

Project Title: Institutional Support: Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER)

IDRC project Number: 107916

Institution Name: Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER)

Location: E. N. Omaboe Building Complex, University of Ghana, Legon

Final Technical Report

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Executive summary

Provide an informative summary of the key results, and significant or important outcomes arising from support from the Think Tank Initiative (TTI), with a focus on the enhancement of organizational capacities.

The Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) ten years ago faced a number of challenges, notably a less than adequate number of research staff, among others. In 2006 for example, research staff numbered 14 – a situation that was far from the ideal. In 2019, ISSER can boast of a research staff strength of 22 with 21 of them with their PhDs.

The Institute depended on old and outmoded methods for its research. This had a considerable impact on the efficiency and accuracy of its research outputs. Today the institute boasts of a modern Measurement, Learning and Evaluation Unit (MLE) with a state-of-the-art method in data collection and training capacity that use Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) to collect data instead of the use of paper. This has made it possible for the institute to conduct studies in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria and also provided capacity building in the use of CAPI and impact evaluation studies.

Building and retaining highly qualified, well-trained, motivated, committed and efficient personnel is at the core of ISSER's existence. We aim to convene the necessary mass of qualified staff including research fellows to lead research efforts. Between 2009 and 2018, ISSER recruited over 12 research fellows of varying specialties – Agricultural Economist, Development Planner, Geographer, Economist, Sociologist, among others.

On capacity development initiatives, we instituted a capacity building programme for senior and junior staff. A number of junior and senior staff and research fellows have received institutional support to pursue approved professional development programmes of various kinds. This is in consonance with our conviction that an empowered human resource is our strongest bet for success.

ISSER is currently positioned to organize international conferences and workshops and it has modern facilities to host over 400 delegates. In 2014, ISSER in partnership with TTI of IDRC organised a five-day International Gender Analysis Training Workshop for social science researchers. It was held from April 7 – 11, 2014 under the theme “Engendering social science researcher”. It gathered 20 social science researchers drawn from five countries in East, West and Central Africa. They learned shared knowledge and experience as well as practical training on how to successfully incorporate gender in research and the analysis of data.

As part of its advocacy drive, ISSER produces The State of the Ghanaian Economy Report (SGER), yearly since 1991 and the Ghana Social Development Outlook (GSDO) every two years since 2012. Both are published consistently since 2009 with TTI grant from IDRC, Canada under the Think Tank Initiative (TTI). The Ghana Social Development Outlook, which is every two years

was initiated with TTI grant in 2012 and has been published since then. In addition to these, ISSER publishes Technical Publications, Policy Briefs and Annual Reports.

Objectives and Progress towards Milestones

Briefly describe achievement and progress towards the overall organizational objectives related to the three pillars of (1) research quality, (2) organizational performance, and (3) policy engagement for the reporting period (TTI Phase 2). Provide any evidence that milestones were achieved, and refer to evidence in previous reports and/or attached annexes (as needed). If applicable, explain why any milestones were not achieved.

Objectives

Quality Research

- Strengthen inter-departmental collaboration with other units of University of Ghana as well as collaborations with local and international institutions of research (including those of francophone origin)
- Integrate new perspectives into research design with close attention to:
 - * the problem-solving values of research outcomes;
 - * the gender perspective;
- Improve infrastructure for knowledge and data management
- Institute a bi-annual review of priority thematic areas of research to improve the responsiveness of research to new and emerging information gaps / development issues.
- Establish research quality control measures.

Organizational Performance

- Establish clear processes for transparency and inclusiveness in the running of the Institute;
- Improve staff awareness of ISSER's standard operating procedures applicable to teaching and research;
- Reduce the cost of running the Institute by 15% within the next 2 years;
- Build financial reserves – activate ISSER endowment fund and diversify and expand external sources of funding;
- promote prudent and efficient financial management

Policy Engagement

- Improve communication quality and reporting for effective research dissemination and advocacy;
- Increase ISSER's impact on policy making and the community;
- Strengthen ISSER's communication capacity;
- Strengthen collaborative outreach with like-minded organisations (local/international Think Tanks).

Research Quality

Building and retaining highly qualified, well-trained, motivated, committed and efficient personnel is at the core of ISSER's existence. We aim to convene the necessary mass of qualified staff including research fellows to lead research efforts. Between 2009 and 2018, ISSER recruited over 12 research fellows of varying specialties – Agricultural Economist, Development Planner, Geographer, Economist, Sociologist, among others. Forty percent of the new recruitment were females.

On capacity development initiatives, we instituted a capacity building programme for senior and junior staff. A number of junior and senior staff and research fellows have received institutional support to pursue approved professional development programmes of various kinds. This is in consonance with our conviction that an empowered human resource is our strongest bet for success.

ISSER's achievements in social science research, the high standard of its training programmes and the impact of its advocacy drives have earned for it a strong reputation and an enviable network of relationships in both national and international circles.

During the period of the TTI grant, ISSER has produced two five year each strategic plans which lays out priority areas of the institute under its core activities of Research, Advocacy and Training. The research quality of the institute is guided by its strategic plan.

The Institute is endowed with researchers of no mean pedigree and they come with diverse backgrounds and training. They are engaged all year round going into the field, collecting data, analysing data and writing reports. The quality of research at ISSER is of high standard and this has won the Institute contracts from international organizations/donors, government institutions and the private sector. On the international arena ISSER is well known for its quality research. It won cross-border projects in Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria and Niger in West Africa between 2009 and 2018. It has also won projects with reputable international organisations such as USAID, AGRA and IFPRI, among others and collaborated with institutions such as the Yale University, Northwestern University, University of Bonn, London School of Economics, among others.

