

ISSUE 5

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SKiM PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Strengthening Knowledge Management for Greater
Development Effectiveness



SKiM LINKS TO IFAD PROJECTS

CREATING SYNERGIES IN MOLDOVA,
MOROCCO, AND SUDAN

Pg. 2

HOW IS KNOWLEDGE SHARED IN AG. PRODUCTION SCHEMES?

RESEARCH FROM SUDAN – PART II

Pg. 3

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY 2020

MAXIMIZING ACCESS TO SCIENCE
AND INNOVATION

Pg.4

SEEKING SYNERGIES: LINKING SKiM WITH ON-GOING IFAD PROJECTS

One of the objectives of the SKiM

project is to foster and promote knowledge exchange across in-country, cross-country and trans-regional partners. In line with this initiative, the SKiM Project Team is working to develop strategic synergies with other IFAD-funded projects in Moldova, Morocco and Sudan. By reaching out to IFAD projects in all three countries, the SKiM team hopes to achieve mutual enhancement of knowledge management (KM) resources and capacity development activities. Given IFAD's extensive network of assets and partnerships in the realm of Research for Development and South-to-South cooperation, such synergies could increase the scaling-up of successful and innovative KM approaches and interventions. Overall, this mission is to help leverage knowledge from IFAD's diverse array of projects, facilitate the sharing of lessons learned, and foster effective partnerships to scale-up impact. Updates on the development of these linkages will be featured in future newsletters.



(1) Morocco - Rural Development Project in the Mountain Zones of Al Haouz Province - December 2008

MOLDOVA

In Moldova, IFAD has developed a KM Action Plan to inform the KM strategies of their **two ongoing projects**. According to the officials within the IFAD Moldova Central Program Implementation Unit (CPIU), there are opportunities to collaborate on the development and implementation of training activities in thematic areas of focus shared by SKiM and the other IFAD projects, such as: crop value chain development, youth and women engagement in agribusiness development, climate resilient agriculture technologies, etc.

MOROCCO In Morocco, IFAD has **three ongoing projects** based in the rural mountain zones, each at a different stage of implementation. While each project has a country-based project management unit (PMU), there is no Morocco-specific KM strategy linking the three projects (instead, they follow the recently updated **IFAD KM Strategy**). There is therefore an opportunity for SKiM to provide direct KM-related support to the Morocco PMUs in the form of a training package or inclusion in capacity development activities.

SUDAN In Sudan, IFAD currently has **two ongoing projects** that are managed in coordination with the IFAD country office (ICO) and the Central Coordination Unit (CCU). Select members from these groups collaborate with government representatives from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources to implement a KM strategy at the country-level. According to the Mr. Subahi, IFAD Country Programme Officer, "KM is a cross-cutting supportive mechanism which should be associated with all practice modalities to shorten the time spent on learning from our failures and successes." SKiM will therefore work to increase harmonization of KM implementations across projects to enhance effective partnerships.

HOW IS KNOWLEDGE SHARED IN AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION SCHEMES?

by Tyseer Elhadi Omer, Assistant Prof. of Agricultural Sociology
Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development
University of Khartoum, Sudan

Hi again, it's Tyseer from Sudan! In the last newsletter, I discussed how I implemented the approach of **social network analysis** to study farming knowledge networking within the Rahad Agriculture Scheme (RAS) in Sudan. I will present now the results of this research, focusing on communication of knowledge among women groups in RAS.

Overall, the network structure within RAS showed a prominence of central actors who exploit the network with personal and political interests, such as the Pastoral Union and the Farmers Union. It seemed that although irrigated farming is promoted in the RAS, this innovation was not of great importance to the agro-pastoral farmers in the scheme. Social network analysis shows these farmers had more connections related to the practice of agro-pastoral activities in the scheme area (livestock keeping and fodder farming). To improve the performance of agriculture innovations in RAS, the RAS administration should build relationships with sources of knowledge outside the scheme, such as universities. They could also work to increase the strength of connections within the scheme to bring in more “peripheral knowledge” from previously weakly connected actors, such as agro-pastoralists. There should also be greater emphasis on integrating indigenous knowledge in the scheme through anthropological research and connecting with research institutes to strengthen livestock and fodder production within RAS.



(2) Data Collection in Rahad Agriculture Scheme, Sudan
June - September 2010

Through this project I have also presented the network of women groups to the extension and finance institutions in RAS. I argue that **social network analysis can be a suitable research technique to organize knowledge management within agriculture innovation systems** and to examine the intersection of gender and agriculture. For example, women groups in RAS are actively engaged in micro-finance projects through their connections with private finance institutions. However, my results indicate that their farming and livestock keeping activities are often overlooked by actors within the RAS administration. In order to maximize the benefit of women groups to the scheme and thus improve the performance of agricultural innovations within RAS, the Extension and Technology Department needs to reach out to women groups and finance institutions in the RAS so as to strengthen women farming groups and livestock keeping activities. Though these results come from a particular case study, these conclusions advocating for greater recognition and networking with women groups are relevant for other agricultural schemes, in Sudan and elsewhere.

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY 2020



Ensuring Intellectual Property across institutions, networks and staff across complex frameworks is an ongoing Knowledge Management challenge calling for inter-regional capacity development and partnership building efforts such as SKiM.

In honor of Intellectual Property Day (26th April), ICARDA shares **best practices** for guaranteeing credit and attribution to scientists over their researches through the collaborative, multi-stakeholder KM system “Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning” (MEL), developed and employed in close partnership with fellow CGIAR Centers and Research Programs.

The SKiM Knowledge Management Portal builds on MEL technology, improving knowledge sharing to scale and boosting the outreach of featured institutions, a tool Open to all SKiM partners and currently populating with news, publications and data. Check out your mailbox for communication from the SKiM KM Officer on how to use the KP for your organization!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Online Course: IFAD Grants – A Guided Overview of Financial Management Practices and Procedures

Hosted by IFAD, available now— course details [here](#)

Farmers on the Front Line – Building Resilience in a Post-Coronavirus World

Live Webcast hosted by IFAD, May 8, 2020, 15:00-16:00 CET— event details [here](#)

Online Course – Digital Libraries, Repositories and Documents

Hosted by ICARDA, June 20 - June 21, 2020 - event details [here](#)

13th Arab Congress of Plant Protection

Hosted by the Arab Society for Plant Protection (Hammamet, Tunisia), November 1- 6, 2020 - event details [here](#)

Don't miss any news from the SKiM project! Find past newsletters here:

[Issue 1](#) [Issue 2](#)

[Issue 3](#) [Issue 4](#)

SKiM PROJECT IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



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