

# **SPIA country-level studies: Webinar for researchers preparing Eols**

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## Country studies SPIA panel



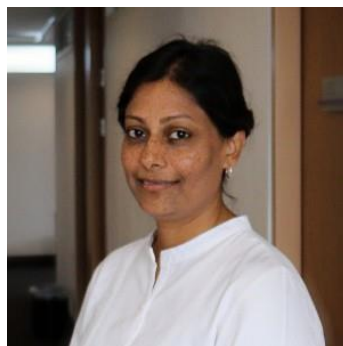
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**Monica Biradavolu**  
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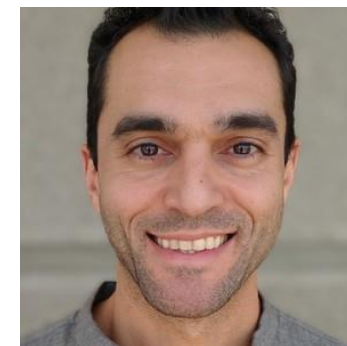
**Kelsey Jack**  
UC Santa Barbara  
SPIA Member



**Sujata Visaria**  
City Univ-London  
SPIA Member



**Kyle Emerick**  
Tufts University  
SPIA Member



**Rachid Laajaj**  
Universidad de Los Andes  
SPIA Member



# Context

Yield-enhancing agricultural innovations played an important role in reducing poverty worldwide (Evenson & Gollin 2003, Gollin, Hansen & Wingender 2020, Fishman et al. 2020)

Tradition of Rates of Return calculations (Alston, Pardey et al.), often based on very imperfect adoption data (e.g., “expert opinion”) and modeling

## **Are those answers still relevant today?**

Rapidly changing world, including climate change challenges, asking for different types of data / insights

Agricultural research for development of last 20 years has focused on resilience-enhancing and nutritional traits

- Less observable, which reinforces long-standing concerns about data quality and representativeness (Stevenson, Macours, Gollin, 2023)
- New measurement challenges demand new approaches and methods



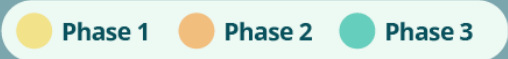
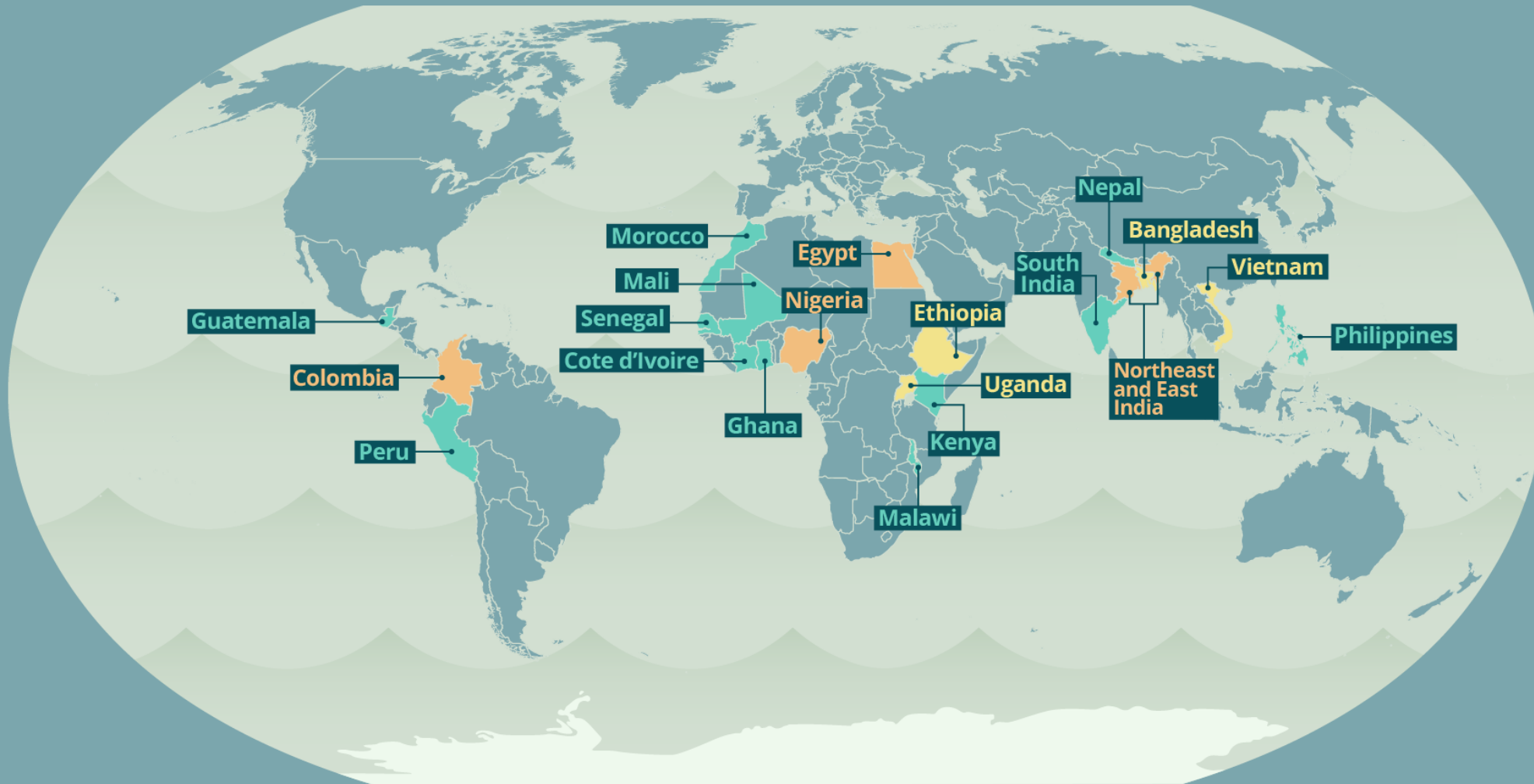
# Shining a brighter light at country level

