Innovative tools and approaches in evaluations of agriculture and food security programmes

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gLOCAL Evaluation Week

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Why innovate for evaluations

- Development interventions getting more complex to tackle new challenges facing the world (climate change, vulnerability)

- Greater donor focus on value for money i.e. accountability and cost-effectiveness

- Paradigm shift in approach to development: program recipients as partners, not beneficiaries

- Increasing number and magnitude of crisis situations

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Innovations in evaluation approaches

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

- "Good-enough"

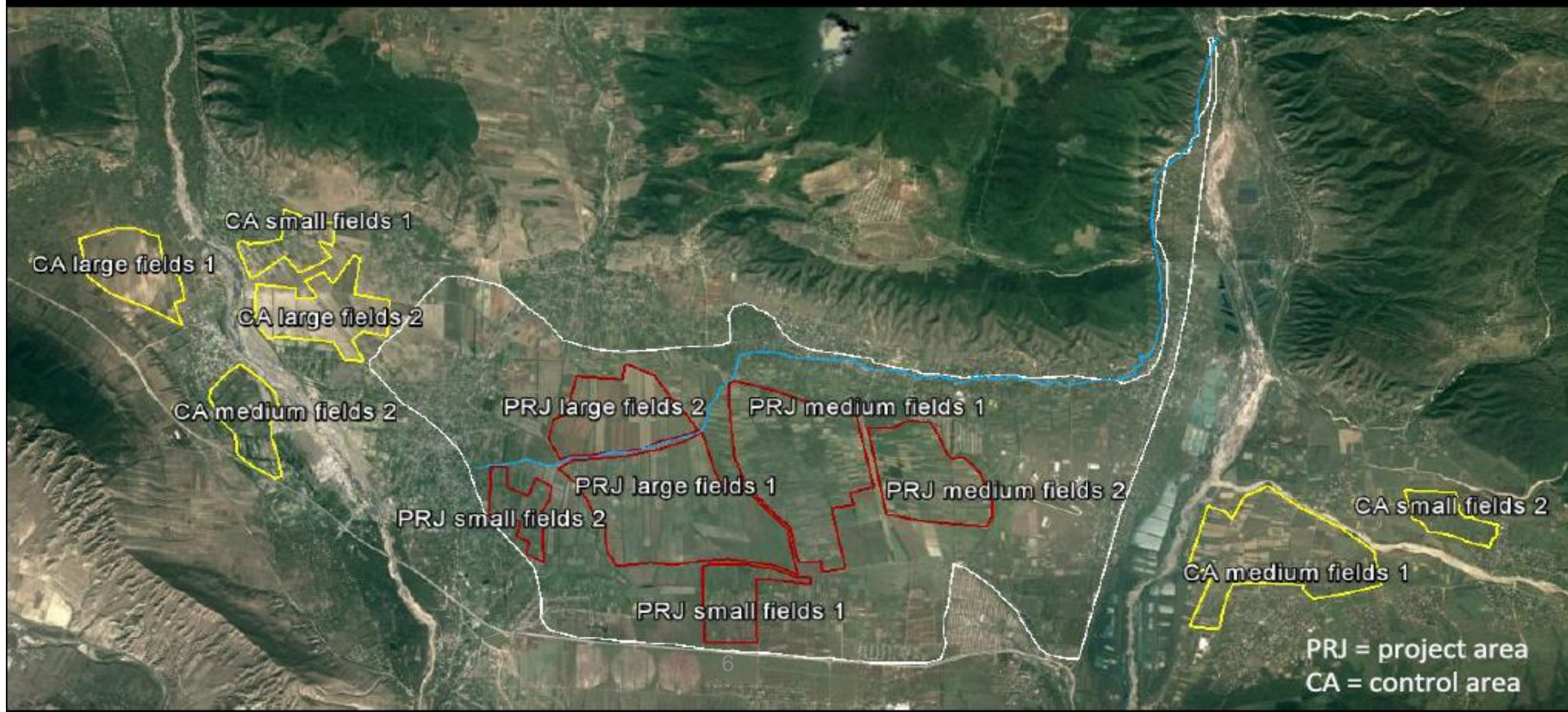Potential use in crisis situations

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ICT in evaluation: some potential tools

- Geo-spatial data collection and analysis

- Participatory approaches: SenseMaker

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Tool 1: combining remote sensing with traditional evaluation techniques

- Use of geo-spatial information for sampling and analysis.

