

QUIP IN ACTION



COUNTRY: GHANA

COMMISSIONER: AGDEVCO

INVESTMENT/PROJECT: BABATOR IRRIGATED FARMING HUB

SAMPLE SIZE: QuIP - 24 II + 4 FGD + 4 KII / HH survey - 226

YEAR OF STUDY: 2021/2022

AgDevCo is an **impact investor** with the mission of supporting the growth of sustainable and impactful agribusinesses in sub-Saharan Africa. The company focuses on capacity building and technical support, in addition to providing capital.

Since 2011, AgDevCo has committed over \$6m into the development of the **Babator Irrigated Farming Hub** (BIFH) project. The vision of the BIFH project once it is fully developed is to be the largest irrigated agricultural production and processing hub in Ghana. The ultimate goal of the BIFH project is to contribute to the poverty reduction efforts in Northern Ghana by improving the livelihoods and incomes of rural smallholder farmers.

The QuIP was used alongside a household survey as part of a **midline evaluation** of the BIFH project. The purpose of this mixed method evaluation was to assess the household-level changes in incomes and livelihoods of Babator and other communities as a result of the BIFH project. The aim of the QuIP was to better understand which factors the Babator farmers believed had the strongest influence on changes in their income and livelihoods.

APPROACH

The quantitative **household survey** included 226 households in total (88 control and 138 treatment households) from intervention and non-intervention communities. The survey tool was developed based on the design and results of the baseline survey to fill gaps whilst still enabling effective comparison.

The QuIP comprised of 24 individual interviews, 4 key informant interviews and 4 focus group discussions with intended beneficiaries. The sample was split between two communities near BIFH and divided by beneficiary type to capture any potential differences across groups. The smallholder farmers were asked about changes in their farming practices, yields, income, living conditions, household relationships, and overall wellbeing.

The survey and interview data were collected by teams of local researchers fluent in the local languages. The researchers worked completely independently of the commissioning project team and were not informed that the research was linked to the AgDevCo project. This was to mitigate confirmation bias amongst respondents and ensure that we captured a broad range of stories of change.

FINDINGS

The midline evaluation report was structured by the key evaluation questions (and key performance indicators) and presented the evidence from the quantitative survey and QuIP together.

Overall, triangulating these data sources helped to validate the findings as the quantitative and qualitative results were largely consistent. The QuIP revealed additional insights, particularly in relation to understanding attribution and highlighting specific drivers and outcomes in the pathways of change.

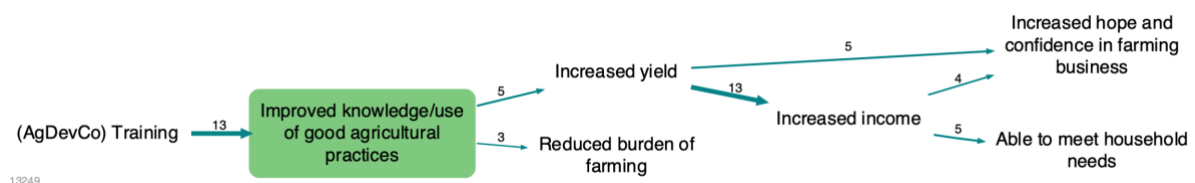
The following examples demonstrate how QuIP corroborated and added to the interpretation of survey findings in three areas.

1. Improved Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

The survey data showed that since baseline there had been an overall improvement in farmers' use of specific GAP, including minimum tillage, fallowing, and mulching, for both treatment and control households.

The QuIP findings highlighted that (beneficiary) farmers who reported improved knowledge and use of GAP mostly attributed this change to AgDevCo's agricultural training. Furthermore, as shown in Causal Map 1, the QuIP revealed additional outcomes resulting from these new practices. These included increased yields, in turn leading to increased income from farming, and improved wellbeing through reducing the burden of farming.

