

MONITORING & EVALUATION AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS



ABOUT IPE GLOBAL

Headquartered in India with seven international offices in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines and United Kingdom, the IPE Global Group offers a range of integrated, innovative and high-quality development consulting services across several sectors and practices. Over the last 22 years, IPE Global has successfully implemented more than 1000 projects in over 100 countries. The Group has extensive experience with multilateral and bilateral agencies, governments, corporates, philanthropic organisations and not-for-profit entities in anchoring development agenda for sustained and equitable growth.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) is an established practice area at IPE Global. We design and implement adaptive, participatory and inclusive approaches and provide solutions which inform and improve delivery, design and future programming, policies and strategies. With gender, human rights and inclusion being important components of our work, our evaluation focuses on approaches that help reduce poverty, promote livelihoods, empower and improve quality of life people and well-being. We have conducted more than 100 monitoring and evaluation assignments in India and globally across various sectors for programmes supported and implemented national and sub-national governments, bilateral and multilateral FCDO (ex-DFID), World bank, UNDP, UNICEF, UNCDF, philanthropic foundations and INGOs such as BMGF, GAIN and CIFF.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Design & implementation of monitoring, evaluation & learning systems & frameworks; M&E capacity building & handholding support
- Baseline, midline & end-line survey-based evaluations
- Theory-based evaluations, quasi-experimental designs & mixed methods
- Theories of change, impact pathways, logical & results frameworks
- Outcome monitoring, concurrent monitoring, process evaluations, formative evaluations, implementation research, outcomes & impact evaluations, portfolio evaluations
- Evidence-based programmatic learning & assistance to policy formulation
- Multi-year & multi-state research & M&E projects
- Large-scale field missions
- Gender aware & sensitive evaluations
- Highest ethical norms in data collection & report writing



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR M&E EXPERTISE

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) & Harvest Plus || Implementation Research for Improving the Delivery and Scale-Up of Biofortified Foods in India

The Commercialisation of Biofortified Crops Programme under the GAIN-Harvest Plus partnership is working with commercial value chain actors - seed producers, farmers, aggregators, and processors - to catalyse commercial markets for biofortified seeds, grains and food products (Iron Pearl Millet and Zinc Wheat) in six states of India to address malnutrition.

As the implementation research partner, we are developing the Programme Impact Pathway (PIP), results framework key performance indicators and process evaluation for the programme partners. Guided by the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research and mixed-methods data collection and analysis, we are helping GAIN and Harvest Plus to capture critical programmatic lessons and providing feedback on the implementation process at periodic intervals. A Pre-Post Cross Section Research design has been constructed to measure the outcomes and impact.

GAIN || Deep Dive of the Large-Scale Food Fortification (LSSF) in India under the Mid-Term Evaluation of GAIN's Portfolio

The purpose of the deep dive was to evaluate GAIN's contribution to the Large-Scale Food Fortification Agenda in India and provide recommendations for improving the impact of GAIN's work going forward.

We conducted a deep dive evaluation study of GAIN's LSFF programme in India based on the OECD-DAC criteria. The study captured the relevance, progress and processes including key learnings and perspectives from the various stakeholders such as governments, private sector, academia, NGOs, civil society. Our evaluation provided recommendations to accelerate progress and improve impact. It also captured the key lessons and enabling factors that might be relevant and useful to replicate similar models in other low income or fragile countries' contexts.

GIZ || IGEN-Access - Scoping Study for Agriculture-Energy Nexus in Rural Areas of Delhi

The objective of IGEN-Access was to improve the sector environment for rural energy enterprises and strengthen the ability of enterprises to deliver renewable energy solutions to rural communities.

The study assessed potential for agriculture and energy nexus to increase income and savings from agriculture and allied activities. The study was conducted through a mixed methods approach and explored possible opportunities to integrate renewable energy sources in the existing energy mix to enhance agriculture based livelihood opportunities.

NABARD || Promoting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in cluster mode in Uttar Pradesh National Bank for Rural and Agriculture Development

The objective of the project was to form farmer producer organisations (FPOs) in cluster mode to enhance production, productivity and income.

We developed FPOs and supported participant farmers to identify appropriate production practices and business planning, access to finance, market linkages and improved grading and packaging.

