

Evidence-Based Decision Making  
and Effective Implementation of  
Public Policy in Uganda: A case of  
the Agriculture Sector

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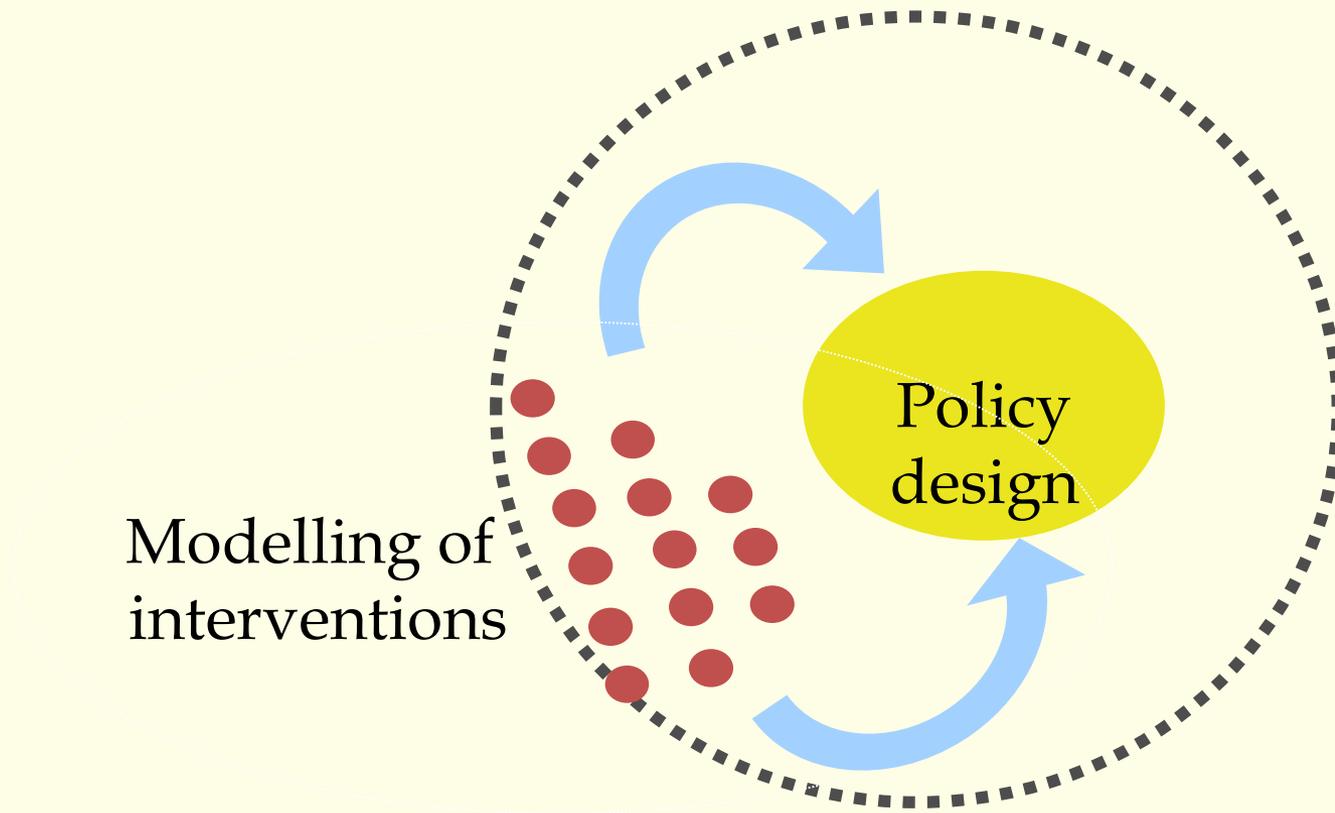
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# Introduction

- Renewed importance - government policies should be guided by evidence
- PM Tony Blair - '*what works is what works*' - no government succeeds on malfunctioning or inadequate policies
- Davies, 2004: Opinion based policy vs Evidence Based Policy
- Segone, 2008:27 - Evidence-based policy is at the heart of the new aid environment.
  - Design of new policies
  - Improve the design of existing policies
  - Strengthen policy implementation

