



Evidence uptake and use from 3ie-funded studies

Using data to improve agricultural productivity in Kenya: Few farmers conduct soil tests to determine the impact of locally appropriate agricultural inputs and practices. Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) research team is collaborating with the Kenyan Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) to assess the impact of information related to good agricultural practices and inputs on uptake of locally appropriate integrated soil fertility management technologies to increase farmers' productivity. A recent baseline report from the study showed that less than ten per cent of the farmers had used agricultural lime, a key input to correct the high levels of acidity in the soil in the region. Since the baseline report, KALRO has incorporated information on the appropriate use of lime during farmer field days (where useful information is disseminated among farmers). Over the past few months, KALRO has held 17 field days across western Kenya. Each of these field days is open to any farmer in the region and about 50-200 farmers attend these field days depending on where it is being held.

Publications from 3ie-funded research

A new paper, [Farmer field school and farmer knowledge acquisition in rice production: experimental evaluation in China](#) based on a 3ie-funded study on [assessing the impact of farmer field schools on fertiliser use in China](#), was published in the journal, *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*.

New 3ie publications

Impact evaluation report: [Validation of hearing screening procedures in Ecuadorian schools](#)

New blogs

Check out our latest blog: [Replication research promotes open discourse](#); [Tackling radicalisation through sports](#); [Do communities need funds or facilitation?](#) Please visit the [blog site](#) to view all of our blog posts.

Policy window updates

Policy Window, early childhood development interventions in rural China: 3ie has awarded a proposal preparation grant to the Center for Chinese Agriculture Policy for the impact evaluation of early childhood development programmes in rural China.

Policy Window, teacher training interventions in Henan Province, China: 3ie has awarded a proposal preparation grant to the International Center for Action Research on Education, Henan University, to evaluate a teacher training intervention implemented by the Henan Province Department of Education.

Policy Window, teacher performance incentives programme in Shaanxi Province, China: 3ie has awarded a proposal preparation grant to the Center for Experimental Economics of Education, Shaanxi Normal University, to

evaluate the impact of teacher performance incentives interventions implemented by the Shaanxi Province Department of Education.

Policy Window, removal of user fees for universal health coverage in Africa: 3ie has awarded an impact evaluation grant to Population Council to evaluate the contribution of the removal of user fees for maternal health services on universal health coverage in Kenya.

Thematic window updates

Thematic Window 2, HIV Self-Testing: The Government of Uganda is now the third country to participate in 3ie's Thematic Window 2 (TW2), HIV Self-Testing evidence programme in addition to Zambia and Kenya, where studies are well underway. Anna Heard, senior evaluation specialist for HIV and AIDS at 3ie, travelled to Kampala, Uganda in June where she gave presentations at the Office of the Prime Minister, the National Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group, the Ministry of Health and the National AIDS Control Programme about the TW2 evidence programme. 3ie will launch the requests for proposals for pilot interventions using HIV self-tests and their rapid impact evaluations for both Uganda and Zambia in August.

Thematic Window 6, moderate acute malnutrition in humanitarian contexts. We have awarded six proposal preparation grants for impact evaluations in Chad, Somalia, Sudan, Niger, Mali and Mozambique. These impact evaluation proposals will be of initiatives aimed at preventing and/or treating moderate acute malnutrition in humanitarian contexts. Full impact evaluation proposals are due in early August.

Thematic Window 11, sanitation and hygiene: In April, 3ie awarded proposal preparation grants to Emory University and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH-Zurich). In early May, 3ie co-organised the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) evaluation week in Geneva, which included the inception workshop for 3ie grantees, among other events. The full impact evaluation proposals are under review. 3ie also presented at a workshop on systematic review and evidence gap maps. The workshop was attended by over 30 staff from the Internal Labour Organization, other UN bodies and local NGOs.

As part of the overall contract 3ie has with WSSCC, 3ie is managing the contracting of the mid-term review of its medium-term strategic plan. 3ie has awarded a contract to the Institute for Financial Management and Research, India, and 3ie and WSSCC held inception meetings in May. The inception report was received at the end of June.

Thematic Window 12, improving adolescents' lives in South Asia: 3ie has signed three preparatory grants for conducting impact evaluations of the UNICEF programme supported by IKEA Foundation for adolescents in South Asia. These impact evaluations will be conducted in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. 3ie participated in inception workshops that were held in Kabul, Delhi and Islamabad. Teams selected for the preparatory grant have submitted their impact evaluation proposals. These are currently under review.

Systematic reviews

Systematic Reviews, call 8. We launched the systematic review call 8 on 10 April 2015 and received 14 applications in response to our [request for proposals](#) for systematic reviews of development interventions in the areas of sanitation and hygiene, climate change and humanitarian assistance.

Published systematic review funded by 3ie: [Food supplementation for improving the physical and psychosocial health of socioeconomically disadvantaged children aged three months to five years: a systematic review](#)

Published systematic review protocols funded by 3ie: [Effects of certification systems for agricultural commodity production on socio-economic outcomes of beneficiaries in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review](#)

Published systematic review protocols managed by IDCG: [Access to electricity for improving health, education and welfare in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review](#)

Replication window updates

3ie published two studies in the replication paper series during the second quarter of 2015. The first of these, [Recalling extra data: a replication study of Finding missing markets](#) was written by Benjamin DK Wood, 3ie evaluation specialist for replication, with co-author Michell Dong. The second study is [The impact of India's JSY conditional cash transfer programme: a replication study](#).

