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Assessing the Effectiveness of Different Types of Seeds and Crop Insurance for Agricultural Productivity

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Timeline

2020-2022

Study Status

In Progress

Study Type

Randomized Evaluation

Sample Size

2,880 farmers

Research Implemented by IPA

Yes

Assessing the Effectiveness of Different Types of Seeds and Crop Insurance for Agricultural Productivity



In This Image

Woman that are members of a cooperative group at their fields in rural Kenya. 2014 Photo by Jonathan Torgovnik/Getty Images/Images of Empowerment ©

Weather hazards cause significant hardship for small-holder farmers, and climate change is expected to further exacerbate vulnerabilities to extreme weather. Expectations of possible losses could discourage farmers from making productivity-enhancing investments and trap them in low-risk but low-return agriculture.

In Kenya, the Agriculture and Climate Risk Enterprise (ACRE) and the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) are implementing an intervention to improve agricultural productivity. The program provides different types of seeds: traditional maize, sorghum, and green gram seeds or new improved stress-tolerant varieties of these crops, as well as different types of insurance – weather index-based insurance or picture-based insurance. *Index-based insurance* uses indices derived from satellite images to assess the damage that farmers may experience. For instance, if rainfall levels fall below a certain threshold, farmers receive an insurance payout. Under *picture-based insurance*, farmers send pictures of the insured crops as evidence of the damage they experienced.

Researchers are implementing an impact assessment of this intervention to improve its performance and respond to gender-specific needs.

The study will generate indirect benefits for respondents by helping shape both our research trajectory and inform policymakers on what types of interventions increase farmers' ability to make productive investments while being able to manage risks. For example, if investments

increase when insurance is provided, and this increase is especially visible when access to inputs is improved, bundling insurance with seeds may become a more common practice

Results of this project will be available by March 2023.

Partners



Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization

Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization



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