



# Short introduction to SPIA



Standing  
Panel on  
Impact  
Assessment

# SPIA mandate

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The Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA) is an external, impartial panel of experts in impact assessment appointed by the System Council and accountable to it.

SPIA's mandate is to:

- Expand and deepen evidence of impact of CGIAR research investments on CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) outcomes and associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- Support CGIAR's strong commitment to embed a culture of impact assessment into the System.

# SPIA members

SPIA is an external, impartial panel of up to 6 experts in impact assessment subject matter. The current membership is shown in the following table:

Name	Institution	Role	Specialty	Gender	Term end
<b>SPIA Standing Members</b>					
Karen Macours	Paris School of Economics, France	Chair	Impact evaluation, development	F	30/09/2020
Kyle Emerick	Tufts University, USA	Member	Agricultural Development, Climate Change adaptation	M	31/12/2022
JV Meenakshi	Delhi School of Economics, India	Member	Agriculture, nutrition and health	F	30/04/2021
<b>SPIA Special Initiative Members</b>					
Travis Lybbert	UC Davis, USA	Member	Agriculture, markets	M	30/06/2022
Kelsey Jack	UC Santa Barbara, USA	Member	Natural resources management	F	30/06/2022
Rachid Laajaj	University of Los Andes, Colombia	Member	Impact evaluation, AR4D and technology adoption	M	31/12/2022

# Approach to impact assessment

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## **Role of impact evidence in decision making (see SPIA Technical Note #8)**

SPIA sets out two types of impact studies: **accountability studies** designed to measure long-term and/or large-scale impacts of past research investments; and **learning studies** designed to inform current research and scaling investments.

## **Contribution to a stage-gate process ([video interview with SPIA Chair, Karen Macours](#))**

Learning studies can be designed to test key hypotheses in the theory of change at each stage in the AR4D process.