceeding the pace of natural replenishment. This is particularly the case in semi-arid areas with intensive food production.

[Read more...](#)



Gender focused research – the tools and the strategies

By [Consortium News](#)



Women farmers are crucial to agricultural production, especially in the small-scale sector. [Figures](#) show that they make up to half of the agricultural workforce in some developing countries, but often face unequal access to resources, such as land and technologies.

Yet although the issue of the skewed gender bias in agriculture has been widely reported, the picture might not be quite as simple as it seems – a factor that has major implications for designing effective strategies.

“While gender issues are well-recognized, how to address them is not well understood,” said [Karen Brooks](#), Director of the [CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets \(PIM\)](#).

Scarcity of gender-focused research has emerged as a common challenge for most [CGIAR Research Programs](#) (CRPs) and work is under way in many of them to develop new tools and strategies, so that scientists can understand and cater to the different implications of CGIAR innovations for the welfare of rural women and men. [Read more...](#)

Index-based insurance: a pathway out of poverty?

By Alexa Jay, CCAFS

A recent workshop sought solutions to index insurance challenges

If the rains fail, a farmer can lose everything. With even the chance of a bad year, investing in new crop varieties and technologies might be too risky. Year after year, she's caught in the trap of low production.



Weather index-based insurance emerged at the beginning of the 21st century as a new tool to help change this story. The innovative insurance scheme aims to arm farmers against climate uncertainty where traditional crop insurance isn't viable.

With this promise, researchers within the CGIAR agricultural research partnership want to find out how this tool can enable farmers to try out new seeds and production technologies that might help secure their food supply in a changing climate.

The CGIAR Research Programs on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and Policies, Institutions and Markets (PIM) brought together experts from across the CGIAR research partnership at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, DC 20-22 January, 2014 to tackle this question, and build new collaborations towards answering it. [Read more...](#)

Killer factcheck: 'Women own 2% of land' = not true. What do we really know about women and land?

By Cheryl Doss



For advocates, nothing is better than having a powerful statistic at your disposal to use in support of a cause. In the world of women's property rights advocacy, there's one statistic cited by advocates more than the rest: Women own less than 2 percent of the world's land. It certainly is a great rallying cry to mobilize people in support of equal land rights.

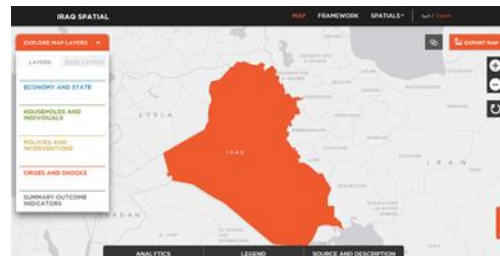
If only the statistic were true...

[Read more...](#)

Pioneering online tool targets improved decision making in Iraq

Cross-posted from IFPRI, originally published on the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) website.

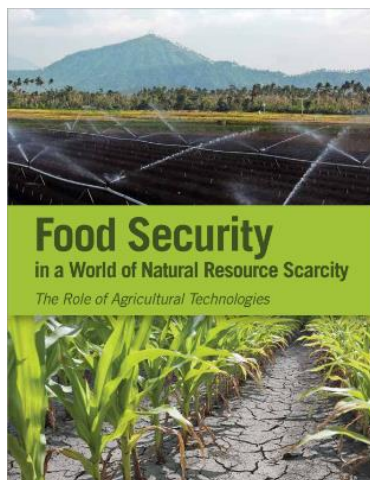
Without access to accurate and comprehensive data, decision makers and researchers struggle to develop appropriate policy agendas – they lack the information they need to determine what interventions are needed, and where, and their policies may do more harm than good, or at best, be ineffective and miss their intended targets. [Read more...](#)



Publications

Food security in a world of natural resource scarcity

The role of agricultural technologies



Rosegrant, Mark W.; Koo, Jawoo; Cenacchi, Nicola; Ringler, Claudia; Robertson, Richard D.; Fisher, Myles; Cox, Cindy M.; Garrett, Karen; Perez, Nicostrato D.; and Sabbagh, Pascale.
2014. Washington, D.C.: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

[Download book \(PDF 6M\)](#)

[Download appendices \(PDF 16M\)](#)

[Download synopsis](#)

The world's population is expected to reach 9 billion by 2050. Climate change, population, and income growth will drive food demand in the coming decades. Baseline scenarios show food prices for maize, rice, and wheat would significantly increase between 2005 and 2050, and the number of people at risk of hunger in the developing world would grow from 881 million in 2005 to more than a billion people by 2050. *Food Security in a World of Natural Resource Scarcity: The Role of Agricultural Technologies* examines which current and potential strategies offer solutions to fight hunger.

