SHOWCASING RESULTS AND DEMONSTRATING IMPACT
Subject 3 - Delivery: Demonstrating integrated impacts at national level
Investing in agricultural research to achieve food security: results in Asia and the Pacific
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Systematic assessment of research outcomes and impacts to assist in:
– Priority setting
– Resource allocation
– Project development
– Accountability

-> improves the efficiency and effectiveness of ACIAR investment
Impact Assessments

• Conducted at least 5 years after project completion
• Sample of projects – 90 to date
• Independent economic evaluations
• Counterfactual scenario presented
• Prospective benefits with analysis projected 30 years
• Social and environmental outcomes sometimes described qualitatively
Impacts of ACIAR Research

- Independent impact assessments of 156 ACIAR bilateral projects have estimated:
  - total benefits, A$12.3 billion attributable to ACIAR
  - total expenditure on all ACIAR projects since 1982, A$2.5 billion (in 2012 dollar values)
  - benefit:cost ratio (BCR), 5:1

- Examples:
  - Irrigation, Vietnam (BCR 17:1)
  - Oil palm, Papua New Guinea (BCR 22:1)
  - Fisheries, Indonesia (BCR 52:1)
  - Australian trees, Vietnam (BCR 79:1)
  - Breeding and feeding pigs, Vietnam (BCR 118:1)
2005-2015 bundle of projects
Aim to improve the livelihoods of smallholder producers of cocoa
Challenges: ageing trees, disease, pests, rapid yield decline
Public and private interaction
-> IPDM techniques, high yielding clones, new extension methods, higher yields, entrepreneurial farmers
Expenditure in the two countries ~$12 million led to:
  total benefits (measured as an increase in economic surplus, in real, present-value terms) of $58.4 million
  Benefit : cost ratio of 5 to 1
PNG projects links to output and outcomes

- **ASEM/2003/015**
  - Development of IPDM packages

- **PC/2006/114**
  - Additional research to discover effective methods to control cocoa pod borer

- **ASEM/2006/127**
  - Private sector partnerships to improve extension

**Outputs**

- Modified IPDM package, with a particular focus on cocoa pod borer
- Five levels of cost-effective intervention for farmers

**Outcomes**

- Adoption of better farming practices—that is, IPDM
- Improved yield, modelled as a downward shift in the supply curve

**Definitions**

- **IPDM**: Integrated pest and disease management
- **PPAP**: Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project
Impact is greater than measurable economic benefit

• Cultural change
• Farming systems approach
• Capacity development
• National priority
• Relationships - NARS and private sector
Concluding remarks

Complex outcomes

• Relationships and cultural change
• Incorporating a more mixed methods approach within evaluation is needed

Private sector engagement

• Need to understand and evaluate potential impacts better in order to consistently replicate and maximize benefits
Thank you