Leveraging on the gains of the TTI/IDRC grant, in January 2016, ISSER established a Measurement, Learning and Evaluation (MLE) unit with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The MLE unit provide a number of public good services in the form of capacity building and regional partnerships to the wider university community, governmental agencies and for partners within the West African sub-region. The unit also provide the following services:

1. Commercial MLE services: It provide expertise and services on design of Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI), design and revision of questionnaires, training of enumerators, fieldwork coordination, data collection and analysis and report writing. The unit has support over 15 projects within Ghana and the West Africa sub-region.
2. Capacity building: provided capacity building workshops for both PhD students and faculty at the University of Ghana. It has also undertake demand-driven training programme for institutions such as the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ghana Statistical

Service and the Ministry of Finance. Training events are done in the units specialized newly-built computer laboratory.

3. Regional networking/partnership meeting: In order to build capacity in the sub-region, three regional partners workshops have been held.

The activities of the MLE unit is to enhance the institute's research quality.

Organisational Performance

The Institute's achievements in social science research, the high standard of its training programmes in the Masters (M.A/MPhil) and Doctoral (PhD) programmes in Development Studies and Short Courses and the impact of its advocacy drives have earned for it a strong reputation nationally and international.

At the centre of the success story are core values of teamwork, credibility, resourcefulness, responsiveness and commitment that propel the Institute. For its transparent hallmark, ISSER was rated 5-star in Africa for 2016 in Think Tank Transparency Report.

While, globally, most think tanks have become transparent about their sources of funding, only one Ghana think tank scored five stars in Transparify's Think Tank Transparency 2016 report released on June 29, 2016.

The report which looks at think tanks that take money behind closed doors, has three categories; highly transparent (five stars), broadly transparent (four to two stars) and highly opaque (1-0 star). ISSER was in the highly transparent category.

ISSER's three divisions – Statistical and Survey, Social and Economics – work together as a team to achieve desired results.

ISSER has undergone some infrastructural developments – renovation of the institute's main building, construction of a 450 capacity building conference facility and refurbishment, among others. Although these developments were largely funded with ISSER's internally generated funds, we acknowledge that our successes in this area were made possible because of TTIs support to other equally important areas of the institute's work. This working environment has made the institute's standing in local and international circles, and that has ensured the good working environment of staff.

Teaching: In terms of teaching, ISSER runs an MA and PhD programmes. A maximum of 20 students (including four foreign students within the sub region) are enrolled each year for the MA programme.

For the PhD programme, a maximum of seven students are admitted each year, under the German Government sponsored DAAD scholarship. ISSER's collaboration with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for the PhD programme was renewed in December 2013 for another 5 years after an extensive evaluation process. This took effect in January 2014. It involved an amount of 350,000 euros per year for five years. So far the ISSER PhD programme has attracted

over 50 students with about 25 graduating in the last 10 years (Appendix 3) and the remaining 25 in different stages of the programme.

TTI's support for ISSER's teaching programmes lies in the salary top up, an incentive made possible by the Initiative. This incentive served as a great source of motivation for staff to give off their best. TTI also supported field trips for the Master's programme.

ISSER collaborates with other universities abroad and funding agencies for research grants. The notable collaborators with the Institute over the years are indicated in Appendix 2. Appendix 1 provides a list of selected recent projects undertaken at ISSER.

Policy Engagement

Through its advocacy and extension with publications such as The State of the Ghanaian Economy, (SGER) and the Social Development Outlook (SDO), ISSER has reached many citizens and policy makers. In addition to these publications the Institute publishes Policy Briefs which directly speaks to policymakers.

A classic example was when ISSER used the SGER to engage policymakers in the question of land degradation by illegal miners. The effects of the activities of these illegal artisanal small scale miners led to massive public outcry and a call for a holistic action from the part of government. ISSER decided to lend its expertise to the conversation. ISSER dedicated a chapter of its flagship publication; State of the Ghanaian Economy Report (SGER) to the subject matter of Artisanal Small Scale Mining. Research was thus done and published in the SGER 2016 with recommendations to policy makers on the way to go in their quest to find a holistic solution to the issue of Artisanal Small Scale Mining. As part of its research, ISSER deployed a team to visit a number of communities to interact with various members of the societies. They engaged with some of the Illegal and legal Artisanal Small Scale Miners, the farmers who gave them their lands for mining, the schools who found their pupils leaving the classrooms to work in the mining pits and the residents who had seen the cost of living in their towns rise due to the influx of foreigners. ISSER's SGER found its way to policy makers to serve as an additional resource in guiding the path of policy in the fight against Illegal Artisanal Small Scale Mining.

Lately, the Institute bares its mind on the national budget when it is presented to Parliament by the Minister of Finance. A critique of the budget has won media attention and policymakers are eager to hear what a notable Think- tank as ISSER would say. Researchers at ISSER avail themselves to be interviewed by media houses either in studios or by phone or skype while newspapers have front page headlines.

Synthesis of results

Reflect on the main outcomes from the grant. In particular, reflect on:

- ♣ ***Changes in behaviour, capacities, actions, or relationships within your think tank, its researchers or organizational staff, relation to networks or other research institutions?***

The grant has served to boost morale of staff to work hard to achieve set targets. As the staff tend to lend support to researchers do their work, they offer their services willingly and forge good working relationship. Researchers are always focusing on their work to produce results knowing fully well resources are available.

♣ ***Changes in behaviour, capacities, actions, or relationships of research users or those affected by the research process or findings?***

Researchers at ISSER have a knack for quality. In the field they are friendly and receive cooperation from interviewees in the collection of data for analysis. Those affected by the research processes have confidence in the outcomes of the findings. They do not have any iota of doubt about the results as they are able to follow through if verification becomes necessary. But this hardly happens since they trust the whole process has been built on confidence over the years.

