



SESSION NUMBER & TITLE
Parallel session 4: Insights and innovations: What works to build data and evidence capacity in government
SESSION TAKE AWAY
The session will shed light on the conditions under which governments in developing countries use data and evidence and how global and national organisations can build their capacity in a sustainable way. Panelists from Cambodian and Indian national and subnational governments will discuss the practical constraints they face when using data and evidence and the types of capacity building support have been the highest impact for their work. The session will also share an example of building government's capacity to deploy and use high frequency surveys that strengthen existing government data systems.
SUBTHEME
Innovations in evaluation
ORGANIZATION/S
IDInsight International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
PANELIST/DISCUSSANT #1: [Mak Mony, Director of Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests, Cambodia]
2 KEY MESSAGES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One of the uses of data through reports (weekly, quarterly, and annually) is to present to stakeholders the achievements of the different sectors. Data is also used for verification of SDG indicators 2. Capacity is also important to ensure that data gathering, processing and reporting is effective. Data innovation factors to be considered include the following: capacity building; investment; and support from stakeholders.
PANELIST/DISCUSSANT #2: [Sakphouseth Meng, Country Program Manager, Cambodia and Country Director, Mongolia, IFAD, Cambodia]
2 KEY MESSAGES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resource language and strategies in data analysis have implications on the compatibility of what the government employs. 2. Implementation of any type of data collection always comes across with rigorous evaluation and complex exercises, which is costly. The question of "Who bears the cost?" and the issue of cost-efficiency come into the picture. 3. Independent evaluation has to factor in cultural perspective. One has to be respectful to beneficiaries as it takes some time to collect data, and it also takes productivity time from farmers. Transparency also equates to trust. <p>Challenges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Conflicting results information/data with other reports may arrive or result in information gap b) No systematic ways to improve policies of the governments

<p>Data innovations:</p> <p>Use innovation to resolve a lot of issues. (i) Innovation has to give us a good time for evaluation; (ii) Co-efficient, (iii) increase trust and transparency</p>
<p>PANELIST/DISCUSSANT #3: [Anurag Kundu, Former Chairperson, Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR), Government of Delhi]</p>
<p>2 KEY MESSAGES</p> <p>1. We start to engage less due to data visualization tools. Involvement of policy makers in the evaluation process is important. This would allow the establishment of national system for data collection and analysis. Case in point, India is data rich but a system poor country.</p> <p>Critical factors/challenges:</p> <p>a) Biggest challenge is social change in general. We should always meet people where they are and start from there. Most of our evaluation processes usually don't meet where they are. Making things relevant and timing is also important.</p> <p>b) Data fudging, data underreporting, data overreporting are all challenges.</p> <p>c) Frontline service of the government usually gather data for the higher-ups.</p> <p>Data users can be involved using diagnostic tools. During debriefs with principals and teachers, teachers became honest when they realized how their answers and feedback during the data collection would affect their work. They were able to identify that majority of students cannot read recognize their students' names by using diagnostic tools.</p> <p>Data innovations – Goal should be better public service.</p>
<p>PANELIST/DISCUSSANT #4: [Karan Nagpal, India Regional Director, IDinsight]</p>
<p>2 KEY MESSAGES</p> <p>1. IDinsight works around the 3 criteria: i) data should be demand-driven, ii) practical and rigorous constraints; iii) relevance of decisions.</p> <p>2. National data systems should be tailored to improve solutions for the government to be self-reliant on data analysis. Competency based assessment and performance-based assessment are used in HR management.</p> <p>Critical factors/challenges:</p> <p>i) Lack of investments on improving data systems demotivate people</p> <p>ii) Credible and rigorous data is essential for evaluation.</p> <p>iii) We need to define and be accountable on how rigorous data should be.</p> <p>iv) Reflect on ourselves - we should evaluate ourselves as we evaluate governments on how to improve people's lives.</p> <p>Data innovations – Factor in cause and value of learning (evaluation)</p>
<p>MODERATOR: [Bidisha Barooah, Economist, IFAD]</p>
<p>3 KEY MESSAGES</p> <p>1. Data users are the decision makers and may use machine learning data as reference. There is a need to push the boundary in producing data and evidence – marginal cost for rigor.</p> <p>2. Building capacities empowers people. Data can be empowering so use it the right way.</p>
<p>Q&A SUMMARY</p>

Data literacy at the grassroots level is different. Sample on Collecting data from teachers, how data is being used, teachers became honest, this goes back to feedback. Is there a way on how to give feedback to these informants?

One can look at incentives. What is the incentive of data collector to generate a correct data? And what is the incentive of where the data come from?

Business plan and the use of images may help beneficiaries understand the importance of collecting the correct data.

Where do you see the highest value of evaluation (cost of data collection)?

Innovations in trying to reduce cost, such as sampling frames, satellite images to do sampling, data quality audits. Can we use machine learning for observations? Record audio with consent from interviewees. Evaluators should be better in accepting failure.

What is your experience in using 3rd party AI tools?

Trust in using AI tools is still an issue but this could be leveraged in data collection and data analysis.

How much of the data collected are used for evaluation?

Use a Data use tracker to monitor where data is used.

SESSION COORDINATOR

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