**PAPER NUMBER #193**

**Economic inclusion of smallholder farmers: Findings from impact evaluation on Rwandan horticulture and coffee farmers**

**Presenting Author**

Dr Benjamin Wood

**Affiliation**

International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

**Country of residence**

United States of America

**Objectives/aims**

How best to improve agricultural household income in the developing world remains an open question. Our paper evaluates a multi-arm crop promotion program in Rwanda. The project provides evidence on the effectiveness of government supported agricultural commercialization efforts that encourage farmers to increase their value chain participation.

We compare results from the intervention’s coffee and horticulture arms. The coffee intervention addressed cooperative level training, governance and production constraints. The horticulture intervention provided access to financial resources for farmer-developed business plans. Our objectives is to inform future policymaking.

**Methods**

Our theory-based evaluation uses propensity score matching estimation strategies to conduct our assessment.

For coffee, we use a multi-stage approach, where we compare historical patterns to match cooperatives. We then match individual treatment and control households to establish our counterfactual.

For horticulture, we assess multiple treatments against a pure control. The treatment arms include three groups, all of which developed business plans. First, households that were rejected. Second, households that were approved but did not receive assistance (due to insufficient funds). Third, households that were approved and received assistance.

**Main findings**

Our preliminary results indicate that both of the interventions worked in different ways.

The coffee cooperative approach appears to provide a short-term economic boost to members. The households in cooperatives that received the intervention earlier show decreases in their income levels, suggesting concerns over the long-term effects of this intervention.

The horticulture evidence is more difficult to assess. Smaller full treatment sample size only allow us to present suggestive evidence. The results are promising. The horticulture intervention appears to provide a real income boost to households that receiving the funds.

We will revise and finalize these results in the next few months.