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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies
DATE OF BIRTH: 1st April 1963
NATIONALITY: Dutch
LANGUAGES: Active; English, Dutch, Passive; French, German

OVERVIEW

Dr Giel Ton is Research Fellow at IDS and co-leads the Centre for Development Impact (CDI). He specializes in research on governance mechanisms in agricultural value chains. He has published widely about the methodological challenges of impact evaluation of development interventions. He has advanced skills in both qualitative and econometric research. He convenes the professional short course on Contribution Analysis for Impact Evaluation. He implemented numerous applied research projects relating to business training, contract farming, export promotion and certification schemes, resulting in peer-reviewed publications. Before, he worked in Nicaragua (1989-1996) and in Bolivia (1999-2004) to empower smallholder farmers in markets.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2009 - 2015	PhD Development Economic Group, Wageningen University, Netherlands Impact evaluation of development support to farmers organisations
1981 - 1989	Msc in Agricultural Economics Wageningen University, Netherlands Minors in Rural Sociology, Legal Pluralism and Cooperative Studies

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

2017 – PRESENT	Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, UK Mixed-method research design, impact evaluations, research on smallholder market access, farmer organisations, private sector development, governance, contract farming, value chain
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governance, institutional arrangements, inclusive business, food safety.

2006 – 2017	Senior Scientist, Wageningen Economic Research, Netherlands Impact evaluations, systematic reviews, research on collective action, innovation grant funds and coordination in agricultural value chains.
2005	Researcher, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, Netherlands Research and training related to agricultural producer organisations.
1999 – 2004	Policy Analyst, Coordinadora de Integracion de Organizaciones Económicas Campesinas de Bolivia Research on policies affecting the sector of economic farmer organisations.
1998	Policy Analyst, FNV Workers' Union, Netherlands Research and advocacy on the Horticultural Restructuring Plan.
1989 – 1997	Rural Development Specialist, UNAG/VECO, Nicaragua Participatory action research with rural communities, collective action on low-input agricultural innovation in the Campesino -a-Campesino network.
1991	Research Assistant, Wageningen University, Netherlands Convenor of the course 'Development Problematic'.

RELEVANT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022	Co-convenor: Short Course Contribution Analysis for Impact Evaluation (online): Six-week online course for experienced commissioners, evaluators and researchers
2022	Lecture in IDS Masters module 'Making Public Policy', MA Governance, Development and Public Policy
2021 – 2022	Two lectures in the University of Sussex Masters module 'Introduction to Quantitative Methods'
2017 – PRESENT	Supervisor of 15 Masters theses
2018 – PRESENT	Co-supervisor of two PhDs, one successfully defended 2022
2019 – PRESENT	Lecture in IDS Masters module 'Theory and Practice of Impact Evaluation'

RELEVANT RESEARCH PROJECTS

2022 - 2023	<p>Principal Investigator, Rainforest Alliance Living Wage Evaluation: Rainforest Alliance, Brazil/Colombia/Kenya/Indonesia</p> <p>Evaluation of the effect of the approach and requirements on wage transparency and wage improvement in the revised 2020 RA code of standards. Context analysis in four countries and in-depth interviews in eleven certified farms by FGV in Brazil, CIAT in Colombia, CABE in Kenya and a consultant in Indonesia.</p>
2021 – 2022	<p>Methodology Lead: Evaluating Recommended Reforms for Inclusive Transformation in Agriculture, Itad/ICED – EPAR/BPGF, Africa</p> <p>Retrospective policy evaluation to understand when, how and why some policy reforms are successfully implemented. Realist-informed cross-case comparison of ten policy reforms in Mozambique, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Nigeria.</p>
2021 – 2024	<p>Team Leader, IDH Farmfit Africa: ADE, FCDO and BGMF, Netherlands</p> <p>Contribution analysis to learn and assess the impact of support for data-driven inclusive business service provisioning in agriculture.</p>
2019 – 2025	<p>Co-Investigator: Contribution analysis and impact strategies: GCRF OneHealth Poultry Hub: UKRI, India, Sri Lanka and Vietnam</p> <p>Research programme to address the challenge of sustainable intensification of poultry production in Asia.</p>
2019 – 2024	<p>Co-Investigator: Child Labour Action-Research-Innovation in South and Southeastern Asia (CLARISSA); Evaluation Design cash-plus pilot, DFID, Bangladesh</p> <p>Impact evaluation of a cash-plus intervention (social protection plus case managers and community mobilization) in Bangladesh concerning the impact of the worst forms of child labour.</p>
2019 – 2023	<p>Co-Investigator/Social Science Lead: Food safety and governance in meat supply to open urban markets (GICCAP): RVC – UKRI/MRC, Peru</p> <p>Interdisciplinary research project with Peruvian universities on the governance of food safety of meat products in urban food markets in Peru. Case studies in three cities: Huancayo, Huaral and Tumbes.</p>
2019 – 2022	<p>Methodology Adviser: 2SCALE Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning; Partnership and Resource Centre/DGIS, Africa</p> <p>Backstopping the MEL activities of the Dutch flagship programme for inclusive business partnerships in African agriculture.</p>