Authors thank CropLife International, the US State Department, and the CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets for funding this work. [Read more](#)

Land, assets, and livelihoods: Gendered analysis of evidence from Odisha State in India

Although asset-based approaches for studying poverty have shown that the portfolio of assets households own or can access influences livelihood strategies and a variety of development outcomes, there is little research unpacking gendered dimensions of asset ownership in diverse contexts. Using data collected from the evaluation of two government land titling interventions in the Indian state of Odisha, this paper examines key relationships linking land and livelihood strategies. The investigation is one of the first to explicitly use the [Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project framework](#) to gain additional insights on how gender–asset dynamics relate to household livelihood strategies. [Read more and access PDF here](#)

Exploring local perceptions of climate change: Impact and adaptation in rural Bangladesh

This paper reports on findings from 30 focus group discussions and 30 key informant interviews conducted in 12 districts of Bangladesh in May 2012. The discussions and interviews draw attention to perceptions of climate change and how climate-related trends influence people’s lives, both directly and indirectly. The findings also identify how people adapt to and cope with these changes. This paper aims to improve our understanding of local people’s perceptions of these changes, explore the ways they are affected by them, and how well they are adapting to them. In order for policymakers to plan responses to climate change in Bangladesh, it is essential to understand how people understand and cope with these trends. [Read more and access PDF here](#)

Risk and ambiguity preferences and the adoption of new agricultural technologies: Evidence from field experiments in rural India

Advances in agricultural development have largely been a direct result of increased usage of new technologies. Among other important factors, farmers’ perceptions of risks associated with the new technology as well as their ability or willingness to take risks greatly influences their adoption decisions. In this paper authors conduct a series of field experiments in rural India in order to measure preferences related to risk, potential loss, and ambiguity. Disaggregating by gender, they find that on average women are significantly more risk averse and loss averse than men, though the higher average risk aversion arises due to a greater share of women who are extremely risk averse. [Read more and access PDF here](#)

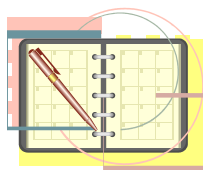
Closing the gender asset gap: Learning from value chain development in Africa and Asia

This paper explores initial findings from four case studies in the [Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project](#) on changes in gender relations in different agricultural interventions. It documents the adaptive measures projects are taking to encourage gender-equitable value chain projects. Findings suggest that the dairy and horticulture value chain cases have successfully increased the stock of both men’s and women’s tangible assets and those assets they own jointly. [Read more and access PDF here](#)

Changing sources of growth in Indian agriculture: Implications for regional priorities for accelerating agricultural growth

Indian agriculture was transforming from a cereal-based production system toward high-value crops (HVC) during the 1990s. However, food security concerns resurfaced during the first decade of the 21st century, and the policy environment tilted in favor of cereal-based production systems, especially rice and wheat. This paper revisits an earlier study to evaluate how the policy shift influences the patterns and the sources of agricultural growth in India and assesses their implications for regional priorities for higher, more sustainable, and more inclusive agricultural growth. [Read more and access PDF here](#)

Upcoming events



See below and save the dates for some major upcoming events (confirmed to date) that PIM is organizing, co-hosting, or taking part in.

You can also always see PIM's current events calendar [on our website](#).

1 April, Washington, DC, USA	World Bank African Drylands Seminar Series hosted by PIM/IFPRI. Seminar on landscape approach.	PIM is both a research partner and one of the funding contributors of the initiative.
8-9 April, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Research Conference on agricultural and structural transformation and food security in Central Asia	This event is co-sponsored by PIM.
28-30 April, IITA Headquarters, Ibadan, Nigeria	Workshop on Engagement of Youth Entrepreneurship for Agricultural Transformation in Africa.	PIM Director Karen Brooks will participate in the event.
28 April – 9 May, WorldFish HQ, Penang, Malaysia	IMPACT training	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).
15-17 May, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	2020 Conference: "Building Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security"	PIM is a sponsor and will participate in the conference and knowledge fair.
18-20 June, Dakar, Senegal	17th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis "New Challenges in Food Policy, Trade and Economic Vulnerability"	Event organized by the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) and co-sponsored by PIM.

Copyright © 2014 IFPRI, All rights reserved. You have been subscribed to receive the PIM monthly newsletter.

Our mailing address is: IFPRI, 2033 K street NW, Washington, DC, 20006