



SESSION NUMBER & TITLE
Parallel Session 6 - Leaving no one behind: Community driven innovations to improve livelihoods of indigenous people in the Asia Pacific region
SESSION TAKE AWAY
Evaluators have an important role to play to strengthen community ownership in evaluation by involving indigenous communities throughout the evaluation process from the design stage onwards. Through the provision of people and community driven provision of a package of assistance, the Second Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management (CHARM2) project financed by IFAD and implemented by the Government of Philippines was successful in linking indigenous people who live in hard-to-reach areas to markets.
SUBTHEME
Sustainability and resilience
ORGANIZATION/S
IFAD-APEA
PANELIST/DISCUSSANT #1: Randika De Mel, Manager APEA
<p>2 KEY MESSAGES</p> <p>1. Provided a presentation to provide insights on culturally responsive research and evaluation from indigenous communities and evaluators in Asia Pacific. The first thing to remember is to stop before visiting indigenous communities and respect their culture and understand the context. next one is, look. So, it's important that we respect the indigenous communities in their culture and understand the context. He also presented questions that were provided directly by the IPs.</p> <p>2. They are developing a toolkit that will be used to conduct research and will be released in October.</p>
PANELIST/DISCUSSANT #2: Ana Erika Lareza, Board Member APEA
2 KEY MESSAGES

1. She emphasizes that their project and toolkit are still in progress, and they actively seek feedback and engagement from the community through a community of practice. She mentions the upcoming launch of a toolkit in October and invites the audience to take pictures of QR codes for more information, and promotes participation in discussions, conferences, and the newly established community of practice.

Presenter: Vibhutti Mendiratta, Senior Economist, IFAD

3 KEY MESSAGES

1. Second Cordillera Highlands Agricultural Resource Management Project in the Philippines had a positive impact on the livelihoods of indigenous communities. The impact assessment survey revealed significant improvements in income, economic mobility, food security, and some aspects of gender equality for the beneficiary households.
2. The presenter emphasized the use of rigorous survey techniques and statistical analysis to assess the project's impact accurately. They highlighted the need for a holistic approach to strengthening resilience and improving nutrition and suggested that long-term investments and behavioral changes are essential in achieving these goals.

Discussant: Bidisha Barooah, Economist, IFAD

1. The speaker questions whether the assessment considered the aspirations and expectations of these communities beyond just economic factors and whether it documented indigenous practices, particularly in farming, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of their way of life
2. Emphasizes the importance of adhering to ethical norms when working with indigenous communities and calls for evaluators to reflect on their own positions and biases to ensure a fair and respectful assessment process. This reflects a commitment to inclusivity, cultural sensitivity, and self-awareness in evaluation work.

Moderator: Orachos Napasintuwong, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resources Economics, Kasetsart University, Thailand

1. She commended the use of counterfactuals and GIS data in the impact assessment for its precision, cost-effectiveness, and relevance to corporate strategy and decision-making.
2. she emphasizes the importance of including indigenous community perspectives, understanding their practices, and adhering to ethical norms when conducting evaluations, emphasizing the need for reflexivity among evaluators.

Q&A SUMMARY

1. How do we reconcile the concerns about the extractive nature of research, as mentioned by the initial speaker, with the use of control groups involving indigenous peoples? Can you explain the dilemmas in choosing a control group and the measures taken to ensure responsible research in this context
2. Does the emphasis on randomization and randomized control trials in impact evaluation pose ethical concerns or potentially harm beneficiaries, and how can these concerns be mitigated?
3. What additional information can be provided regarding the impact assessment, specifically related to whether there was a baseline, how the theory of change was considered, the use of control groups, further disaggregation of data, and any additional elements that can enrich the assessment for policy direction and recommendations

Answer:

The project was rolled out based on established criteria, with the Department of Agriculture determining where investments would take place, even in areas with indigenous populations. Various steps were taken to engage and inform the communities involved in the survey. Enumerators from indigenous communities were used to conduct interviews in local languages, and permissions were obtained from village leaders. Ethical considerations and approvals were also addressed

4. because your project is thank you right 2011 to 2018. So, and interventions are various, correct? And I suppose that not every single household receives the same intervention. So how do you take this into account?

Answer

One would need a sample size of 10,000 households. The samples that we were, of course, constrained by COVID, but also by the costs that are involved in going to each and every household and interviewing them for one and a half hours. So we decided to look at the overall impact of the project, rather than focusing on individual components. Screening Questionnaire that is administered to households, where at least five of the seven criteria were met to make sure there's some level of comparability

5. What is the worldview that indigenous communities express regarding land titling, especially if it's perceived as a move towards individualized privatization of land ownership, and how does this align with their traditional indigenous worldview?
6. Could you talk a little bit about the baselines that we were operating on in order for people to estimate their income that has increased or like how did you actually establish that that difference between when the project began and what happened afterwards?
7. Question is about how they effectively deliver and interpret research questions in various physical settings and contexts. The question is about conducting research without baseline data and using online surveys. The question asks how they developed evaluation questionnaires and how they analyze and triangulate the data, especially given the absence of baseline information.

Additionally, the question mentions the use of statistics, including NSO (National Statistics Office), and seeks to learn from their experiences in this regard.

Answer: The importance of selecting a credible counterfactual control group is highlighted. Various regression techniques were employed to control for potential variables, ensuring the credibility of the control group. An emphasis is placed on the use of a principle, matching techniques, and balance checks to justify the credibility of the counterfactual.

The adaptation of questionnaires to the local context is mentioned. Standardized questionnaires are used to meet corporate requirements, but they are adapted to suit specific project contexts, focusing on key indicators. The need for flexibility in adapting questionnaires is emphasized.

Issues related to land titling in the Philippines, including indigenous members selling land to outsiders, are explained. The conflict between elders and younger generations regarding land ownership is highlighted. The importance of engaging indigenous members in data gathering, especially during key informant interviews, is stressed.

SESSION COORDINATOR

Jullie Ann Palomares