Systematically document reach of agricultural R&D across crop, livestock and natural research management research

- **Stocktake** of all innovations and policy influences of CGIAR and its national partners, and their documented scaling
- **National stakeholder engagement** to define measurement priorities (~ policy)
- Novel data protocols and measures built into **nationally representative longitudinal** (panel) surveys to provide an initial estimation
  - representative and at scale
  - objective & independent measures
- Towards 2030: Follow-on data to detect **dynamic changes and scaling**  
→ System-level evidence at relevant unit for investment decisions (country)



## COUNTRY LEVEL STUDIES BY PHASE



# SPIA country-level studies

## Backstory



## Partnership with LSMS team

- 2013 – 2015: Discussions with LSMS team and development of a joint agenda for learning about measurement topics
- Crop varieties with DNA fingerprinting, yield estimation with crop-cuts, livestock issues, community surveys....
- SPIA staff in country full time in Ethiopia and Uganda
- Opportunistic / exploratory attempts through short-term consultancies in Malawi, Nigeria, Mali, Tanzania

## Ethiopia

- Data on agricultural innovations successfully integrated into the ESS3 (2015–16), ESS4 (2018–19) and ESS5 (2021–22)
- First SPIA report published 2020 using ESS4. Second report coming soon using ESS4 and 5 data in panel

## Uganda

- Integration with UNPS in 2021–22
- Dataset still in final stages of preparation at UBOS (statistical weights, consumption aggregates) for analysis and publication

## SPIA country-level studies

### Backstory



### Vietnam

- SPIA staff in Hanoi since late 2020, creating partnership with General Statistics Office (GSO).
- Preliminary report published 2023 based on limited data integrated in VHLSS 22
- Full report coming in 2024 using the more comprehensive data integrated in VHLSS 23

### Bangladesh

- SPIA staff in country since mid-2022. SPIA fielding an independent round of the BIHS in 2024 – revisit of the 2018/19 panel.
- Report by end of 2024.

# SPIA country-level studies

## Backstory



## Operational model

Variations depending on local institutional capacities and specific opportunities for collaboration


Core components unchanged across countries:

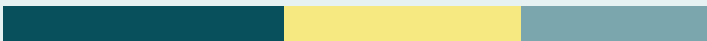
- Stocktake
- Data collection pilots / experimentation
- Consultation workshop(s)
- Nationally-representative HH survey
  - Estimates of reach of CGIAR-related innovations
- Synthesis report





## Universe of all CGIAR-related research in Ethiopia

- **90** interviews with CGIAR scientists, EIAR colleagues, government officials
- Review of published and grey literature, official statistics, NGO projects.


- 
- **52** innovations identified being at least at pilot stage: documented in the **stocktake**
  - **26** claims of policy influence (from CGIAR monitoring)

- 
- **30** innovations with information suggesting having been disseminated at scale.


