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Le rôle croissant des approches expérimentales dans l'évaluation ex-ante et ex-post des politiques agricoles

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Politiques agricoles et alimentaires : trajectoires et réformes

Colloque thématique de la SFER 20-21 Juin 2018 à Montpellier Supagro

Session organisée

Evaluation des politiques agricoles: évolution des objectifs, des méthodes et des données

Le rôle croissant des approches expérimentales dans l'évaluation ex-ante et ex-post des politiques agricoles

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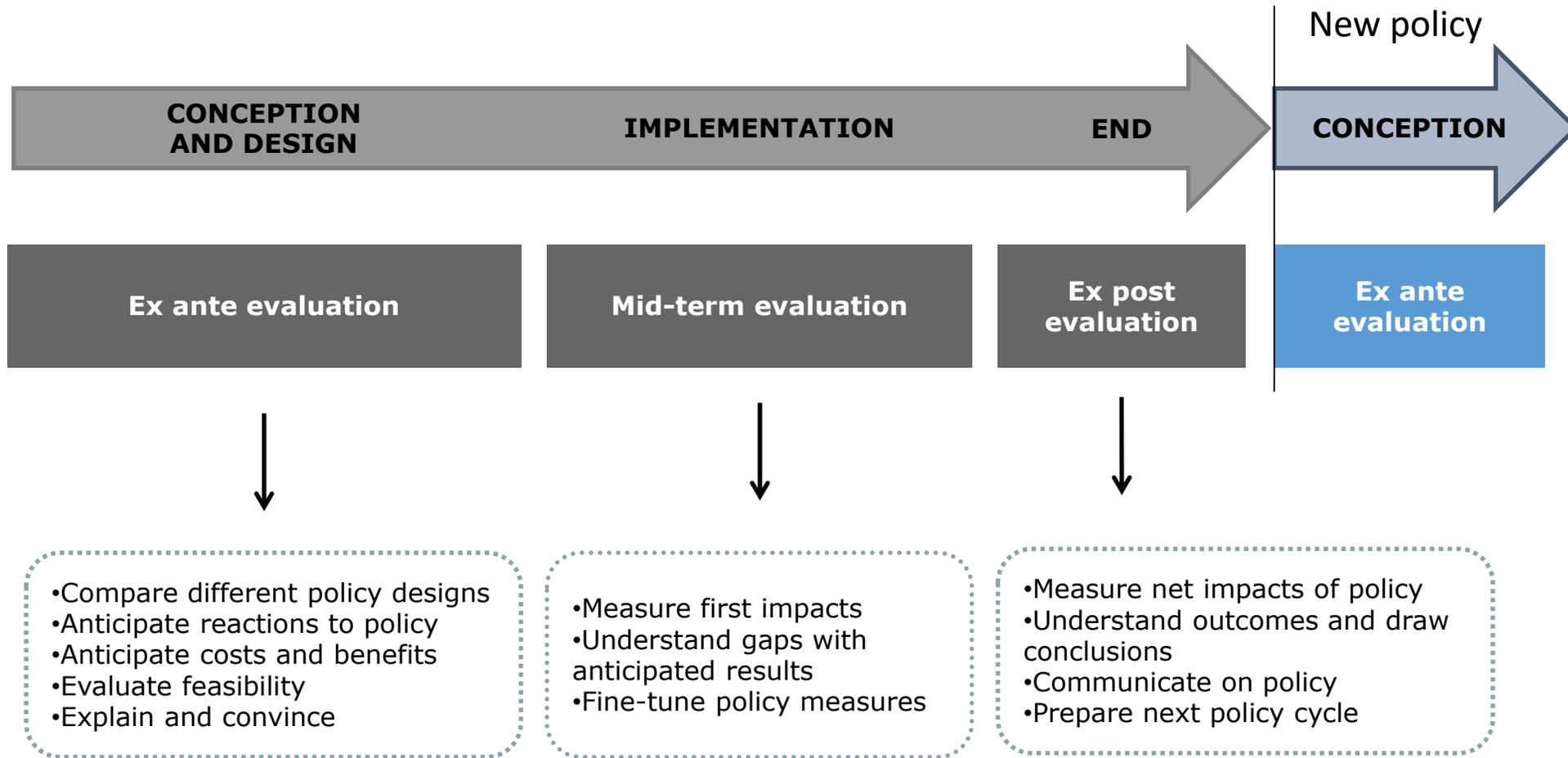
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Research network on Economic Experiments
for the Common Agricultural Policy