Causal Map 1: Improved knowledge/use of good agricultural practices

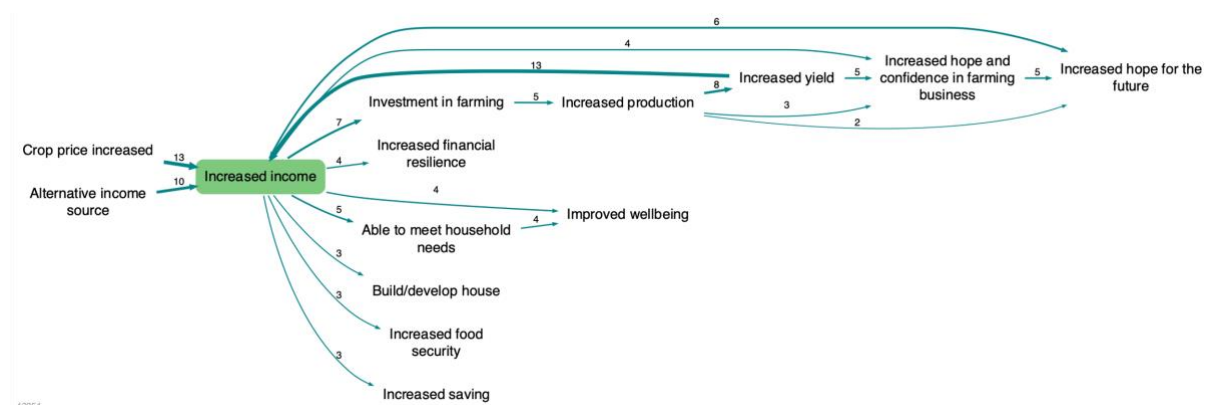


2. Increased income

The quantitative results found a significant increase in income for treatment and control households at midline.

Most QuIP (beneficiary) respondents also reported that their income had increased. As shown in Causal Map 2, increased income was influenced by a range of factors: employment with Babator Farming Company (part of BIFH), having an alternative source of income, increased yields, and increases in crop prices. The range and nature of factors influencing increased income might explain why there was such a significant shift, and why both treatment and control households benefited.

Causal Map 2: Increased income



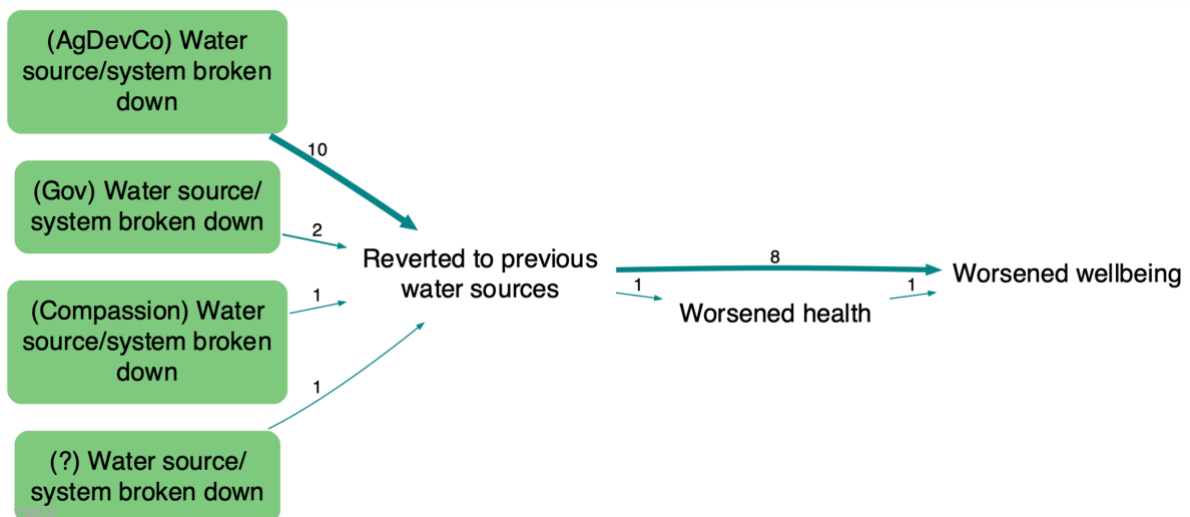
The causal map above also shows the outcomes relating to increased income, including investments in farming and an increased ability to meet household needs.

3. Drinking from unimproved water sources

According to the midline survey, whilst fewer control and treatment households drank from unimproved sources since baseline, the majority of households still drank from unimproved water sources overall.

The QuIP data helped explain why; as illustrated in Causal Map 3 below, this was largely attributed by (beneficiary) respondents to non-functioning water systems. The various water systems (provided by AgDevCo and others) had reportedly broken down.

Causal Map 3: Water source/system breakdown



Additionally, respondents mentioned general barriers to accessing water, including the size and placement of the water source and the need to pay for access.