  - Sampling: to select control areas
  - Analysis: to triangulate results from household survey.

- The normalised difference vegetation index (NDVI) used to estimate the change in size of land cover between treated and untreated areas using temporal variations.

- The impact of the intervention is evaluated by the change between T and NT before and after the intervention BACI contrast = $(\mu NT_a - \mu NT_b) - (\mu T_a - \mu T_b)$

- Analysis performed using 250-m NASA MODIS

- By convention, a negative BACI contrast indicates that the variable has increased more in the intervention site with respect to controls in the time period before and after intervention.

- Results of ground-truthing carried out though a field mission confirmed the low uptake of irrigation in intervention areas.

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GIS image

Lami-Misaktsieli Study Area

CA small fields 1
CA large fields 1
CA large fields 2
CA medium fields 2
PRJ large fields 2
PRJ medium fields 1
PRJ large fields 1
PRJ medium fields 2
PRJ small fields 2
CA small fields 2
PRJ small fields 1
CA medium fields 1

PRJ = project area
CA = control area

Tool 2: Participatory Narrative Surveys (SenseMaker)

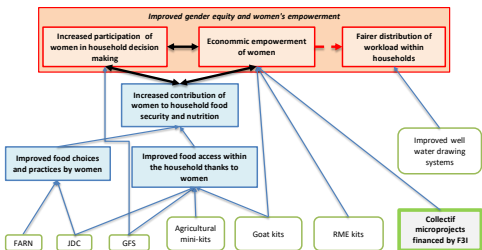**Involving stakeholders** in the interpretation and analysis of context & data

Story-based
More effective than direct questioning on sensitive topics

Power in numbers
Identification of trends and patterns in the data

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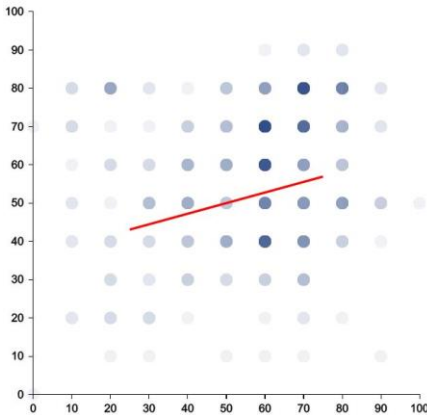# Participatory Narrative Surveys