Context:
the current evaluation toolbox
and new evaluation needs

Policy evaluation cycle



The evaluation toolbox



Observed data

- FADN / RICA (DG Agri)
- Farm Structure Survey (Eurostat)
- Market data, Eurostat, OECD, FAO...
- Surveys, focus group

Ex ante evaluation

Ex-post evaluation

**Simulation
models**



**Statistical and
econometric analysis**

CAP reform and new needs



- Payments targeted at **farm** or even plot **level**;
- Accounting for the **voluntary** nature of many measures;
- Allowing the evaluation and acceptability of **regulatory** measures (with no EU funding involved);
- Accounting for the **heterogeneity** in CAP implementation across Member States and regions.

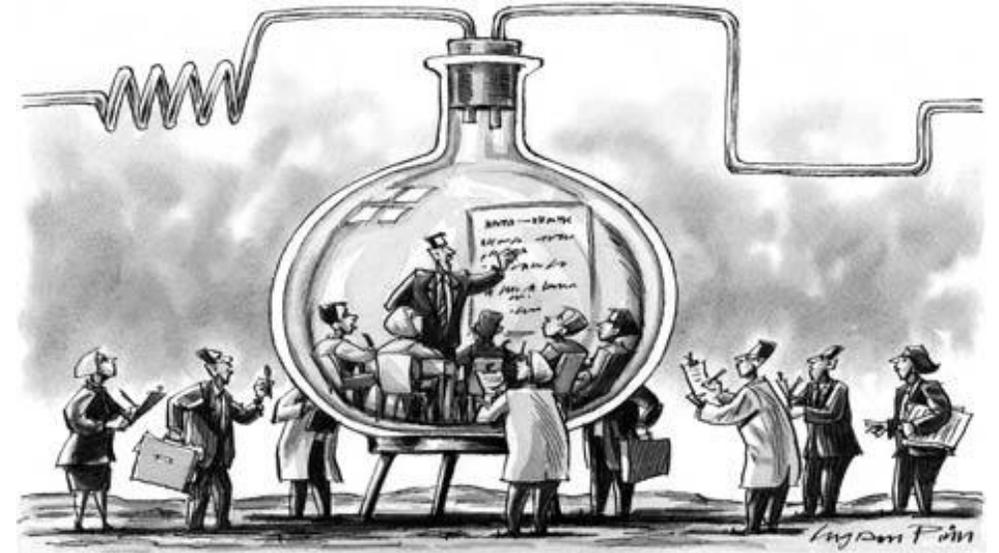
Needs for evaluation tools :

- Measuring the net impact of a policy: accountability of public money
- Accounting for behavioural drivers in farmers' decisions: anticipate acceptability and counter-intuitive effects
- Being flexible enough to bring quick responses to local policy design issues prior to implementation

Experimental approaches

Experimental approaches

- Data **generation controlled by the experimenter** (instead of observational data)
- In a **controlled setting**: comparison of a treated group with a control group
- Ensuring replicability and representativity: **randomization** procedure for subject selection and treatment assignment
- Often rely on **revealed preference methods** (behaviour is usually incentivized)



Type of experiments



Laboratory experiments

Discrete Choice Experiments (DCE)

Economic experiments

Field experiments

Randomized Control Trials (RCT)



	Alternative A	Alternative B	
Reduction of herbicides use in proportion of present use ^①	30% reduction 	60% reduction 	Current situation
Supplementary localized use of herbicides (max 10% of the committed area) ^①	Allowed 	Allowed 	
Collective and final bonus for each farmer committed if 50% of ^①		Final bonus 	
Administrative and technical assistance ^①	Not included 	Included 	
Payment per year and per hectare subscribed ^①	170 €/ha/an	330 €/ha/an	
Choose your preferred option →	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



Economic experiments are particularly useful:

- to elicit farmers' preferences and to understand their reactions to policy in the presence of behavioural factors (risk and loss aversion, social norms, intrinsic motivations, time inconsistencies ...), usually not accounted for by other evaluation methods;
- to test different policies prior to implementation in order to compare their effectiveness and/or efficiency;
- to generate fine-tuned data enabling to measure the net impact of the policy and to distinguish it from other factors.