2019	<p>Lead Researcher: Contribution analysis of Nitrogen for Africa Programme (N2Africa): WUR – BMGF, Ghana and Ethiopia</p> <p>Evaluation of the impact of a BMGF-funded legume-promotion implemented by WUR, with process tracing case studies in Ghana and Ethiopia.</p>
2017 - PRESENT	<p>Director: Centre for Development Impact and Co-convenor Short Course Contribution Analysis for Impact Evaluation, Institute of Development Studies, UK</p> <p>Organisations of seminars and publications on innovative methods in impact evaluation. Editor of the CDI Practice papers. Annual one-week short course on a step-wise process of theory-based evaluation for policymakers, consultants and researchers.</p>
2017 – 2021	<p>Methodology Lead: Impact evaluation of Private Enterprise Programme Ethiopia (PEPE): Palldium – DFID, Ethiopia</p> <p>Contribution Analysis to assess the impact of PEPE's theory of change. With process tracing case studies to verify the impact of the support on the market of business service providers, a firm-level survey to assess impact of service uptake by firms, and an econometric model to estimate induced job creation.</p>
2017 - 2018	<p>Evaluation Leader: Independent Assessment of Matching Grant Scheme (MGS) for Project for Agriculture Commercialisation and Trade (PACT): MARD/World Bank, Nepal</p> <p>Evaluation team with consultants for Athena Infonomics, based in India.</p>
2014 – 2017	<p>Research Coordinator: Systematic review of the effectiveness of contract farming for smallholders in developing countries for improving income and food security: 3ie, global</p> <p>Research coordinator and leading the electronic search, meta-analysis, qualitative synthesis and reporting.</p>
2014 – 2017	<p>Research Coordinator: Pioneering Real-time Monitoring and Evaluation small and medium enterprises (PRIME): CBI, PUM, ITC, global</p> <p>Coordinator and methodologist in an interdisciplinary team in Wageningen University and Erasmus School of Economics to evaluate the impact of export promotion (CBI) and business coaching (PUM).</p>
2010 – 2015	<p>Researcher: Impact evaluation of the small-grant fund FONDOECAS: CIOEC; ICCO, Bolivia</p> <p>PhD research. Design and implementation of a contribution analysis of a fund that supported value-adding activities of 150 farmer associations and cooperatives.</p>

2012 – 2013

Research Coordinator: Explorative systematic review of the effectiveness of innovation grants to smallholder farmers in developing countries: 3ie-AusAid-DFID
Research coordinator and leading the review and synthesis process.

