**Using Big data for Impact Evaluations**

As the buzz around using big data to measure development effectiveness and guide decision-making continues to build, a growing number of examples of real-world applications add nuance to our understanding of opportunities and limitations. Increasingly sophisticated and accessible tools and methods provide new options and new blind spots in data-informed decision-making. This webinar will be a panel discussion focusing on the use of big data in impact evaluation, program targeting and monitoring, and predictive analytics in international development. Each panellist brings a different perspective to this discussion, which will focus on several key themes: 1) Innovations in big data for development 2) Practical applications in the context of time urgency and resource scarcity; 3) Research uptake and use for policy, programming; 4) Future direction - forecasts and forewarnings.

In this webinar, the panelists will draw on real-world applications of big data in impact evaluations, associated challenges, costs, etc. The panelist will discuss, among other things, how to use big data in impact evaluation (focusing methods, team capacity, costs etc.), and why they chose to use big data over traditional data sources. We will also ask you to comment on lessons that you and your team learned from using geospatial/satellite data in your impact evaluation. In conclusion, the panelists will reflect on the future of big data use in Impact evaluations answering questions such as will the use of big data create a research divide? What are the biggest challenges to conduct such a study in L&MICs? Will low-touch measurement become the new normal?

Among other things, the participants will learn the following:

1. How impact of interventions on development outcomes can be evaluated using big data?
2. What are the potential biases, pros and cons, risks and ethical issues in using big data for measuring and evaluating development outcomes?
3. What are the costs associated with using big data in Impact evaluation?
4. What are the capacity constraints, if any? How to build capacity?

Panelists:

* Yanyan Liu, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI, USA
* Sreeja Jaiswal, Project Manager, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, India

Chair:

Douglas Glandon, Lead Evaluation Specialist, 3ie, USA

Duration of the session

We propose the session to be an hour-long session in a Presentation and Q&A format with 3ie moderating the discussion.