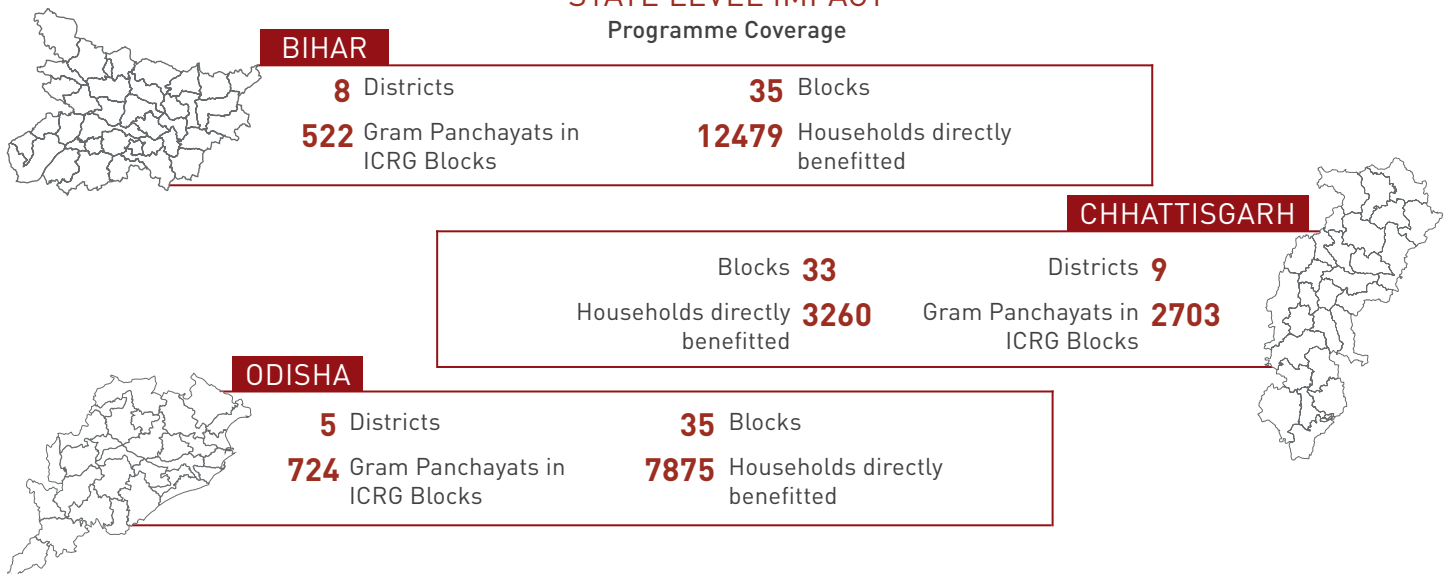
DFID || Infrastructure for Climate Resilient Growth in India (ICRG) Programme, Bihar, Odisha and Chhattisgarh, India

The ICRG programme aimed to improve the impact of the Indian Government's National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme through improve in the design and quality of infrastructure built, capacity building and policy influence, The programme helped households to build small scale works (irrigation, flood defences, forest plantations etc.) to increase incomes and reduce climate shocks.

IPE was the technical agency and supported Ministry of Rural Development, Gol and 3 state governments, to identify the most vulnerable regions and prioritize climate adaptation/resilience measures, design and implement climate resilient infrastructure, build capacity of the Gram Panchayats an district officials on climate resilient planning within NREGA activities and supported in influencing policies and programmes at the national level.

STATE LEVEL IMPACT

Programme Coverage



SOUTH ASIA

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation || South Asian Policy Leadership for Improved Nutrition and Growth (SAPLING): Landscaping, Assessment and Institutional Analysis, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka

The SAPLING is a regional programme aims to collate evidence and bring greater visibility to nutrition issues and promote action by engaging with policy-making processes and leadership at the national level. The platform strives to foster regional collaborations to bring greater visibility to food system issues and to influence policy actions.

IPE Global is conducting an evaluative assessment of the ongoing programme and developing the design framework and delivery structure for the next phase of the programme. We are also conducting a landscape analysis of the food systems in the South Asia region to help design the policy priorities, strategy and activities for the next phase along with identifying an anchor institution, its scope, structure and mandate to deliver the objectives.