♣ ***Policy influence (e.g., expanded policy engagement capacities of researchers; strengthened communications function; broadening policy horizons of policymakers; and specific policy influence stories, including any development outcome of the influence)?”***

Ghana is a mineral-rich country. Over the years it has given mining concessions to companies to mine responsibly.

However, for many years, artisanal miners engaged in mining on small scale without much harm to the environment. They lacked the resources that would enable them to operate on significant scales.

As Ghana’s doors were opened to the world through globalization, many foreign nationals saw Ghana’s wealth in these minerals and sought to enter particularly the artisanal mining space which was hitherto reserved for only Ghanaians. These foreigners provided their local counterparts with the resources they hitherto lacked thus turning what was insignificant mining activities into a national threat. These resources included money, large tractors, excavators and riverbed dredgers. Being largely unregulated, these artisanal miners soon started destroying the water bodies and farm lands by the indiscriminate use of mercury in their activities which posed a huge threat to agriculture and environment.

WHAT DID ISSER DO?

The effects of activities of illegal artisanal small scale miners led to massive public outcry and a call on government to take a holistic action. ISSER decided to lend its expertise to the conversation. We chose to dedicate a chapter of our flagship publication; State of the Ghanaian Economy Report (SGER) which is funded by Think Tank Initiative, (TTI), to the subject matter of Artisanal Small Scale Mining. Research was done and published in the SGER 2016 which had recommendations

to policy makers on the way forward in the quest to find a holistic solution to illegal artisanal small scale mining. As part of its research, ISSER deployed a team to visit a number of communities to interact with illegal and legal miners, the farmers who gave them their lands for mining, schools that found their pupils leaving the classrooms to work in the mining pits and residents who had seen the cost of living in their towns rise due to the influx of foreigners. ISSER's SGER 2016 was widely circulated to policy makers, academia, industry, students and many more to serve as additional resource in guiding the path of policy in the fight against illegal artisanal small scale mining.

OUTCOME

As research into illegal got underway, ISSER commenced the production of a documentary to tell the story. The documentary showed the unprofessional methods used which destroyed land and water bodies.

The documentary was shown at the launch of SGER 2016. Those present included policymakers, academia, students and civil society.

In June, the President announced a comprehensive road map which included reclamation of land, re-afforestation and the restoration of impacted water bodies both of which were key recommendations made by ISSER.

- ♣ ***Lessons learned about approaches to elements for organizational strengthening, building capacity, or influencing policy or practice? What problems arose, and what changes in orientation occurred? Were certain aspects of project design particularly important to the degree of success of the project?***

Capacity building should be an on-going process so as to keep researchers and staff in a state of readiness to tackle projects. In the instance of the narration above, the Economics Division of the Institute identified this as a national issue which needed research for informed decision to be taken by policymakers. Such attitude is akin to one of our objectives of undertaking research for the development of our nation. One issue that cropped up was safety of researchers since those undertaking the illegal activity knew they could be arrested if they allowed 'strangers' to come close to their 'sites'.

- ♣ ***What contributed to these results and what lessons did you draw from the experience?***

Resources were readily available and determination to conduct the research in spite of the main obstacle of safety. Once the issue bothered on one of our key objectives there was no way we would let the opportunity slip. The determination was there and researchers were capable and the fact that the issue was a national concern and had engaged the attention of the President.

- ♣ ***What was the role of other organizations or donors in this project? How was this relationship managed?***

The availability of TTI funding for publications and the incentivising of researchers were good enough to undertake the research.

Problems and Challenges

Have there been any problems or challenges faced by the project? These could include delays, problems amongst stakeholders, with research activities etc. Highlight any risks that might have emerged in the project, and innovative ways you have found to deal with these risks.

Prior to IDRC coming on the scene, the financial of the Institute was not all that fluid to support some of its activities. But a turnaround occurred when the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) renewed its core grant which resulted in the increase in the intake of PhD students in the 2009/2010 academic year.

The Think Tank Initiative of IDRC and others remained the main source of core grant for the Institute. ISSER has continued to use these grants in three general areas of strengthening the Institute's research capacity, enhancing organizational performance and improving dissemination of and advocacy.

During this period a number of Researchers at the Institute increased their research portfolio of projects. With the growing number of research, the number of ISSER publications increased significantly. This was acknowledged by the IDRC Think Tank baseline study which suggested that ISSER at that time topped the journal publication list of all participating African countries.

The Institute did not encounter difficulties in going through the processes to receive financial allocations from TTI of IDRC. The challenge however, is getting a replacement for the quantum of financial support when TTI finally closes. This notwithstanding, the Institute has been proactive in finding ways to fill the financial support gap through responding to calls for proposal/grants.

Administrative Reflections and Recommendations

This section is about administrative recommendations for IDRC. What would you do differently as a result of this experience, and what general and useful lessons can be derived for improving future projects?

What recommendations would you make to IDRC with respect to the administration of the project, related to the scope, duration, or budget? Candid observations about the overall experience with the project are encouraged. However, any sensitive or confidential information should be addressed through a direct exchange with the program officer, and documented and filed separately.

I specially commend the IDRC and TTI for the work done since the inception of the project. The principle of inclusion exhibited in handling the project is commendable. You were not just overseeing one country but several. Assembling all of us often in a particular country to brainstorm on issues that will ensure the smooth running of the project has been a good administrative strategy. It is significant to note that you sent officials to all beneficiary countries to see what is on the ground. This verification exercise was very productive. It afforded some of us the opportunity to have a face-to-face discussion which served well for ISSER. There was cordiality, understanding and mutual respect exhibited in all our discussions. Thank you very much for supporting ISSER that long.