- 
- **30** candidate innovations with "observable features" for either household or community survey.



**18** integrated into ESS 3 / ESS 4 and the focus of the 2020 report.



**3** the focus of other nationally-representative studies.



**9** others: some added to ESS5; others for future waves.



Photo: G. Smith/The Alliance



# Dynamic change in estimated reach of innovations

(in millions of rural households)

Lighter shade: 2018/19 (ESS4)

Darker shade: 2021/22 (ESS5)

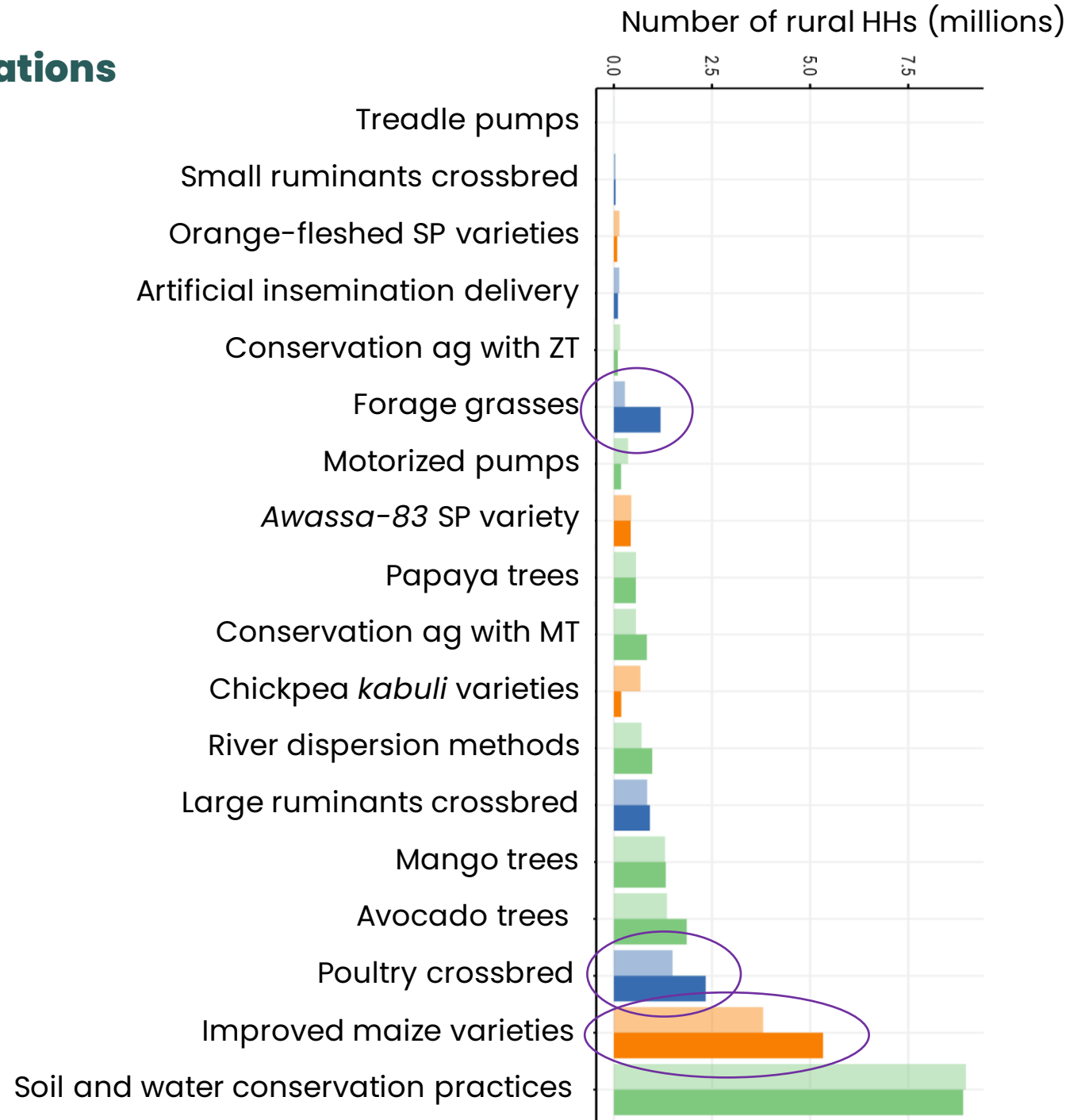
- Animal agriculture
- Crop germplasm improvement
- Natural resource management

