Strategic Research Network

Record of Discussion

Date
June 26, 2025

Time
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Recording
[Strategic Research Network - June 26, 2025](#)

Activity	Notes
Welcome and Introductions	**Jiang Beryl Li** (ISED) and **Will Gibbons** (TBS) • Beryl welcomed participants, and introduced the new Senior Director of Economic Research and Analysis of ISED: Paul Kearns. • Paul introduced himself, and noted his enthusiasm with participating in the Strategic Research Network moving forward. • Will noted that the minutes from the previous SRN meeting were attached to the agenda and that meetings are recorded for documentation. • Will reminded participants of the survey of innovation and growth research topics which is conducted annually to identify research priorities for collaboration in the coming fiscal year. Participants were encouraged to complete this survey.

AI Adoption and its Impact on Business Performance	**Jiang Beryl Li** (ISED)
	
	• Beryl explained that AI adoption among Canadian businesses was approximately 6% in 2023, which is an increase from 3% in 2021.
	
	• Beryl noted that AI adopters are significantly more innovative than non-adopters, with the incidence of innovation among AI users being about twice that of non-users.
	
	• Beryl provided some key characteristics of AI adopters:
	   o Firms were persistently more productive
	   o Firms were more likely to be larger and younger
	   o Firms were considerably more likely to have complementary capacities
	
	• Beryl explained that AI's impact on labour productivity is limited in the short run. Uniform positive impact is most pronounced among large and younger firms, and in the goods sector (for 2-year labour productivity growth).
	
	• **Next Steps:** Beryl indicated that translating the potential of AI adoption into economic gains may require organizational change, as well as having complementary technologies and skills.

Activity	Notes

Complementarities of BIGS Programs for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises	**Ibrahim Bousmah** and **Mohamed Ouardi** (TBS)
	
	• Ibrahim and Mohamed provided **results** from the analysis:
	
	   o **Program Usage:** The Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) and Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) are the most used BIGS programs by SMEs in the manufacturing and Professional, Science, and Technical Services sectors.
	
	   o **Key Findings:** Firms that utilized multiple BIGS programs experienced higher economic performance across various metrics (sales, labour productivity, revenue, R&D, and exports) compared to single program users.
	
	   o **Specific Synergies:** The combination of Trade Commissioner Service and CANEXPORT was beneficial for revenue and exportation. Pairing MITACS and IRAP resulted in a higher increase in R&D performance in the manufacturing sector.

Impact assessment of AgriInnovate program using the B-LFE	**Rachel Croswell**, **Jennifer Syme**, and **Mohammad Torshizi** (AAFC)
	
	• Rachel introduced the AgriInnovation-Stream C and AgriInnovate programs, including the program design, the data leveraged to conduct the assessment as well as key observed program results.
	
	• Mohammad demonstrated that the AgriInnovation-Stream C and AgriInnovate programs showed a statistically significant impact on the financial performance of participants, including total revenues, gross profit (loss), and net income (loss) before tax.
	
	• Mohammad noted that it takes 3 to 4 years for the program's initial impacts to appear.
	
	• Mohammad explained some key findings with respect to program impact:
	
	   o **Duration:** Program impacts grow over time for at least 7 years.
	
	   o **Firm Size:** The largest firms (with total revenues of $25 million or more) realized the largest benefits.
	
	   o **Industry:** The manufacturing sector is the main driver of the overall impact.
	
	   o **Gender:** Enterprises majority-owned by women realized larger benefits than those majority-owned by men.
	
	• Mohammad concluded that, for the evaluation of innovation programs, the Granularity of program impact adds valuable insights for evidence-based policy development.

Closing Remarks	**Syeda Batool** (TBS) • Syeda concluded the meeting, thanking the presenters for their relevant and valuable contributions. She also encouraged members to reach out to present at future meetings. She indicated that the next SRN meeting was tentatively scheduled for September.