Recommendations

1. A network of all beneficiaries of TTI of IDRC should continue talking
2. The core values of TTI be kept alive through bonding

Appendix

Appendix 1: Recent projects undertaken by ISSER

Appendix 2: List of Project Collaborators

Appendix 3: List of Graduated PhD Candidates

Appendix 1: Selected recent project undertaken by ISSER

Project 1	
Project Title	Endline Survey of the Impact Evaluation of the Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Program in Ghana
Project Description	<p>This is a two-year research project intended to evaluate the impact of the Ghana School Feeding Program (GSFP) by the Partnership for Child Development and the International Food Policy Research Institute, through a cluster-randomized control trial. This study began with two baseline studies in 2013 and 2014 and will end with an endline survey to be conducted in 2016, for which ISSER is responsible. The purpose is to be able to collect data related to primary schools and households affected by the GSFP program, to track indicators related to nutrition, school participation and welfare.</p> <p>The study involves a mixed method approach that includes child, household, school and community level surveys. The end line survey will assess the second-year effects of three feeding interventions in a control trial, which will demonstrate a potentially fruitful approach to increasing welfare outcomes including child health and nutrition, school participation and learning and small-holder farmer income in Ghana. The study will capture data relating to interventions for three groups: (a) those in the standard Government feeding program; (b) those in the “homegrown” school feeding (HGSF) program, which is the standard program alongside a pilot project aimed at enhancing nutrition and agriculture; and (c) the control group, for whom the intervention will be delayed for at least 2 years. The study targets a nationally representative sample of about 2,500 respondent from 116 schools to be randomly selected in 58 districts in the country.</p>
Client Information	<p>Partnership for Child Development (PCD), Ghana Imperial College, London</p> <p>Contact Persons: Elisabetta Aurino (London), Gertrude Ananse-Baden (Ghana)</p>
Actual Services Provided	Design and pilot test of the endline questionnaires, coding of questionnaire into appropriate CAPI software, coordination of field training, including recruitment and training of field enumerators, data collection and cleaning, analysis of the Survey data, and production of the endline survey report for PCD and IFPRI.
Contract Value	US\$197,000
Duration	5 months: November 2015 – March 2016

Project 2

Project Title	AGRA Baseline Studies in Ghana, Mali and Burkina Faso
Project Description	AGRA plans to roll out some intervention strategies to meet the short and long-term agricultural goals of the three countries albeit by conducting baseline studies to establish current levels of key performance indicators related to AGRA's new strategy to achieve maximum results. For this reason, each of the three countries- Ghana, Mali and Burkina Faso has been categorized into two broad groups according to their needs.
Client Information	Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Contact person: Josephine Njau, Program Coordinator, Monitoring and Evaluation, AGRA
Scope	<p>The overall purpose of these studies are mainly to design and conduct baseline surveys in Ghana, Mali and Burkina Faso to collect and analyze data on various outcome indicators to inform AGRA's management and partners on the reference situation in the intervention areas of these countries. Specifically, information gathered from these studies are expected to be used to: (i) assist in setting appropriate targets for future interventions, and (ii) inform the strategic decisions on the design and implementation of future interventions.</p> <p>In Ghana, the intervention regions are the Northern and Brong Ahafo regions with the targeted crops being maize, rice, cassava and soybean. For Mali, Sikasso, Segou and Koulikoro are the intervention regions with maize, millet, sorghum and cowpea as targeted crops. In Burkina Faso, the targeted crops are maize, rice, cowpea and sorghum, and the regions for the intervention are Centre-Est, Centre-Quest, Boucle de Mouhoun, Hautes-Bassins, and Cascades.</p> <p>With regards to the sample sizes for the three countries, 2500 farmers will be interviewed for the quantitative aspect with 12 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and 24 Key Informant/ In-depth Interviews being conducted for the qualitative aspect in Ghana. In Mali, 2800 farmers will be interviewed with 12 FGDs and 24 Key Informant/In-depth Interviews being conducted for the quantitative and qualitative work, respectively. For Burkina Faso however, 2950 farmers will be interviewed for the quantitative aspect in addition to 12 FGDs and 24 Key Informant/ In-depth Interviews for the qualitative aspect.</p>
Actual Services Provided by ISSER	Revision of the questionnaires, CAPI design, recruitment and training of field personnel, supervision of fieldwork, collation and cleaning of data and writing of survey report for the project.

Total Budget	USD 1,322,235.50
Duration	July 2016 to January 2017
Project 3	
Project Title	Quantitative Baseline and Follow-up Surveys for Impact Evaluation for LEAP 1000.
Project Description	This is a three-year collaborative research among MoGCSP, UNICEF-Ghana and USAID that used the LEAP implementation structure to target a specific sub-group of extremely poor households that were missed in the LEAP approach— poor and vulnerable households with pregnant woman and infants under 12 months of age were used to pilot an initiative that provided a demonstration of a potentially fruitful approach to reducing poverty and vulnerability and improving child health among households with infants in Ghana. The program targets the first one thousand days of children in extreme households.
Client Information	UNICEF – Ghana
Scope	The purpose of the impact evaluation was to provide rigorous quantitative evidence on the effects cash transfer programs have on reducing poverty and vulnerability for poor households with pregnant women and infants and the implications this may have on child health. The survey covered about 2,500 households and was conducted in 5 districts in the Upper East and Northern regions
Actual Services Provided by ISSER	Design and pilot test of the baseline questionnaires, coding of questionnaire into appropriate CAPI software, coordination of field training, including recruitment and training of field enumerators, data collection and cleaning, analysis of the Survey data, and production of the baseline survey report for UNICEF - Ghana. A follow up survey (endline) will be conducted in the year 2017 for the final impact evaluation of LEAP 1000.
Total Budget	US\$454,932.43
Duration	May 2015 – November 2017
Project 4	
Project Title	An Evaluation of the Community Action in Improving Farmer-Saved Seed Yam (CAY-SEED) Project in Ghana and Nigeria.
Project Description	With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the Community Action for improving farmer-saved Seed Yam (CAY-Seed) project which is a Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Crops

