



SKiM

Strengthening Knowledge Management for Greater Development Effectiveness in the Near East, North Africa, Central Asia and Europe



Agenda 2030, the key UN resolution focusing on 17 interlinked Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), calls for enhancing “knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms” that is embedded within SDG 17 and aims to promote collaboration among countries and organizations for partnerships and to share knowledge. IFAD’s institutional approach to support national stakeholders through the project titled “Strengthening Knowledge Management for Greater Development Effectiveness in the Near East, North Africa, Central Asia and Europe” (SKiM) is at the forefront in advancing knowledge management (KM) to effectively develop and share solutions for agricultural and rural development.

The overall objective of the SKiM project is to strengthen capacities to use and transfer agricultural and rural solutions across the region on the following thematic areas of interest:

- ♦ financial inclusion of rural women and youth;
- ♦ natural resource management and climate resilience; and
- ♦ productive agricultural technologies.

QUICK FACTS

PROJECT: Strengthening Knowledge Management for Greater Development Effectiveness in the Near East, North Africa, Central Asia and Europe
mel.cgiar.org/projects/SKiM

FOCUS COUNTRIES:
Moldova, Morocco, Sudan.

LEAD IMPLEMENTING INSTITUTION:
International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:
CIHEAM-Bari, Virginia Tech., PROCASUR

PARTNERS & BENEFICIARIES: ARC-Sudan, AUW, CCU-IFAD, ENA-Meknes, IAV Hassan II, IDIS “Viitorul”, INRA, ONCA, Selectia, SKS, UASM, UCIP-IFAD, UoK, USARB

Period: Jun 2018 — Jun 2022

Budget: US\$1.8 million



ACHIEVEMENTS

Capacity Needs Assessment carried out during inception phase identified key strengths and gaps to address in each focus country. The **Approach paper** was developed for a modus operandi of the project and aims to contribute to the IFAD learning on programming and implementing KM interventions.

KM portal developed and deployed at <https://knowledgemanagementportal.org> catalyzed the interest of stakeholders to enhance institutional **ICT KM assets** and few are integrating suitable **online platforms** for better visibility, M&E, storage and dissemination of knowledge. Submission of number of partner solutions to IFAD **Rural Solutions Portal** is ongoing.

Several **Communities of Practice** were established in a form of **National Technical Committee** comprised of representatives of national partners in each focus country to manage jointly their KM efforts. Country partners regularly meet to exchange, discuss and make informed decisions about next steps not only within SKiM project activities but also among own institutions.

Responding to COVID-19 pandemic with risk mitigation measures, SKiM has developed **virtual formats** for the **online delivery** of several planned activities. The array of activities and products for every large event comprise a joint interactive programme, social media toolkit and dissemination plan for outreach campaigns, feedback analysis, templates and guidelines, virtual visits to target contexts and online learning modules. The whole set is then summarized into **Open Access** reports for partners' **learning and uptake** of KM best practices.

GOAL

The project aims to develop effective and long-term knowledge management-related capacities.

OBJECTIVES

- Assess capacity and enhance knowledge management skills of key rural institutions in target countries.
- Foster and promote knowledge exchange across in-country, cross-country and trans-regional partners to foster knowledge uptake, transfer and management.

OUTCOMES

- Improved understanding of KM capacities of the key rural institutions in target countries.
- Effective learning systems established and embedded in organizational processes with strengthened human and institutional capacities to manage the systematization of good practices.
- Improved knowledge exchanges among stakeholders based on increased adoption of good practices and knowledge transfer for SSTC, replication and scaling up.



