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**ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL**  
**Poverty Action Lab**  
TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO ACTION

# Agri-Business Creation Programme in Yemen

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**spark**

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# Background

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- Located in Yemen; in governorates of Sana'a, Haidada, Ibb, Dhamar and Taiz; managed from SPARK Sana'a Office; implementation partners include YLDF, YEFE, and agri-finance institutions
- Addresses three inter-linked problems:
  - Food security
  - (Rural) youth un- and under-employment
  - Government legitimacy and stability

# Background

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Addresses these problems through:

- (1) Strengthening capacities of partners and stakeholders in selected agricultural value chains
- (2) Creating jobs and developing enterprises with a focus on young women and men and groups that may endanger stability if excluded from economic participation
- (3) Increasing the legitimacy of government and enhancing its role in economic and food security

# Project Description

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## Description of the intervention:

- intended beneficiaries: (potential) entrepreneurs in strawberry, dates, and honey chains; unemployed youth with skills miss-match; local and national authorities

## Number of beneficiaries:

- 225 businesses supported, 900 direct jobs created,

# Project Description

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- Programme components:
  - (Agri) Business Development Services provision
  - Improving supply of financial services
  - Improving policies and dialogue for SME and chain development
  - Technical skills programmes and TVET curriculum reform
  - Internship and apprenticeship programmes in chains
- Timeline of rollout:
  - 2013: value chain selection and analyses, conflict-analysis, stakeholder meetings, training programmes development, household and producer baseline surveying, security delays
  - 2014-mid 2016: interventions roll-out

# Preliminary Research Ideas

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Research questions:

- Does a value chain development approach lead to reduced youth unemployment and increased agricultural production in rural Yemen?
- Is there an impact of reduced youth unemployment and increased food security on government legitimacy and stability?

# Preliminary Research Ideas

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- No research designs yet in mind for ABC; but for other SPARK programmes with similar components: RDD (Business Start-up Centre Ramallah and Monrovia) and RCT (Cooperative Support Programme Rwanda)
- Good scope for incorporating evaluation into current program design: implementation is through SPARK and partners; baseline survey starting; significant programme duration for observing changes in outcomes