	Research Institute led project was initiated. The focus of the project is to improve the quality of small holder farmer saved seed yam and its productivity at community level through positive selection, integrated crop management practices to control viruses and nematodes, and capacity building for increased food security and poverty reduction in Ghana and Nigeria.
Client Information	CSIR-Crop Research Institute, Kumasi, Ghana/Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Washington. Dr. Stella A. Ennin, Head Resource and Crop Mgt. & Socio Economic Division, CSIR-Crop Research Institute, Kumasi, Ghana. Email: enninstella@yahoo.com Tel: +233(0)244 462 415
Scope	ISSER is tasked with evaluating the impact of the planned interventions. The Institute is to carry out a baseline, midterm and endline surveys on the project. The study is being carried out in Ghana and Nigeria. The methodology applied in this survey was multi-site cluster randomised trials. The survey covers 720 selected farm households spread across 24 treatment communities in the 2 countries. Three (3) experimental arms which are positive selection and agronomic practices, agronomic practices only and a control group were used.
Actual Services Provided by ISSER	The role of ISSER has been to: (a) undertake an overall impact evaluation of the project, and (b) produce baseline, midline and endline data and reports on the project.
Contract Value	US\$ 620,000.00
Duration	44 months (November, 2014 – June, 2018)
Project 5	
Project Title	<i>A Survey of the Bread Basket Region in Ghana and Burkina Faso.</i>
Project Description	The project is the second wave of the panel survey targeted at tracking the changes in the key outcome indicators in the breadbasket areas in the Northern Region of Ghana and a selected area in Burkina Faso for three years. The first wave was conducted in 2014.
Client Information	Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Contact person: Josephine Njau, Program Coordinator, Monitoring and Evaluation, AGRA
Scope	The project provides an evaluation of the activities of households, and agro-input dealers on issues covering farmers awareness and use of improved seeds, soil health assessment, market availability and access, funding of agricultural activities, farmer based organizations (FBOs),

	income assessment, food security, agricultural productivity, land holdings, and labour.
Actual Services Provided	Project proposal, semi-annual project report, annual project report, annual dataset, final report and dataset.
Contract Value	US\$450,000
Duration	10 months: July 2013 to May 2014

Project 6

Project Title	Does Reinforcing Agro-dealer Network Improve Access and use of Agriculture Inputs by Farmers in Niger?
Project Description	With funding from AGRA, CEB, in collaboration with about 15 other institutions, is implementing “Reinforcing Agro-dealers’ Network in Niger”. The intervention aims to improve smallholder farmers’ access to and adoption of agricultural inputs in the Maradi, Zinder and Tahoua regions of Niger. This study aims to evaluate the impact of “Reinforcing Agro-dealers’ Network in Niger” on smallholder farmers’ access to and adoption of agricultural inputs in the Maradi, Zinder and Tahoua regions of Niger. The specific objectives of the study are: (a) to analyze the impact of building the capacity of agro-dealers on smallholder farmers’ access to and use of agricultural inputs; and (b) to analyze the impact credit on smallholder farmers’ use of agricultural inputs.
Client Information	International Initiative for Impact Evaluations (3ie)
Actual Services Provided	These include: (a) designing of survey instrument and translating them into French, (b) conducting baseline, midline and endline surveys, and (c) submission of baseline, midline and endline datasets and reports to 3ie.
Contract Value	US\$486,895.00
Duration	13 months: May 2014 – March 2017

Project 7

Project Title	The Impact of Reminders of Post-Harvest Aggregation Services and Timely Provision of Price Information on Smallholder Farmers Market Power and Incomes in Mali.
Project Description	In 2013, the Association Malienne pour l’Eveil et le Développement Durable (AMEDD) received a grant from the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) to implement interventions in Mali’s largest grain producing region, Sikasso, which are expected to help address the above mentioned constraints with the overall outcome being increased smallholder farmer incomes in the region. Specifically, the interventions are designed to: (a)

	strengthen the capacities of cooperatives to provide production, post-harvest, and marketing services to small-scale farmers; (b) strengthen the capacities of private operators to provide production, post-harvest, marketing services to small-scale farmers; and (c) improve small-scale farmers' output marketing by developing business contract linkages between aggregators and buyers. The project impact is evaluated using a mixed methods approach that complements randomized controlled trial (RCT) with focused group discussions and key informant interviews with leaders of cooperatives, private aggregators and selected farmers in project intervention communities. The evaluation covers approximately 1,800 households.
Client Information	International Initiative for Impact Evaluations (3ie)
Actual Services Provided by ISSER	These includes (a) designing of survey instrument and translating them into French, (b) conducting baseline, midline and endline surveys, and (c) submission of baseline, midline and endline datasets and reports to 3ie.
Contract Value	US\$456,292.00
Duration	June 2014 – November 2017

