

# Evaluating Climate Services: Lessons from Mali

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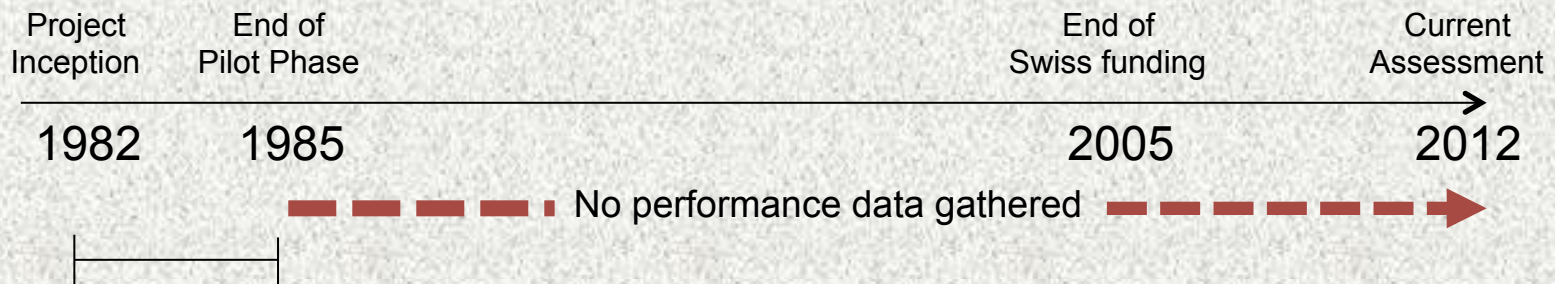
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# Mali's Agrometeorological Program

- Pilot phase (4 villages, 16 farmers) was very successful
  - Swiss funded it for nearly 25 years
  - GoM saw the program as important, funded up to the coup
  - This program endured where others failed across the Sahel
- Practically nothing else
  - No baselines
  - No data collection
  - No list/map of participating communities



All performance claims from data gathered in four villages in this phase

# Assessing program impacts

- Post-hoc evaluation
  - Treatment/control model
    - Treatment/Former Treatment/Control outcome
    - Differentiate between seasonal decision and behavioral change
  - Representative sampling?
    - Effectively impossible under time and budget constraints
    - Triangulation model
      - Documents/scientific evidence
      - Focus groups
      - Interviews

# Assessment outcomes

- Very “noisy” data
  - Evidence of strong correlations between crop selection and access to program
    - Very uneven – only a few crops, and different crops depending on location
  - Evidence of strong correlations between variety selection and access to program
    - Also uneven – usually only one crop per location



# Cluster 1

## GLAM senior man

Avg # crops	5.0
<b>Peanut</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Sorghum</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Millet</b>	<b>80.00%</b>
Fonio	60.00%
Cowpeas	60.00%
Henna	40.00%
Sesame	40.00%
<b>Maize</b>	<b>20.00%</b>

## Former GLAM senior man

Avg # crops	4.3
<b>Millet</b>	<b>93.33%</b>
<b>Sorghum</b>	<b>86.67%</b>
<b>Peanut</b>	<b>73.33%</b>
Cowpeas	40.00%
Fonio	33.33%
<b>Maize</b>	<b>33.33%</b>
Rice	26.67%
Bambara nuts	26.67%
Sesame	13.33%

