



# Quarterly Report October – December 2017

# Evidence uptake and use from 3ie-funded studies

The 3ie-supported systematic review of the impact of agriculture certification schemes (CS) showed that the schemes' impacts on yields are mixed. Prices for some certified products increased and farmer income from the sale of the certified product was slightly higher. However, the average household incomes and farmers' asset ownership did not increase. They also found that the average workers' wages were no different or slightly lower. There was a significant impact on school attendance in Africa, but not in Asia and Latin American and the Caribbean.

Findings from the systematic review have resonated among major stakeholders, including organisations working on CS, such as Fairtrade International and the ISEAL Alliance. 3ie's improved approach to evidence uptake and use of systematic reviews has

Effectiveness of agricultural certification schemes for improving socio-economic outcomes in low- and middle-income countries

June 2017





contributed to this interest and early uptake. According to Fairtrade, the review findings play an important role in drawing attention to the limitations farmers and workers face in accessing decent livelihoods in global value chains. The findings also emphasise the role that contexts play in achieving sustainable impact. This has informed the organisation's advocacy efforts and their approach to tailor-made programmes to complement certification. Due to the inconclusive evidence on the effects of CS, Fairtrade is renewing their commitment to promote reliable and open-access research and evaluation, as well improve their monitoring, evaluation and learning systems. The ISEAL Alliance, a global membership association for sustainability standards, has asked for 3ie technical support for its new work on synthesis, mapping and creating a new evidence portal.

#### **New 3ie publications**

Evidence gap map briefs: Mapping the evidence on social, behavioural and community engagement for reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health

Evidence gap map reports: Agricultural innovation: an evidence gap map and Social, behavioural and community engagement interventions for reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health: an evidence gap map

Impact evaluation: Evaluating agricultural information dissemination in western Kenya Impact evaluation briefs: Improving maternal and child health in India, Household and economywide impacts of a public works programme in Ethiopia and Integrating HIV testing with EPI: a second chance to protect infants

**Interactive evidence gap maps online:** Agricultural innovation: an evidence gap map and Social, behavioural and community engagement interventions for reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health: an evidence gap map

**Systematic review briefs:** Factors affecting uptake of voluntary and community-based health insurance schemes in low-and middle-income countries and Creating active labour markets: how to improve employment outcomes for young women and men

# 3ie-funded studies and 3ie publications in peer-reviewed publications

Please click here for a list of all the 3ie-funded and 3ie-produced studies and reviews appearing in peer-reviewed publications

#### 3ie London Evidence Week 2017

3ie hosted a series of highly attended, successful events in London from 6-10 November. 3ie's one-day conference, Evidence that matters for vulnerable and marginalised people, drew more than 120 donors, implementing partners, grantees and evaluation and development experts. The conference had four main thematic sessions: Promoting systematic review evidence in decision-making: successes and challenges in different contexts; Community-driven development; Reaching vulnerable and marginalised populations in WASH and agriculture sectors; and Presentation of selected papers from the Centre for Excellence in Development Impact and Learning. Ruth Levine delivered compelling closing remarks about the moral case for evidence in policymaking, focusing on impact evaluation. She called on evidence enthusiasts to ensure that the way they conduct and use impact evaluations reflects a larger moral aspiration toward truth, distributive justice, and human progress. In addition to the conference. 3ie launched the new evidence gap map on social, behavioural and community engagement interventions related to reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health at the 3ie-LIDC seminar held during the week. 3ie co-organised a workshop with Bond on systematic reviews in the humanitarian sector

# Howard White Lecture 2017: Rigged or rigorous? Researcher-practitioner partnerships to evaluate the impact of complex social interventions

This year's lecture, delivered by Professor Charlotte Watts, chief scientific adviser, DFID, opened the one-day conference during London Evidence week. She focused on how we can meet the growing demand for high-quality, robust evidence that addresses complex social phenomena. She drew lessons from her own research experience leading a 3ie-funded randomised evaluation of SASA!, a community-based intervention to reduce gender-based violence in Kampala to demonstrate how researchers and implementers can work together to ensure research is well designed, sufficiently contextualized to local complexities and implemented effectively. She highlighted several instances where the strong partnership between the evaluation researchers and the implementers was instrumental. Click here for the video of the lecture. A version of the lecture will appear in the *Journal of Development Effectiveness* later in the year and be available on our website.

