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EVALUATION WEEK
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Using Stories in Evaluation : Participatory Narrative Inquiry – IFAD experiences

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Two cases: Cameroon and Niger

Cameroon



Country programme evaluation

PNI used to triangulate with data from M&E system and project documentation
PNI: 600 cooperative members interviewed (men and women). SenseMaker© software



Project impact evaluation

PNI complemented data from a quantitative survey (1,350hh) conducted by our office.
PNI: (i) 540 women (including with and without project);
(ii) farmers and traders. NarraFirma© software

What was the value added of PNI?

Cameroon

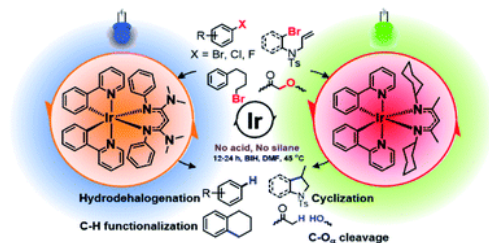
- ☐ Shed light on **mechanisms for impact generation**: mostly production + storage infrastructure, less so on market linkages (under-invested)
- ☐ Insights on farmer **preferences and values**: diversification rather than expanding individual crop production; under-appreciated by projects
- ☐ Highlighted **‘invisible’ social dynamics**, risk of élite capture and cooperative inclusion / exclusion

Niger

- ☐ Explored **factors empowering women** to participate in hh decision making: women’s monetary and in-kind contribution to household food security and nutrition
 - In particular: goat raising + cereal warehouses to break the cycle of seasonal hunger and indebtedness)
- ☐ **Emotions**, fears about food security and indebtedness

PNI requires time

- Duration 4-5 months in both cases
- Requires (re-)constructing theory of change
- Sampling strategy needed
- Time for designing questionnaire and story prompting + test and retest
- Time for learning software function
- Time for '*catalysis*' (identifying patterns and relationships in data)



END

Story prompts

- - for Cameroon: *Since you have become a member of the producers' organization, can you tell us about an important positive or negative change related to the production, processing or selling/marketing of your crop (onion, rice or cassava) and how this has affected you and your family? Please describe what happened.*
- - for Niger: *Looking back at the last five years, do you remember a decision in your household that was important to you? How did it happen? What was the impact on your household?*