Project 8

Project Title	An Evaluation of Pilot Land Registration under the MiDA Program
Project Description	The Millennium Development Authority (MiDA) as part of its agricultural transformation projects is piloting land titling in Ghana with the objective of eliminating production bottlenecks associated with access, use and security of tenure of land. The Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) was tasked to conduct an independent impact evaluation of the MiDA pilot land title registration exercise in the Awutu-Senya district of the Central Region of Ghana. The study is based on a spatial regression discontinuity design as a means comparing outcomes of land title registration for beneficiaries as against non-beneficiaries. It employs a difference-in-difference method to estimate the impact of land title registration on selected key indicators. The data was collected as a panel over three waves and involved the use of a comprehensive household questionnaire administered to about 2,450 households.
Client Information	World Bank/ Millennium Development Authority (MiDA)/ MCC, Accra, Ghana Contact Person: Abigail Abandoh-Sam
Scope	The project involved the collection of endline household- and plot-level data for approximately 2,450 households and between 3,070 and 3,805

	plots; also collected spatial/GPS data marking all plots and household locations included in the survey; prepared a clean dataset; and wrote an endline survey report. This assignment included comprehensive face-to-face interviews with approximately 2,450 heads of household as well as shorter interviews with their spouse(s) for roughly 29 percent of households.
Actual Services Provided by ISSER	Project proposal; design of questionnaire; recruited and trained enumerators; supervised field work; provided plot level, GPS and household data; wrote an endline survey report.
Contract Value	US\$248,180.90
Duration	7 months: October 2014 to May 2015
Achievements/ findings	The findings are that land values increase over the three periods; land title registration impact positively on agricultural investments; and that the intervention positively impacted loan sizes for households and farm enterprises.

Project 9

Project Title	Impact Evaluation Support for the MCA Ghana Compact – Phase I
Project Description	This is a four-year research project that used a randomization experimental technique to evaluate the impact of the 5-year Ghana MCA program. The program ran from 2007 to 2012. The purpose was to be able to collect data to track the target indicators set by the MCA Ghana program and also continuously evaluate all components of the program over the life of the project.
Client Information	Millennium Development Authority (MiDA)/MCC, Accra, Ghana Contact Person: Abigail Abandoh-Sam
Scope	The program has two components: GLSS 5+ (designed to evaluate the overall impact of the program) and FBO (designed to evaluate the individual components such as training and business development, of the program). A nationally representative sample of about 9,310 households from about 621 enumeration areas (EAs) were selected in the 23 MiDA districts in the country under the GLSS 5+ component. An additional 5,000 households were selected in 333 EAs in the remaining districts in the country to act as control. Under the FBO component, about 6,000 households were selected from the 1,200 FBOs that are targeted for training under the MiDA program. Survey on these 6,000 farmers/households formed the basis of evaluating the training component of the MiDA program.

Actual Services Provided	Designed the impact evaluation methodology, designed questionnaires, coordinated the field survey undertaken by the Ghana statistical Service, Analyzed the Survey data, and wrote reports for the MCC and MiDA.
Contract Value	US\$2,429,000
Duration	4 years: January 2008 – December 2011
Project 10	
Project Title	Baseline Survey for an Impact Assessment of Ghana’s Social Grants Program (Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty, LEAP).
Project Description	As part of the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS), a new Social Grants program, namely Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) was designed, targeted at the bottom 20% of the extreme poor in Ghana. The LEAP is aimed at providing support to the extreme poor to help them leap out of poverty through direct cash transfer. ISSER was contracted to collect baseline data prior to implementation to allow for impact assessment of the program in a follow up survey.
Client Information	Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare
Actual Services Provided	ISSER and University of North Carolina were responsible for the design of survey instrument which was largely based on the ISSER/Yale Panel Surveys. ISSER then undertook the survey design, recruitment and training of field enumerators, field data collection, data capture and cleaning of the data. The Analysis was done with the University of North Carolina
Contract Value	US\$200,000
Duration	6 months : November 2009 – May 2010
Project 11	
Project Title	Endline Survey for an Impact Assessment of Ghana’s Social Grants Program (Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty, LEAP).
Project Description	This was an endline survey of LEAP beneficiaries plus control households to enable the evaluation of the program.
Client Information	Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare and University of North Carolina
Actual Services Provided	Worked with the University of North Carolina to design a follow-up survey to collect, collate, analyze and produce a an Impact Assessment report on a sample of six hundred and ninety nine (699) households from the seven (7) LEAP districts namely Pru, Tain, and Kintampo North in Brong Ahafo; Twifo Hemang Lower Denkyia, Gomoa West and Komenda Edina Eguafu in

	Central; Krachie East in Volta and about 900 control households from the baseline survey.
Contract Value	US\$416,257 (US\$214,679.80 from Ministry & US\$201,577.20 from UNC)
Duration	6 months: March 2012 – September 2012

Project 12

Project Title	Evaluation of the Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW) Component of the Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP)
Project Description	The government of Ghana through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) is implementing the Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP). This is a social protection project expected to contribute to bridging the gap between disparate regional growth in the long term and also, contribute to overall economic growth with equity. LIPW seeks to improve the targeting of social protection spending, increasing access to conditional cash transfers nationwide, increasing access to employment and cash-earning opportunities for the rural poor during the agricultural off-season, and improving economic infrastructure in target districts. The survey is to study the patterns of household consumption and expenditure, employment, food security and living conditions in the target districts.
Client Information	The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ghana
Actual Services Provided	The Impact Evaluation (IE) generated quantitative estimates of the key impacts of LIPW through data collected in a panel survey of communities and households within LIPW districts and presented the results of this analysis in three reports: (a) a baseline report presenting the key results of the baseline survey in 2012, (b) an IE report on the short-run impacts of the project, drawing upon the baseline and a follow-up survey in 2013, and (c) an IE report on the longer term impacts of the project, drawing upon the baseline and a second follow-up survey in 2015.
Contract Value	US\$865,802
Duration	36 months: 2012 – 2016