2008 – 2013

Research Coordinator: Empowering Smallholder Farmers In Markets (ESFIM): IFAD-CTA-AGRICORD-DGIS
Programme for collaborative research with national farmer organisations in thirteen countries. Implementing the research direct research collaboration with farmer organisations in Bolivia, Peru, Uruguay, Costa Rica and Uganda.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS

Journal articles, books and reports

Ton, G.; Espinoza, M. and Fort, R. (2023) '[COVID Policy and Urban Food Markets in Peru: Governance and Compliance](#)', *Journal of Development Studies* 59(6): 854-872, DOI: 10.1080/00220388.2023.2178303 (accessed 14 December 2023)

Ton, G.; Thorpe, J.; Egyir, I. and Szyp, C. (2023) '[Value Chain Governance and Children's Work in Agriculture](#)', in Sumberg, J. and Sabates-Wheeler, R. (eds), *Children's Work in African Agriculture: The Harmful and the Harmless*, Bristol: Bristol University Press

Ton, G.; van Rijn, F. and Pamuk, H. (2023) '[Evaluating the Impact of Business Coaching by Taking Perceptions Seriously](#)', *European Evaluation Society* 29(1): 73-90, DOI: 10.1177/13563890221137611 (accessed 14 December 2023)

Grant, C. et al. (2023) [People's Agenda for Pandemic Preparedness](#), Brighton: Institute of Development Studies (accessed 15 December 2023)

Ton, G. and Vellema, S. (2022) '[Introduction: Contribution, Causality, Context, and Contingency when Evaluating Inclusive Business Programmes](#)', *IDS Bulletin* 53.1: 1-20, DOI: 10.19088/1968-2022.102 (accessed 15 December 2023)

Ton, G.; Roelen, K.; Howard, N. and Huq, L. (2022) [Social Protection Intervention: Evaluation Research Design](#), CLARISSA Research and Evidence Paper 3, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies (accessed 15 December 2023)

Ton, G.; Taylor, B. and Koleros, A. (2022) '[Assessing the Contribution to Market System Change of the Private Enterprise Programme Ethiopia](#)', *IDS Bulletin* 53.1, DOI: 10.19088/1968-2022.105 (accessed 15 December 2023)

van Rijn, F.; Pamuk, H.; Dengerink, J. and Ton, G. (2022) '[The Search for Real-Time Impact Monitoring for Private Sector Support Programmes](#)', *IDS Bulletin* 53.1: 87-102, DOI: 10.19088/1968-2022.105 (accessed 15 December 2023)

Ton, G. (2021) '[Development Policy and Impact Evaluation: Learning and Accountability in Private Sector Development](#)', in Zafarullah, H. and Huque, A.S. (eds), *Handbook of Development Policy*, Camberley: Edward Elgar Policy

Ton, G.; Thorpe, J.; Egyir, I. and Szyp, C. (2020) [Value Chain Governance: Entrance Points for Interventions to Address Children's Harmful Work in Agriculture](#), ACHA Working Paper 6, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies (accessed 15 December 2023)

Apgar, M.; Hernandez, K. and Ton, G. (2020) '[Contribution Analysis for Adaptive Management](#)', *ODI Briefing Note*, London: ODI (accessed 15 December 2023)

