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Assessment of Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Systems for the effectiveness of innovation processes among Tanzanian smallholder farmer groups

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Introduction

- Knowledge generated in an external monitoring is shared too little among end-users
- During monitoring and evaluation, often social diversities within a farmer group are not considered.
- This study tries to address both of these issues.

Case Study Sites	Farmer Groups	Innovation
Idifu (C1)	Wendo	Soap making enterprises
Ilolo (C2)	Majiko Banifu	Improved cooking stoves
Changarawe (C3)	Upendo	Bicycle rental enterprises
Ikalaka (C4)	Tuamiho	Irrigation pump

Aim of the study

To assess how the facilitation of a PM&E system can enhance innovation process (IP), with respect to group members' perceptions on:

a. learning by the farmers from the PM&E system implementation
b. benefits of PM&E systems implementations, and
c. social sensitivity of the PM&E system

Conclusions

- Implementation of PM&E system fostered learning among the group members by reflecting on the action plan of IPs and taking corrective actions.
- PM&E system implementation improved IP governance by promoting recording and sharing information, and thereby fostering collective decision making.
- Group dynamics was improved by fostering trust, unity, and social network of the group.
- Functioning of PM&E teams was both, promoted and challenged by different social factors i.e. age, experience, and literacy levels and gender and marital status.
- Therefore, efforts should be made to consider such social diversities when implementing PM&E systems.

Soaps made by Wendo Group

Bicycles on display by Upendo Group

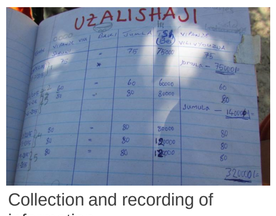
Males are usually handling irrigation pump

Results

Learning from the PM&E system implementation

1. PM&E process
   a. Information collection and recording
      - using visual aids
      - coping with difficult monitoring situation
   b. Information sharing
      - within PM&E team and group members
   c. Information analysis
      - within PM&E team and group members
2. Innovation Process
   a. clear understanding of IP functioning
   b. taking corrective actions

(Sources: Semi-structured interviews, in-depth PM&E follow-up, SWOT analysis)



Collection and recording of information

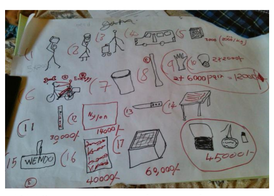
Illiterate team member using visual aids to monitor an IP

Sharing PM&E information among the PM&E team members

Sharing PM&E information among the group members

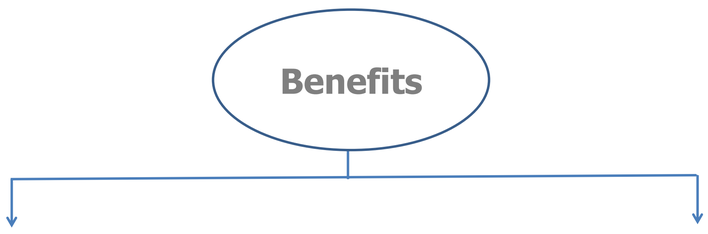
Collective decision making by the group members

Females are the usual ICS users



PM&E system enhanced transparency through cost benefit analysis

Benefits of PM&E system



(Sources: Semi-structured interviews in-depth PM&E follow-up, SWOT analysis)

Social inclusion of PM&E team members

The PM&E team members were selected by the group voting among the volunteers.

CSS (Total Number of PM&E Team members)	*Age*			*Literacy*		*Gender*		*Marital status*	
	Young (< or = 30 years)	Middle-aged (31-60 years)	Elderly (>60 years)	Literate	Illiterate	Female	Male	Single	Married
Idifu (4)	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	3	1
Ilolo (6)	1	4	1	6	0	4	2	2	4
Changarawe (6)	3	3	0	6	0	3	3	2	4
Ilakala (4)	1	3	0	3	1	1	3	2	2

(Source: PM&E system development and implementation)

Social sensitivity of PM&E system

Social Factors	*Promoting Influences*	*Challenging Influences*
Age	Young and middle-aged →energetic, active (C1, C2, C3,& C4) Elderly →respected (C1,C3,C4) →trusted (C1, C2, C3 & C4)	Young and middle-aged → multitasking, less priority to PM&E activities, quick to have misunderstandings Elderly → weak at health and susceptible for diseases
Relevant Experience	More competent monitor (C1, C2, C3 & C4)	Monitoring an innovation too skilfully and critically (C2)
Literacy	Literate → easy recording and presenting the collected information Illiterate → rich pictures, symbols, and diagrammes (C1, C4)	Illiterate →difficulty in recording collected information; less trusted by the group (C1, C2)
Gender	Females are more responsible and honest PM&E monitors than males (C1, C3, C4) *Gendered experience* Females →identified ICS problems and advantages (C2) Males →more experienced at handling irrigation pump C4)	Males →more addicted to local liquor, less trusted for PM&E (C1) Females →suffer more from shortage of time due to household responsibilities (C2, C3, C4)
		Single mothers → problem simultaneously monitoring, child care and generating income; less priority to PM&E (C1/, C2);
Marital status	Having partners→ Distribution of household works	

(Sources: Semi-structured interviews, in-depth PM&E follow-up, SWOT analysis)

"When I knew that I can record information by using pictures and symbols, I became very happy; I gained some knowledge and also felt confident to monitor." **(C1/Illiterate female PM&E team member)**

Study location

(Source: www.nationsonline.org)

(Source: Schäfer, 2013)

Tanzania
Dodoma: Chamwino District – Idifu and Ilolo villages
Morogoro: Kilosa District – Changarawe and Ilakala villages

- Semi–arid Dodoma region (350-500mm annual rainfall with seasonal crops such as sorghum, millet, and groundnut)

- Semi–humid Morogoro region (600-800mm annual rainfall with seasonal crops such as maize, sorghum, and legumes)

Methods of data collection

- Process driven methodology within Participatory Action Research approach and transdisciplinarity
- Group sessions: 8
- Small group discussions: 16
  - PM&E system development and implementation: 4
  - In-depth PM&E follow-ups:4
  - SWOT analysis: 4
  - Cost benefit analysis: 4
- Semi-structured interviews: 25
- Feedback seminars: 4

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