Project 13

Project Title	An Evaluation of the Impacts of a Soil Fertility Training Programme on Farmer Productivity in the Volta Region of Ghana
Project Description	The evaluation is a study jointly undertaken by IFPRI and ISSER. The project under evaluation aims at promoting Africare’s scale up of soil fertility management practices (ISFM) in the Volta region to address these issues and to ultimately improve the incomes of smallholder farmers. Africare’s

	project specifically promotes the sustainable intensification of maize and rice cultivation using the provision of production inputs, information on ISFM practices, and marketing services for members of farmer-based organisations (FBOs) in selected districts of the Volta region.
Client Information	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Contact person: David J. Spielman, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 2033 K Street NW, Washington DC.
Actual Services Provided	Overall, the main role of ISSER is to assist IFPRI with the data collection components of the study; specifically: (a) review of survey instruments, (b) recruitment and training of enumerators, (c) baseline data collection and coordination of field work, and (d) writing of Field Report on baseline data collection.
Contract Value	US\$114,505.14
Duration	5 Months: January to April, 2016

Project 14

Project Title	Assignment Name: Green Growth Diagnostics for Africa
Project Description	The project sought to develop a new Green Growth Diagnostics methodology and apply it to two African countries: Kenya and Ghana since these countries are the research hubs of East and West Africa and can offer a good opportunity to test the methodology in advance and also to a wider application to other African countries or beyond the African continent.
Client Information	DFID, EPSRC, DECC Contact person: Dr. Ana Pueyo, IDS
Actual Services Provided	Literature review on energy investments – conduction of workshops and field work on renewable energy investments in Africa – Publication of a book on the political economy of energy in Africa
Contract Value	US\$130,000.00
Duration	2 years: January 2014 to July, 2016

Project 15

Project Title	Supporting Sub-Saharan Africa's Municipalities with Sustainable Energy Transitions (SAMSET)
Project Description	The project sought to clarify how research and other development assistance can more effectively support sustainable energy transitions in urban areas in Sub Saharan Africa.

Client Information	DFID, EPSRC, DECC Contact person: Xavier Lemaire, UCL
Actual Services Provided	Conduction of state of energy in certain municipalities -Development of energy strategies for municipalities- Conduction of international conference sustainable on energy transition- Training of municipal partners on sustainable energy transition – conduction of energy efficiency experiments in municipalities; conduction of continuous Professional Development Course
Contract Value	US\$245,000.00
Duration	4 years: October 2013 to December 2017
Project 16	
Project Title	Unlocking the economic benefits of productive uses of energy for women
Project Description	The research project aimed at bringing understanding on four issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The differential impacts for women and men of current approaches for the promotion of productive uses of energy 2. The gendered constraints that affect women’s chances to benefit from the productive use of energy as much as men 3. The effectiveness of gendered approaches for the productive use of energy to achieve higher equity 4. The best way to implement gendered approaches to promote the productive use of energy in different contexts
Client Information	Institute of Development Studies Contact person: Ana Pueyo
Actual Services Provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewed and analysed relevant materials on the topics of gender, energy and productive use in Ghana - Prepared sampling - Organised a kick- kick off meeting between ISSER, GIZ and IDS researchers at the start of fieldwork - Trained field workers on both qualitative and quantitative instruments - Supervised fieldwork activities - Wrote field and technical reports - Organised stakeholder workshop and brought key stakeholders from government, study areas, CSOs, private sector players, academia, etc.
Contract Value	US\$72,927.34
Duration	4 Months: March to July 2018

Project 17

Project Title	Climate Change Finance in Ghana
Project Description	<p>The research project looked at three core aspects of the national budget system vis-à-vis climate finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current policy priorities and strategies as they relate to climate change and the extent to which these policies and strategies are coherent with national development, poverty reduction and economic growth strategies; • the institutional arrangements for promoting an integration of climate change policy priorities into budgeting and expenditure management including within and across key ministries and stakeholders; • the integration of climate change objectives within the budgeting process including as part of budget planning, implementation, expenditure management and financing.
Client Information	<p>Overseas Development Institute</p> <p>Contact person: Neil Bird</p>
Actual Services Provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Literature climate change policy and finance documents - Conducted key informant interviews - Wrote oversight committees' reports - Wrote analytical report on the Climate Finance of Ghana - Organised End of Study workshop and brought key stakeholders from government (ministers, directors), CSOs, private sector players, academia, etc.
Contract Value	US\$64,703.34
Duration	4 Months: December 2014 to April, 2015
Client Information	<p>International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)</p> <p>Contact person: David J. Spielman, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 2033 K Street NW, Washington DC.</p>
Actual Services Provided	<p>Overall, the main role of ISSER is to assist IFPRI with the data collection components of the study; specifically: (a) review of survey instruments, (b) recruitment and training of enumerators, (c) baseline data collection and coordination of field work, and (d) writing of Field Report on baseline data collection.</p>
Contract Value	US\$114,505.14
Duration	5 Months: January to April, 2016

Appendix 2: List of Project Collaborators

- International Development Research Centre (IDRC) /Think Tank Initiatives(TTI)
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
- European Union Commission (EU)
- Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
- Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- World Bank
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Economic Growth Centre, Yale University
- German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) /Danish Research Council
- The Centre for Social Development (CSD), Washington University in St. Louis
- International Fund For Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- University of Aarhus, Denmark
- Allan Guttmacher Institute, New York
- Center for Development Research, University of Bonn
- Northwestern University, USA
- National University of Ireland, Galway
- Institute of Development Studies, UK
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID), USA
- Department for International Development (DfID), UK