- Glover, D.; Sumberg, J.; Ton, G.; Andersson, J. and Badstue, L. (2019) '[Rethinking Technological Change in Smallholder Agriculture](#)', *Outlook on Agriculture* 48(3): 169-180, DOI: 10.1177/0030727019864978 (accessed 15 December 2023)
- Ton, G. and Glover, D. (2019) '[Improving Knowledge, Inputs and Markets for Legume Expansion: A Contribution Analysis of N2Africa in Ghana and Ethiopia](#)', IDS Practice Paper 10, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies (accessed 15 December 2023)
- Ton, G. et al. (2019) '[Contribution Analysis and Estimating the Size of Effects: Can We Reconcile the Possible with the Impossible?](#)', CDI Practice Paper 20, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies (accessed 15 December 2023)
- Ton, G.; Vellema, W.; Desiere, S.; Weituschat, S. and D'Haese, M. (2018) '[Contract Farming for Improving Smallholder Incomes: What Can We Learn from Effectiveness Studies?](#)', *World Development* 104: 46-64, DOI: 10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.11.015 (accessed 15 December 2023)
- van Rijn, F.; Ton, G.; Maas, K.; Pamuk, H.; Harms, J.; Dengerink, J.; Waarts, Y.; Relou, C.; Vos, B. and Hubers, F. (2018) '[Verification of PUM's Intervention Logic: Insights from the PRIME Toolbox](#)', The Hague: Wageningen Economic Research
- van Rijn, F.; Ton, G.; Maas, K.; Pamuk, H.; Harms, J.; Dengerink, J. and Waarts, Y. (2018) '[Verification of CBI's Intervention Logic: Insights from the PRIME Toolbox](#)', The Hague: Wageningen Economic Research
- Koleros, A.; Taylor, B. and Ton, G. (2018) '[Independent Evaluation of the Private Enterprise Programme Ethiopia \(PEPE\) - Midterm Evaluation Final Report](#)', London: Palladium
- Waarts, Y.; Basso K.; Ruben, R.; Thoolen, J.; Ton, G.; Kusters, C.; Lahr, J.; Kruijne, R.; Arets, E.; Dengerink, J.; Bolhuis, J. and Klaver, D. (2017) '[Assessing IDH's Contribution to Public Good Impacts at Scale](#)', Wageningen: Wageningen University & Research / KPMG (accessed 15 December 2023)
- Ton, G.; Desiere, S.; Vellema, W.; Weituschat, S. and D'Haese, M. (2017) '[The Effectiveness of Contract Farming for Raising Income of Smallholder Farmers in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Mixed-Method Systematic Review](#)', London: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) (accessed 15 December 2023)
- Ton, G. (2016) '[Contribution Analysis of a Bolivian Innovation Grant Fund: Mixing Methods to Verify Relevance, Efficiency and Effectiveness](#)', *Journal of Development Effectiveness* 9(1): 120-143, DOI: 10.1080/19439342.2016.1231702 (accessed 15 December 2023)
- Haddad, N.O.; Ton, G.; Bijman, J.; Sraïri, M. and Mshenga, P. (2016) '[Organizational Challenges and the Institutional Environment: A Comparative Analysis of Dairy Cooperatives in Kenya and Morocco](#)', Wageningen Economic Research Report, Wageningen: Wageningen University & Research (accessed 15 December 2023)
- Vellema, S.; Laven, A.; Ton, G. and Muilerman, S. (2016) '[Policy Reform and Supply Chain Governance: Insights from Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ecuador](#)', in Squicciarini, M.P. and Swinnen, J. (eds), *The Economics of Cocoa*, Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Ton, G. (2015) '[Measuring Tensions and Intentions: Mixing Methods in the Impact Evaluation of Development Support to Farmer Organisations](#)', PhD dissertation, University of Wageningen (accessed 15 December 2023)
- Ton, G. (2015) '[Using Qualitative Comparative Analysis to Explore Outcome Patterns of Grant Support to Farmer Organisations in Bolivia](#)', COMPASS Working Paper 2015 (82), Wageningen: Wageningen University & Research (accessed 15 December 2023)
- Flores, L. and Ton, G. (2015) '[Inteligencia Organizativa y Desempeño Económico de Organizaciones Económicas Campesinas: Dinámicas Alrededor de Planes de Negocios para Dar Valor Agregado a la Producción Campesina](#)', La Paz: CIOEC-Bolivia
- Ton, G.; Klerkx, L.W.A.; de Grip, K. and Rau, M.L. (2015) '[Innovation Grants to Smallholder Farmers: Revisiting the Key Assumptions in the Impact Pathways](#)', *Food Policy* 51: 9-23, DOI: 10.1016/j.foodpol.2014.11.002 (accessed 15 December 2023)

