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Press Release:

Title

Effects of NAAIAP (National Accelerated Agricultural Inputs Access Program) on Smallholder Production and Incomes

Authors

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Key messages

- NAAIAP's Kilimo Plus can be considered 'smarter' than other input support programs (ISPs) in the region (Zambia and Malawi) because: (i) in practice it was relatively well targeted—NAAIAP recipients were resource-poor farmers, with less land, lower asset wealth and of lower welfare status; (ii) it was implemented through vouchers redeemable at private agro-dealers and so didn't undermine purchases from the private sector.
- The program significantly raised maize production in Kenya, primarily by increasing maize yields and the maize share of farmers' total value of crop production. The effects of on maize production were larger than those of ISPs.
- Kilimo Plus did not significantly increase total area cultivated, net crop income, net total household income and poverty incidence.
- The program substantially reduced poverty gap and severity of poverty. This implies that the program succeeded in raising average incomes of the poor.
- Better performance of Kilimo Plus may be consistent with more effective targeting of resource-poor farmers using less fertilizer without subsidy, and use of vouchers redeemable at agro-dealer shops, resulting in more timely access to inputs, and hence timely farm operations.

Policy Recommendations

- ISP design and implementation have significant implications for program impacts and so to maximize impacts, it is important to ensure that official and effective (in practice) targeting match.
- Prioritize use of existing private-sector input distribution mechanisms to encourage private sector participation and reduce distortionary effects of subsidy on private fertilizer market.
- Have a more holistic approach to improving production and sustainable intensification by increasing complementary public/private investments in improving soil health and in research, extension, irrigation, transport infrastructure, information, as well as affordable and appropriate innovations and technology.
- Study findings can provide useful lessons for design and implementation of other programs such as the County-run farm input support programmes.

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