Methodological challenges



Promoting experimental approaches for CAP evaluation



Research network on Economic Experiments
for the Common Agricultural Policy



JRC SCIENCE AND POLICY REPORTS

(How) can economic experiments inform EU agricultural policy?

Authors:
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Raphaële Préget,
Sophie Thoyer

2015



Joint
Research
Centre

2014: Origins of the network

- Joint work with JRC of the European Commission at Seville
- Presented in a workshop in January 2015 at DG Agri
- **Objectives:**
 - ✓ Promote a better use of experimental approaches in the CAP evaluation toolbox
 - ✓ Create a European network of researchers able to respond to calls on this issue

2017: creation of REECAP

➤ Website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/reecap/about>

Contact: info@reecap.org

Our mission: To bring together researchers, experts and policy makers interested in the use of economic experimental approaches to evaluate and improve the Common Agricultural Policy

➤ 6-7 June 2017 in Angers

1st workshop on methodological challenges

- 34 researchers from 11 different EU Member states
- 9 policy makers or experts informing policy-makers

WORKSHOP

Economic Experiments for EU Agricultural Policy Evaluation: Methodological challenges

6-7 JUNE 2017



Amphi. TILLION

Maison de la recherche Germaine Tillion
5 bis boulevard Lavoisier – ANGERS | FRANCE

Information and registration :
granem.univ-angers.fr

Any question?

experimentscapevaluation@gmail.com



2018: REECAP activities

➤ *European Review of Agricultural Economics* **special issue**

“Enriching the CAP evaluation toolbox with experimental approaches”

- 15 papers submitted, each sent to 3 reviewers
- 9 papers selected for the second phase (*revise & resubmit process*)
- Coaching workshop in Montpellier Friday and Saturday
- Publication planned for end of 2018 – beginning of 2019

➤ **2nd REECAP workshop** in Vienna 26-27th September 2018

- organized by REECAP, BOKU, and IUSF in cooperation with the "Annual Conference of the Austrian Society of Agricultural Economics" – Link with Center for Behavioural and Experimental Agri-environmental Research (CBEAR – US):
<http://centerbear.org/about/>

Perspectives for research practices

- Need to build a shared experimental data platform or shared experimental data bases
 - Open to researchers, experts and policy makers
 - To centralize and make available already-obtained experimental data
 - To coordinate studies or replications of experiments in different countries or different contexts
 - To increase the dissemination and eventually the impact of experimental results
 - To share results, including no-impact outcomes (less easily publishable)
 - To foster the integration of experimental data into “simulation models” or any other agricultural policy evaluation tool.