- Ton, G.; de Grip, K.; Lançon, F.; Onumah, G. and Proctor, F.J. (2014) **'Empowering Smallholder Farmers in Markets: Strengthening the Advocacy Capacities of National Farmer Organisations Through Collaborative Research'**, *Food Security* 6 (2): 261 – 273, DOI: 10.1007/s12571-014-0339-3 (accessed 15 December 2023)
- Ton, G. and Proctor, F. (2013) **Empowering Smallholder Farmers in Markets: Farmer-Led Research for Advocacy**, Wageningen: Wageningen University & Research
- Waarts, Y.; Ge L. and Ton, G. (2013) **From Training to Practice: Mid-Term Evaluation of the UTZ-Solidaridad Smallholder Tea Programme in Kenya**, The Hague: LEI Wageningen University & Research (accessed 18 December 2023)
- Vellema, S.; Ton, G. and van Wijk, J. (2013) **'Value Chains, Partnerships and Development: Using Case Studies to Refine Programme Theories'**, *European Evaluation Society* 19(3): 304-320, DOI: 10.1177/1356389013493841 (accessed 18 December 2023)
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- Ton, G. (2012) **'The Mixing of Methods: A Three-Step Process for Improving Rigour in Impact Evaluations'**, *European Evaluation Society* 18(1): 5-25, DOI: 10.1177/1356389011431506 (accessed 18 December 2023)
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- Ton, G.; Vellema, S. and de Ruyter de Wildt, M. (2011) **'Development Impacts of Value Chain Interventions: How to Collect Credible Evidence and Draw Valid Conclusions in Impact Evaluations?'**, *Journal on Chain and Network Science* 11(1): 69-84, DOI: 10.2139/ssrn.1609680 (accessed 18 December 2023)
- Ton, G.; Opeero, D. M. and Vellema, S. (2010) **'How Do We Get it to the Mill?' A Study on Bulking Arrangements that Enable Sourcing from Smallholders in the Ugandan Vegetable Oil Chain**, VC4DP Research Paper, Wageningen: Wageningen University & Research (accessed 18 December 2023)
- Ton, G. (2008) **'Challenges for Smallholder Market Access: a Review of Literature on Institutional Arrangements in Collective Marketing'**, *Stewart Postharvest Review* 4: 1-6, DOI: 10.2212/spr.2008.5.1 (accessed 18 December 2023)
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- Flores, L.; Commandeur, D.; Ton, G. et al. (2007) **'Coaching Organisational Transitions Towards Increased Market Orientation: SNV's Experience with Producer Organisation Support in the Bolivian Valleys'**, in Ton, G.; Bijman, J. and Oorthuizen, J. (eds), *Producer Organisations and Market Chains: Facilitating Trajectories of Change in Developing Countries*, Wageningen: Wageningen Academic Publishers
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- Mendoza, M. and Ton, G. (2003) ***Manual de Procedimientos Jurídicos y Tributarios para Organizaciones Económicas Campesinas***, Sucre: CIOEC-SNV
- Olson, D.; Berthelot, J.; Ton, G. and Wiggerthale, M. (2003) ***Towards Food Sovereignty: Constructive Alternatives to the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Agriculture***, Minneapolis: IATP
- Ton, G. (2001) ***Luchando con Desventajas: La Agricultura de Pequeños Productores en la Integración Regional***, La Paz: CIOEC-Bolivia
- Ton, G. (1999) 'Seasonal Migration and Peasant Livelihood Strategies: Migration of Nicaraguan Smallholders to Costa Rica', in Ruben, R. and Bastiaensen, J. (eds) *Rural development in Central America: Markets, Livelihoods and Local Governance*, New York: St. Martin's Press
- Ton, G. (1995) 'Legitimising Peasant Organisations', in Endevel, M. and The Agrarian Questions Organising Committee (eds), *Proceedings International Congress Agrarian Questions: the Politics of Farming Anno 1995. Vol. 1-4. Wageningen 22-24 May 1995*, Wageningen: Wageningen Agricultural University
- Ton, G. and Zijm, G. (1992) ***Matrimonio Conflictivo, Cooperativas en un Proyecto Agroindustrial, el Caso de Sebaco, Nicaragua***, Wageningen: Wageningen University & Research