DFID || Evaluation Management Unit (EMU) for Forestry, Land-use and Governance (FLAG) programme, Indonesia

Forestry Land-use and Governance (FLAG) programme support action to reduce deforestation and peat land degradation in Indonesia and reduce green-house emission. The intended outcome of the FLAG programme was the sustainable management of forests and land-use in Indonesia that improves the livelihoods and security of forest communities.

We led the Evaluation Management Unit (EMU) and led the design of the evaluation framework, gathered data and analysed for each project, and then synthesised for assessment of the overall programme progress, impact and learning. We assessed results achieved by FLAG and implemented an adaptive learning model, which continue to support evidence-based decision making for scale-up and programme adaptation.

Katalyst Innovation Fund (KIF) || Mid-Term evaluation of Katalyst Innovation Fund, Bangladesh

Katalyst is a market development project aimed at increasing the income of poor women and men in rural areas of Bangladesh. Katalyst introduced the innovation fund delivery model which funded innovative ideas in a range of agribusiness related sectors.

IPE Global conducted a mid-term process evaluation of the Katalyst Innovation Fund (KIF) and assessed the programmes processes, critically assessed the value of innovation fund to overall programme, likelihood of achieving the results, documented the experiences and lessons learnt from the implementation of KIF. We also drafted recommendations on the use and design of innovation funds to support M4P (Making Markets Work for the Poor) programmes.

AFRICA

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition || Evaluation Partner for the Workforce Nutrition Programme, India, Kenya and Malawi

The Workforce Nutrition programme aims to improve the nutrition of workers and farmers in low- and middle-income countries or communities. The programme focuses on diet diversity and improving the access and demand for healthier diets using existing business structures among the tea growing communities and/or estates in India (Assam), Kenya and Malawi.

IPE Global, as the research partner is supporting GAIN in developing and refining the Theory of Change, KPIs, and conducting the baseline and end line evaluation of the programme to assess the impact of the programme on behaviour change and diet diversity among tea gardens workers. We also undertook qualitative and quantitative studies to assess the impact of Covid-19 on food and nutrition security.

The study has adopted a Socio-Ecological Framework that considers various parameters both at the micro (individual) and macro (policy leaders) level. The approach combines pre-post design (cross-sectional) method to measure the changes in outcome and impact level indicators between different phases of the intervention (baseline and end line) and Mixed-Method data collection (combining quantitative and qualitative data). A review of Theory of Change and written recommendations as inputs, on possible course-corrections have also been done.

The Wood Foundation Africa || Impact Evaluation of the Sustainable Inclusive Livelihoods through Tea Production in Rwanda (SILTPR) Programme, Rwanda

The SILTPR programme is a partnership between the Government of Rwanda, two major tea companies (Unilever and Luxmi), The Wood Foundation Africa, Gatsby and DFID. The project supports job creation and increased incomes by working with 12000 smallholder farmers to develop greenfield tea.

IPE Global is conducting a longitudinal impact assessment of the programme to define and explore income, livelihoods and job creation results, identifying what works, in what context, for whom, and why.



Mastercard Foundation || Fund for Rural Prosperity- Monitoring and Results Measurement, Sub-Saharan Africa

The Mastercard Foundation Fund for Rural Prosperity (FRP) covering 40 projects across 13 countries aims to help at least 1,000,000 financially excluded rural people in Sub-Saharan Africa to move out of poverty through improving their access to financial products and services thereby increasing their incomes and improving resilience and lifting communities.

As evaluation research partner, IPE Global is assisting in the monitoring and result measurement of the Fund. We are responsible for the development of the overall Theory of Change and Results Framework develop result measurement tools to measure the ongoing impact of their interventions. We have conducted annual reviews grantees to track their business performance and impact on financial inclusion for the target beneficiaries and developed eight rigorous impact studies looking at the project's impact on beneficiary resilience, satisfaction, income and indirect job creation.

The Africa Agricultural Development Company Limited (AgDevCo) || Transformational Change Assessment, Sub-Saharan Africa

AgDevCo is a not-profit- company in **sub-Saharan Africa** invests in 'patient capital' in early stages or new commercially viable agriculture and agribusiness ventures with high developmental benefits, bringing them to the point where they can attract private investment from domestic and overseas investors.

