Research into FOR outcomes and impacts

– the importance of M&E in our research

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M&E Session plan

2:00 – 2:30: Presentation and brief discussion

2:30 – 3:00: Group work

3:00 – 3:15: Coffee break

3:14 – 4:00: Feedback and further discussion in plenary
Monitoring and evaluation is all about ….

Planning …, Supporting …, Reporting …, … and USING! …,

results
Evaluating research for impacts….

Planning: Including targeting **IMPACTS in project objectives** …,
Evaluating research for impacts….

And the **RESULTS** supported and tracked …,

- Effect on human and environmental wellbeing
- Research and knowledge generation
- Awareness and capacity development
- Use of knowledge and information
- Societal Transformation

To understand ...
To evaluate ...
To test ...
To determine ...
To explore ...
To synthesize ...

**Supporting MSc and PhD studies**
Evaluating research for impacts….

And the **RESULTS** supported and tracked …,

- Policy reform …
- Technology adoption and adaptation …
- Technology transfer …

![Diagram showing relationships between policy reform, technology adoption and adaptation, technology transfer, societal transformation, use of knowledge and information, awareness and capacity development, research and knowledge generation, and effect on human and environmental wellbeing.](image-url)
Evaluating research for impacts....

And the **RESULTS** supported and tracked ...,
Evaluating research for impacts….

TWO broad challenges … …,

SUPPORTING impact results…,

   Effective project design and management….,

REPORTING the results…,

   Effective monitoring and evaluation…,
Evaluating research for impacts….

We are (by default!) … limited to how much we can influence …
Evaluating research for impacts….

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Evaluating research for impacts....

By focusing on **OUTCOMES** ... it IS possible to get impact results ...

OUTCOMES: ...

Who ...?

What transformation ...?

OUTPUTS: ...

What research processes and products will support such transformation ...?
Research uptake to support outcomes

A strong **stakeholder analysis and engagement** ... **PRINCIPLES**

- Building and maintaining stakeholder relationships, ... **AND TRUST**
- Identifying user needs (demand-driven)
- Cultural awareness and contextual understanding
- Understanding psychology and behavioral change
- The right timing, ... when to capitalize on opportunity
- Developing and maintaining effective 2-way communication systems and processes
Research uptake to support outcomes

A wide range of ways used to support research uptake:

- **Publications**
- **Information exchange forums** (workshops, conferences, public meetings, cyberspace (d-lists, websites), social media (blogs, wikis))
- **Capacity development processes** (teaching, training)
- **Media campaigns**: initiated or prompted
- **Use of information brokers** (extension services, civil society, identified champions)

Choice depends on **supply-demand communication objective** and **means**
Evaluating research for impacts....

A RESULTS FRAMEWORK that reports on ALL R4D processes...

- Effect on human and environmental wellbeing
- Research and knowledge generation
- Awareness and capacity development
- Use of knowledge and information
- Societal Transformation
Evaluating research for impacts....

The **RESULTS FRAMEWORK** ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project summary</th>
<th>Observable, Measurable indicators</th>
<th>Means of verification</th>
<th>Important assumptions</th>
<th>Baseline status</th>
<th>Targets (2014, 2015, etc.)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Goal, Impact</strong></td>
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<td>‘Why’? ... at system level</td>
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<td><strong>Objective</strong></td>
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<td>‘Aim’ ... at project level</td>
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<td><strong>Outcome</strong></td>
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<td>‘What target change’?</td>
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<td><strong>Outputs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>‘What do we do, produce? ... to achieve the outcomes</td>
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<td><strong>Activities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>‘How’? ... to get the Outputs</td>
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**RESULTS of interest**
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Technical M&E challenges ...

An acceptable results framework \((LFA, RBM, OM, \ldots)\)

Indicators \ldots, but especially of OUTCOME results

Dealing with quantitative and qualitative indicators

Reporting arrangements, \ldots Knowledge Management

Baselines \ldots and populations to compare

Contribution vs. attribution \ldots to impacts
Evaluating research for impacts....

Also popular PROTESTS !!!

PROJECT FOCUS: “My project is limited to exploration, investigation …”

No TIME: “My project is only ** months, there is no time … to get there”

MONEY: “My budget does not cover stakeholder meetings”

CAPACITY: “How do I COMMUNICATE with policy makers and businesses?”

INTEREST: “I am only a researcher; let others do development”

“We all use a standardized M&E framework; we cant change that”
Evaluating research for impacts....

Think about need for M&E for progress and performance analysis, .... its implementation challenges, and ....

.. do it anyway!!!
Evaluating research for impacts…

Remember …

YOU CAN HAVE RESULTS OR EXCUSES NOT BOTH.
2. Monitoring

- Developing or reviewing results frameworks (LFAs, RBMs)
- Indicator and data requirements
- Developing monitoring systems (web- and hard-copy based)

3. Evaluations and impact assessments

- Conducting and reviewing evaluations
- Impact assessment and impact case analyses
- Documentation for effective dissemination

Services

1. Project and Organization Strategy

- Supporting and guiding R&D project designs for outcomes and impacts

2. Monitoring

- Developing or reviewing results frameworks (LFAs, RBMs)
- Indicator and data requirements
- Developing monitoring systems (web- and hard-copy based)

3. Evaluations and impact assessments

- Conducting and reviewing evaluations
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