

Description and call for presentations

Workshop on Approaches and Methods for Policy Process Research

**Sponsored by the CGIAR Research Programs on Policies, Institutions and Markets (PIM) and
Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH)**

IFPRI-Washington DC

Nov 18-20, 2013

Background and objectives

CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) are required to show how their work contributes to development outcomes such as changes in policies. While better evidence has the potential to improve decision-making, it is insufficient for achieving policy impacts. That evidence needs to be communicated effectively so that it is useful to targeted decision-makers, and decision-makers need to have the incentives and the capacity to use it. This requires that researchers and their partners understand how policy processes work and how they can be influenced. Deliberate strategies to influence policy can also be the basis for assessing the extent to which research has contributed to a change in a policy or in the policy process—for example by influencing the discourse, attitudes, behaviors or actions of decision-makers.

To increase the capacity of CRPs to generate policy-relevant evidence and to increase the likelihood that the evidence is effectively used by decision-makers, we will host a small number of experts with experience in analyzing and engaging in policy processes within and across sectors including agriculture, natural resource management, nutrition and health. They will share methods and approaches for the study of interactions among people and public policy, including:

- Analyzing policy processes;
- Using research evidence to influence/engage with policy processes; and
- Evaluating the contribution of research to policy formulation and implementation.

We will also invite researchers associated with PIM and A4NH to present ongoing work on policy analysis and influence that they feel can be strengthened by engagement with external experts and the other workshop participants. The workshop will consist of a combination of presentations and working group sessions focused on developing key lessons from the case studies. Presented studies do not require advanced research results, but the presenters must have a good understanding of the policy context they hope to influence.

Workshop outputs

- Development of a toolkit/guide or other flagship product providing guidance on how to understand policy processes to connect research to policy
- Working papers and possibly a special issue of a journal
- Learning network/community of practice for sharing ideas and approaches

Process for submitting and selecting cases

Researchers interested in submitting studies should provide the following information to Quinn Bernier (q.bernier@cgiar.org) by September 15. The maximum length of a submission is 5 pages.

- 1) Primary Investigator and other staff (including key partners) and affiliations (underline the name of the proposed workshop presenter):**
- 2) Presentation title:**
- 3) Brief description of the case:**
- 4) Policy process objectives of the research:**
- 5) Current status of the work and timeline for completion:**
- 6) Research methods, approaches, tools, and/or frameworks used:**
- 7) Connections/ links to other CRP research:**
- 8) This workshop will focus on identifying methods and approaches for researchers to use for understanding and engaging with policy process research. The following themes will provide structure for the workshop; under which theme (or themes) would this case best fit?**
 - Analyzing policy processes
 - Using research evidence to influence/engage with policy processes
 - Evaluating the contribution of research to policy formulation and implementation
- 9) Would you require support to be able to attend the workshop? If so, please check the appropriate boxes:**
 - Flight
 - Hotel
 - Food and costs

Cases will be selected on the basis of their importance in terms of contribution to CRP Intermediate Development Outcomes (IDOs) or other expected impacts, as well as on their relevance to issues faced by other researchers in PIM, A4NH and other CRPs. We anticipate selecting 6-8 studies representing a range of sectors and countries.

Selection of cases will be announced by Oct 1, 2013. Selected cases studies will have the opportunity to interact with workshop organizers and external experts in advance of the workshop to ensure that sufficient information is available about the policy context to enable substantive progress on design and/or analysis during the workshop.