# Evidence to inform policy design

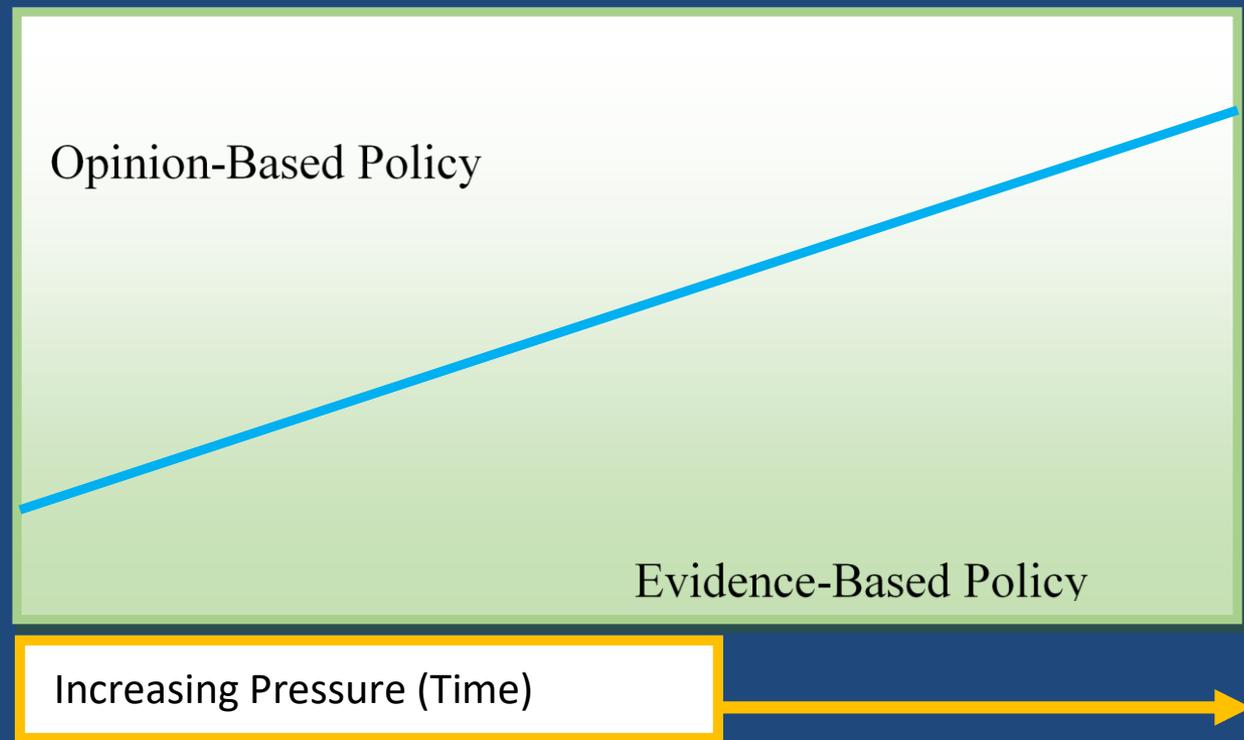
## Evaluating pilots to inform policy design



