

ILRI/ODI Methodology Workshop - Notes

Participants:

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Programme

- Opening. The programme and introductions
- Overview of the RAPID Framework and the ILRI Project
- Case Studies
- Episode Studies
- Outcome Mapping
- RAPID Outcome Assessment (ROA)

Opening

Presentations by John Young (The ODI RAPID Framework) and Dannie Romney (The ILRI Process and Partnership for Pro-Poor Policy Change Project). Questions and discussions included:

- How do we look at impact the impact of policy change on poverty etc. This project is focusing on whether there has been a policy change or not - but whether that has had an IMPACT is another question.
- Are the other case studies already identified?
- What will the policy narratives be in this project?
- Need to be careful how identify policy change.

The Case Study Approach

Presentation by Cokro Leksmono (see handout for further details of the method and examples). Questions and discussions included:

- Units of analysis – varies in different cases, might be people or processes?
- Triangulation - checking facts with different individuals or different methods. Important to give confidence in your conclusions
- It is very difficult to apply a common framework across a number of case studies.
- Discussions about the relevance of evaluating only the policy change and not the impact of that policy change on poor peoples livelihoods. Questions arose about how the project approach could be used to evaluate overall impact of SDP.

Episode Study Approach - ODI

Presentation by John Young (see handout for further details of the method and examples). Questions and discussions included:

- The case study approach over emphasizes role of research. Episode study tracks back from a policy change. For SDP we want to identify the policy change we think we had and then work backwards to find out what influenced this.
- How to you deal with issues that clearly need policies that are multi-faceted and do not insist on a blanket approach across the country.
- What useful lessons can be drawn from eg the Kenya case study for other situations?
- How can you get policymakers interested at start of the project. What can ILRI do? Need to work across whole spectrum from pure research to policy-advocacy and think about where it really wants to influence policy and practice. Will be very context specific of course and it is important to understand that context first.
- The policy change for the paravet study was really the question “why did the policy which they know had been developed get stuck?”
- What is the difference between a case study and the episode study? An episode study works back from a policy change whereas a case study works forwards from a specific piece of research.
- Need to involve people who know the project well and others that have NOT been involved in the issue.
- The Endangered Wildlife Species Act might make a good episode study.
- The approach is good at identifying conflicts of interest between different stakeholders, but need to be careful how choose between different causes.

Outcome mapping approach – IDRC

Presentation by John Young (see handout for further details of the method and examples).

Mohammed presented an example from the Policy Options for Pastoral Lands project which has used Outcome mapping. He has found it very helpful not only for identifying activities, but also for monitoring impact. The project has invested c.50% resources in research, 40% in local-level communications etc and 10% in high-level policy work.

RAPID Outcome assessment

Presentation by Cokro Leksmono (see handout for further details of the method and examples). Questions and issues:

- May be a useful framework, but is too complex to present to participants at tomorrows workshop.
- Boundary Partners – are they the individuals in organisations or the organisations themselves?
- For the SDP Case Study, should consider SDP Management Team and Steering Committee as “the project” and KARI, MoIFD and ILRI as Boundary Partners because the project hoped to change behaviours in all of them (but changes in ILRI are not really important for policy processes in Kenya).