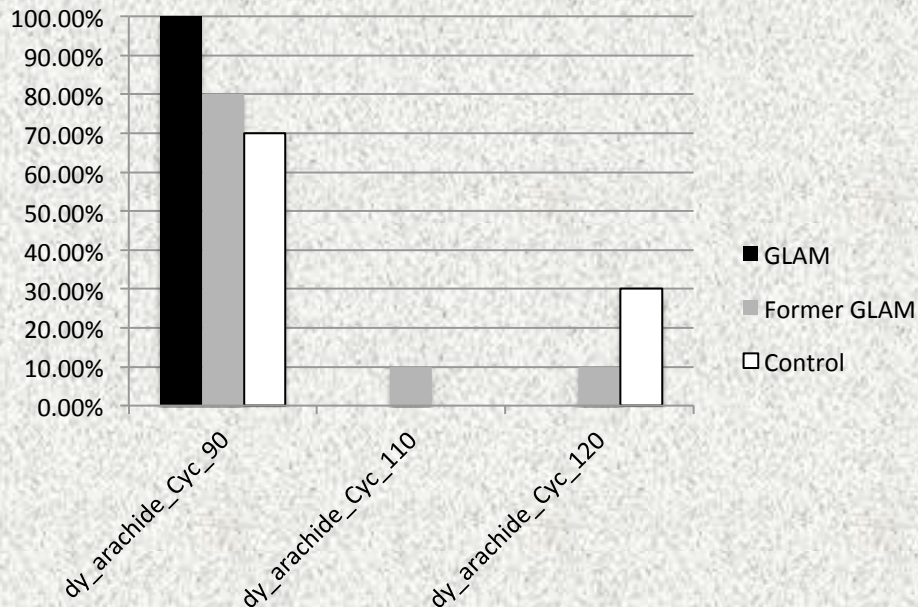
## Control Senior Man

Avg # crops	3.4
<b>Millet</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Sorghum</b>	<b>56.00%</b>
<b>Peanut</b>	<b>48.00%</b>
Cowpeas	48.00%
Fonio	24.00%
Sesame	24.00%
<b>Maize</b>	<b>16.00%</b>
Henna	12.00%
<b>Cotton</b>	<b>4.00%</b>
Watermelon	4.00%
Bambara nuts	4.00%

