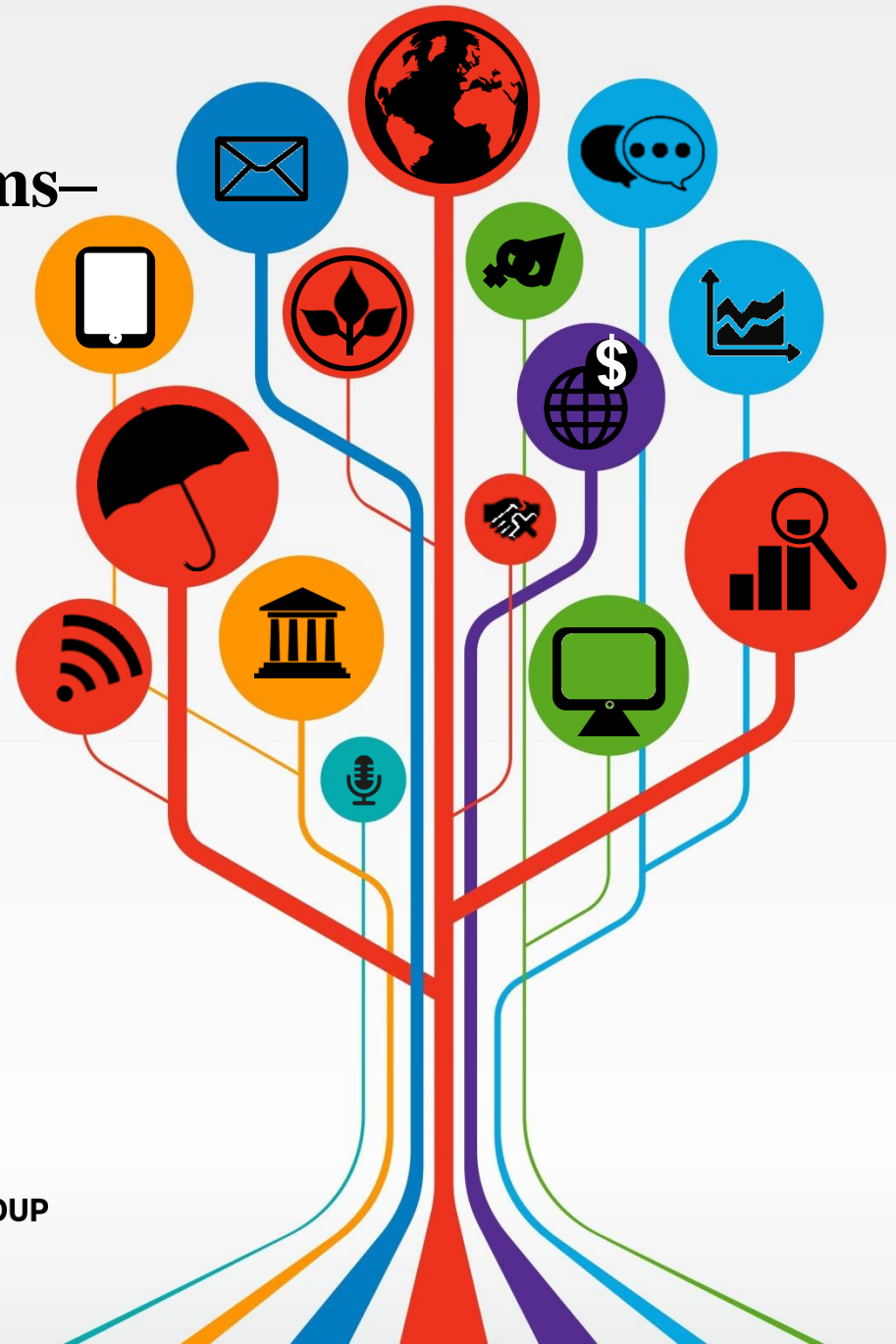


How to influence Policy Makers to adopt IE programs–

Experience from Rwanda

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Case Study: LWH

- DIME/LWH partnership started in 2012 to evaluate overall impact of irrigation systems
 - LWH is a project within MINAGRI funded by the World Bank
 - DIME works closely with LWH and MINAGRI to evaluate the impact of the irrigation systems and experiments around implementation and optimal use of irrigation investments

LWH's Objective

LWH is a flagship project of the Government of Rwanda that aims to transform hillside by increasing productivity in an environmentally sustainable manner.



Sector wide approaches

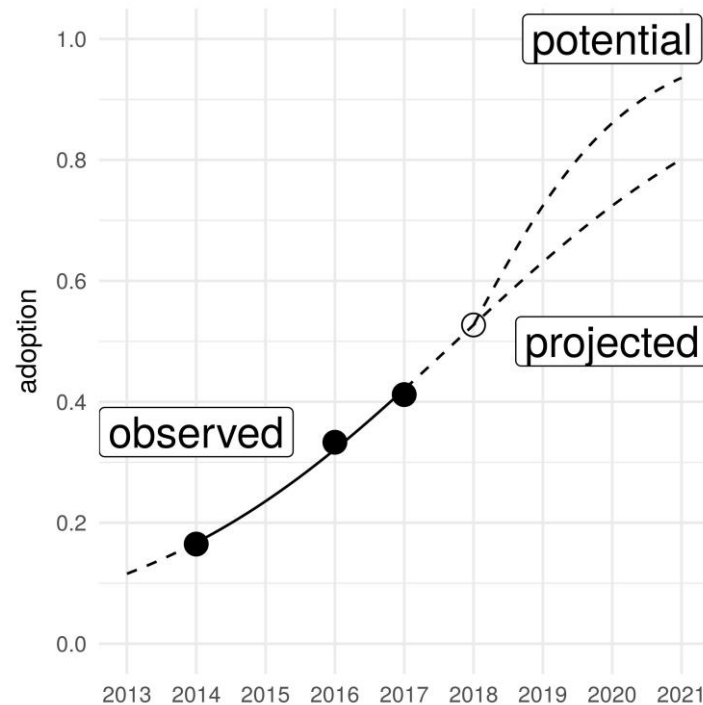
- Select evaluations and cases to answer pressing questions
- Iterate and coordinate IEs to build evidence across contexts