Planning

Story collection with self-interpretation

Reporting

Sensemaking
group discussions

Catalysis
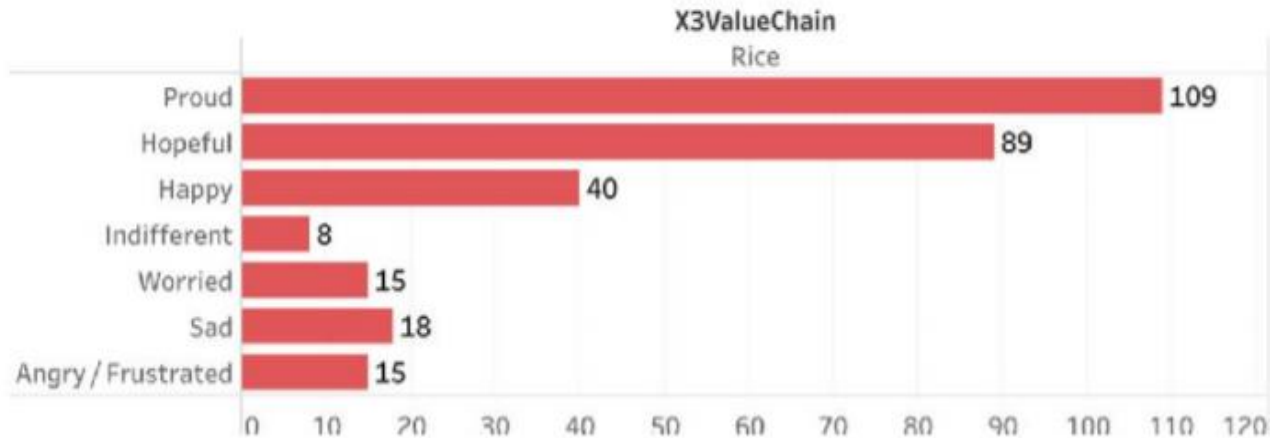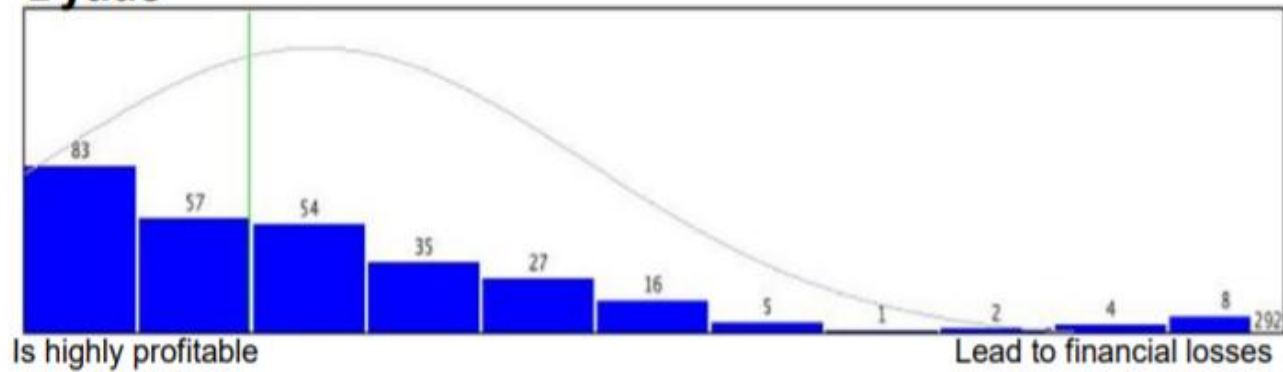
NarraFirma©
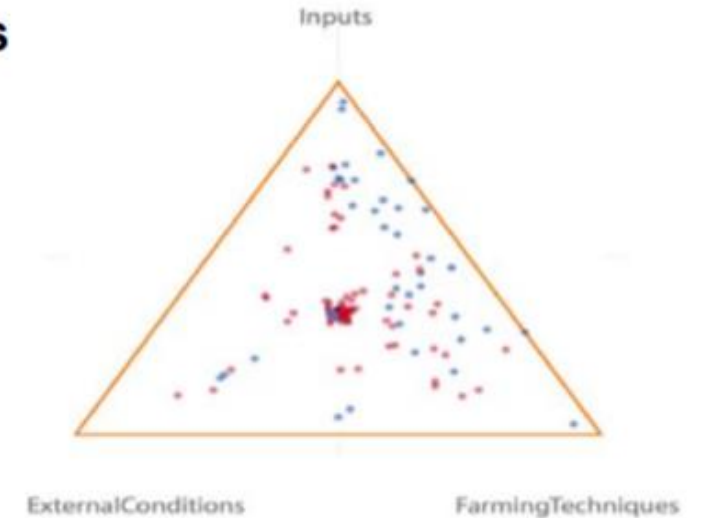SenseMaker©