IPE Global evaluated AgDevCo's investments and its contribution to both economic and community transformation of the individuals and communities. A special focus was on assessing the impact of the programme on women and attribution of the program on creation of new markets and products. We also provided actionable recommendations on programme adaptation and maximising project impact. We also supported AgDevCo in developing a targeted communication strategy and video materials to communicate impact for external audience.

M&E AT A GLOBAL LEVEL

Mid-Term Evaluation of the Portfolio || Improving Access to Safe, Healthy and Affordable Nutrition and Promoting its Consumption among the Most Vulnerable Populations, Multi-country and global focused evaluation

GAIN's Dutch-funded portfolio consists of 9 work streams in 11 countries which aim to improve diets for vulnerable populations, enhance private sector actions to improve access to nutritious foods and tackle malnutrition and to improve the overall enabling environment for public-private partnerships.

IPE Global conducted the overall portfolio evaluation of GAIN supported by Dutch Government. This was a utilisation-focused, theory-based formative evaluation where we assessed the extent to which GAIN is on track to accomplish its targets, and identify where adjustments may be required, and surface options to accelerate progress and improve potential for impact. The assignment included a desk review, secondary literature review, interviews with many stakeholders across private sector, governments, donors, NGOs, civil society organisations, and academic researchers. The evaluation was based on the OECD-DAC Evaluation Criteria and provided findings and recommendations to improve future strategies and opportunities for GAIN.

FCDO || AgriTech Catalyst – Evaluation of an Innovation Financing Programme, Global

Agri-Tech Catalyst is a £10 million programme which supports businesses and research organisations working in partnership across the UK and developing countries to produce innovations that address post-harvest losses and sustainable agricultural intensification. The programme aims to accelerate the development of new agricultural innovations to address food security challenges by supporting research institution/private sector partnerships.

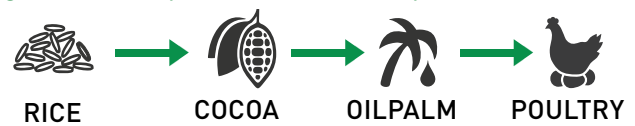
As independent evaluators, we are working with the donor and the Fund Manager in reviewing the programme design and delivery mechanism with a view to maximise intended impacts. We are assessing progress and performance of the Fund across the stages of maturity of innovation leading to commercialisation of standout products and ultimately inclusive benefits to agricultural producers and consumers.

The World Bank || Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Partner for the Sierra Leone Agribusiness Development Fund, Sierra Leone

The Government of Sierra Leone and the World Bank have established a USD 12 million fund to promote smallholder commercialization by fostering productive business linkages between small holder farmers and select agribusiness firms in four commodity value chain.

Targeted four Commodity Value-chains

As the evaluation partner, we successfully designed the Fund's M&E framework, results indicators and supported the periodic monitoring, assessing the programme's progress and captured the learning for programme adaptation and scale up.



TechnoServe || Evaluation of the TechnoServe East Africa Coffee Initiative, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia

Technoserve's East Africa Coffee Initiative (2008-11) aims to improve smallholder farmers' yields and prices and, increase their household income. The evaluation assessed the extent to which the farmers continued to use productivity-boosting agronomic best practices five years after training, using tablet-based surveys of smallholder farmers trained under the programme. It also assessed the continued commercial viability of wet mills supported by TechnoServe, and whether the changes made under the wet mill programme enabled the achievement of a quality price premium for farmers.

We quantified the sustainability of the programme and assessed the extent to which the attributable financial gains made have been sustained. It also captured the qualitative aspects including the acquisition of skills and best practices by the farmers, improved livelihoods and their resilience and ability to cope with shocks as well as their perceptions of the effectiveness of the programme.

Multi-Donor || Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Partner for the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF), Sub-Saharan Africa

The AECF is a US\$250 million enterprise Challenge Fund that supports the private sector to increase employment and reduce rural poverty. The majority of AECF's funded projects are focused on agribusiness and renewable energy, either providing products and services to smallholder farmers or purchasing agricultural produce from them.

IPE Global supported the designing of a comprehensive results framework to track and capture learning from projects and its contribution to reducing poverty and changing market systems. We also supported and build capacities of the partner for data collection analysis and reporting. We conducted annual review and prepared annual impact report and a series of thematic learning studies, including on gender equality and monitoring.

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