Findings for LWH from IEs

- The IE aims to support program implementation by testing alternative delivery mechanisms.
- Key findings from the last 5 five years intervention in Rwanda especially evaluating irrigation component of LWH:
 - (i) irrigation increases agricultural revenues and profits by \$ 600/Ha (100% increase) for farmers adopting horticulture;
 - (ii) the overall impact of irrigation is equivalent to a 20% increase in annual household income. **However, only 40% of farmers adopt horticulture, and use irrigation, during dry seasons.**

Therefore, only a small fraction of farmers can benefit from irrigation, making the sustainability a problem in the long run.

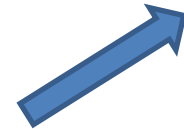
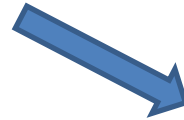
escalating adoption → sustainability



land and labor markets

Land

- Commercially oriented farmers via land rental markets



Speeding up Adoption

Labor

- Farmers with small households rent in labor

The new IE project

- Muiyanza irrigation scheme newly completed: 4 times larger than Nyanza, huge investment (~12M USD, 1000ha irrigation potential)
 - 40% adoption unacceptable outcome!
 - How can we sustainably increase adoption and maximize the return to the investment?
- LWH IE suggested that improving land and labor markets is a promising approach to increasing adoption
 - Supported design of management of the Muiyanza irrigation scheme
 - The IE findings informed the design of the new agriculture strategic plan 2018-2024 (PSTA4)
- In order to pilot design and implementation of land and labor market in Muiyanza irrigation scheme DIME started working with MINAGRI to begin work in the Muiyanza hillside irrigation site,
- In the end, a land market intervention was designed

Principles that guided the Process of the new IE project

- Build relationship and trust
- Good timing
- Share ownership
- Clear communication

Build partnership and trust with the Ministry of Agriculture

- During the course of the Impact Evaluation, DIME worked on Building Relationship and trust with the Government through
 - Regular communication/update
 - [Briefing on key findings from LWH IE](#)

Build partnership and trust with the Ministry of Agriculture Cont..

- Briefings with the senior management of the Ministry (e.g., Minister, Director Generals within the Ministry, Project Implementers)
- Developed briefs on key findings on IE
 - Concise messages
 - Actionable recommendations that back operational decisions and key policy areas

Good timing

- Given its goals of transforming agriculture and enhancing the commercial viability of farmers, optimal usage of irrigation schemes remains a central goal for the Government of Rwanda.
- The results of LWH timely matched with the government's intention to address issue of the low irrigation adoption. They were particularly interested in finding avenues to further increase adoption and allow farmers to maximize returns to irrigation investment
- The LWH research project answered a current priority issue for GoR, and the opportunity rose to collaborate on new projects

Shared ownership

- DIME responded by providing them with suggested studies on different ways to address the low irrigation adoption
 - Objective: maximize efficiency of irrigation schemes
- After different technical discussions with the Director General for Agriculture Development in MINAGRI, and the LWH/RSSP Coordinator, we agreed that implementing interventions aimed to:
 - reduce cost of labor,
 - facilitate labor supply, and
 - promote land lease from subsistence farmers to the ones willing to adopt horticulture,
 - Output markets
- Joint collaboration to:
 - Identify research and policy questions of interest
 - Design and implement impact evaluation
 - Plans for impact evaluation outputs (e.g., how do they inform policy?)

Clear communication and build strategic partnership

- Rwanda has high accountability level, is result-oriented to its national development plans and implementation programs
 - Therefore, we engaged with senior government officials while designing IE research program.
- Implementation is at local level, partnerships with local government are equally important
 - Regular briefing meetings on Muyanza interventions were organized with the District Vice mayor in charge of economic affairs, who supported the organization of the village meetings on land rental study.

Clear communication and build strategic partnership

- e.g, Director General for Agriculture Development/MINAGRI
 - It's important to have key people (allies) who are able to carry out/influence your/the work when you're not there especially in the management meetings;
- Having a focal person in RAB really helped with the steps mentioned above especially during the implementation of the study;

Challenges

- Co-authoring of MINAGRI/RAB. Government officials consistently requesting to be co-authored in publications regarding the research
 - ***Suggested solution:*** *Reminding them that independent report holds more value than those with/within the ministry*
- Intervention meetings at village level - how to get people to come to the meetings to carry out the field research
 - ***Suggested solution:*** *Having good communication with local government, RAB helped get through this. In addition, having supporting letters from central government (RAB and MINAGRI) helped build trust and legitimization of the project*

Conclusion

- Build relationship and trust: consistency and persistence
- Communication: presenting findings to key actors in the government during LWH helped build partnership and trust
- Shared ownership: working with the government to inform decisions based on their priorities
- Good timing: timely matching with the issue of the low irrigation adoption.

THANK YOU