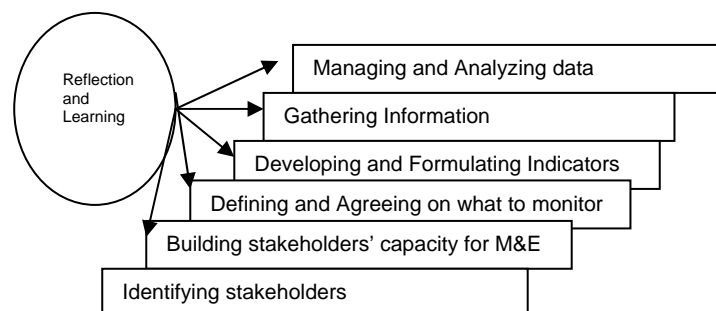


## Introduction

Participatory monitoring and evaluation offers new ways for research for development programmes to improve their performance, learn from experience, track research and development outcomes of interventions and empower stakeholders especially farmers and farmer organizations to improve their self organization, articulate their demands and access information for decision making. CIAT Africa has been implementing PM&E at two levels, community level and programme level.

## Methodology

The PM&E process differs across contexts, scales and types of focus, but basically follows the following key basic steps



## Community Level PM&E

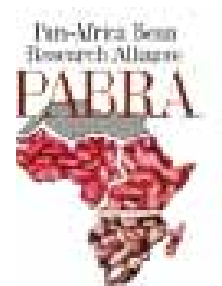
This approach to participatory monitoring and evaluation is unique as its focus is on a system that is developed, managed and supported by local communities for their own purposes. CIAT's research in community driven PM&E focuses on the development and refinement of the PM&E process, the role it plays in empowering rural communities, strategies for scaling out of the process and the costs and benefits of it to both the communities and to the research and development (R&D) institutions working with them.



## Social and Institutional Benefits

*Institutional Learning and change:* Building on the lessons of both successes and failures in subsequent planning sessions has progressively informed implementation and contributed to a cost effective project implementation and improved performance.

*Community empowerment:* Communities and groups with PM&E were more empowered and performed better than those without. Eighty three percent of groups with PM&E had approached other organizations for information and services compared to 33% without PM&E, 88.9% had all members knowing about group funds compared to 50% for those without, and had more information sharing.



## PM&E in Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme

The SSA-CP is a research for development initiative that is utilizing innovation platforms within an IAR4D to bring together multi-stakeholder partnerships for the implementation of 9 projects across Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. PM&E within the SSA-CP is aimed at three key objectives (i) for learning and making decisions and corrective adjustments to the project (ii) to track and assess progress towards achievements of outputs and outcomes based on performance indicators; and (iii) to generate data to test hypotheses within Task Forces Projects.

The approach combines development of impact pathways and M&E frameworks for developing impacts, outcomes and outputs for each of the projects, social network analysis for evaluating partnerships, process documentation for innovation platforms and their outcomes and household level impact evaluation. Research on PM&E is focusing on the role of PM&E in improving project performance, stakeholder participation and interactions.

## PM&E in PABRA

Participatory M&E in the PABRA is advocated for its benefits in providing a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of the alliance based on mutually perceived outputs, outcomes and impacts.

The objectives for Participatory M& E in PABRA are to (i) To decentralize participatory monitoring, evaluation and institutional learning in PABRA (ii) To facilitate the formation of national bean platforms comprised of partners involved in bean research and development work (iii) To enhance knowledge and skills of members of the alliance and of national bean platforms to systematically and periodically monitor and evaluate mutually developed bean research and development objectives (iv) To support institutionalization of impact oriented monitoring and evaluation in PABRA