

From the sidelines: Voices from participants at Evaluation Week 2018

I DEV interviewed some of the participants of Evaluation Week 2018 on the sidelines of the main event. You can watch these interviews and more at idev.afdb.org/Evaluationweek2018.

Yasmina Coulibaly, Law student, Côte d'Ivoire

QUESTION: What are your thoughts about the Evaluation Week?

We are all very satisfied with the conference. There were some basic questions, but the panelists gladly provided concrete answers. It was especially helpful regarding public-private partnerships - in which I will soon be a specialist - on issues of partnerships, gender assessment and agricultural value chains.



It was a genuine pleasure and I thank the organizers, most particularly the AfDB, for allowing us to participate in this conference. ▶

► *Romain Neyran, Chief Financial Officer, SOCOPRIM, Côte d'Ivoire*

QUESTION: What can we learn from PPPs and how can they ensure inclusiveness?

In a nutshell, PPPs are probably the future of infrastructure in Africa, but not just anywhere and not just anyhow. How can people be integrated into PPPs? First of all, by having international development banks as lenders, such as the World Bank or the AfDB. These institutions have extremely demanding reporting standards and have very sophisticated environmental impact studies. Secondly, by considering that PPPs are for the benefit of the public and that the public is your customer. So there is a very



simple supply and demand relationship. If you provide a bad service that is not adapted to the needs of the people, you will simply not be able to sell it, whether it is a transportation service, medical or other.

Abougnonhou Chaldia Agossou, Seed Services, Benin

QUESTION: How do we make agricultural value chains more inclusive?

I think that in order to make value chains more inclusive, we need to strengthen the capacity of each and every one of the actors in the value chain.

This means in terms of leadership, in terms of management, and in terms of communicating about their products and their activities. In order to make value chains more inclusive, it is necessary that the different types of funding that exist for different value chain actors - both small and big producers - are clearly communicated to the various actors. They need to be informed and equipped to meet the different requirements or conditions that are necessary to benefit from these funds.

For example, when we look at small producers who generally don't have



strong power in the value chain, they may have difficulty getting external financing, which is financing that usually comes from banks. Therefore, we need to strengthen their capacity, mobilize them around a central idea, a common point. We need to help mobilize several small producers in cooperatives so that they can have the strength to intervene, to have their say in the value chains and use the strength of the cooperatives to access external financing.