SKiM Activities (up to Q2 2021)

Events: 14

Participants: 569

Male: 372 (65%)

Female: 197 (35%)



Trainings: 4

Symposia: 3

Virtual Learning Route: 1
reached out to 134 trainees

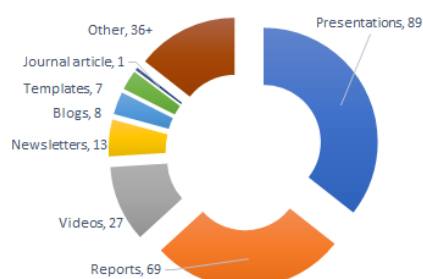


SKiM Products

Knowledge products: 250+

Views and downloads: 3000+

KM Portal users: 600+

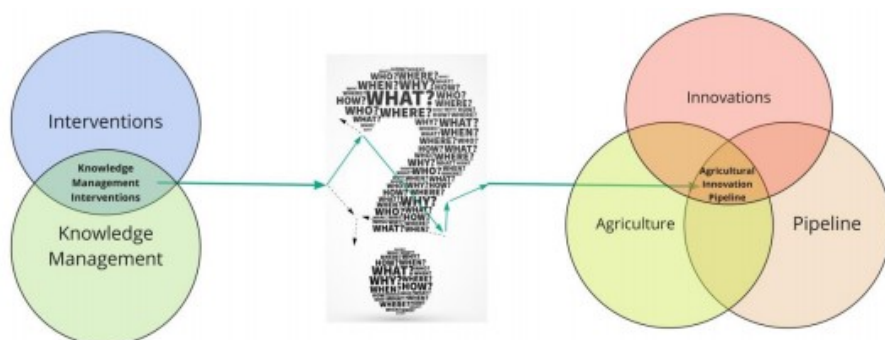


A notable example of COVID-19 response, **training courses** delivered online and entirely new format of delivering the **Virtual Learning Route in Sudan**. The country source book "Best Practices and Innovations in KM assets, tools and approaches" presented 4 case studies complemented with video recorded interviews explaining each case study. The 5-day informative campaign has bridged peers willing to exchange and broker solutions for rural development across similar contexts, and local solution providers. As of September 2021 total views of 5 uploaded videos is approaching 1,000.

INNOVATIONS

The project has introduced **Scaling Readiness** evidence based approach — assessing and accelerating the scaling of innovations. The first report on Conservation Agriculture system in Moldova is published, report on Sudan innovation is next in line before end of 2021.

Effective collaboration between IFAD and SKiM developed into a new **perspective on systematic reviews** and information mapping. The result is the journal article "A human machine hybrid approach for systematic reviews and maps in international development and social impact sectors", now Open Access.



Next step is **evaluation synthesis on the effectiveness of KM interventions** on agricultural innovations, and an innovative study on **KM value** within institutional decision making process.



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COUNTRIES FOCUS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

MOLDOVA: **SAUM** is renewing website and has provided DSpace repository with interoperability settings to share knowledge with the KM Portal. The university has produced entrepreneurial videos for youth guidance and better communication, while advancing on the SMART Café initiative. **Selectia** has developed a website, digitalizing their knowledge Open Access and has produced a crop catalogue, online and in-print. **IDIS “Viitorul”** has produced a KM Guide for academic and public institutions.

MOROCCO: Natural resources management and climate resilience has been the main focus in country activities. **IAV Hassan II** has taken the lead for the development of a KM Strategy. **INRA** has moved from testing to implementing the Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning system to integrate within organization. **ENA-Meknes** has produced a poster on the climate resilience smart application “IRRI-Smart”. Helps to optimize drip irrigation by providing irrigation parameters (daily irrigation needs, calendar to implement precision irrigation and help improve profitability, which may reduce poverty). The v1.0 app can be downloaded from [Google Play Store](#) and used for free. Since its release early January 2021, 1000+ users have installed it within 2 weeks.

SUDAN: The country team led by **ARC** in collaboration with **CCU-IFAD** spearheaded the 1st National Knowledge Symposium on digital agriculture, gender and natural resources management, communication and facilitation skills. Over 12 key proceedings were developed for this event which are to be curated and published Open Access. **AUW** and **SKS** have conceptualised and are working towards a national workshop on “Citizen Science”, fostering Open Access – Open Data innovative approaches on KM.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Based on mid-term evaluation the following key recommendations were discussed and are considered to follow up as a way forward:

- IFAD, the CGIAR and other donors should continue to support Knowledge Management through follow-up projects.
- Budget availability for national level scale-up needs more consideration as part of project exit strategy.
- Prioritise project budget savings for addressing country level obstacles, capacity development and KM strategy implementation.
- Synthesis of lessons learned and case studies on KM.