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| HERC number | HERC\_2022\_007 |
| Proposer Name | Rosanna Morrison |
| Title of Project | The diffusion of innovations through social networks: A network survey collecting data on the use of agricultural technologies. |
| HERC Reviewed (date) | 31/01/2022 |
| Approval status (approved or not yet approved) | Not Approved |
| Clarification and possible amendments required: | |
| Thank you for submitting a HERC form. Please respond to the points below, in this document.  You do not need to amend and resubmit the HERC form.   * **Data stored in Enketo. Please provide assurance that Enketo is GDPR compliant.**   *The server is encrypted so files are protected against any potential data breach. The only way to access to the usable data is to be a member of the project on the server and then download the data. The project is password protected. I have to approve any individual who wishes to join the project and will only do so if a GDPR compliant data sharing agreement has been signed.*  *The password for the project is not known by anyone but those directly involved in the project, meaning the password is not compromised if the server has a data breach.*  *Further information about the servers approach to GDPR is found here: https://ona.io/home/general-data-protection-regulation-at-ona/*   * **A substantial amount of personal data is being collected in this project. Please could you justify why all the data is being collected as some does not relate to the research questions included in the HERC form. From an ethical point of view, the researcher needs to provide assurance that all the data collected can be analysed within the duration of the PhD.**   *All of the personal data being collected is required to understand the profiles and attributes of the participants. When analysing the social networks, it is important that we have personal information on each participant so we can understand whether certain attributes determine adoption of technologies as opposed to the social networks themselves. Personal information such economic dependents / income / education/ where they sell milk, have all previously been identified as determinants of technology adoption. If all this personal data is not collected, it would not be possible to control for these variables and determine whether or not social networks are a key determinant of technology awareness / adoption.*  *If social networks are important in the spread of technology awareness and adoption, mapping out the networks will also allow us to identify certain individuals who are particularly influential in the spread of information. With the personal data that is gathered, it would then be possible to create a typography of a farmer who is trusted and influential within networks. This helps with future strategies aimed at promoting new innovations.*   * **This project will include participants over 16. Please confirm that participants under 18 years are considered adults legally in Kenya. Otherwise, parental consent to participant will be required.**   *I have changed the age to 18 (see the new survey attached). 18 is the legal age of an adult in Kenya.*   * **If a contact is approached and does not agree to take part – are they able to remove their name from the analysis? It reads like they stay in if someone else has named them, although anonymised – see concern below about low participant numbers.**   *If a contact is approached and does not want to be included within the research none of their details will be stored or used in the analysis. They will be pseudonymised, for example as the letter ‘A’. When network maps are mapped out, the individual who listed this person will be connected to ‘A’ on the map, but no details or information past this connection would be stored.*   * **5C –Please confirm that the questions about religious groups and providing contact information of others to researchers would not be seen as a violation of social norms? Please confirm that you have sought input from Kenyan locals to do this.**   **For the recruitment of further participants, instead of asking participant to provide details of 3 people to contact is better to provide contact details of the research and interested people then contact the researcher.**  *It was the Kenyan team who asked for the contact information of others to be included in the survey. Culturally, this is the best way to locate those individuals and is not a violation of social norms. Questions about religious groups have also been approved by the local Kenyan partner. The counties in which this research will be carried out in are Christian and it is expected the vast majority, if not all, participants will be Christian. Religion is not a controversial topic within the regions will be carrying out data collection and if a participant does not wish to answer the question, they can skip it.*  *Participants are asked to name the 3 people as it is important in the snowball sampling procedure. The research needs the individuals to self-identify who is important in their farming network so that it is possible to see if these relationships are important in the spread of trusted information, which then leads to technology adoption. Asking interested participants to contact the researcher would not allow the strong ties between farmers who interact regularly to be identified and would weaken, or may even prevent, any social networks being mapped out.*   * **7I – Please confirm that ILRI’s Institutional Research Ethics Committee has approved the research.**   *Yes, ILRI ethics committee have approved the research and have applied for the Kenyan research licence on my behalf.*   * **8.2 – Please consider if this is medium risk, as the connections between people and groups, although anonymised, may suggest who that person is (e.g. only a few people may be members of two groups). Please highlight how you will mitigate this.**   *The names of groups will be anonymised, although the overall purpose of the group will not be (i.e it will be stated that it is an informal credit group). Whilst it may be possible that only a few people are members of both groups, without the name of the group and with just its generic purpose, it would be difficult to be certain of participants identity. In Kenya, informal groups are common reducing the chances of being able to identify participants further.*   * **8L: September 2022 might be too tight as deadline for storing the data**   *I will update this to March 2023 as this will be 4 years of the PhD and therefore will have to be completed. The aim will be to be completed by September 2022. As soon as the PhD is completed, the data will not be stored.*  Questionnaire:   * See comment above regarding the large number of questions and collection of personal data.   Consent form:   * **Withdrawal might only be possible to the point of (pseudo)anonymisation or up to the point of data analysis**   *The non-pseudonymised data will be stored until the end of the PhD. If a participant does wish to withdraw after pseudonymisation, it would be possible as they would be removed from the raw data, this data would then be downloaded and pseudonymised again (without the participant) and data analysis would be carried out. Withdrawal after the raw data has been removed (i.e end of the PhD) would not be possible. I will add this into the consent form.*   * **No details of the research in Edinburgh in the form; instead someone from another organisation**   *My details are now on the form (see attached)*   * **“The individuals will not be informed of who named them” – is this necessary?**   *I added this in to reduce the risk of others being able to identify who has taken part in the survey.*   * **Are participant signatures required?**   *Yes* | |