

Consolidated EREC Comments on the Programs

One overarching concern cutting across the programs was the observation that the substantive coherence between the programs and their constituent projects is rather limited. The Committee noted that this gap occurs in all programs and concluded that stronger substantive integration is needed. It was suggested that projects are more explicitly developed to align with the main thrust of their programs.

Program 2

Program 2 is progressing well, with another major project (e-Rec) completing and a new one (value chains) getting firmly underway.

Much of the discussion of the Committee about Program 2 was concerned with the fairness and equity concepts which feature prominently in its title but are not really addressed in the projects. On the one hand, the Committee felt that it is important not to get too preoccupied with detailed definitional issues. It advises the Program to focus on what is feasible and to examine practical issues of governance and actual fairness and equity. At the same time, currently, the Program is prolifically producing data to the relative neglect of the conceptual issues and as a result the understanding of fairness and equity demonstrated was relatively shallow. Providing a clear conceptual base will facilitate the projects' engagement with these issues. The projects are real assets in being data rich and analytically powerful. These can be used to understand questions of fairness, such as Who are the most vulnerable? And Who gets marginalized? Identifying such groups will provide entry points to resource governance issues and help to work on solutions beyond data analysis.