# 3ie events

#### 3ie Delhi seminars

- Evidence synthesis: the third wave of the evidence revolution, Howard White, Campbell Collaboration, 13 December 2017
- Understanding the role of evidence to inform sanitation policy in India, Nicolas Osbert, chief, WASH, Unicef India; VK Madhavan, chief executive, WaterAid India; and Yamini Aiyar, president, Centre for Policy Research, 17 November 2017
- The role of cost-effectiveness analysis in health policy decision making, Denny John,
   Campbell Collaboration, 27 October 2017

#### 3ie-LIDC London seminars

• Mapping the evidence base on social, behavioural and community engagement interventions for reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health: Launch of a 3ie-WHO Evidence Gap

Map, Annie Portela, World Health Organization and Rachael Hinton, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health, 6 November 2017

 The impact of informal institutions on property rights, disputes and investment: long term experimental evidence from Liberia, Alexandra Hartman, University College of London, 24 October 2017

## 3ie grant programme updates

**Promoting Latrine Use in Rural India Thematic Window:** 3ie awarded three impact evaluation grants in this quarter:

- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, 'Vaparshun' (We will use): A cluster randomised trial in Bhavnagar in Gujarat;
- Oxford Policy Management, 'Impact of a behaviorally informed intervention to promote latrine usage in rural Bihar'; and
- Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, 'Promoting latrine use in rural India using the risks, attitudes, norms, abilities and self-regulation approach to behaviour change'.

**Uganda Policy Window**: 3ie awarded a grant to Amazing Enterprises for a process evaluation of the government-run Vegetable Oil Development Project Phase 2.

# Registry for International Development Impact Evaluations(RIDIE), Impact Evaluation Repository, Systematic Reviews Repository and Expert Roster

The Registry for International Development Impact Evaluations had 125 registrations at the end of the fourth quarter, a 26 per cent increase for 2017. The Impact Evaluation Repository currently hosts 4,694 records. The Systematic Review Repository has 675 records. There are 545 experts in the Expert Roster. We sent a survey to all of the experts in the expert roster to gain more information on how they view the expert roster, how we could improve the expert roster, and how we could improve engagement with this tool. The results are being analysed to determine how to implement those improvements.

#### **Bursaries**

3ie awarded 36 bursaries in this quarter:

- Seven international and 13 local bursaries to the 6th EvalMENA Evaluation Conference in Amman, Jordan;
- Five bursaries to the sixth SAMEA biennial conference in Johannesburg, South Africa;
- Three bursaries to CLEAR-Francophone Africa's development evaluation training seminar in Dakar, Senegal;
- Two bursaries to LIDC short courses in London, UK;
- One bursary to AEA's conference in Washington D.C, US; and
- Five bursaries to ReLAC-REDLACME-IDEAS joint conference in Guanajuato, Mexico.

Fifty-five per cent of the bursary award recipients were from the Middle East and North Africa region, 28% from Sub-Saharan Africa, 11% from South Asia, 3% from Latin America and the Caribbean and 3% from East Asia and the Pacific. 3ie is committed to achieving gender balance in our selection process. We encourage qualified women to apply. During this quarter, 57 per cent of the bursary recipients were women.

# Membership

The Asian Development Bank is the latest member to join 3ie during the last quarter of 2017.

# Dr Uma Lele honoured with the prestigious MS Swaminathan award

Former 3ie board commissioner, Uma Lele has received the MS Swaminathan award for her outstanding contribution to the field of agriculture. The Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences gives this award to eminent Indian scientists who have made pioneering contributions to agriculture.

# Birte Snilstveit receives David Sakett Young Investigator Award 2017

3ie is proud to announce that Birte Snilstveit, a senior evaluation specialist, is one of the corecipients of the David Sakett Young Investigator Award 2017, which recognises outstanding papers by young researchers that exemplify the values of creativity and scientific excellence. She received the award for her exemplary work as first author on *Evidence & gap maps: a tool for promoting evidence informed policy and strategic research agendas.* 

#### **New funding**

- 3ie has signed a professional services agreement of USD1,686,740 with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for a programme to improve implementation of anaemia control programmes for women and children in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia. The purpose of this program is to strengthen the use of implementation science and create a galvanised coalition of policymakers, programme actors and researchers in each country. 3ie is collaborating with the Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition on this three-year project.
- The Hewlett Foundation will provide USD940,000 to support the West Africa Capacity Building and Impact Evaluation Initiative, over the next three years. This funding will be for stakeholder mapping and needs assessment of individuals and organisations in francophone West Africa who are involved in impact evaluation and capacity-building activities.
- The Children's Investment Fund Foundation has signed a professional services agreement for USD14,955 for 3ie to develop and deliver a one-and-a-half-day course for their staff on replication as a method of validation research.
- The UN Office for Project Services and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council have provided an additional USD30,000 to support communication activities under the Sanitation and Hygiene Thematic Window.
- The World Bank signed a professional services agreement for UD14,908 for 3ie to provide quality assurance on a systematic review of Interventions for technology adoption.

#### 3ie finance update

As of 31 December 2017, 3ie's assets stood at USD64.72 million, including USD38.85 million held in bank accounts, USD25.59 million as grants receivable, i.e. undisbursed balances in signed grant agreements, USD0.28 million in other receivables, fixed assets and deposits and the accrued liabilities for expense and grants payables at USD1.29 million. Total expenses in the quarter were USD5.05 million, of which USD 2.70 million were grant expenses.