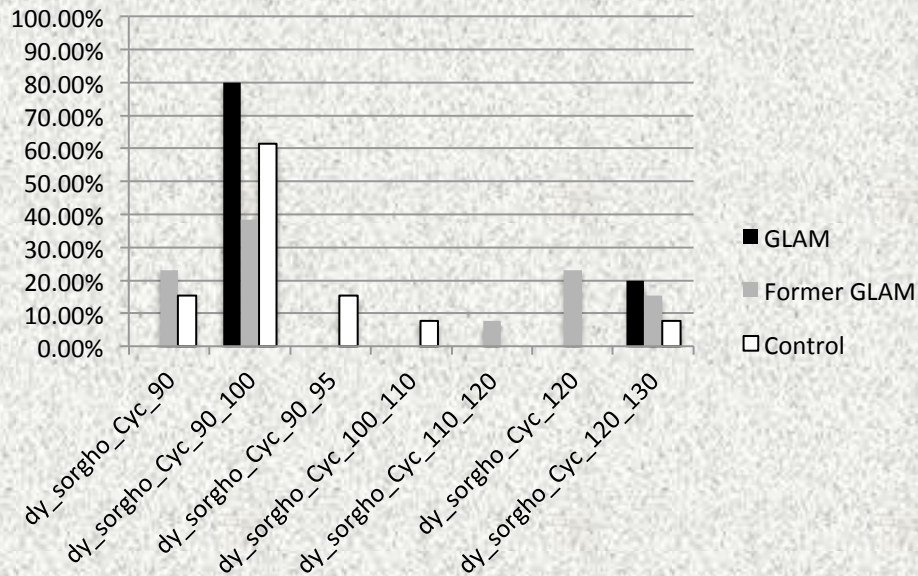
# Assessment outcomes

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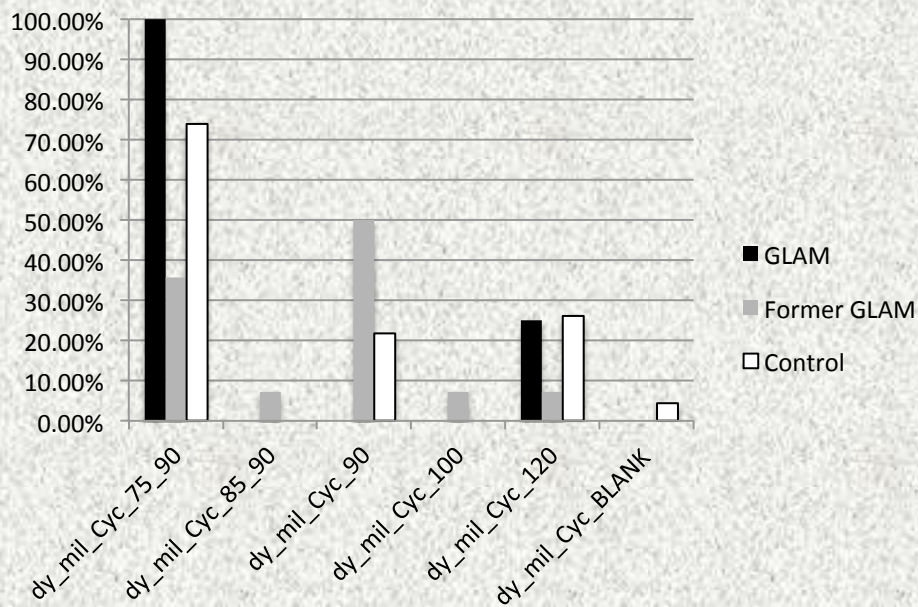
### Senior Men: Peanuts



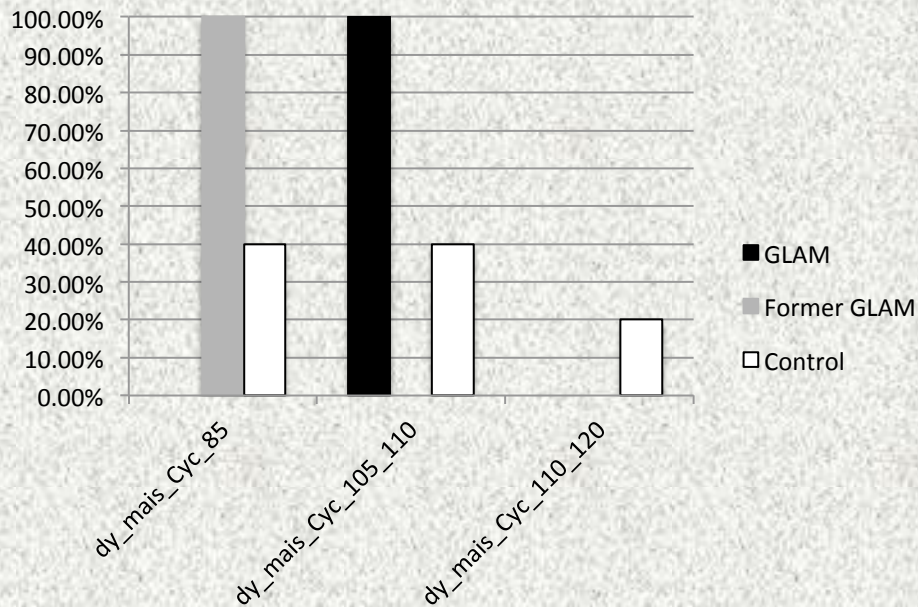
### Senior Men: Sorghum



### Senior Men: Millet



### Senior Men: Maize



# Assessment outcomes

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  - Evidence of strong correlations between variety selection and access to program
    - Also uneven – usually only one crop per location
  - Cannot rigorously explain correlations
    - Too many confounding explanations
    - Need qualitative work to sort this out



# Assessing Climate Services: Lessons from Mali

- Post-hoc evaluation is time-consuming and expensive
  - Its outcomes are often “noisy”
  - Rigorous explanation requires extensive investments of time and money
- If evaluation matters, it has to be built into project design
  - Project design cannot assume that any climate services will be useful
    - What information is needed?
    - Who needs it/can act on it?
- If outcomes matter, be prepared to act on “surprise” findings of assessments

# Acknowledgements