**Adopted from UNFPA by Senoge, 2018**

# Opinion Based policy Vs Evidence Based Policy

## The Dynamics of Evidence-Based Policy



*(Adapted from Gray, 1997 by Davies, 2004:3)*

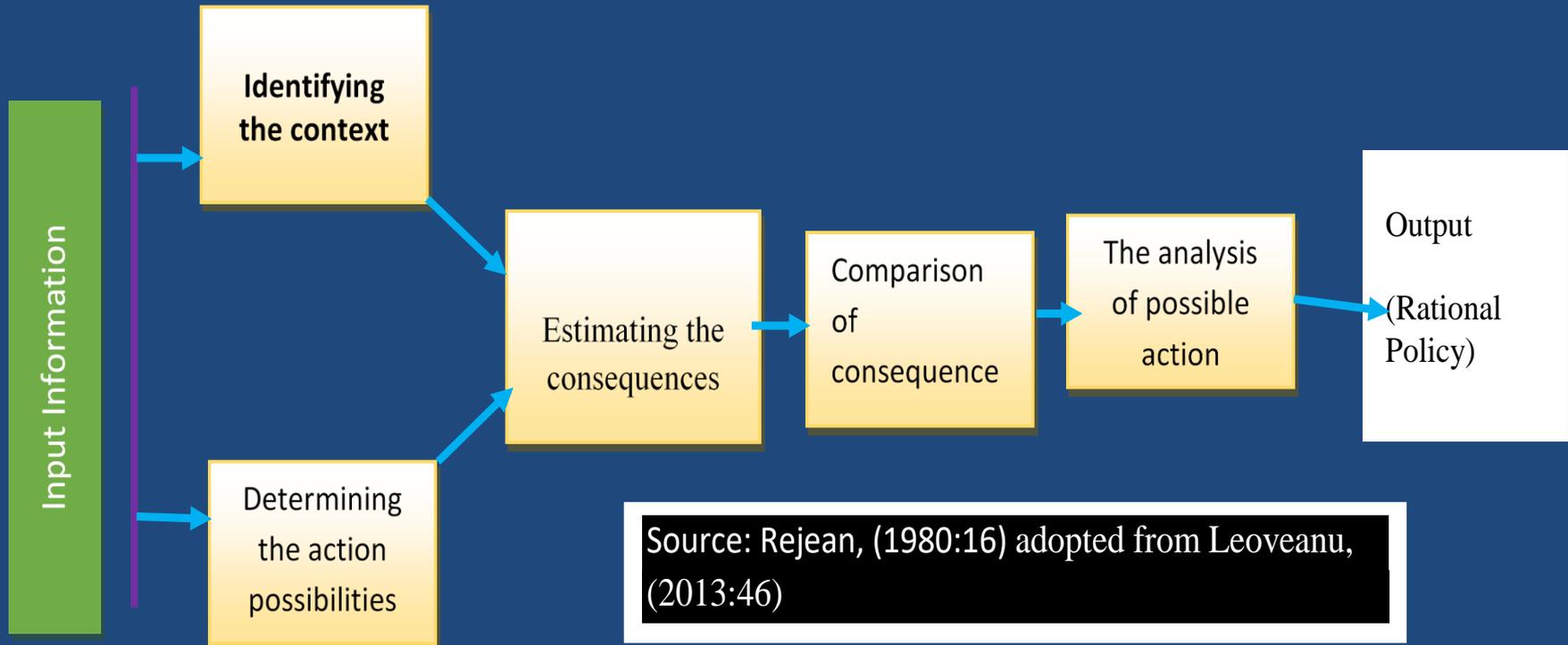
# Theoretically

- Adopted rationality decision making model
- Rational decision-making is based upon thinking about, comparing and evaluating various alternatives.
- As a model - rationality assumes that the decision maker is:
  - completely rational,
  - with perfect information,
  - knowing all alternatives,
  - able to determine every consequence, and with ability to establish a complete preference scale
- a rationalist model of the decision-making process in five steps

# Theoretical Model

## Rationalist Model

Figure 3: Rationalist Model



# Contextual

- Government of Uganda has deliberately supported policies aimed at leapfrogging many areas of the economy
- But according to the NDP 11 - there are still many bottlenecks that constrain economic growth in Uganda.
- Agriculture - earmarked as one of the primary investment areas in the NDP 11.
  - to increase rural incomes and livelihoods and improve household food and nutrition security.
- OPM - Systems and Structures to promote evidence-based decision making in the Public Sector
  - E.g. M&E Policy (2013)
- BMAU 2015: Ineffective implementation of Agricultural policies, programmes and projects.
- Assessment of NDP1 and situational analysis NDP11

# Conceptually

- The study examined the relationship between evidence-based decision-making and effective implementation of public policy.
- **Independent Variable:** Evidence-based decision making examined in terms of :
  - Monitoring, evaluation and research
- **Dependent variable:** Effective implementation of public policy examined:
  - Reduced wasteful spending, innovative programmes, accountability, equity, and quality.

# Research Problem

- Despite government efforts to improve Agricultural sector, implementation of sector policies, programmes and projects has remained ineffective.
- NDP1 2010:77:
  - The trend in the performance of Agricultural sector was reported as dissatisfactory (NDP1, 2010:77)
- National Population and Housing Census, (2016:38)
  - 42% of the population aged 14-64 years are not working,
  - 82% households still obtaining livelihood from subsistence farming with only 2% of the households depend on commercial farming
- MOFPED, 2017:
  - In March 2017: Food crop inflation increased from 10.8% to 20.7% as the food shortages in the market continued to affect prices
- No sufficient explanation why the Implementation deficit.

# Study objective/Questions

## ■ Study Objective:

- i. Analyzed how monitoring contribute to effective implementation of policy in Uganda.
- ii. Examined how evaluation contribute to effective implementation of public policy in Uganda;
- iii. Assessed how research contribute to effective implementation of public policy in Uganda.