Discerning patterns and associations

MCQs
M2 Feelings

X3ValueChain
Rice

Feeling	Value
Proud	109
Hopeful	89
Happy	40
Indifferent	8
Worried	15
Sad	18
Angry / Frustrated	15

Triads

Inputs

ExternalConditions   FarmingTechniques

Dyads

83 57 54 35 27 16 5 1 2 4 8 292

Is highly profitable   Lead to financial losses

Stones

Meet your needs

Doesn't meet your needs

Got worse   *Training on good farming practices*   Improved drastically

"Good-enough"

- Innovative in choosing best-fit methods and tools

- Keeping the norms and standards of evaluation in mind

Ethics   Credibility   Impartial

Utility   Independent

Possible methods and tools

1) Primary data collection:

- Geospatial
- Online (email/web)
- Phone

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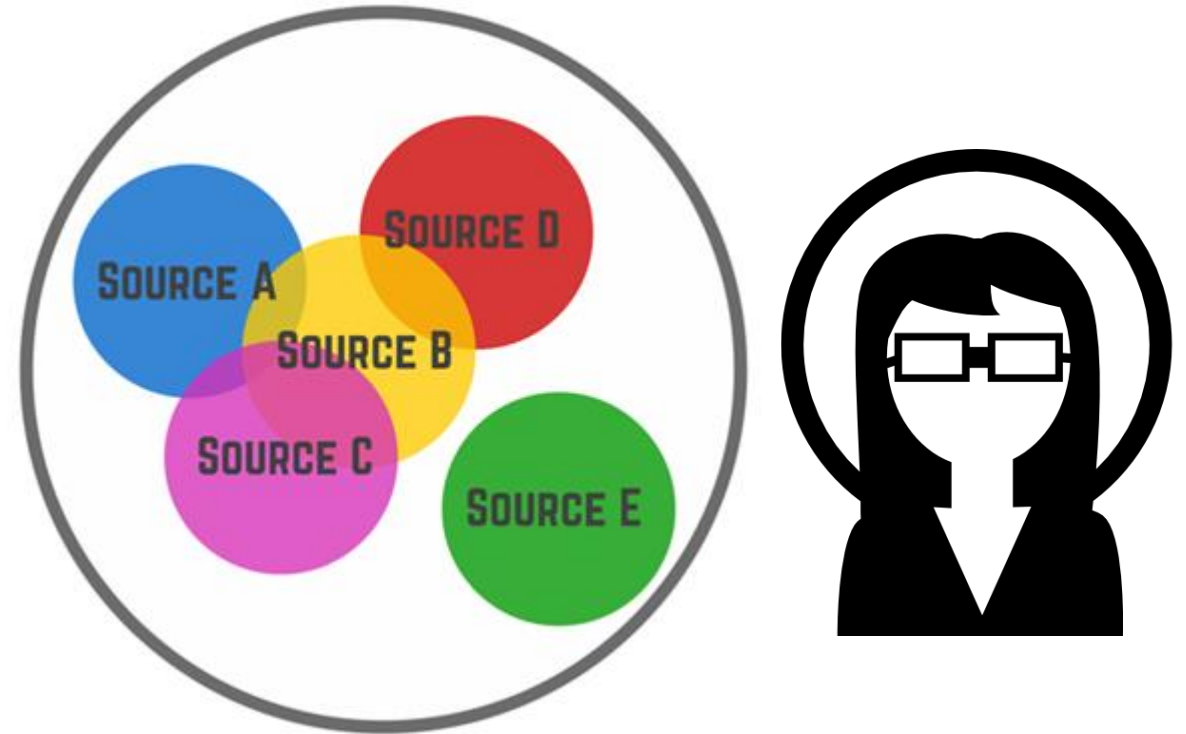
Possible methods and tools

2) Secondary data collection:

- Synthesis and meta-analysis

- Expert opinion (context/theme)

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Q & A