



# Evaluation Summary



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## *A Global Action Network to advance the agriculture insurance – Final independent evaluation*

### Quick Facts

<b>Countries:</b>	<i>Bangladesh, Senegal</i>
<b>Final Evaluation:</b>	<i>Sep-Nov 2017</i>
<b>Evaluation Mode:</b>	<i>Independent</i>
<b>Administrative Office:</b>	<i>SFU</i>
<b>Technical Office:</b>	<i>ENTERPRISES</i>
<b>Evaluation Manager:</b>	<i>Aida Lindmeier</i>
<b>Evaluation Consultant(s):</b>	<i>Forwaves-Maria Zarraga</i>
<b>Project Code:</b>	<i>GLO/13/39/UCD</i>
<b>Donor(s) &amp; Budget:</b>	<i>The Regents of University of California (UC-Davis) - (US\$ 2,000,012)</i>
<b>Keywords:</b>	capacity building, agriculture insurance

### Background & Context

#### Summary of the project purpose, logic and structure

“A Global Action Network to advance the agriculture insurance” project is a two-and-a-half-year project awarded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to the regents of the University of California, Davis (UCD) and ILO. It began in late 2014 with the aim of addressing the identified gaps in agriculture insurance in form of community of practitioners to advance practitioner knowledge on how to provide better agriculture insurance in selected countries. The *purpose* of the project is to expand innovations in agriculture insurance and ensure quality implementation on the ground through the coordination

of the Global Action Network (GAN). This will help accelerate the availability and adoption of agriculture (index) insurance as part of a broader risk management strategy. The project *objective* is to provide a forum for thought leaders in agriculture insurance to discuss key issues, identify constraints, explore solutions, undertake evaluation and research, explore synergies on agriculture insurance projects, and promote lessons learned, best practices and quality standards on insurance.

The project has *three main components*:

(1) Establish and coordinate the activities of the GAN consisting of a **community of experts** who discuss key issues in the pursuit of best practices in agriculture insurance; (2) **Build capacity** of practitioners and governments in two focus countries through the coordination of country strategies / work plans, exploring collaborations with existing initiatives, developing and conducting trainings for practitioners; and (3) **Promote “responsible” scaling of agriculture insurance** to the broader insurance community by repackaging and disseminating lessons into knowledge products, tools and training modules. Component 2 is rolled out in Bangladesh and Senegal, the selected focus countries.

As Secretariat of the GAN, the ILO plays a lead role in setting up and coordinating the activities of a consortium of thought leaders from the development, private sector, and research communities, while working in selected countries to build local capacity to implement agriculture insurance.

#### Present Situation of the Project

The project was launched in October 2014 and is in its final stage. The intervention was initially extended to

September 2017. During the evaluation, the project was further extended to March 2018, in order to organise an additional GAN Working Group Meeting in March 2018. The project set up the Global Action Network and launched the GAN Kick-off meeting in November 2014. The project zeroed down key issues discussed during GAN Working Group Meetings to selected work streams and submitted papers on (1) assessing the client value of index insurance products; (2) bundling agriculture insurance with financial and non-financial services; and (3) consumer education on index insurance. Publications and knowledge products based on the GAN work, lessons learned and good practices were disseminated to the broader insurance community. The project organized 14 GAN events (i.e. conferences, webinars and trainings) to advance knowledge in agriculture insurance, some of which were combined conferences. This included annual GAN Working Group Meetings. In focus countries, the project set up 7 training workshops. A Peer Learning Platform (PLP) meeting on agriculture insurance was also held in Kenya, in 2017, with government officials representing 9 countries, namely Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

### **Purpose, scope and clients of the evaluation**

The purpose of the evaluation is to assess whether the project as a whole provided the right type of support to achieve its objectives in the right way, draw lessons for future activities, and provide an evidence-based assessment of project deliverables.

The evaluation assessed the Facility's contribution towards a global practitioner knowledge-base, also drawing on examples from country activities.

The evaluation included the Facility team, GAN members and donor representatives who are also the intended users of this evaluation.

### **Methodology of evaluation**

The methodological mix has included document review, semi-structured individual interviews and direct observation. The desk study includes the analysis of a set of project documentation, including progress reports, a financial statement, event / workshop reports and highlights, and surveys conducted by the project. The majority of beneficiary representatives interviewed are GAN members involved in the project Component 1.

## **Main Findings & Conclusions**

**Relevance and strategic fit:** The project strategy and objectives are highly relevant for project stakeholders, in particular for GAN members who appreciate the creation of a center of excellence offered through interactive meetings among thought leaders and a knowledge sharing platform. The creation of the GAN answers the need of strengthening coordination and collaboration among the agriculture insurance community and advancing global knowledge.

**Progress and effectiveness:** The project has been very successful in setting up the Global Action Network. The project implemented a range of GAN conferences, webinars and trainings to advance agriculture insurance. Events were highly rated by participants, representing various development, private sector and research communities.

**Scale and efficiency:** The project results are highly satisfactory with regards to all GAN activities, justifying donor investment. Interviewees are in general satisfied with the project resource utilization and with the GAN knowledge products. Although the project delivered most expected outputs, the project did not reach full scale, in particular with regards to initial expected outcomes in focus countries.

**Efficiency of management arrangements:** The management arrangements of the project are in general adequate, supported by a good collaboration between the organizations involved. Project reporting mechanisms between donors, focus countries and ILO Headquarters need to be strengthened

**Impact Sustainability:** Based on the very positive feedback from GAN beneficiaries and the requirement for project additional activities, a second phase of the project would be useful to consider, ensuring a more sustainable intervention. In the opinion of the evaluator, the project is of high relevance to all actors involved. The project has achieved highly satisfactory results through its work with the GAN. There is potential for improving more outcome-oriented monitoring.

**Lessons learned:** A lesson learned is the importance to provide technical assistance to focus countries with a holistic approach including not only capacity building workshops but also strengthening local coordination with key stakeholders and local initiatives.

**Emerging good practice:** An emerging good practice pertains to the GAN concept that serves the need of strengthening coordination and collaboration among various stakeholders.

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## Recommendations

### **Main recommendations and follow-up**

**Recommendation 1** (from conclusions 1, 3 and 5) proposes to USAID/UCD and ILO HQ a project second phase to continue GAN meetings and activities, reinforce its activities in focus countries and further exploit synergies between the 3 project components for a comprehensive knowledge management process and sustainable intervention. This would allow to further develop global innovative knowledge and to test and translate it into local practice and policy. Priorities and expected outcomes should be closely discussed with all project stakeholders involved. *Priority / Importance: High – Resource implications: High*

**Recommendation 2** (from conclusions 2, 3 and 4) to ILO HQ: Establish solid project management tools, methodologies and results-based management (RBM) guidelines. This would encompass regular outputs and outcomes monitoring and a stronger reporting mechanism between project donors, ILO and focus countries. *Priority / Importance: High – Resource implications: Low*