

3.1. Food security and poverty mapping project

Objective

The system-wide food security and poverty mapping project completed the first year of the 3-year initiative in September 2002. The government of Norway funds this project through their support to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). CIAT, FAO and Global Resource Inventory Database (GRID)-Arendal make up the three principal project partners. The project aims to advance food security and poverty mapping methodology, and geographic information for development at global, regional, and national scales.

Materials and Methods

CIAT's role in the project is to manage, monitor, and evaluate the country-level case studies conducted by our CGIAR partners. This year the project secured new funding, increasing the number of case studies from four to eight (Figure 15).

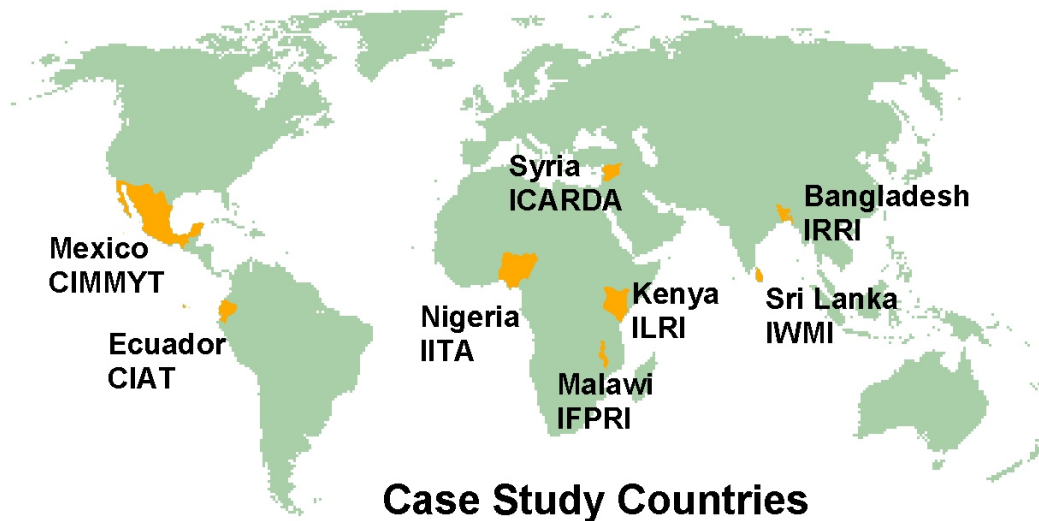


Figure 15. The eight countries selected for food security and poverty mapping case studies.

A workshop to improve CGIAR center methodological capacity in poverty mapping was held in Rome in April. Workshop participants focused on spatial analysis methods for mapping socioeconomic variables. The workshop stressed the measurement and evaluation of spatial autocorrelation when analyzing socioeconomic data. Following the workshop, each CGIAR center revised its original case study proposal to include better spatial analysis methods and improved communication with national partners and end-users of the research. The new proposals were incorporated into the terms of reference for each participating CGIAR center.

Project partners met again in May 2002 at the Geospatial Applications to Support Sustainable International Agriculture workshop in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The

CGIAR centers developing case studies committed to incorporating standardized metadata and spatial data clearinghouse elements into their case studies.

Results

The case study work aims to improve methodological capacities to map food security and poverty at the country level. Improved methods will benefit CGIAR centers and partners in the development of future work. The project will make results available to the research and development community.

Project progress reports are available from the CIAT Projects Office. For more information see the project Web site at www.povertymap.net.

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