The [Replication Window 3, HIV prevention](#) closed on 31 May. Applications were invited on a rolling basis. To date, 3ie has awarded one grant, however we received several expressions of interests in the weeks before the application deadline, with ten teams invited to submit full proposals. A selection panel will meet in late August to make final funding decisions.

3ie's replication programme hosted a [consultation event](#) on 29 May in Washington, DC. This day-long event brought together 30 social science researchers interested in research transparency and internal replication. The goal of the consultation was to consolidate current arguments and proposals around replication research, particularly those related to international development impact evaluations for informing key decisions and policies. These inputs will also help shape 3ie's replication programme going forward.

Annette N Brown presented experiences from 3ie's replication programme at the 14th meeting of Experiments in Governance and Politics (EGAP) in Berlin. A summary of the presentation and accompanying video can be found [here](#).

Registry for International Development Impact Evaluations (RIDIE)

Researchers registered 21 new studies in the second quarter of 2015, for a total of [63 studies](#) at the end of March.

3ie Impact Evaluation Repository (IER)

In the second quarter of 2015, we identified 89 studies from other knowledge production programmes to be included in the IER on 3ie's website. The 3ie IER currently holds [2,723 impact evaluations](#).

Bursary programme

We have awarded a total of 20 bursaries to applicants from Africa, South Asia and Central Asia between April and June 2015. In April, we awarded nine bursaries to applicants to attend the 3ie Evidence Week in Washington, DC; the Institute of Development Studies short course on impact evaluation design; a course by RIPA International on impact evaluation and assessment and EGAP's learning days. In June, we awarded 11 bursaries to candidates to participate in short courses organised by the University of East Anglia, the ARCO summer school on impact evaluation methodologies, and the training on impact evaluation of population, health and nutrition programmes organised by MEASURE Evaluation, GEMNet-Health and the Public Health Foundation of India.

3ie's annual members' conference

3ie's held its annual members' conference on 14 April in Washington, DC. The members' conference steering committee, chaired by Adriana Camacho Gonzalez and Andres Salazar from the National Planning Department,

Government of Colombia, coordinated the event. Other committee members include Tania Alfonso from the United States Agency for International Development, Thomas de Hoop from the American Institutes for Research, and Amy Pennington from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Members focused for most of the day on peer learning. The agenda included reports from member constituency meetings, results from the 3ie member experience survey, examples of 3ie-funded studies directly impacting members, examples of member initiatives focused on capacity building and a 'speed dating' activity to provide an overview of 3ie's areas of work. The annual members' business meeting followed the peer-learning sessions.

New funding and membership

We have received US\$30,000 from the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) for developing guidance for impact evaluation in the forest conservation sector.

New members: National Social Protection Agency of Maldives and National Planning Commission of Nepal became 3ie members in the second quarter of 2015.

3ie finance update

As of 30 June 2015, 3ie's assets stood at US\$83.60 million, comprising US\$41.28 million held in bank accounts, US\$41.99 million as grants receivable, i.e. undisbursed balances in signed grant agreements, US\$0.33 million in other receivables, fixed assets and deposits and the accrued liabilities for expense and grants payables at US\$0.40 million. Total expenses in the quarter were US\$7.28 million, of which US\$5.55 million were grant expenses.

3ie in the news

- 3ie's impact evaluation database was cited in this *Foreign Affairs* [article](#) by David Miliband (CEO and president, International Rescue Committee) and Ravi Gurumurthy (vice president for strategy and innovation, International Rescue Committee) on improving humanitarian aid.
- Drew Cameron, Anjini Mishra and Annette N Brown's paper, [The growth of impact evaluation for international development: how much have we learned?](#) was published in the *Journal of Development Effectiveness and* was mentioned in the Africa Evidence Network [newsletter](#).
- Drew Cameron and Jorge Miranda's blog [Trends in impact evaluation: did we ever learn?](#) was mentioned in the Development Impact [Friday links](#) (1 May).
- Heather Lanthorn's blog [What does it mean to do policy-relevant research and evaluation?](#) was posted on World Bank's People, Spaces, Deliberations blog site.
- [More heat than light? Rejoinder to Jensen and Oster, and Özler](#) paper (open access) by Vegard Iversen and Richard Palmer-Jones, responds to the issues raised by Robert Jensen and Emily Oster to the [replication](#) of their study, [The power of TV: cable television and women's status in rural India](#). The paper also addresses the arguments raised by Berk Özler in a recent [blog](#).
- Mario Picon was part of a discussion [on a national TV policy talk show](#), ESPIRAL on Mexico's Canal 11. It was a one hour discussion on the importance of evaluation for public policies. His participation focused on international experiences in impact evaluation, institutional settings and the value of evidence beyond accountability, and on policy and intervention design.
- Heather Lanthorn's blog, [how to enhance trust in your data collection](#), was cited in the [Development Impact's Friday weekly links](#) (5 June).