

Research Proposal: Economic Impact Assessment for the Peanut Collaborative Research Support Program

Principal Investigator

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Geographical Location

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Focus

Domain - Region - Global

Background

Agriculture remains the most important sector in many low-income economies. Peanut is an important food and cash crop within the agricultural sector of low-income countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. For example, during 2007 peanut production ranked sixth in terms of the crops' value of agricultural production in Africa (FAOSTAT, 2010). Peanuts provide small-scale farmers with purchasing power, they are nutritious, and they promote value-added industries in low-income countries.

Since the late 1980's the Peanut CRSP has been successful in enhancing peanut production in Southeast Asia and India through the introduction of new peanut varieties and cultivation practices, as well as improving market access and peanut processing technologies. In mid-1990's the Peanut CRSP also started projects in Africa and Latin America. The Peanut CRSP has been found to be a highly effective and innovative program (USAID, 2005). For example, technology transfer in Bolivia has increased the area planted to peanut from 2,000 ha in 2001 to 11,000 ha in 2004, as peanut productivity increased from less than 1.0 t/ha to 2.0-2.5 t/ha (USAID, 2005). Several country-specific impacts assessment studies (e.g. Alwang and Siegel, 2003; Moyo et al., 2006; Kassie et al., 2010; Dankyi, 2007; Spear, 2001) have

demonstrated positive and significant impacts of Peanut CRSP on household welfare and nutrition. Peanut technology transfer under the Peanut CRSP has also considered gender differences in peanut production and processing to enhance technology adoption (e.g. Kaaya, Christie and Fuuna, 2007; Spear, 2001).

Technical Review

Problem Statement

Given that significant funds are spent on peanut related research by the Peanut CRSP, impact assessment studies that cover multiple countries and regions can provide important insights on the impacts of current investments and increase returns on future investments. It is also important to identify the distribution of benefits from PCRSP projects to different types of peanut producing households (e.g. poor, medium and rich) as well as to men and women within households. The important role of PCRSP technologies in poverty reduction (e.g. Alwang and Siegel, 2003) should also be highlighted in a comprehensive portrait of the efficacy of investments in PCRSP activities. This project will provide an impact assessment analysis of the Peanut Collaborative Research Support Program in Ghana, Uganda and Bolivia.

Vision and Approach

Goals

1. Document ex-post benefits to producers and consumers from the adoption of new technologies provided by Peanut CRSP in Bolivia, Ghana and Uganda and provide ex-ante simulations of potential benefits from on-going research. Investigate Peanut CRSP benefits in Ghana (including any risk-reduction benefits) for representative poor, medium and rich farms as well as female-headed households using household surveys.
2. Document impacts of post-harvest Peanut CRSP activities in Uganda and determine the major factors affecting adoption and quality of life of farmers and family using household surveys.
3. Document Peanut CRSP contributions to poverty alleviation based on revenue and expenditure impacts of technologies on poor households.
4. Explore the intra-household distribution of Peanut CRSP benefits, with a specific focus on the gender distribution of impacts.
5. Study the impact of extension activities on the adoption of Peanut CRSP technologies in Ghana and estimate the costs and benefits of the new peanut production practices of farmers.

Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to provide a comprehensive estimate of the magnitude of social benefits generated by PCRSP activities in Uganda, Ghana and Bolivia. In addition, we will provide an in-depth portrait of impacts on vulnerable groups like poor households and female household members.

Research Approach

Training & Capacity Development Approach

Intended Benefits & Impact Responsiveness

Development Benefits US Benefits

Potential Impacts

Equipment

Project Timeline

USAID Mandate Responsiveness

MDGs

Poverty/Hunger: Improved Health: Raised Rural Incomes: Sustainable Development

Foreign Assistance Framework

Governance: Human Capacity: Economic Structure: Persistent Dire Poverty: Global Issues (HIV and Infectious Diseases, climate change, biodiversity)

IEHA

Science and Tech Applications: Increased demand for peanuts: Market Access: Increased Trade

USAID Focal Areas

Greater incomes: Greater value and market demand: Public Health: Food Security: Sustainable Value Chain: Improved Human Capacity