

Malawi - Conservation Agriculture 2009-2011

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Overview

Identification

ID NUMBER

MWI_2009-2011_CA_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS

Overview

ABSTRACT

The randomized control trial impact evaluation tests different strategies for communicating information about agricultural technologies to smallholder maize farmers in 8 districts in Malawi. The objective is to provide information to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security as to how best to use its limited resources to increase rates of adoption of new technologies. There are four primary dimensions to the evaluation: agricultural technologies, communication methods, incentives and gender.

KIND OF DATA

Sample survey data [ssd]

UNITS OF ANALYSIS

Households

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
Agricultural, forestry and rural industry	CESSDA	
Agriculture & Rural Development	World Bank	

KEYWORDS

Malawi, Sustainability, Capacity building, Food security

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Regional Coverage

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Ariel BenYishay	University of New South Wales
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FUNDING

Name	Abbreviation	Role
Millennium Challenge Corporation	MCC	
World Bank Gender and Agriculture Program		
Yale Center for Businesss and Environment		
The Macmillan Center at Yale University		

World Bank Development Impact Evaluation Initiative	DIME	
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Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Office of the Chief Statistician	OCS	Food and Agriculture Organization	Metadata adapted for FAM
Millennium Challenge Corporation	MCC		Documentation of the study

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

MWI_2009-2011_CA_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS_v01

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_MWI_2009-2011_CA_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS_FAO

Sampling

Sampling Procedure

District Selection:

Out of the 12 districts scheduled to be included in the ADP-SP in 2009-10, 8 were chosen as evaluation sites. Four are dry districts where pit planting is relevant: Balaka, Chikwawa, Neno, and Rumphi. Composting was promoted in the other four districts: Dedza, Mchinji, Mzimba, and Zomba. Together, these districts cover the major agro-ecological zones of Malawi and are spread through the South, Central, and Northern regions. District selection was not random; rather, it was based on the schedule for ADP-SP and the relevance of the technologies we are interested in.

Selection of Sections and Villages:

From a list of all the sections in the 8 districts staffed by an extension worker, 60 sections were randomly selected from the 4 districts assigned to conservation farming, and 60 sections from the 4 districts assigned to nutrient management. Because there are more districts staffed by AEDOs in the districts assigned to nutrient management, the probabilities of selection are not equal. For the CF districts, we chose 60 out of 176 possible districts. For the NM districts, 60 were chosen out of a possible 281. For each of the 120 selected treatment sections, one village was randomly selected from a list of all villages provided by DAES will provide a list of all the villages in the selected sections. The selection of the villages was weighted by the number of farm families per village.

Randomized Assignment of Evaluation Components:

To evaluate each of the four components of the project, certain subsets of the village were randomly selected for each component. Thus, there are four overlapping dimensions:

- Incentives: To address selection bias, sections were allocated to various treatment groups randomly. Of the 120 sections, 60 were randomly assigned to an "incentive" condition. Those selected for the incentive will be offered (but will not necessarily receive) a performance-based incentive.
- Communication Strategies: Next, the type of communication strategy for the section was randomly assigned. 25 are randomly assigned to "extension worker" (AEDO) status, 50 to Lead Farmer (LF) status, and the final 45 to "Peer Farmer" (PF) status. Note that while extension workers continued to be used in all areas (in some cases communicating directly to farmers and in others communicating through peer or lead farmers), the evaluation focused on different communicators (AEDO or LF or PF) in different areas.
- Gender: For the 50 LF villages, the gender of the lead farmer was randomly assigned. 25 LF villages were assigned to male lead farmers (LF-M), and 25 others were assigned to female lead farmers (LF-F). Out of the 45 PF villages, 22 were randomly assigned to have majority men among the set of peer farmers (PF-M), and the other 23 were randomly assigned to have majority women (PF-F). In other words, we encouraged these villages to choose more peer farmers from the assigned gender rather than the other gender.

Questionnaires

No content available

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2009	2010	Baseline
2010	2010	Midline
2010	2011	Endline

Data Processing

No content available

Data Appraisal

No content available