Appendix 3		INSTITUTE OF STATISTICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH (ISSER)			
		PHD IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES PROGRAMME			
		PHD ALUMNI (FROM 2009 TO 2018)			
No.	Name of Student	Thesis Title	Year Graduated	Organization	Position
1	Michael Ayanga	Land Tenure Security, Farm Investment and Technical Efficiency in Ghana	November, 2012	Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University for Development Studies - Government	Senior Lecturer
2	George Domfe	Implication of Labour Inefficiency and Underemployment for working Poverty: The case of Informal Sector in Ghana	November, 2013	Centre for Social Policy Studies (CSPS), University of Ghana - Government	Senior Research Fellow
3	Bernard Aflik Akanpadai Ak	Process use of Programme Evaluation in three Evaluation contexts in Northern Ghana	March, 2014	Department of Planning, University for Development Studies, Tamale - Government	Head of Department
4	Clement Adamba	Socio-Economic Inequalities and Maternal Health Outcomes in Ghana	March, 2014	Department of Educational Studies and Leadership, School of Education, College of Education, University of Ghana - Government	Research Fellow
5	Sylvester Nsobire Ayambila	The Determinants of Non-Farm Micro and Small Enterprise Employment and Financial Performance in Ghana.	November, 2014	Department of Agribusiness Management and Finance, Faculty of Agribusiness and Communication Sciences, University for Development Studies - Government	Senior Lecturer
6	Freda Asem	Technical Efficiency of Smallholder Horticultural Farmers in Ghana	November, 2014	Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, University of Ghana - Government	Lecturer
7	Philip Prince Kwesi Mantey	Forest Resource Importance and Dependence among Rural Households in Southern Ghana	November, 2014	University of Ghana Learning Centres, School of Continuing and Distance Education, College of Education - Government	Lecturer
8	George Adati-Nwoza Adiah	Inequality of Opportunity and Children's Educational and Health Outcomes in Ghana	July, 2015	School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (SOLASS), Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) - Government	Lecturer
9	Daniella Delali Sedegah	Demand Responsive Approach and its Significance for Sustainable Management of Water Facilities in the Shai-Osudoku District	July, 2015	University of Energy and Natural Resources, Sunyani - Government	Lecturer
10	Emmanuel Anyang Abeka	Adaptation to Urban Flood Among the Poor in the Accra Metropolitan Area	November, 2015	(GASSLIP), Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resource - Government	Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist
11	Antoinette Cecilia Tsiboe-Darko	Institutions and Socioeconomic Change in Two Oil affected Districts in Ghana	November, 2015	Centre for Social Policy Studies (CSPS), University of Ghana - Government	Research Fellow
12	John Abebrese Boateng	Health Insurance and Healthcare Utilization of Rural Farm Households in the Akaupem South District of Ghana	July, 2016	Parliament of Ghana - Government	Senior Research Officer
13	George-Grandy Hallow	Entrepreneurial Activity, Social and Human Capital for Urban Poverty Reduction in Accra	November, 2016	Private	Head of Department, Humanities
14	Stephen Joseph Kilasi	Local Participation and Sustainable Community Water Management in Peri-Urban Areas of the Greater-Accra Region	November, 2016	Ruaha Catholic University(RUCU), Iringa, Tanzania - Private	Lecturer
15	Ama Boafo-Arthur	Livelihood Strategies of Street Children in Accra	November, 2016	Department of Distance Education, College of Education, University of Ghana - Government	Lecturer
16	Ezekiel Attuquaye Clottey	Institutions, Politics and Land Administration in the Ga State in Ghana	November, 2016	Department of Political Science Education, Faculty of Social Studies, University of Education, Winneba -	Lecturer (Dep. of Pol. Sci. Edu.), Graduate Coordinator of CHRAPS
17	Henrietta Asante-Sarpong	Free Maternal Health Care Policy and Access to Supervised Care at Birth : Experiences from the Central Region of Ghana	July, 2017	National Commission for Civic Education - Government	Director of Research Gender and Equality
18	Theodora Akweley Asiamah	Trends and Determinants of Household Use of Financial Services in Ghana	July, 2018	Nobel International Business School - Private	Assistant Professor of Management and Finance and also the Program Director of the Doctor of Business Leadership Program
19	Hamdiya Alhassan	Households' Willingness-to-Pay and Participate in Source Separation of Solid Waste in the Accra and Tamale Metropolises, Ghana	July, 2018	Agricultural and Resource Economics, University for Development Studies - Government	Senior lecturer
20	Asaah Sumaila Mohammed	Actors and Strategies in Negotiations for Local Benefits in Ghana's Oil and Gas Sector	July, 2018	Department of Community Development, Faculty of Planning and Land Management, University for Development Studies - Government	Lecturer
21	Gbensuglo Alidu Bukari	Political Economy Analysis of Elections in Ghana's Fourth Republic (1992 to 2016)	July, 2019	-	-
22	Benjamin Bilalam Jabik	Investigation of Planned and Autonomous on-Farm Climate Change Adaptation Outcomes of Small-Scale Crops Farmers in the Garu	July, 2019	-	-
23	Francis Dompae	Determinants and Outcomes of Green Revolution Technology Adoption in Maize Farming in Ghana	July, 2019	-	-
24	Alexis Beyuo	Examining the relevance of grassroots participatory approaches for sustainable agriculture: the case of Ghana's Upper West Region	July, 2019	-	-
25	Andaratu Achuliwor Abdallah	Labour Market Outcomes and Subjective wellbeing of University Graduates in Ghana	July, 2019	-	-
26	Maliām Acio	Oil and Gas Induced Displacement and Its Effect on Communities' Experiences from Ghana and Uganda	July, 2019	World Bank, Uganda Country Office	Social Development Specialist

