

Narrative for Impact Assessment research plans

- Provide a plan for Initiative-level impact assessment based on expected End-of-Initiative outcomes, and projected future impact, with clear links to the Initiative and Work Package ToCs. This will need to go beyond documenting reach.
- Identify learning questions around key assumptions underlying the ToC that will be tested through causal impact assessment research during the 3-year cycle. As per the PRMF, it is expected that most Initiatives will be able to, and benefit from, incorporating such research.
 - These learning studies should be part of the overall Initiative research portfolio to provide evidence in support of the ToC or contribute to the improvement of the ToC. Explain how the results and learnings of these studies can lead to better and clearly evidenced long-term (10+ years) impacts across the relevant Impact Areas, including through adjustments of the innovation and scaling strategies to achieve targeted outcomes and impacts.
 - Identify specific questions and related outcome indicators that can be answered in the 3-year timeframe, and describe longer-term learning from the proposed studies.
 - Describe the methodological approaches that will be used to provide rigorous answers for each of the identified learning questions (experimental or non-experimental quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods) as precisely as possible. Describe data sources and measurement approaches for key outcomes. Motivate the choice of methods, metrics and scale based on the research questions, the impact pathways, the type and the stage of the research, and the activities in the Initiative.
 - Describe the team to conduct the IA research, including partnership with CGIAR or non-CGIAR IA experts
- Describe plans for tracing activities and policy advice aimed at improving the scaling (readiness) of innovations and innovation packages, to lay the groundwork for, and use as input into the design of potential long-term, large-scale impact studies.
 - Plans for agreeing with scaling partners on the monitoring/data collection activities to document where and how CGIAR innovations are used at scale, and by whom. Relevant for Initiatives that actively invest with partners in scaling of innovation.
 - Describe how, when and by whom policy advising activities will be documented and plans to trace policy influence. Relevant for Initiatives with such activities.
 - Although the timeframe for these activities could be 10-year or more, the IA plan should explain plans to start tracing scaling activities and policy advice from the start of the initiative.

Key definitions related to Impact Assessment plans in One CGIAR initiatives

Type	Definition
Reach	It is the number or percentage of the target population that are using or have adopted CGIAR related innovations
Causal Impact Assessment Learning Studies	These are research studies designed to test key assumptions underlying different steps of the causal chain (theory of change) that links CGIAR research/innovations to high-level impacts. As learning studies, they can be implemented in a 3-year cycle and use credible counterfactuals to provide early evidence of causal impacts of intermediary outcomes in the theory of change, and effectiveness of different approaches/interventions to improve such outcomes. This additional credible evidence becomes a relevant feedback to the research process that aims to maximize the impact of CGIAR related innovations in the long-term.
Adoption or diffusion studies addressing learning questions on the ToC	A study that identifies the spread, acquisition and use of social, institutional or technological innovations. Adoption and diffusion studies can address learning questions within an Initiative's theory/ies of change by documenting whether and how innovation/s have reached intended beneficiaries. Assessments of adoption/acquisition/use seek to identify whether innovation/s have been taken up or rejected by intended beneficiaries, in order to make a case for CGIAR contribution to outcome/s, relative to other potential influencing factors. Together, studies that encompass diffusion and adoption assessments show how innovations have spread to and been adopted or rejected by end users. Note: Adoption and diffusion studies do not necessarily assess impact. However, impact assessments may, and often do, include assessments of diffusion and adoption.
Tracing of scaling activities & policy advice, as base for long-term, large scale impact studies	LTLS impact studies usually require a longtime frame to observe high-level impacts associated to the use of CGIAR related innovations or policy recommendations. The design of these studies should be done from the start when CGIAR related innovations are ready to initiate the scaling process. The tracing activities should be designed in order to document how, when, where and why CGIAR related innovations and policy advice are disseminated or made to next users.