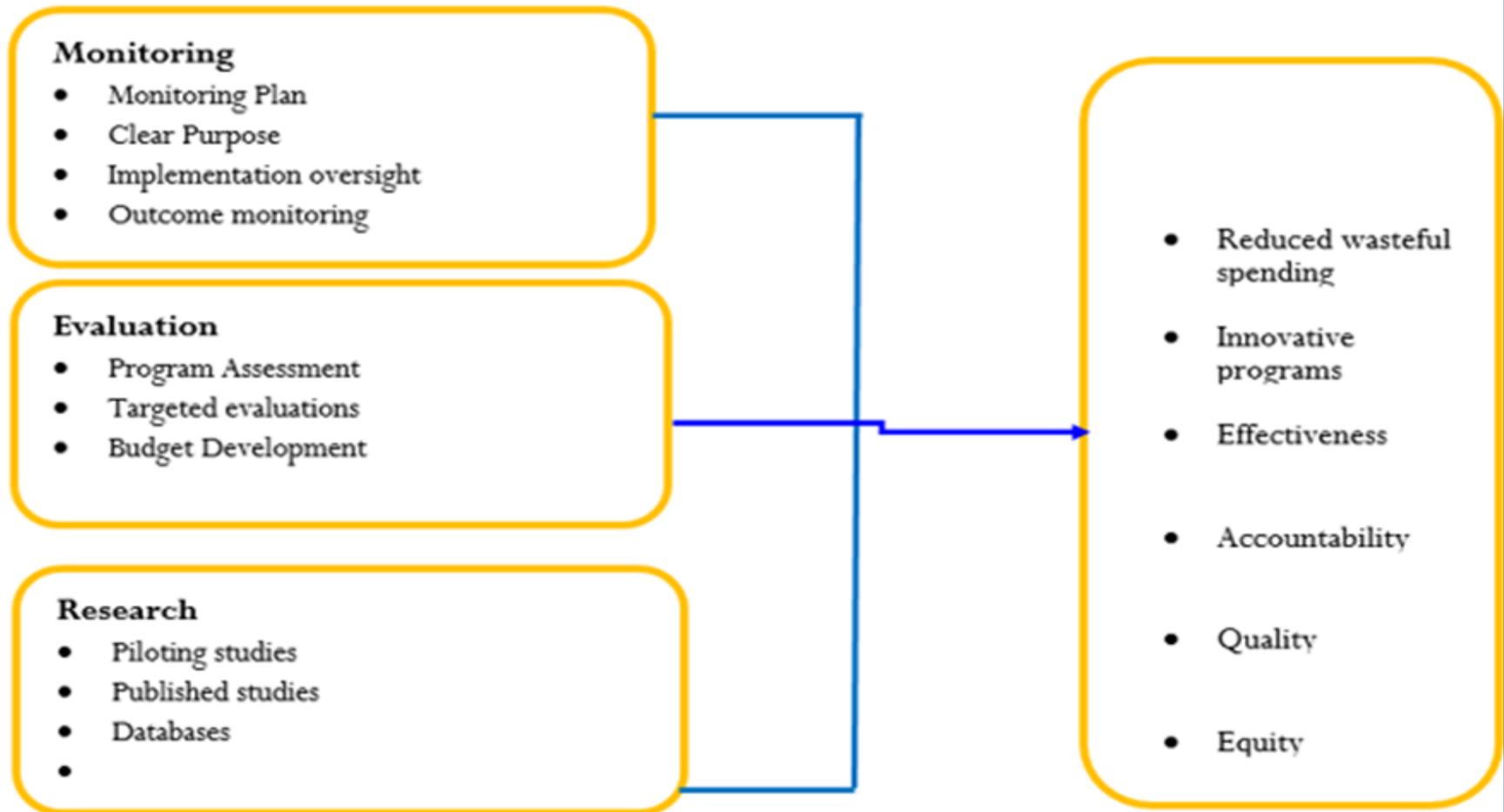
## Research Questions:

- i. How does monitoring contribute to effective implementation of public policy?
- ii. How does evaluation contribute to effective implementation of public policy?
- iii. How does research contribute to effective implementation of public policy?

# Conceptual Framework

**Evidence-Based Decision Making**

**Effective public policy implementation**



**Figure 1: Conceptual Framework**

# Methodology

- Methods: Qualitative and Quantitate
- Population: MAAIF and OPM
- Total Sample size: 125 based on Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table
- Response rate: 78 responded (62.4%)
- Purposive / Random sampling
- Analysis - used Pearson's correlation coefficient to determine the degree of significance, used T-Test on dimensions of the variables.
- Testing null hypothesis - used regression analysis
- Qualitative data - analysed through content analysis

# Findings

- All the three independent variables (monitoring, evaluation and research have a strong positive correlation with the dependent variable (effective public policy implementation) at 1% level of significance
- Meaning that once monitoring, evaluation and research are well done and used as a basis for decision-making, there shall be effective implementation of public policies in MAAIF.

# Findings

Hypothesis Testing: a regression was conducted to test the 3 hypothesis:

- The R<sup>2</sup> value (0.902) showed that 90.2% of the variations in effective policy implementation can be explained by Research, Evaluation and Monitoring.
- However results showed that research is a stronger predictor of effective implementation of public policy with a coefficient =0.562.

# Conclusion

- The study concluded that there is a strong relationship between evidence-based decision making and effective implementation of public policy in MAAIF.
- Recommended that MAAIF should strengthen monitoring, evaluation and research to ensure effective implementation of public policy.

*Thank You*



*For God and my Country*