Engage in a conference with the latest insights

For policy makers, evaluators and other M&E practitioners, managers with M&E and/or results based management responsibilities

Subject: much is at stake
Impact Evaluation (IE) has been at the centre of attention within the evaluation field for several years. IE addresses the fundamental question: what works for whom, and under what conditions? Governments, civil society organisations and companies want to know if their money has contributed to positive changes in peoples’ lives, and if so: how and why. They want clear answers to shape and improve on future policies. Those implementing publicly funded initiatives want to understand if their efforts have rendered envisaged effects, and if not, what can be done differently. Companies, increasingly taking social and supply chain responsibilities, want to ensure and communicate how their business benefits planet and people. Governments and the tax payers that vote them in look to development with critical eyes – is it ‘value for money’? Researchers, intrigued by the quest for evidence, are innovating with new IE approaches. Jointly, these actors add to the body of knowledge about ‘what works’ and what doesn’t. Many stakeholders with much at stake.

Challenge: what influences evaluation design, communication and utilization
Evaluation is not – and never has been – neutral. So too within the specific area of IE, different perspectives and interests vie for central stage and power relations shape what transpires. Who defines what is IE? Who defines what is to be evaluated? Who sets methodological boundaries? Who interprets data and uses results? Different values and different paradigms influence the evaluation process, findings and use. What are the issues that need attention as we balance power, rigour, robustness and utility of IE? The core question is: what can be done in design and communication to enhance utilization of IE findings?

Conference: 2 days of engaged debate
This open two-day conference will take place in the context of a three-week course entitled “Participatory Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation - Managing for Impact”. The Centre for Development Innovation (CDI, Wageningen University & Research Centre) organises
this course annually, attended by some 90 PM&E professionals from Africa, Asia and Europe. All course participants will attend the conference. Policy makers, evaluators, businesses with high impact standards, NGOs, and researchers are cordially invited to participate in the event.

Organisers and funders
This event is organised and funded by the Centre for Development Innovation (CDI, Wageningen UR) in collaboration with Learning by Design; the Agricultural Economics Institute (LEI; Wageningen UR); HIVOS and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

What to expect
Participants get access to:
- latest trends and developments in IE;
- key challenges in design, communication and use of IE;
- new IE tools and approaches;
- network of public and private peers;
- audience keen to hear your experiences.

Program
Dr. Irene Guijt will provide a keynote speech on 'Impact Evaluation: current trends, developments and opportunities'. She will draw on her recent IE work with IFAD, ODI's MethodsLab, and BetterEvaluation. She will provide an overview of the current issues related to: defining IE; designing rigorous IE; ensuring utilization of IE findings; communicating findings; roles and driving forces in the field; and costs and benefits of approaches. The keynote is followed by a keynote speech by Professor Elliot Stern AcSS, Professor Emeritus of Evaluation Research at Lancaster University UK and editor of Evaluation (international journal of theory, research and practice). He will speak about the recent publication 'Broadening the range of designs and methods for impact evaluation' (DFID, 2012). The presentations are then followed by sessions that allow for in-depth exploration of each subject with invited experts or participants with relevant cases. The case study working groups are used to explore the core questions of this conference:
- How is utilization of IE findings influenced by IE design and communication?

Subquestions include:
- What influences IE design?
- What influences communication of IE findings?

Your input
Participants are invited to submit their own IE case to explore the core question. The conference fee can be waived for participants that facilitate a session (not more than half a day).

Registration and contact details
- The conference will be held at the Hof van Wageningen, in Wageningen, the Netherlands on 25-26 March 2013.
- If you are interested in presenting your own IE case, please indicate this in your registration and provide a description of your case.
- The fee for 2 days is 350 euro (including lunch & drinks).
- Background information to the conference will be provided on a website, more information to follow shortly.
- All applications and payments must be received before 28 February 2013.
- For more information please contact: Cecile.Kusters@wur.nl (content) or Elisabeth.HopperusBuma@wur.nl (logistics)

Program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>25 March – morning:</th>
<th>25 March – afternoon:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keynote speech Dr. Irene Guijt</td>
<td>Case study working groups (different IE approaches)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keynote speech Professor Elliot Stern</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>26 March – morning:</th>
<th>All 26 March – afternoon:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case study working groups (different IE approaches)</td>
<td>Consolidation Panel discussion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Centre for Development Innovation
PO BOX 88
6700 AA Wageningen
The Netherlands

T +31 317 486 800
F +31 317 486 801
training.cdi@wur.nl
www.wageningenur.nl/cdi