

2023-Dec-07 - Record of Discussion

1. Welcome and Introductions (Will Gibbons, TBS and Jonathan Barr, ISED)

Will Gibbons (TBS) welcomed all participants to the fifth meeting of the Strategic Research Network (SRN).

Jonathan Barr, the new co-chair of the SRN was introduced and gave a brief introduction.

2. SRN Engagement Results (Sarah Yan Feng, TBS)

Sarah Yan Feng (TBS) provided an overview of the results from the engagement survey members undertook at the previous meeting. Members indicated that they prefer meetings which enable collaborative projects, dissemination of research, and harmonization of data collection approaches.

With respect to topics, members were interested in data development, BIGS results, SMEs and CleanTech.

Research priorities identified included defining the scope of BIGS programs, analyzing BIGS beneficiary results, understanding scale-ups and BIGS and assessing CleanTech data.

3. Productivity Dispersion and Firms' Growth in Canada (Brian Cozzarin and Jangho Yang, University of Waterloo)

Brian Cozzarin and Jangho Yang, (University of Waterloo), presented their research on productivity Dispersion and Firms' Growth in Canada. This research examined the impact of government support for innovation based on administrative data from Business Innovation and Growth Support (BIGS).

The research concluded that there is a negative relationship between productivity dispersion and firms' size growth, and a positive relationship between government support and firm position in the productivity distribution.

Members asked questions about the data cleaning process for outliers when calculating productivity. The presenters indicated that their goal is not to overly process the data and to leave outliers, so as not to affect the dispersion measure. Presenters also answered questions about a specific regression model, stating that they included labour productivity to control for the level of productivity for the BIGS and non-BIGS firms.

4. An impact assessment study: AgrilInnovation Stream C and AgrilInnovate Program (Mohammad Torshizi and Duane Hayes, AAFC)

Mohammad Torshizi and Duane Hayes (AAFC) presented their impact assessment study on AgrilInnovation Stream C and the AgrilInnovate Program. The central question of the study

was: Are AAFC's AgrilInnovation Stream C and AgrilInnovate Programs effective in improving the economic performance of the recipient firms?

The study concluded that the benefits of the programs to the economy could go beyond the benefits experienced by recipients in the regression analysis, and that interest costs and potential benefits could increase after the five-year study period.

Members clarified the sample size for the study, and asked how statistics related to program administrative costs would be incorporated into the proposed model.

5. Gender-Based Analysis Plus Exploratory Evaluation Study on Selected Labour Market Programs (Christiane Arsenault, ESDC)

Christiane Arsenault (ESDC) presented her team's evaluation study which leveraged a novel machine learning method to estimate incremental program impacts of two labour market programs according to different GBA Plus intersecting identity factors.

The study used Modified Causal Forest to produce three levels of program impacts: program-level, group-level, and individual-level. The study demonstrated that machine learning methods can be successful in generating robust results, but require a large number of observations.

6. Closing Remarks (Will Gibbons, TBS)

Will Gibbons thanked Jonathan Barr for coming on board as SRN Co-Chair, and also thanked all presenters for their efforts.

SRN members were directed to the Forward Agenda for a view into future SRN topics and presentations.