Test - re-test validity good (soil and water conservation practices)

Improved forages & maize varieties booming (qual work supports this being a real effect)

Wheat area and production also expanding rapidly (not part of our analysis - DNA-based monitoring being done by CIMMYT)

Significant government investments changing the agricultural landscape



# SPIA country-level studies Pipeline

## **Ethiopia**

Full report 2<sup>nd</sup> version (panel edition!): March 2024

## **Uganda**

First full synthesis report: Q2 2024

## **Vietnam**

First full synthesis report: Q3 2024  
(Preliminary report published Sept 2023)

## **Bangladesh**

First full synthesis report: Q4 2024

## **Guidance documents for developing full proposals**

Remote sensing: Aug 2023  
DNA fingerprinting: Q2 2024  
Stocktaking: Q2 2024



# **SPIA country-level studies**

## **Support team**

### **James Stevenson**

Hosted by IFPRI, USA

**SPIA country-level study Program Director**

TBD

Hosted by CIAT, Cali, Colombia

**Remote sensing; Spatial data applications across studies**

### **Davis Gimode**

Hosted by CIAT, Cali, Colombia

**Bioinformatics; Genotyping**

TBD

Hosted by ILRI, Nairobi, Kenya

**Stocktaking; CGIAR-facing communications**

TBD

Hosted by ILRI, Nairobi, Kenya

**Qualitative methods; policy influence claims**



## SPIA country-level studies

## Research opportunities



## Where is the creative research space?

### (Why research teams, not consulting/survey firms?)

#### Methodological Innovation

- Disembodied technologies, policy influence, qualitative evidence

#### Specific Measurement

- New questions, new ways of collecting data, integration with remote sensing, biophysical measures, genotyping, etc.

#### Setting the Stage for Rigorous Impact Evaluation

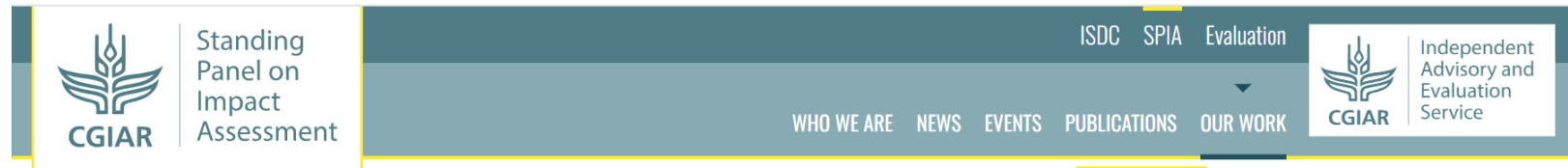
- A steady stream of rich research questions will emerge from this engagement, including 'stocktake only' Phase 3 countries
- Networks and capacity to crowd-in other funding to pursue promising questions in follow-on (or simultaneous) research

# FAQs: A growing resource based on common questions



## Four broad categories of FAQs

1. SPIA's expectations for Eols and (ultimately) full proposals
2. Role of CGIAR researchers in these studies/proposals
3. Technical expectations
4. Budgeting and qualifying expenses



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the SPIA website. On the left is the CGIAR logo and the text 'Standing Panel on Impact Assessment'. On the right, there are links for 'ISDC', 'SPIA', and 'Evaluation'. Below these are links for 'WHO WE ARE', 'NEWS', 'EVENTS', 'PUBLICATIONS', and 'OUR WORK'. On the far right is the 'Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service' logo.

[← BACK TO IAES MAIN MENU](#)

### FAQs

- [What is SPIA expecting in the Eols in terms of information about potential impact evaluations?](#)
- [Can CGIAR researchers apply for this call?](#)
- [What role might CGIAR researchers play in this process then?](#)
- [Can I form a team from one research institution?](#)
- [Does team size matter especially after having the core team in place?](#)
- [Will the webinar be recorded?](#)

[Privacy settings](#)

- [↓ Phase 1 Call Document](#)
- [↓ Phase 2 Call Document](#)
- [↓ Phase 3 Call Document](#)

### GUIDANCE NOTE

[🔗 Carrying out a country-level stocktake](#)

### REGISTER TO LEARN MORE

[🔗 Indicate your interest in learning more and/or register for the webinar here](#)