Pregistration of experimental protocols in economics



AEA RCT Registry

The American Economic Association's registry for randomized controlled trials

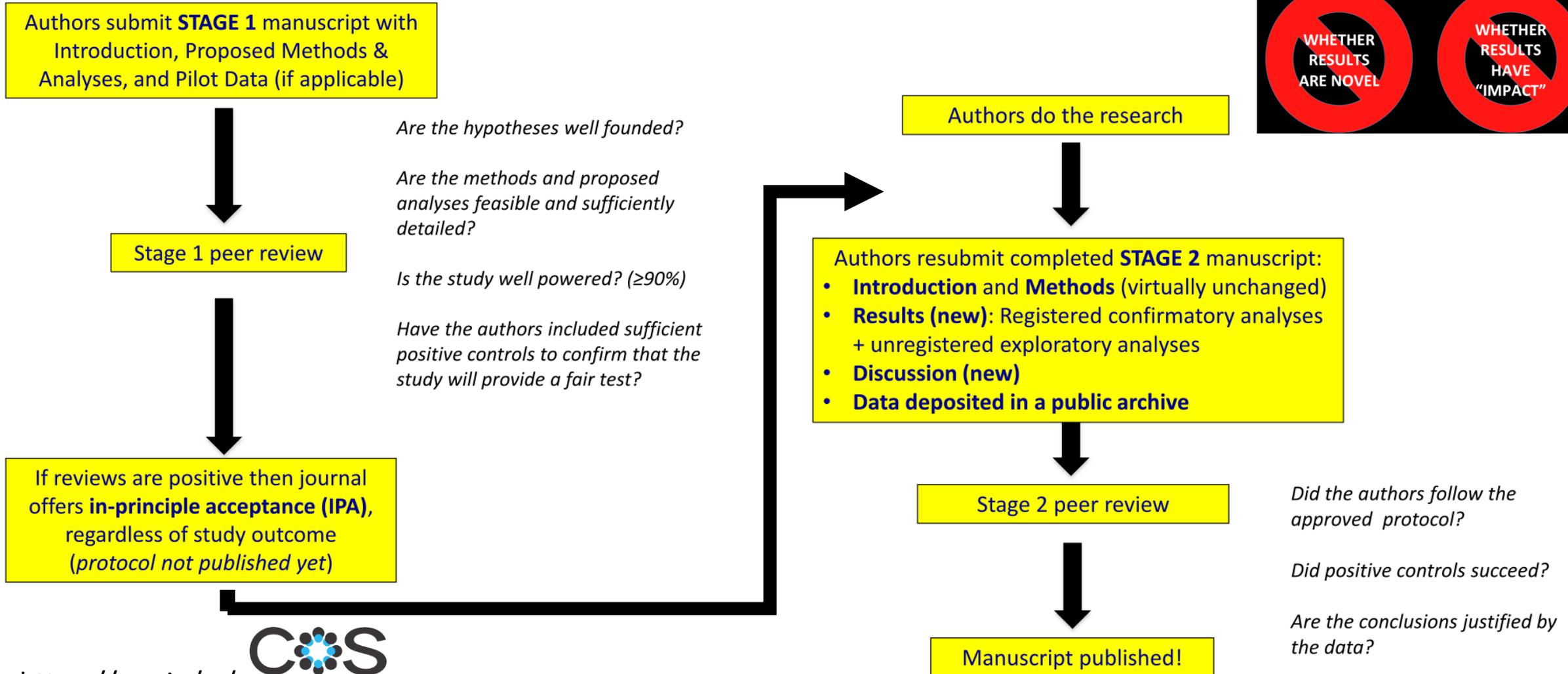
- (created in 2012) registry for Randomized Controlled Trials in the fields of economics, political science, and other social sciences. The RCT can be run anywhere in the world.
- Draft trials are reviewed
- Not linked to publication

Example: LE COENT, Philippe et al. 2017. "Effect of social information on farmers' irrigation decisions." AEA RCT Registry. July 13.

<https://www.socialscienceregistry.org/trials/2283/history/19389>

Registered report publishing format

(108 journals have accepted this format in medicine, psychology, neuroscience)



See <https://cos.io/rr/>



Pregistration of experimental protocols in economics

Pros & Cons

- + Reinforce the importance of the processes of research rather than results
- + Improved use of theory and stronger research methods due to the initial review of the protocol
- + Overcome the publication bias that blocks negative findings from appearing fully in the literature.
- + Contribute to address the 'Reproducibility Crisis'
- Favor confirmatory research (hypothetico-deductive model of the scientific method):
Science is also exploratory
- Forces scientists to use what you might call a *one-shot approach*: You get only one chance of obtaining a significant result. You are not allowed to accumulate evidence, for example by testing more participants

Perspectives for policy recommendations

Maintain a lively network of researchers, evaluation agencies, and policy-makers working together to:

- Identify relevant evaluation questions for CAP
- Develop more adequate monitoring and evaluation frameworks, including the design of pilot studies before full implementation
- Propose practical solutions to issues related to experiments within the CAP framework:
 - Enrolling farmers
 - Ethical concerns
 - Create control groups
 - Reinforce jointly internal and external validity
- Succeed in bringing together various complementary evaluation methods

Thanks for your attention