

Update on Social & Economic Impact Assessment of RCA Programme

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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S & E Impact Assessment

Background:

The RCA was established in 1972 and has enjoyed the benefit of the IAEA TC programme since.

It is reasonable to question:

What is the social and economic impact of the RCA programme since its establishment and how to assess its impact?

S & E Impact Assessment



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OECD/DAC Evaluative Framework and Outcome Harvesting Methodology were proposed.

However, on further investigation, it was concluded that they were too difficult to apply quickly, due to a lack of ready access to sufficient published material to support the evaluation.

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The 41st NR Meeting in Sri Lanka, 26-29 March 2019 decided to hold an RCA Exhibition in 2022 to showcase the social and economic (S &E) impact of the RCA programme on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA establishment.

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To this end, an expert meeting was held in Vienna, Austria from 1-4 July 2019 to discuss, identify and agree on a suitable methodology for case studies of S & E impact of the RCA programme.

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A systematic methodology was developed, which consists of eight steps:

1) Understanding the theory of change for the programme or project;

2) Developing performance criteria;

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3) Developing performance standards for each performance criterion;

4) Identifying and selecting the evidence needed;

5) Gathering evidence;

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6) Analysing the evidence;

7) Synthesising and judging the evidence; and

8) Reporting.

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This methodology was first piloted to assess S & E impact of RCA mutation breeding projects.

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Despite many difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, with the close cooperation and great efforts of all concerned parties, the task to assess S & E impact of the RCA programme was successfully completed as scheduled.

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*The Report of Social and Economic Impact
Assessment of the RCA Programme- Mutation
Breeding Case Study has been completed and
circulated to NRs for comment/ recommendation.*

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The report is highly appreciated by the IAEA TC as an innovative breakthrough of the RCA/TCAP. The developed methodology/approach works very well for the thematic area of Mutation Breeding;

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The assessment methodology is also being applied to assess social and economic impact of RCA non-destructive testing (NDT) projects (industrial application) and RCA radiotherapy projects (human health) .

A follow-up plan is proposed as follows:

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action to be taken</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Responsible Persons</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Carrying out the study of socio-economic impact in two sub-thematic areas: NDT and radiotherapy</i>	<i>Oct. 2020 – Sep. 2021</i>	<i>Experts, RCA FP, TCQAS, RCARO, Chair of PAC, Chair of WG on MTSC, NRs, LCCs, NPCs</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Reporting the results of the study of socio-economic impact to the 50th RCA GCM</i>	<i>50th RCA GCM, Sep. 2021</i>	<i>RCA FP, TCQAS, RCARO, Chair of PAC, Chair of WG on MTSC</i>

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action to be taken</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Responsible Persons</i>
3	<i>Refining reports and communication products such as brochures, videos, etc.</i>	<i>Oct. 2021-Feb. 2022</i>	<i>Experts, RCA FP, TCQAS, RCARO, Chair of PAC, Chair of WG on MTSC, NRs</i>
4	<i>Showcasing socio - economic impact of RCA projects at: The 50th Anniversary of the RCA (1972 - 2022)</i>	<i>Mar. 2022 (44th RCA NRM) and Sep. 2022 (51st RCA GCM)</i>	<i>RCARO, RCA FP, Chair of PAC, Chair of WG on MTSC, NRs</i>

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action to be taken</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Responsible Persons</i>
5	<i>Sharing the RCA experience in assessing socio-economic impact of TC projects</i>	<i>Mar. 2022 on</i>	<i>RCA FP, TCQAS, RCARO, NRs</i>

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Do you know how to measure S&E impact systematically?

Yeah, before, no. Now, yes, thanks to the RCA!

Comments

TC projects can only produce S & E economic impact after several years of completion.

Therefore, the assessment of S & E impact of TC programme/ projects is only conducted normally 10-15 years after the completion of projects.

Comments

Currently, assessment of S & E economic impact of TC projects is still piloted. And, it takes time to draw lessons-learned, recommendations and suggestions for changes in TC project development, implementation and evaluation.

Comments

So far, there has been no changes in the RCA Report Templates for First Project Coordination Meeting, Mid-term Project Progress Review Meeting, Final Project Review Meeting. The Templates are developed to serve the management of RCA projects during project implementation period, not after the completion of projects.



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