Training Workshop on “Econometric Impact Evaluation Methods”
26-28 November, 2014
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

On November 26-28, 2014, IFPRI in conjunction with ESSP, delivered impact evaluation training to over 35 participants from Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, Addis Ababa and other regional universities who were committed to extend their knowledge and skills.

This training workshop was organized in collaboration with IFPRI’s “3IE research project” on the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) and child outcomes in Ethiopia. It explored best practices in impact evaluation methods and techniques, with the aim to improve the quality of impact evaluation research in Ethiopia. - See more on the website.

PSNP Lowland Survey 2015

IFPRI-ESSP discussed the household questionnaire of the “PSNP lowland survey 2015” with the Central Statistical Agency (CSA) team on December 23-24, 2014. The survey will commence in Afar and Somalia regions in January 2015.

New ESSP Publications


Upcoming events:

- Regional GIS Training in Tigray region from 14-16 January, 2015

Presentation highlights in October - December 2014


Who benefits from rapidly increasing Voluntarily Sustainability Standards (VSS)? Evidence from coffee in Ethiopia. Bart Minten - October 17, 2014. EDRI meeting room.


Local spillovers from foreign direct investment in the Ethiopian manufacturing sector. Inigo Verduzco Gallo. December 05, 2014. EDRI meeting room.

Confidential land and agricultural productivity. Charles Gottlieb and Jan Gbobo. December 08, 2014. EDRI meeting room.

Conference presentations sponsored by other programs

- Natural capital. 18th Annual General Managers’ Conference MIDROC Ethiopia. Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse. 21-Nov-2014.

Visit our website to download publications: http://essp.ifpri.info/publications/
Policy-related research – Social networks and factor markets

Markets in developing countries are characterized by a broad range of failures that affect individuals and those institutions that attempt to improve how they function. Often they are inefficient, lack clarity, and are deficient in contract enforcement and monitoring results in costly transactions. In the absence of these well-established factor markets, the role of indigenous institutions (the *iddir*) and social networks can play a substantial part in mobilizing factors for agricultural production. This research explores the role the *iddir* networks play at improving small farmer households’ access to land, labor and credit transactions, significantly enabling effective functioning within communities across many aspects of their lives.

Bridging the gap

*iddir* networks can bridge the information and reputation related gaps between those who would like to acquire access to land or labor and those who would like to provide these factors through land or labor sharing agreements.

The results of these investigations highlight that informal indigenous networks can help the formation of physical and social capital that can improve factor market transactions among smallholder farmers. Specifically, joining an *iddir* network is found to improve households’ access to land, labor and credit transactions between 7 and 11 percentage points. Furthermore, these findings also indicate that *iddir* networks crowd-out borrowing from local moneylenders (locally referred as Arata Abedar), a relatively expensive credit source, virtually without affecting borrowing from formal credit sources.

Policy implications

These research results help improve our understanding of the role non-standard market arrangements, such as social networks, can play in mitigating market inefficiencies in poor rural markets. The results also have important policy implications for designing alternative policy measures which aim to improve these markets.

These policy considerations include:

- New thinking regarding ways of supporting these *iddir* networks, given their direct and indirect importance in factor markets and other development issues
- Focus on scaling up the institutional capacity of these networks without diluting their institutional strength
- Forming partnerships between *iddir* networks and other government and non-government organizations
- Expanding formal credit institutions by combining the desirable qualities of *iddir* networks with the institutional capacity of the formal organizations
- Creating an initiative to tap the potential of *iddir* networks
- Research into the efficiency of transactions through *iddir* networks to design better policy interventions

Read more in the ESSP Working Paper 68 and on the website